



KINGS: SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 6-7; 2 Chronicles 3-7; Jeremiah 7; Ezekiel 1; 10; 40-48; John 2; 1 Corinthians 3; 6

David and The Temple

The Tabernacle

God's Spirit came down to earth to dwell with His people, but because they could not stand in His holy presence, His Spirit dwelled inside the tabernacle and behind a curtain.

The Ark of the Covenant

The first thing David did after he captured Jerusalem was try to bring the Ark there so he could establish regular worship and God's Spirit would again dwell in the midst of His people.

David Wouldn't Build the Temple

The Temple would be built by Solomon instead, because he was a king of peace and rest.

David's Preparations for the Temple

"David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death." 1 Chronicles 22:5

Solomon Builds the Temple

God's Dwelling Place

God promised Solomon that if they walked in His statutes and kept His covenant, He would dwell among them in His Temple (1 Kings 6:11-13).

A Sabbath Rest

Seven Years: The Temple was supposed to be a place of rest. They were finally in the Promised Land, dwelling with God as His people. This should have been their “Sabbath rest” forever in God’s kingdom, after the “work” of the Conquest. But they turned away from God even in the first generation with Solomon.

They wouldn’t find their true Sabbath rest until the real Anointed One. One day, there will be a final Sabbath rest in the consummated Kingdom, which is the true “Promised Land” (Hebrews 4).

Symbolism in the Temple

- Gold represents glory, holiness, and prosperity
- Juniper represents divine protection.
- Bulls and Lions: representing strength
- Pomegranates: fruitfulness (fertility and love), wisdom, and righteousness
- Open Flowers: representing fruitfulness and beauty
- Palm Trees: representing righteousness
- Cherubim: symbolic of the throne in heaven
- The Holy of Holies was a perfect cube 20 x 20 x 20 cubits. In Revelation, the whole city “New Jerusalem” was also a perfect cube. This symbolizes the fact that in the New Creation, ALL of the city - the ENTIRE city - is the Holy of Holies. There is no separation between God and people, the whole city is the Most Holy Place.

The Glory of the Temple

“The priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord” 1 Kings 8:10-11

God's Promises Kept

“Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.” 1 Kings 8:56

The Sad Future of the Temple

If they turned away from God, the Temple would become a ruin (1 Kings 9:6-9)

The Prophets and The Temple

Jeremiah 7: The Temple Isn't a Magic Charm

“If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly... then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?” Jeremiah 7:5-11

Ezekiel 10-11: God's Presence Leaves the Temple

“Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple... and went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.” Ezekiel 10:18; 11:23

He is a God of justice, so he let the Temple be destroyed and sent His people into exile. They had been breaking the covenant for hundreds of years.

But God never abandoned His people, even when He sent them into Exile. He always promised to bring them back.

Jesus Connection: This is the Gospel being preached all the way back in Ezekiel – the gospel of justification by grace through faith, not works.

Ezekiel 40-48: The Vision of the New Temple

Ezekiel's vision was more symbolic than physical, and pointed ahead to the future Consummation reality of the Kingdom of God, an eternal Heavenly Temple, rather than a tangible, earthly temple in Jerusalem.

The Second Temple

Built by Ezra in 538-515 BC; destroyed and desecrated in 169 and 167 BC.

Rebuilt by Herod in 20 BC, taking 46 years to complete

The Temple of the New Covenant

“My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.” Mark 11:17

Jesus said, “Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19)

Jesus Tore the Veil

“We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.” Hebrews 10:19-20

We are the Temples of the Holy Spirit

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The Church Together is the Temple

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

“... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Ephesians 2:20-22

The Temple in the Consummation

“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” Revelation 21:22

- In the wilderness, the Tabernacle was the Temple of God’s Holy Spirit.
- In the monarchy, the Temple was the dwelling place of God’s Holy Spirit.
- While Jesus was on earth, He was the Temple of the Holy Spirit

- After Ascension and Pentecost, Jesus's disciples became the Temples of the Holy Spirit
- In the Consummation, there is no Temple because The Triune God is there in fullness