

## GOD WANTS TO LIVE AMONG HIS PEOPLE

John M. Sinclair

God has always wanted to live among His people, those who have come to know Him and accepted to be His own. He said: — “I will live among the children of Israel, and will be their God” (Exodus 29:45). His entire purpose in having Israel build the Tabernacle in the desert, was to make it possible that He live among them (Exodus 25:8); and the Tabernacle was full of typology about Christ’s work of redemption that would allow a holy God to live among redeemed sinners. God *always will* want to live among His people (Revelation 21:3).

That is remarkable and touching when we realized that the heathen in the world of the Bible, had not such expectation. They believed that the gods *they* believed in *didn’t* want to live among them. When the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, had had a dream but forgotten what he’d dreamed, he demanded that his “wise men” tell him both the dream and its meaning. They replied that he was asking too much because nobody but “the gods” could know the answer to his demand. And what did they say about their “gods?”— “It is a rare thing that the king is demanding, and there is no other who can bring the king an answer, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh” (Daniel 2:11). Yet, though the heathen believed that the gods they believed in *didn’t* want to live among them, the true God *wanted* to live among His people; and He paid the price necessary to make it possible.

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