

Welcome to Fellowship



THE RELATIONAL PRESENCE OF GOD

Christmas Offering



God With Us



Introductions: *Advent*

- The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival."
- It can highlight the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.
- It is a title for the first season of the Christian church year.
- Advent leads up to Christmas and includes the four preceding Sundays.
- The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

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Introductions: *Biblical Theology*

- **SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY:** The study of truth about God from any and every source presented in a systematic way and organized by crucial topics that have risen to importance throughout history.
- **BIBLICAL THEOLOGY:** The study of truth about God found in scripture and organized by the topics emphasized by biblical authors.
- **A COHESIVE CENTER:** A central theme that orients and holds the entire biblical narrative together as a unified whole.

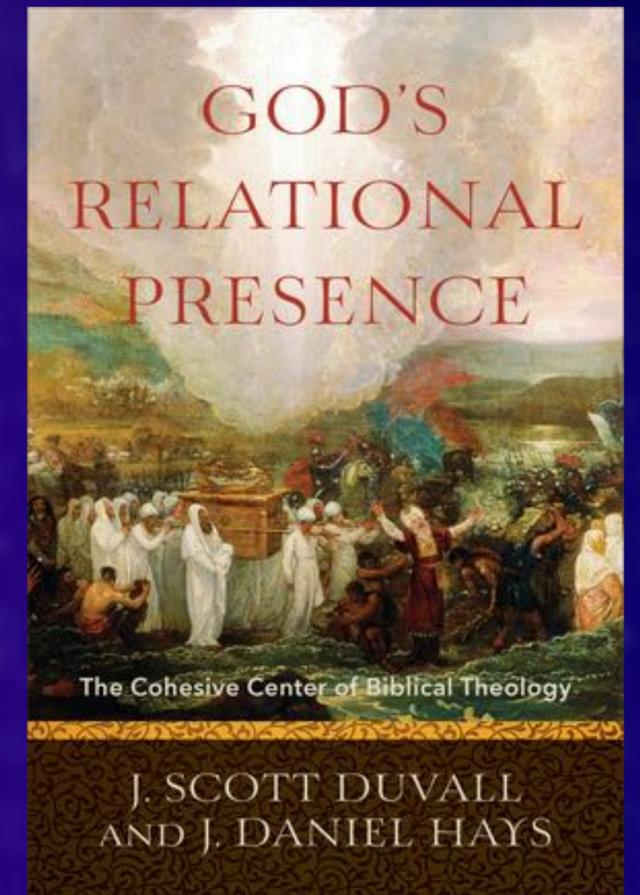
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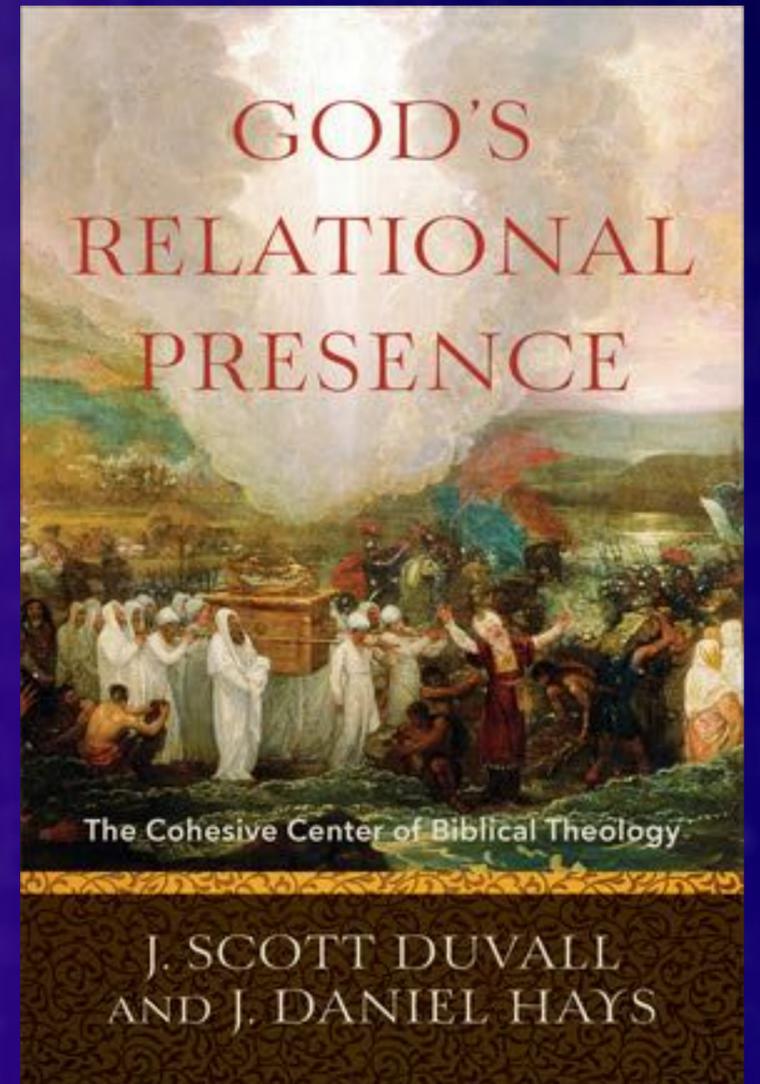
Introductions: *Cohesive Center*

From an overall biblical narrative point of view, the cohesive center of biblical theology must be that megatheme that drives the plot of the story from beginning to end.

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Our basic thesis is that the Triune God desires to have a personal, encountering relationship with his people and enters into his creation in order to facilitate that relationship.

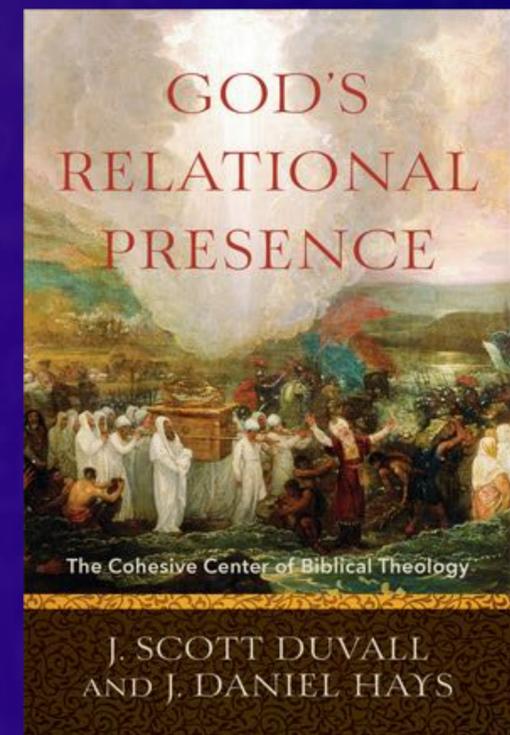


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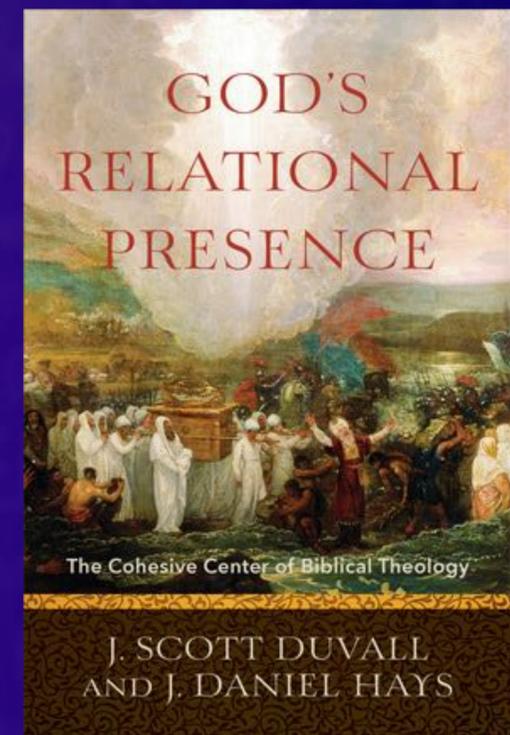
Thus the Bible begins with God's presence relating to his people in the garden (Genesis) and ends with God's presence relating to his people in the garden (Revelation). This holy, intense, powerful presence of God appears to Moses in the burning bush and on Mount Sinai, and then enters into the tabernacle (and later into the temple) so that God can dwell among his people.

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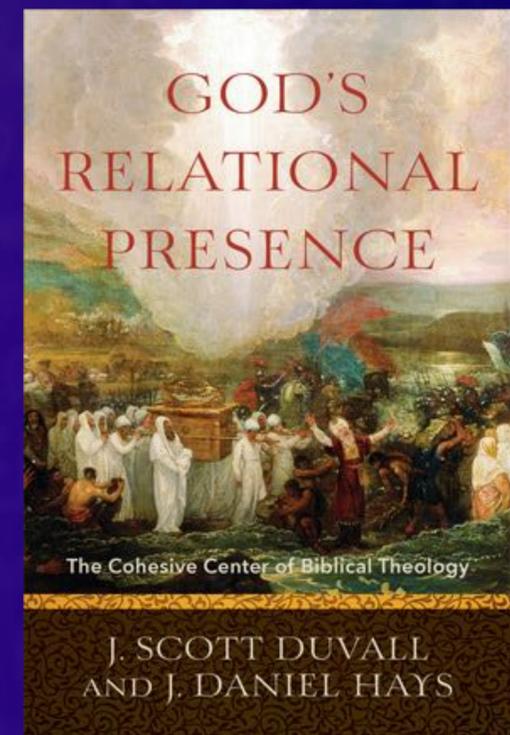
Yet because of their sin and disobedience, Israel is banished from God's presence. God departs from the temple (Ezekiel), and Israel is exiled away from the land. The restoration of God's presence is promised throughout the OT prophets and is fulfilled in the Gospels when Jesus, Immanuel (God with us), appears.

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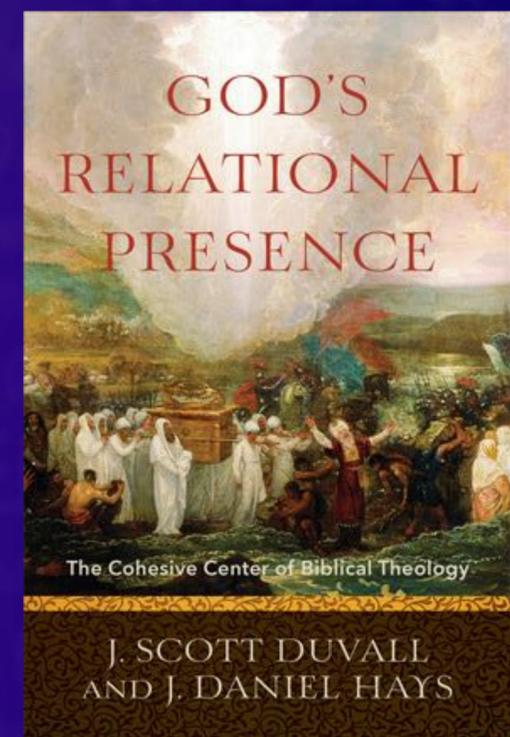
The incarnation brings to a climax the relational presence of God, the theme that drove the entire OT story. In Acts, after Jesus's ascension, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each believer, just as the holy presence of God in the OT dwelt in the tabernacle or temple.

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The entire story culminates at the end of Revelation, where the presence of God is once again in Jerusalem (the new Jerusalem) and in the garden, relating to his people.

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The Beginning and the End

Genesis 1-3

Revelation 20-22

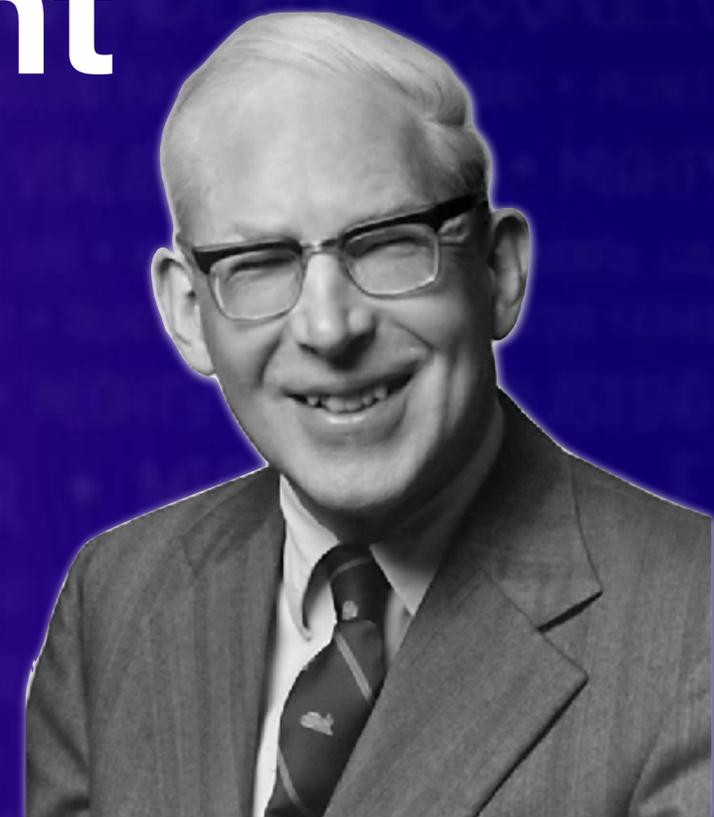
<p>“In the beginning God create the heavens and the earth.” (1:1)</p>	<p>“I saw a new heaven and a new earth.” (21:1)</p>
<p>“The darkness He called night.” (1:5)</p>	<p>“There will be no night there.” (21:25)</p>
<p>“God made two great lights (the sun and the moon).” (1:16)</p>	<p>“The city has no need for the sun or moon.” (21:23)</p>
<p>“In the day you eat of it you will surely die.” (2:17)</p>	<p>“There will be no more death or sorrow.” (21:4)</p>
<p>Satan appears as the deceiver of mankind. (3:1)</p>	<p>Satan disappears into the lake of fire forever. (20:10)</p>
<p>Shown a garden into which devilment entered (3:6-7)</p>	<p>Shown a city and nothing will defile it (21:27)</p>
<p>The walk of God with mankind is interrupted (3:8-10)</p>	<p>The walk of God with man is resumed (21:3)</p>
<p>Initial victory of the serpent (3:13)</p>	<p>Ultimate victory of the Lamb (20:10; 22:3)</p>
<p>“I will greatly multiply your pain.” (3:16)</p>	<p>“There will be no more pain.” (21:4)</p>
<p>“Cursed is the ground for your sake.” (3:17)</p>	<p>“There will be no more curse” (22:3)</p>
<p>Man’s dominion damaged in the fall of Adam (3:17-19)</p>	<p>Man’s dominion restored in the reign of Christ (22:5)</p>
<p>First paradise is closed (3:23)</p>	<p>New paradise is opened (21:24-26)</p>
<p>Access to the tree of life is lost in Adam (3:24)</p>	<p>Access to the Tree of Life regained in Christ (22:14)</p>
<p>They were driven from God’s presence (3:24)</p>	<p>We shall “see His face.” (21:3, 22:4)</p>

There is a difference between knowing God, and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve him, boldness to share him, and contentment in him.

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J.I. Packer



THE TABERNACLE: The Relational Presence in a Place

- **The Heavenly Temple/Tabernacle** *(see esp. Hebrews 8-9)*
- **God's Garden Temple** *(Genesis 2)*
- **Consequences of Sin: Eviction** *(Genesis 3)*

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Exodus 40:34-35

THE TABERNACLE: The Relational Presence is Guidance

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

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Exodus 40:34-35

THE TABERNACLE: The Relational Presence is Guidance

In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

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Exodus 40:36-38

THE TABERNACLE:

The Relational Presence is Guidance

Application

*The Advent of the Presence of God
in a Person compels us to
keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.*

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Exodus 40:36-38

THE TABERNACLE: The Relational Presence is Warning

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.

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Leviticus 10:1-2

THE TABERNACLE:

The Relational Presence is Guidance

Application

*The Advent of the Presence of God
in a Person compels us to
anticipate His coming as a Judge.*

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Exodus 40:36-38

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Glorious

When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

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1 Kings 8:10-11

THE TABERNACLE:

The Relational Presence is Guidance

Application

*The Advent of the Presence of God
in a Person compels us to
worship in Spirit and truth.*

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Exodus 40:36-38

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign Lord came on me there. I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man. From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal. He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head.

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Ezekiel 8:1-4

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood. And there before me was the glory of the God of Israel, as in the vision I had seen in the plain.

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Ezekiel 8:1-4

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the Lord, and I saw women sitting there, mourning the god Tammuz. He said to me, “Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this.”

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Ezekiel 8:14-15

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the Lord, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.

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Ezekiel 8:16

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple.

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Ezekiel 9:3

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

Then the glory of the Lord rose from above the cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple. The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of the radiance of the glory of the Lord. The sound of the wings of the cherubim could be heard as far away as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks.

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Ezekiel 10:4-5

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple and stopped above the cherubim. While I watched, the cherubim spread their wings and rose from the ground, and as they went, the wheels went with them. They stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the Lord's house, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

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Ezekiel 10:18-19

THE TEMPLE: The Relational Presence is Gone

Then the cherubim, with the wheels beside them, spread their wings, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. The glory of the Lord went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.

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Ezekiel 11:22-23

THE TABERNACLE: The Relational Presence is Guidance

Application

*The Advent of the Presence of God
in a Person compels us to
walk closely with Him and guard our hearts.*

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Exodus 40:36-38

**God's relational presence in a *place*
(Tabernacle and Temple)
demonstrates a *pattern*
of glorious guidance and warning
as we anticipate the Advent
of the presence of God in a *Person*.**

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Next Steps:

- Pray for Gospel Opportunities as they make their way around the globe. 
- Stay tuned in to the presence of God in the small things of life this season.
- Take time to be still and experience the peace of His presence.

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