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I Will Dwell Among the Israelites and Be Their God 29: 42b-46

I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God DIG: Why was the burnt offering so important to Israelite worship? What was the ultimate purpose of the exodus? What does Immanuel mean? How was the Immanuel principle foreshadowed here in the book of Exodus?

REFLECT: Can God dwell with you while you are in the world? Where is your citizenship? Earth or heaven (Philippians 3:20)? Why does it matter? Is Immanuel with you today? How can you tell?

For **Aaron and his sons**, dedication led immediately to service. The priests were to officiate daily at **the bronze altar** by sacrificing to **God** two burnt offerings - one in the morning and the other at twilight (**29:38-42a**). **ADONAI Himself** promised to **meet** with **and speak** with **His** people on every such occasion.⁶⁵⁰ **He** said: **There I will meet with you and speak to you (29:42b-43)**. The burnt offering was the heart of **the Israelite** worship, and the priesthood existed to mediate between **God** and **His** people.



It was **ADONAI's** intention to dedicate **Aaron and his sons to serve Him as priests**, to **dwell among the Israelites and be their God**. The Ark of the Covenant was where the Sh'kinah glory, or the visible manifestation of **God's** presence, dwelt. **God's** ultimate desire was that **the Israelites** would **know that He** was **ADONAI their God, who brought them out of Egypt so that He might** have a personal relationship with them and

dwell among them (29:44-46). The final three verses here are a fitting end to the topic at hand. The writer ties together the Tabernacle and the priesthood with the exodus itself. The Tabernacle and the priests had been dedicated, and **God** was able to **dwell** with **His** people. Now they could look back at what **God** had done in bringing them out of Egypt. In that way, they would know, without any shadow of a doubt, that **ADONAI** was their **God**. We must always keep in mind that the purpose of the exodus was not simply to free the slaves. It was to bring **God's** people into a covenant relationship with **Him** through the Torah, the Tabernacle and the priesthood.⁶⁵¹

Isaiah prophesied that **the virgin would be with child and would give birth to a son**, who would be called **Immanuel**, meaning **God with us (Isaiah 7:14)**. **Jesus** fulfilled that prophecy when **Matthew** wrote: **The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel - which means God with us (Matthew 1:23)**. It was in that way that **the Word became flesh and dwelt, or tabernacled, for a while among us. The Word was with God, and we have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son. And the Word was God, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1 and 14)**. **Thus, the purpose of the Tabernacle was to be fulfilled in the visible presence of the God-man, Yeshua Messiah.**