God of the wilderness
Part 5 — A dwelling place for God

9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

Ephesians 1:9–10

10 with a view to an
administration suitable to the
fullness of the times, *that is*,

Ephesians 1:9–10

the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him

Ephesians 1:9–10

The goal of every promise and covenant of God is to restore us to His presence.

Every covenant must have a way to safely approach a God who is a consuming fire.

1 In the third month after the
sons of Israel had gone out of
the land of Egypt, on that very
day they came into the
wilderness of Sinai.

Exodus 19:1–6

2 When they set out from
Rephidim, they came to the
wilderness of Sinai and camped
in the wilderness; and there Israel
camped in front of the mountain.

Exodus 19:1–6

3 Moses went up to God, and
the Lord called to him from the
mountain, saying, “Thus you shall
say to the house of Jacob and
tell the sons of Israel:

Exodus 19:1–6

4 ‘You yourselves have seen
what I did to the Egyptians, and
how I bore you on eagles’ wings,
and brought you to Myself.

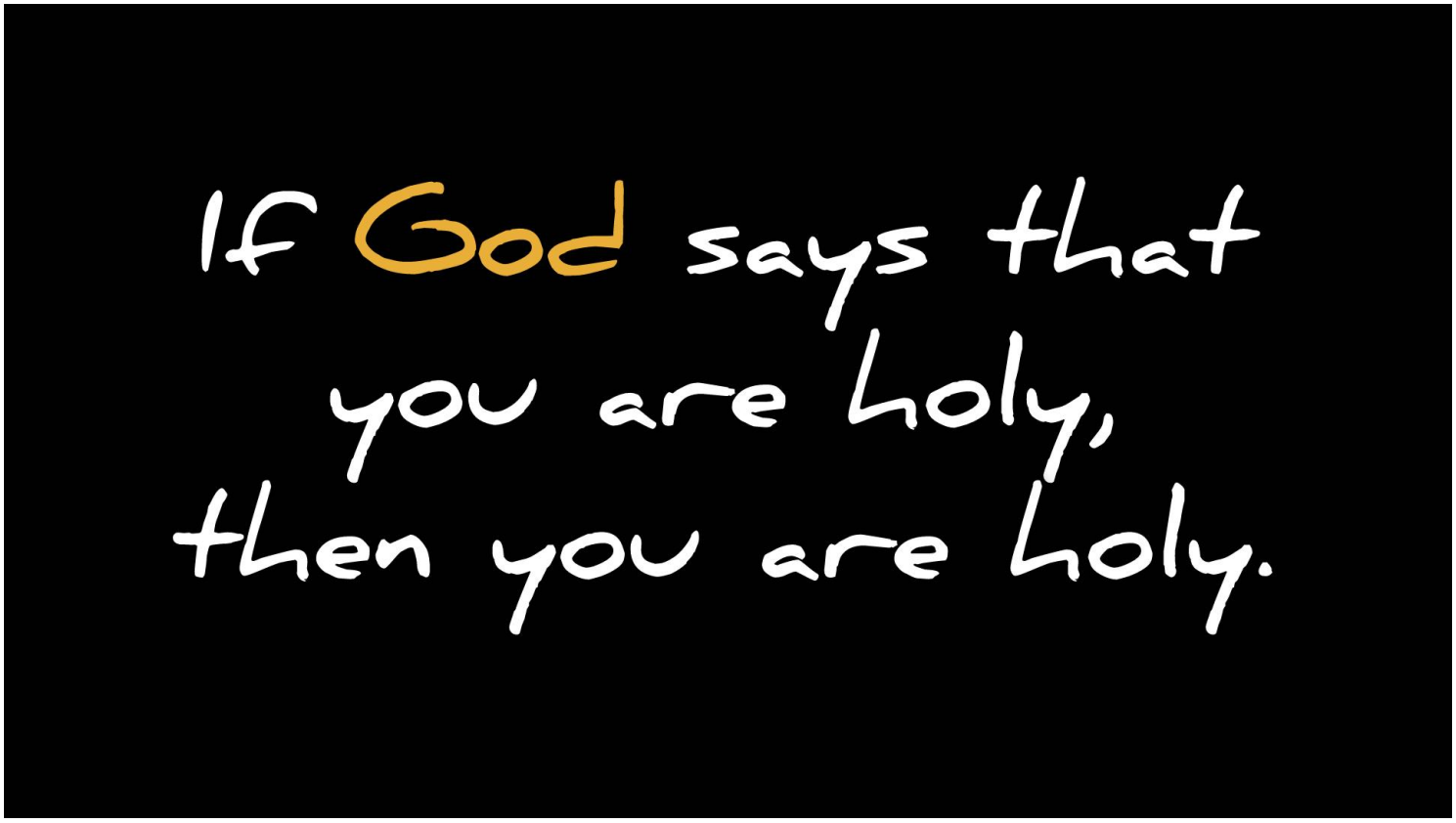
Exodus 19:1–6

5 ‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then ***you shall be My own possession*** among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

Exodus 19:1–6

6 and you shall be to Me a ***kingdom of priests*** and ***a holy nation***.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

Exodus 19:1–6


If God says that
you are holy,
then you are holy.

18 All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it,* ***they trembled and stood at a distance***.

Exodus 20:18–21

19 Then they said to Moses, “***Speak to us yourself*** and we will listen; but ***let not God speak to us***, or we will die.”

Exodus 20:18–21

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to ***test*** you, and in order that ***the fear of Him may remain with you***, so that you may not sin.”

Exodus 20:18–21

21 So ***the people stood at a distance***, while ***Moses approached*** the thick cloud where God *was.*

Exodus 20:18–21

Religion seeks a counterfeit intimacy with God through rules, all while maintaining a distance from God's Presence.

Friends of God approach God even when our sin is revealed in His presence.

Those who prefer to keep a distance from God, but still desire His life and benefits, become enslaved by dead religion

2 “Tell the sons of Israel to ***raise a contribution for Me***; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution.

Exodus 25:2–8

8 *“Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, **that I may dwell among them**.*

Exodus 25:2–8

Friendship with God is always better than contractual relationship, yet somehow we choose the latter again and again.

The tabernacle of Moses was designed to reveal how impossible it is for us to earn our salvation.

19 Or do you not know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you*, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore ***glorify God in your body***.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Each one of us is responsible to maintain our lives the same way the priests of old maintained the tabernacle.

21 in whom the whole building,
being fitted together, is ***growing***
into a holy temple in the Lord,

Ephesians 2:21–22

22 in whom *you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit*.

Ephesians 2:21–22

The united work of the church makes room for God to inhabit the earth — wherever the church is strong, darkness must flee.

The Church is the most important building project in human history.

[4] Then all the craftsmen who were doing
all the work of the sanctuary came, each
from the work he was doing,

Exodus 36:4–6

[5] and they spoke to Moses, saying, “The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded *us* to do.”

Exodus 36:4–6

[6] So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, “Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.” And the people were restrained from bringing,

Exodus 36:4–6

The church is built by each member providing what each has to offer.

What do you have to offer the Lord to build His dwelling place in Upper Dauphin?