

God wants to be with his people

Revelation 21:1-4

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I 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 the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

History of the temple, what was it?

Garden Temple

Genesis 1:26

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.'

Genesis 2:8, 25

"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed...And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

Genesis 3:8

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden."

Seperation due to sin

How can God be with his people again?

The sacrificial system and the Law

Tabernacle - 1446 BC

Exodus 25:8-9

“And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and all its furniture, so you shall make it.”

Exodus 40:34-38

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.”

Solomon’s Temple 960-586 BC

2 Samuel 7:1-16

7 Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³ And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, ⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ ⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to

me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ ” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

1 Kings 8:10

“And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”

Psalm 84:1-4, 10

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

2 Kings 25:8-9

⁸ In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹ And he burned the house of the Lord and the king’s house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down.

Second Temple 516 BC

Ezra 1:1-3

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

2 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. **3** Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

Herod begins construction 20 BC-63 AD

The splendor of the temple

Herod's renovations significantly expanded the Second Temple, making it one of the largest and most impressive religious structures in the ancient world. The **temple complex covered an area of about 35 acres**, and the main sanctuary was surrounded by a series of courtyards and colonnades.

Josephus reports that the king spared no expense in his efforts to make the temple a grand and impressive structure.

The temple itself was constructed of white stone and adorned with gold

1. **The Court of the Gentiles** - This was the largest courtyard and was open to all visitors. It was rectangular in shape, with dimensions of approximately 500 by 325 meters (**1,640 by 1,066 feet**).
2. The Women's Court - This courtyard was located just inside the eastern gate and was reserved for women. It was also rectangular in shape, with dimensions of approximately 100 by 135 meters (328 by 442 feet).
3. The Israelites' Court - This courtyard was located just inside the Women's Court and was reserved for Jewish men. It was also rectangular in shape, with dimensions of approximately 50 by 100 meters (164 by 328 feet).
4. The Priestly Court - This was the innermost courtyard and was reserved for priests. It was located just in front of the Temple building and was rectangular in shape, with dimensions of approximately 30 by 45 meters (98 by 148 feet).

The temple building itself was 66 by 131 feet and 148 feet tall - covered in Gold and made of white stone

1000 years with a temple, 1500 with a sacrificial system

Destruction of the temple predicted

Luke 19:41-44

⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you

in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Luke 21

AD 70 - Temple destroyed

1,000,000 Jews killed

1. **Jewish rebellion: In 66 AD, the Jews revolted against Roman rule**, and the rebellion spread throughout Judea and Galilee. The Romans, under the command of **Vespasian and later his son Titus**, responded with a military campaign to crush the rebellion.
2. **Siege of Jerusalem: In 70 AD, the Roman army laid siege to Jerusalem, cutting off the city from food and supplies.** The siege lasted for several months and was marked by intense fighting and suffering on both sides.
3. **Destruction of the Temple: As the siege dragged on, the Romans breached the walls of Jerusalem and eventually set fire to the Temple.** The destruction of the Temple was a devastating blow to the Jewish people and their religious practices.
4. **Political and religious tensions: The period leading up to the destruction of the Temple was marked by political and religious tensions between different factions within Judaism.** The **Zealots**, a radical Jewish sect, played a prominent role in the rebellion and the defense of Jerusalem, but their tactics were often at odds with the more moderate Jewish leaders.
5. **Roman imperialism: The destruction of the Temple was also a result of Roman imperialism** and the desire of the Roman Empire to exert control over its subjects. The Romans saw the Jewish rebellion as a threat to their authority, and the destruction of the Temple was meant to send a message of Roman power and dominance.

Huge blow for Judaism

The end of an era

How can we meet with God?

Two directions -

1. Prayers and good works
1. Only the pharisees survived
2. Christ as the final sacrifice and the new temple

Jesus as the temple

God's permanent dwelling was not intended to be in the temple

John 1:1, 14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which means, God with us."

John 2:18-22

"So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "**Destroy this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

Jesus fulfilled the need of a temple by bringing God directly to us, so that we could become the temple of God.

We are the temple

Acts 7:44-53

⁴⁴ "Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸ **Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands**, as the prophet says,

⁴⁹ " 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?

⁵⁰ Did not my hand make all these things?'

John 16:7

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to.”

Acts 2:1-4

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

1 Corinthians 6:19

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”

1 Peter 2:5, 9-10

⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Ephesians 2:19-22

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, (now listen here) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit”

No temple

Revelation 21:1-4

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dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:22

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

“If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever like, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ was not there?”

– John Piper (God is the Gospel)

This leads us to the question that the disciples asked

WHEN WILL ALL THIS HAPPEN?