

**The Place that God Chooses**  
**FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD**  
**September 15, 2007**

**Psalm 118:**

- 24 This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

We have heard that phrase often. But what does the Bible say about a place?

Actually, that phrase is only used in the book of Deuteronomy. Chapters 4 through 11 give Moses' second exposition of the Ten Commandments

**Deuteronomy 12**

- 1 "These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.
- 2 "You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.
- 3 "And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place.
- 4 "You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things.
- 5 "But you shall seek **the place where the LORD your God chooses**, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.
  - Hebrew Interlinear reads "But you shall seek to the place (4725) which Jehovah your God shall choose (977) out of all your tribes"
  - 977 = bachar - acceptable, appoint, choose, excellent, join, be rather, require
  - 4725 = maw-kome – a standing – i.e. a spot, locality – country, home, place, room, space
- 6 "There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.
- 7 "And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.
- 8 "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today-every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes-
- 9 "for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you.
- 10 "But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety,
- 11 "then there will be **the place where the LORD your God chooses** to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt

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offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD.

- 12 "And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you.
- 13 "Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see;
- 14 "but in **the place which the LORD chooses**, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.
- 15 "However, you may slaughter and eat meat within all your gates, whatever your heart desires, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike.
- 16 "Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water.
- 17 "You may not eat within your gates the tithe of your grain or your new wine or your oil, of the firstborn of your herd or your flock, of any of your offerings which you vow, of your freewill offerings, or of the heave offering of your hand.
- 18 "But you must eat them before the LORD your God in **the place which the LORD your God chooses**, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all to which you put your hands.
- 19 "Take heed to yourself that you do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.
- 20 "When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you, and you say, 'Let me eat meat,' because you long to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your heart desires.
- 21 "If **the place where the LORD your God chooses** to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your herd and from your flock which the LORD has given you, just as I have commanded you, and you may eat within your gates as much as your heart desires.
- 22 "Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them.
- 23 "Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat.
- 24 "You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water.
- 25 "You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.
- 26 "Only the holy things which you have, and your vowed offerings, you shall take and go to **the place which the LORD chooses**.
- 27 "And you shall offer your burnt offerings, the meat and the blood, on the altar of the LORD your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the LORD your God, and you shall eat the meat.

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- 28 "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.
- 29 "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,
- 30 "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'
- 31 "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.
- 32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

**Deuteronomy 14**

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- 22 "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.
- 23 "And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in **the place where He chooses** to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.
- 24 "But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if **the place where the LORD your God chooses** to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you,
- 25 "then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to **the place which the LORD your God chooses.**
- 26 "And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.

These verses are generally applied to the Feast of Tabernacles, but a careful reading shows they could be applied to any of the 3 times a year when the tithe is to be given -

**Exodus 23:**

- 14 "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year:
- 15 "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);
- 16 "and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.

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- 17 "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

**Deuteronomy 15**

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- 19 "All the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify to the LORD your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.
- 20 "You and your household shall eat it before the LORD your God year by year in **the place which the LORD chooses**.
- 21 "But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.
- 22 "You may eat it within your gates; the unclean and the clean person alike may eat it, as if it were a gazelle or a deer.
- 23 "Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it on the ground like water.

**Deuteronomy 16**

- 1 "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.
- 2 "Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in **the place where the LORD chooses** to put His name.
- 3 "You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.
- 4 "And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.
- 5 "You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you;
- 6 "but at **the place where the LORD your God chooses** to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt.
- 7 "And you shall roast and eat it in **the place which the LORD your God chooses**, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.
- 8 "Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.
- 9 "You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain.
- 10 "Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.
- 11 "You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within

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your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at **the place where the LORD your God chooses** to make His name abide.

- 12 "And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.
- 13 "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.
- 14 "And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.
- 15 "Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in **the place which the LORD chooses**, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.
- 16 "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in **the place which He chooses**: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.
- 17 "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.
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#### Deuteronomy 17

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- 8 ¶ "If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, matters of controversy within your gates, then you shall arise and **go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses**.
- 9 "And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.
- 10 "You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in ***that place which the LORD chooses***. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you.
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#### Deuteronomy 18

- 1 "The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion.
- 2 "Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the LORD is their inheritance, as He said to them.

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- 3 "And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether it is bull or sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach.
- 4 "The firstfruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.
- 5 "For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.
- 6 "So if a Levite comes from any of your gates, from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to **the place which the LORD chooses**,
- 7 "then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites do, who stand there before the LORD.
- 8 "They shall have equal portions to eat, besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance.
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**Deuteronomy 26**

- 1 "And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it,
- 2 "that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to **the place where the LORD your God chooses** to make His name abide.
- 3 "And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.'
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**Deuteronomy 31**

- 1 Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.
- 2 And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.'
- 3 "The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.
- 4 "And the LORD will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.
- 5 "The LORD will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.
- 6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

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- 7 Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.
- 8 "And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."
- 9 So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.
- 10 And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,
- 11 "when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in **the place which He chooses**, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.
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**Zechariah 14:**

- 16 ¶ And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.
- 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
- 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Notice that during the Day of the Lord, or the Lord's Day as spoken of by John in Revelation, everyone will be expected to attend the Feast of Tabernacles – in Jerusalem! This is the New Jerusalem spoken of in Revelation 21. There would not be enough room for the entire world to attend the Feast in the existent Jerusalem.

Notice also that Egypt is still in existence.

**Revelation 21:**

- - Verses 9-21 describe the city, the New Jerusalem, as being 1380 miles on its length, breadth and height.
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- 22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
- 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

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- 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.
- 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).
- 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.
- 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
  - Evil beings are outside the New Jerusalem, but they cannot enter it.

**Revelation 22:**

- 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.
- 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Evidently, at least in the early days of the Kingdom, there will still be evil beings outside the New Jerusalem.

**Revelation 21:**

- 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
- 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 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. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."
- 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."
- 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."

The final Tabernacle will be wonderful – a place where God chooses.