

# Week 4: THE TEMPLE

## Introduction

### TEMPLE

- The place where God dwells
- The place where God is present
- The place where God is known
- The place where God is served
- The place where God is worshiped.

### CONTROLLING REALITIES FOR TABERNACLE/TEMPLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- God is present there
- Sacrifice for sin is made there

### CHIASTIC STRUCTURE OF SCRIPTURE'S TEMPLE THREAD

#### The Creation of the Cosmic Temple

The Tabernacle and Temple as Microcosms

Christ the Fulfillment of the Temple

The Church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit

#### The Cosmic Temple of the New Creation

## Creation of the Cosmic Temple

### Genesis 1-2

Psalm 78:69           And He built His sanctuary like the heights,  
Like the earth which He has established forever.

Isaiah 66:1           This is what the Lord says:  
“Heaven is My throne and the earth is the footstool for My feet.  
Where then is a house you could build for Me?  
And where is a place that [a]I may rest?”

## Beginning Previews The End

- God created the world, His cosmic temple, as the realm of life. Having made, formed, and filled the nonexistent, shapeless, void (**Gen 1:2, 3-31**), the temple teems with living things (**Gen 1:20-21, 24-25**).
- In God's cosmic temple there is no sin, and therefore no death.
- In God's cosmic temple there is no uncleanness. Uncleanness flows from and is related to contact with death.
- In His clean and holy temple, God put His image and likeness (**Gen 1:26-28**). The image of God serves the same purpose in the cosmic temple that the forbidden images of false gods serve in temples devoted to their worship. The "image" represents the character, presence, authority, and reign of the unseen deity.

**Psalm 8:6** You have him rule over the works of Your hands;

You have put everything under his feet,

- Obedience to God's commands will fill creation with the image and likeness of God, making it so that God's character, presence, authority, and reign are brought to bear in the whole of the cosmic temple.

**Habakkuk 2:14** For the earth will be filled

With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,

As the waters cover the sea.

## Relationship Between Eden and Tabernacle/Temple

The garden of Eden is almost like the holy of holies. The garden seems to be set within a wider region known as Eden

**Genesis 2:10**      **Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.**

- Just as the camp of Israel centered on the holy of holies, with descending requirements for holiness as one moved out to the holy place and from there to the camp, so at the center of creation we have the garden holy of holies, the holy place of Eden, and outside the region of Eden all the dry lands.
- Like the tabernacle and temple, where gold and precious stones were abundant, good gold and precious stones mark Eden (**Gen 2:11-12**).
- The lamp stand of the tabernacle and temple seem to symbolize the sacred trees of Eden (Genesis 2:8-9), and the showbread points to the abundant food of which the man could freely eat (**Gen 2:16**).
- The man's job in the garden is the same given to the Levites at the tabernacle: to work and keep it (**Gen 2:15 & Num 3:8**).
- As Yahweh promised to walk among the Israelites once they had the tabernacle (**Lev 26:11-12; Deut 23:14**), so He walked in the garden (**Gen 3:8**).

**Genesis 3:22-24**      **22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out with his hand, and take fruit also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" – 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.**

- Because of their (Adam and Eve) sin, God drives them out of the clean realm of life and into the unclean realm of the dead
- The cherubim and flaming sword guarding the way to the tree of life in Genesis 3:24 anticipate the cherubim woven into the fabrics of the tabernacle and overshadowing the ark of the covenant.

*Note: Both Balaam and Joshua encounter an angel with drawn sword (Numbers 22:22; Joshua 5:13-15) and in both cases they are coming toward the tabernacle from the east.*

**Ezekiel 28:13-14** 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:  
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;  
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;  
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;  
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings  
and sockets,  
Was in you.  
On the day that you were created  
They were prepared.  
14 You were the anointed cherub who covers,  
And I placed you there.  
You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

- As the cherub was to guard Eden, so Adam and the priests were to guard Eden, tabernacle, and temple.
- The “cherub” was anointed for his duties in Eden, just as the priests were anointed (Ex 28:41) for their duties at tabernacle and temple.
- The list of stones that were the covering for the cherub (Ez 28:13) are the same stones to be used for the priests’ garments (Ex 28:17-20).
- Eden is described as the “holy mountain of God.”

## Tabernacle and Temple as Microcosms

*The tabernacle and temple point back to Eden and forward to the new creation as attempts to reestablish what was lost when man was driven from God's clean realm of life.*

### Tabernacle and Creation

- Rather than filling the earth with the image of God, man filled it with violence (Gen 6:11).
- God did not renounce His original plan, but rather through the seed of Abraham, He will reclaim what sin corrupted (Gen 12:1-3, 7-8).
- God gives Israel the tabernacle and sacrificial system so that they could dwell in His presence.
- The Promised Land of Canaan is referred to as the Lord's "holy abode" (Ex 15:13) and as a "new" garden of Eden (Ex 15:17).

The similarities in phraseology between the narratives of the creation of the world and the building of the tabernacle indicate that the author of the narratives intended his audience to associate the two building projects with one another.

7 "God said let there be" statements in creation & the 7 "the LORD said to Moses" statements in regards to instructions for the tabernacle.

Genesis/Creation	Exodus/Tabernacle
Gen 1:3, "And God said, 'Let there be...'"	Ex 25:1, "The LORD said to Moses"
Gen 1:6, "And God said, 'Let there be...'"	Ex 30:11, "The LORD said to Moses"
Gen 1:9, "And God said, 'Let the waters be...'"	Ex 30:17, "The LORD said to Moses"
Gen 1:11, "And God said, 'Let the earth sprout...'"	Ex 30:22, "The LORD said to Moses"
Gen 1:14, "And God said, 'Let there be...'"	Ex 30:34, "The LORD said to Moses"
Gen 1:20, "And God said, 'Let the waters swarm...'"	Ex 31:1, "The LORD said to Moses"
Gen 1:24, "And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth...'"	Ex 31:12, "The LORD said to Moses"

## Description of the completion of creation & the description of the completion of the tabernacle building project

Genesis/Creation	Exodus/Tabernacle
Gen 1:31, “And God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”	Ex 39:43, “And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.”
Gen 2:1, “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.”	Ex 39:32, “Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished, and the people of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did.”
Gen 2:2, “And on the seventh day God finished His work that he had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done.”	Ex 40:33, “And He erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.”
Gen 2:3, “So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all His work that He had done in creation.”	Ex 39:43, “And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.”

## Camp of Israel as a New Eden

Genesis 2:8,10	Numbers 24:6
“And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,... A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.”	“Like palm groves that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters.”

- When God took up residence in the tabernacle, He constituted the camp of Israel as the realm of life, just as Eden had been at the beginning. (Gen 3:8; Lev. 26:12; Deut 23:14).
- The idea of the Lord walking in the midst of His people reappears when David wants to build the temple (2 Samuel 7:6-7), and there are similar references regarding His presence among the people once the temple has been built.

## Land of Israel as a New Eden

- Exodus 15:17** You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance,  
The place, Lord, which You have made as Your dwelling,  
The sanctuary, Lord, which Your hands have established.
- Ezekiel 28:13-14** 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
Every precious stone was your covering:  
The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;  
The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;  
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;  
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings  
and sockets,  
Was in you.  
On the day that you were created  
They were prepared.  
14 You were the anointed cherub who covers,  
And I placed you there.  
You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire
- Genesis 28:16-17** 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “The Lord is certainly in this place, and I did not know it!” 17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”
- Exodus 19:1-2** 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. 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.

**2 Samuel 24:18** So Gad came to David that day and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”

**Psalm 68:16-17** 16 Why do you look with envy, you mountains of many peaks,  
At the mountain God has desired as His dwelling?  
Indeed, the Lord will dwell there forever.  
17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands;  
The Lord is among them as at Sinai, in holiness.

## The Temple and Creation

### Creation Imagery and Temple Filled with Glory in 1 Kings 6-8

#### All Creation God's Temple in Psalm 29:9

**Psalm 29:9** “And in His temple all cry, ‘Glory!’”

#### To Dwell in God's House Forever in Psalm 23:6

**Psalm 23:6** Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me  
All the days of my life,  
And my dwelling will be in the house of the Lord forever.

#### Tent and Room Imagery for Creation in Psalm 104

The imagery seems informed by the idea that creation is a house, a palace, that is to say, a cosmic temple Yahweh built as the place of His rest.

#### I Will Fill This House with Glory in Haggai 2:7

Yahweh filled the tabernacle and temple with His glory (Ex 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11), and in a number of places He promises to fill a new temple with glory:

- Isaiah 60:7- “and I will beautify my beautiful house.”
- Haggai 2:7- “I will fill this house with glory.”
- Zechariah 2:5- “I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares Yahweh, and I will be the glory in her midst.”



## Christ the Fulfillment of the Temple

Christ fulfills the temple because He is the place where God is present and the place where atonement for sin is accomplished.

### The Word Tabernacled

- John 1:1-2,14**     1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Ex 25:8**     Have them construct a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them.
- Ex 29:45**     And I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God.
- Ex 29:46**     And they shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, so that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God.
- Deut 33:16**   And with the choice things of the earth and its fullness,  
And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush.  
Let it come to the head of Joseph,  
And to the top of the head of the one who was prince among his brothers.

In the incarnation, Jesus takes up “the temple of His body” (John 2:21), fills it with God’s glory “as the only begotten from the Father” (John 1:14), causing it to abound with God’s own character, being “full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). By his description of the Word as tabernacling among us, John indicates that in the same way God dwelt among Israel in the temple in the Old Testament, God dwelt among His people in the temple of Jesus’ human body during the incarnation.

## Angels Ascending and Descending

**John 1:51** And He \*said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

**Genesis 27:12-13, 17-19** 12 And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 Then behold, the Lord was standing above it and said, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants. 17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

18 So Jacob got up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had placed as a support for his head, and set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on its top. 19 Then he named that place Bethel; but previously the name of the city had been Luz.

Jesus identifies Himself as the true Bethel, the house of God.

## Destroy this Temple

**John 2:19-21** 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and yet You will raise it up in three days?” 21 But He was speaking about the temple of His body.

Relationship between the house of Yahweh that David wants to build (2 Samuel 7:1-7) and the house of David that Yahweh promises to build (2 Samuel 7:11,16).

Christ comes as the heir of the house of David that Yahweh built, and He is simultaneously the fulfillment of the house for Yahweh David wanted to build.

## In My Father's House Are Many Rooms

**John 14:1-2** 1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you.

**John 4:23-24** 23 But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**John 16:7** But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

The “many-roomed” Father’s house (John 14:1-2) is the cosmic temple of the new creation, of which the post-resurrection church is an inaugurated experience.

## I Am Glorified In them

**John 14:17** the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

**John 17:22** The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one;

The Spirit will teach them the truth Jesus taught (John 14:26), bear witness to them about Christ (John 15:26), and bring conviction concerning, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:8-11), guiding the disciples into truth and exalting Jesus (John 16:13-14).

## The Church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit

Old Covenant—> God indwelt the tabernacle/temple

New Covenant —> God indwells His people by His Spirit, making them His temple

- The whole world was made for God to be present with His people, imaged by His people, known, served, and worshiped by His people. These realities will be fully enjoyed in the new heaven and new earth, and the church experiences an inauguration of the new creation through the regenerating and indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The church is the place where the omnipresent God is covenantally present, the place of the people with the authority to give assurance of forgiveness of sin, the place where God is known and served, and the place of the people who live out the inauguration of the new creation.

### Pentecost- Acts 2:1-4

The baptism of the church in the Spirit on the day of Pentecost functions like the glory of God filling tabernacle (Ex 40) and temple (1 Kings 8) and the Spirit coming on Jesus at His baptism (Luke 3:21-22).

### Temple of the Holy Spirit- 1 Corinthians 3:16

**1 Corinthians 3:10-12**      10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each person must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw,

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**      14 Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness? 15 Or what harmony does Christ have with Belial, or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL AMONG THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM;

AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord.

"And do not touch what is unclean;  
And I will welcome you.

18 And I will be a father to you,  
And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,"  
Says the Lord Almighty.

### Forgiveness of Sins- John 20:22-23

**John 20:22-23** 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

**Matthew 16:19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

The church has the ability to assure those who believe Jesus and repent of sin that they are indwelt by the Spirit and thus part of the temple of God. Likewise, the church warns those who do not repent and believe that they are not part of the temple, have not the Spirit, and are without God in the world.

### Living Stones in a Spiritual House- 1 Peter 2:5

**1 Peter 2:4-5** 4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- Between the incarnation, in which Christ fulfilled the temple, and the new creation, which itself will be a cosmic temple, the church is an inaugurated (already/not yet) typological fulfillment of the temple.
- The church enjoys the presence of God through the indwelling Spirit, and the church assures forgiveness of sins through the gospel, experiencing a foretaste of the age to come, having been made a regenerated new creation (2 For 5:17; Gal 6:15) by the life-giving Spirit.

## A Dwelling Place for Glory- Ephesians 2:19-22

**Ephesians 2:19-22** 19 So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

**Ephesians 4:8-16** 8 Therefore it says,

“When He ascended on high,  
He led captive the captives,  
And He gave gifts to people.”

9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

## The Cosmic Temple of the New Creation

Isaiah 65:17-18     17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;  
And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.  
18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create;  
For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing  
And her people for gladness.

### The End a Fulfillment of the Beginning

- Clean realm of life in Genesis 1-2 // clean realm of life in Revelation 21-22
- No death in God’s cosmic temple prior to sin in Genesis 3 // no death in the cosmic temple after the first heaven and earth passes away (Rev 21:1,4)
- No transgressors in Genesis 1-2 // no transgressors in the new Jerusalem (Rev 21:8)
- No sin and death means that there will be nothing unclean, as it was in the beginning (Rev 21:27)
- As Adam was God’s son, granted dominion over God’s realm as vice-regent, so those who overcome will be granted sonship that fulfills that given to new-Adam Israel and new-Israel king from David’s line, so that God’s temple will be served by God’s royal priesthood (Rev 21:7)

### Relationship between Eden and the New Creation

- A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden in Genesis 2:10, and the river of the water of life flows “from the throne of God and of the Lamb” in Revelation 22:1.
- The tree of life was in the garden in Genesis 2:9, but it is even better in the new Eden as it is on both sides of the river, for the healing of the nations (Rev 22:2), for those who enter the city by the gates (Rev 22:14).
- Whereas the unclean serpent was able to infiltrate the garden and induce God’s people to sin (Gen 3:1-7), nothing accursed will be in the city (Rev 22:3). All evildoers will be outside (Rev 22:15).
- Whereas Adam was to work and keep the garden but failed (Gen 2:15; 3:6), in the new and better future god’s priestly servants will experience Him and serve Him: “the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him” (Rev 22:3).

