

Ezekiel 48:35

"And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE."

➤ **The Promise – God is THERE...and He isn't going anywhere**

Looking back...

- only explanation for the Israelites ongoing existence = Jehovah Shammah
- no matter how many times the people said, *"Yahweh, we don't want you",* God's response was always, *"But you are mine. I may discipline you. I may take you through some really hard times. But I am never giving up on you. You will be my people and I will be your God."*

Looking ahead...

- the centerpiece of heaven is the Presence of God with the people of God

Revelation 21:3-5

"Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They're his people, he's their God. He'll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone." The Enthroned continued, "Look! I'm making everything new. Write it all down—each word dependable and accurate."

- destiny as the people of Jesus is an eternal experience with Jehovah Shammah

Hebrews 13:5

...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

➤ **The Spirit – God is THERE through the presence of the Holy Spirit**

Matthew 28:20 (Jesus speaking)

...And surely I am with you always

Advent = the Lord who is THERE, came near in the person of Jesus

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

And then the day came when he sat with his early followers and said...

John 16:7

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Good-to-Great = as good as its been to have Jesus physically with you,
it's going to be even better when he exits

Why? Jesus' physical exit ushers in the Holy Spirit's companionship presence

1 Corinthians 3:16

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

Colossians 1:27

...the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.



Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...

Romans 5:5

...because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit...

"...I think a chief sign of the presence and work of the Holy Spirit is...extravagance. Where once we were wary, stingy, reluctant, we find ourselves bighearted, spendthrift, daring. That cold, closed hand of calculation and suspicion, once gripping and tugging us, warms and loosens and then – miracle! – starts nudging us outward. We become simultaneously color-blind and bright-eyed, more discerning and less bigoted. We lose naiveté but gain compassion and will gladly spend ourselves and be spent for the kingdom of God...there's a lightness in our step, a steadiness on our feet, and if we don't dance more, at least we want to."

– Mark Buchanan

We experience "God is *THERE-ness*" today, through the indwelling presence of Holy Spirit.

➤ **The Difference – God is *THERE* as an ever-present help**

Psalms 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

A repeated promise throughout Scripture...

"I will be with you."

"You're going to go through some things."

*"You're going to feel like you're at the end of your rope...
but you will find me there."*

"Here is the world, beautiful and terrible things will happen, don't be afraid."

– Frederick Beuchner

Because...

Jehovah-Shammah – God is *THERE*...and He isn't going anywhere

Jehovah-Shammah – God is *THERE* through the presence of the Holy Spirit

Jehovah-Shammah – God is *THERE* as an ever-present help

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