

“The cloud of the Lord hovered over the Tabernacle during the day, and at night fire glowed inside the cloud so the whole family of Israel could see it. This continued throughout all their journeys.” Exodus 40:38 NLT

[lectio] // EXODUS 40:16-38

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

The tent where God visited (not lived) was very particular and possibly peculiar in that day. Because the Bible is NOT books of human history (it is a portion of Jewish history), I do not know what other kinds of dwellings or sacrifices the other people of that time had. I wonder if they had the same setup? I doubt it was a movable tent, but they may have had animal sacrifices as well. They may have had specific rules about their worship as well. I do not believe any of the other religions had their god visit their dwelling or lead their people like the God of Israel (the one true God). As time went on, I know that David did not want God to “live” in a tent while he lived in a palace, so God allowed David’s son to build a temple (permanency) for him. It was massive and grand and people came from all over the world to see it. They were proud of their God-house. However, God houses could be destroyed. God houses could become an idol. After Solomon’s temple God didn’t visit “his” house anymore.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

You told your people that you wanted to live in their hearts all along. You told them that the sacrifices, although necessary, would be temporary, symbolic and inefficient for covering their sin. You told your people that you can’t, won’t be contained to a “temple” or any man made structure. You’ve always wanted to visit and even dwell in our hearts, our lives. Through Jesus, we not only become the tent, the dwelling place of God, we also have the total forgiveness of sin without constant symbolic reminders by slaughtering animals. And, our very lives carry the living God wherever we go, thus becoming a place of hospitality, love and even forgiveness as we “campout” with family, friends and neighbors. The “cloud” of your presence (the Holy Spirit) directs where to go and when to go. I pray that I see your Spirit directing me day and night just as the cloud directed your people long ago.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root