

## The Dwelling Place of God

*“Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed: I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty God of Jacob.”* (Psalm 132:3-5)

What is this? Does the God who created the heavens and earth have no place to dwell? Our Lord, during his sojourn on earth told His disciples, *“The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head”*. Must we find a house for God? Is not this “Mighty God of Jacob” not able to secure for himself a lodging? Perhaps the problem is the suitability of such a place. He is indeed of such nature: *“Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest”* (Acts. 1:49). What do the scriptures tell us?

The church of the Living God is *“being built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit”* (Ephesians 2:22). This church is not a building, but a gathering of elect peoples from every ethnic tribe and tongue under the sun, who are made one in Christ. It is the *“temple of the Living God. As God has said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people’”* (II Cor. 6:16). John has a vision of this habitation of God on Patmos as a city: *“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away’”* (Rev. 21:2-4).

One other aspect of David’s resolve must be made clear: For him, a dwelling place of God is not a corporate, but a personal matter. The whole project rests heavily, singularly, upon his soul. This also, the scriptures affirm: *“...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”* (Eph. 3:17). A dwelling place of God is then, a personal matter for each of us.

Here we find the root of imperative urgency in the whole matter: There will be no rest or peace for any of us until Christ takes up residency in our hearts by faith. Until then there will be pain, sorrow, disappointment, grief, crying and death. Life shall yield no sweetness, only more and more bitterness and frustration. There can be no peace apart from the Prince of Peace. As long as God is angry with us for our rebellion and independence we cannot know life and life abundantly. No wonder, then, the psalmist has come to this resolve.

It is a resolve that will not be futile, for Christ has said, *“All that the Father has given me shall come to me, and he who comes to me, I will no longer cast out. He who seeks finds. (Matt. 7:7) No rest for me until God rests in me.*

- C. M.