



- Exodus 40:34-38 (ESV) 34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 36 Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. 38 For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

**Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle.**

Exodus 40:34

- Israel has been at Mt. Sinai for about a year.
 - So a little more than a year since they had been slaves in Egypt.

God saw the people of Israel – and God knew.

Exodus 2:25

- The change for the people of Israel is stunning
 - Exodus 2:23-25 (ESV) 23 During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. 24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 **God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.**

God saw the people of Israel – and God knew.

Exodus 2:25

- Lesson not long ago emphasizing that God sees and knows what's happening to his people.
 - That's a very amazing thing to me still.
 - There's also this part of me that wonders, though, why it happened. Why God allowed it to happen?
 - This is difficult to understand why ...
 - But he had told Abraham this would happen (Genesis 18)
 - So there's more happening here than just God allowing his people to suffer pointlessly.

throughout all their journeys

Exodus 40:36, 38

- Israel has been camped around Mt. Sinai around a year now.
 - They have a covenant with God: They are his chosen, special people. He is their God.
 - They've received the law.
 - They've built the tabernacle
 - Now's the time to head for the Land promised to Abraham.

Then the cloud covered the **tent of meeting**,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the **tabernacle**.

Exodus 40:34

- They've built the tabernacle
 - Why did God choose a tent?
 - Other gods that men imagine have fantastic dwelling places: the Sky (or beyond), Mt. Olympus, Valhalla, et. al.
 - Jehovah chooses a tent

Then the cloud covered the **tent of meeting**,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the **tabernacle**.

Exodus 40:34

- Tent of Meeting

- Tent: often translated as tabernacle, dwelling, habitation: Nomad's tent.
- Meeting: congregation, assembly
 - (CWSB Dictionary) Moreover, the term is used to distinguish those places where God's people were to focus on God and their relationship with Him, which would include: the tent of meeting (Ex. 33:7)

Then the cloud covered the **tent of meeting**,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the **tabernacle**.

Exodus 40:34

- Tabernacle: dwelling place

- Leviticus 26:11-13 (ESV) 11 I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. 12 And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. 13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Then the cloud covered the **tent of meeting**,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the **tabernacle**.

Exodus 40:34

- Jehovah chose a tent, even though he could have waited until they were in the promised land for a permanent place.
 - Jehovah's response to David wanting to build a nicer place for God to dwell:
 - About 500 years after tabernacle built.

Then the cloud covered the **tent of meeting**,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the **tabernacle**.

Exodus 40:34

- 2 Samuel 7:1-3 (ESV) 1 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” 3 And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

Then the cloud covered the **tent of meeting**,
and the glory of Jehovah filled the **tabernacle**.

Exodus 40:34

- 2 Samuel 7:4-7 (ESV) 4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, 5 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but **I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling**. 7 In **all places where I have moved with all the people** of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?””

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

- Exodus 25:8 (ESV) 8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.
 - Why would God want to dwell in the midst of these people?
 - Constantly questioning him, grumbling against him, didn't trust him or believe in him.
 - It means that he'd be with them in the wilderness, with all the difficulties too.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Is it not in your going with us,
so that we are distinct ... ?

Exodus 33:16

- Exodus 33:14-16 (ESV) 4 And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Is it not in your going with us,
so that we are distinct ... ?

Exodus 33:16

- Moses: Is it not in your going with us ... we are distinct ... from every other people on the face of the earth
- Jehovah being present with Israel was something unique and special

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

- Exodus 40:34-38

- (TWOT) The tabernacle section in Ex follows the section describing the giving of the law and the establishment of the covenant.
- What is the relation between Sinai and the tabernacle?
- Moses receives the tablets from God on the mountain, the top of which is completely enfolded by a cloud and the glory of God. There he also receives instructions in building the tabernacle.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

- After its completion the glory of God, once on Sinai, now fills the tabernacle.
- What happened at Sinai is continued in the tabernacle.
- There is a continuity between God's former revelation of his will and his continual revelation in the tabernacle.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

The glory of Jehovah filled the
tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34, 35

- Glory of Jehovah
 - Seen by all at all times
 - Follow
 - Throughout all the Journey!
 - Not just the easy times (?); the whole journey!
 - Not alone, not lost
 - Distinct
 - Confidence
 - Awareness

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

- Why would God be with them in the wilderness, journeying through all the difficulties and suffering?

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

in the wilderness, where you have seen
how Jehovah your God carried you,
as a man carries his son, all the way ...

Deuteronomy 1:31

- Father
 - Deuteronomy 1:31 (ESV) 31 and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.'

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

When you pass through waters,
I will be with you

Isaiah 43:2

- Created & Redeemed

- Isaiah 43:1-7 (ESV) 1 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;** and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

When you pass through waters,
I will be with you

Isaiah 43:2

- 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are **precious** in my eyes, and **honored**, and **I love you**, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. 5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. 6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63:9

- Steadfast Love, Great Goodness, Compassion, Savior: Isaiah 63:7-9
 - 7 I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. 8 For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

in all of their affliction he was afflicted

Isaiah 63:9

- 9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them;
 - He was afflicted!
 - They didn't go through all the struggles in the wilderness without God also going through them.
 - He was not just observing from a distance,
- in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

though he cause grief, he will have compassion ...
he does not afflict from his heart

Lamentations 3:32, 33

- Lamentations 3:31-33 (ESV) 31 For the Lord will not cast off forever, 32 but, though **he cause grief**, he will have **compassion** according to the **abundance of his steadfast love**; 33 for **he does not afflict from his heart** or grieve the children of men.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

though he cause grief, he will have compassion ...
he does not afflict from his heart

Lamentations 3:32, 33

- These two passages tell us that God was not just “with” them in presence, but that he suffered as they suffered!
- McGuigan:
- A fine surgeon would rather not perform surgery; he would rather we didn’t need it.
 - But if we do, he does it willingly.
 - So God is willing to bring grief, but he’d rather not. In our distress, he, too, is distressed.

That I may dwell in their midst.

Exodus 25:8

Why?

though he cause grief, he will have compassion ...
he does not afflict from his heart

Lamentations 3:32, 33

- McGuigan:
- I'm saying all of this to make the point that talk about God's sharing our suffering isn't just pious sentiment.
 - If we can believe in a holy Father who loves us, we can believe in a holy Father who feels our pain as part of his own.

**They shall call his name Immanuel
(which means, God with us).**

Matthew 1:23

- Jesus

- Matthew 1:22-23 (ESV) 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

**They shall call his name Immanuel
(which means, God with us).**

Matthew 1:23

- Hebrews 2:10-18 (ESV) 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in **bringing many sons to glory**, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” 13 And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.

**They shall call his name Immanuel
(which means, God with us).**

Matthew 1:23

- 14 **Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things**, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.

**They shall call his name Immanuel
(which means, God with us).**

Matthew 1:23

- 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 **For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

**They shall call his name Immanuel
(which means, God with us).**

Matthew 1:23

- Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. **And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**”

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:1

- If God is with us, why do we sometimes feel like he has forsaken us?
 - Why would he let us go through hardship?
 - Where is he when we are being attacked by evil men?

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:1

- David and Jesus: Psalm 22

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:1

- David: HOW LONG? Psalm 13
 - 1 How long, O LORD? Will you **forget** me forever? How long will you **hide** your face from me?
 - 2 How long must I **take counsel in my soul** and have **sorrow in my heart all the day**?
 - How long shall my **enemy** be exalted over me?

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:1

- Trust (but that's hard!)
 - 5 But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
- Rejoice (vs. sorrow in heart?)
 - my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- Sing
 - 6 I will sing to the LORD,
- Remember Good
 - because he has dealt bountifully with me.

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5

- Hebrews 13:5-6 (ESV) 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
- It sounds too good to be true.
 - But God has repeatedly told us and shown us that he is with us.
- When we look at this world: this wilderness: trials, struggles difficulties, enemies
 - This is the good news:
 - He is with us in it all.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Throughout All Their Journeys

Exodus 40:34-38

Synopsis: As the people of Israel prepare to leave Mt. Sinai, they take with them the tabernacle. Filled with God's glory, the cloud and the fire, leads them. God is with them through all their wilderness journey.

Some thoughts borrowed from Jim McGuiggan: Celebrating the Wrath of God. Chapter 6: Our Fellow Pilgrim

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”