

Where Is God's Temple Today?

1 Kings 8

Where is God's Temple today?

In the Bible, we find three Temples built on the same site:

Solomon's, Zerubbabel's, and Herod's.

In approximately 959 BC, Solomon completed the Temple.

It was destroyed in 586 BC when the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar looted, sacked, and burned the Temple (2 Kin. 25:9, 13–17).

Cyrus, king of Persia, authorized the return of the Jewish captives, the return of the Temple's vessels Nebuchadnezzar had looted, and the reconstruction of the Temple (about 538 BC) finished about 515 BC.

King Herod, an Idumean, sought to appease his Jewish subjects by constructing an enormous, ornate, cream-

colored Temple of stone and gold in 19 BC. The main building was finished by 9 BC, but the entire structure was not completed until AD. 64.

Today the Muslim Dome of the Rock stands there—the ‘rock’ being where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2). Both Jews and Muslims honor Abraham as a patriarch.

What Does The Bible Say?

12 Then Solomon prayed, “O Lord, you have said that you would live in a thick cloud of darkness. 13 Now I have built a glorious Temple for you, a place where you can live forever!” (1 Kings 8:12–13 NLT)

“Temple” is another name for “house.” So the temple is a house of God.

1 Kings 8 uses “house” twenty-six times (thirty-seven times in 2 Chron. 5–7).

24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it.

Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-

made temples, 25 and human hands can’t serve his needs—for

he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything,

and he satisfies every need. (Acts 17:24–25 NLT)

In The New Testament, God no longer uses buildings.

19 Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy

Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do

not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price.

So you must honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:18–20

NLT)

If you are a Christian, your body is a house of God.

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire community of Israel. He lifted his hands toward heaven, 23 and he prayed, (1 Kings 8:22–23 NLT)

Solomon asked for seven specific requests.

Justice in the land (vs. 31–32; 2 Chron. 6:22–23)

Military defeat (vs. 33–34; 2 Chron. 6:24–25)

Drought in the land (vs. 35–36; 2 Chron. 6:26–27)

Other natural calamities (vs. 37–40; 2 Chron. 6:28–31)

Foreigners who came to pray (vs. 41–43; 2 Chron. 6:32–33)

Armies in battle (vs. 44–45; 2 Chron. 6:34–35)

Defeat and captivity (vs. 46–53; 2 Chron. 6:36–39)

How Can You Obey?

54 When Solomon finished making these prayers and petitions to the Lord, he stood up in front of the altar of the Lord, where he had been kneeling with his hands raised toward heaven.

55 He stood and in a loud voice blessed the entire congregation of Israel: (1 Kings 8:54–55 NLT)

Solomon blessed them:

May God never leave you. (v. 57)

May you have the desire to do His will. (v. 58)

May you see justice. (v. 59)

So that people will know there is only one God! (v. 60)

What do you pray for daily in your life?

Do you dedicate your body every day to serve God?

Do people know about God because of you?

Additional Notes:

If you would like to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you how to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Additional Notes:

This week's Deep Dive Into The Bible is from Heiser, M. S. (2014). I Dare You Not to Bore Me with the Bible. (J. D. Barry & R. Van Noord, Eds.) (p. 56). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press; Bible Study Magazine.

Explore:

A portion of Solomon's prayer could serve as a prophecy. In verses 46-50, Solomon's words outlined what he understood to

be a potential challenge for God’s people—their propensity toward backsliding. Left to themselves, humans tend toward disobedience. The words of this prayer would become a reality. The Jews, because of their disobedience, found themselves in captivity to the Babylonians in 605 BC. Solomon described what would happen in this captivity. His words also described Israel’s repentance and return as outlined in Daniel 9. Prior to the nation’s repentance, however, Daniel was noted as praying toward Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10), just as prophesied by Solomon, likely in response to Solomon’s prayer.

Explore:

In biblical times three temples were built on the same site: Solomon’s, Zerubbabel’s, and Herod’s. Solomon built the temple on the east side of Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, “where

the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite” (1 Chr. 21:28; 2 Chr. 3:1). The highest part of Mount Moriah is perhaps now the site of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

NELSON’S NEW ILLUSTRATED BIBLE DICTIONARY.

Explore:

The temple is built on the threshing-floor of Araunah, which David bought to make a sacrifice when Jerusalem was threatened by plague (2 Samuel 24:18–25). Today the Muslim Dome of the Rock stands there—the ‘rock’ being the place where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2). Both Jews and Muslims honour Abraham as a patriarch.

The temple is similar in layout to the old tabernacle, but larger. It has an entrance hall (portico), a sanctuary (the ‘Holy Place’) and an inner sanctuary (the ‘Most Holy Place’). It is in the inner

sanctuary that the ark of the covenant will be housed. The ark contains the tablets of stone on which are written the Ten Commandments. The inner sanctuary is shaped like a cube, to provide the 'perfect' space for a holy God.

The writer tells us that it takes seven years to build Solomon's temple. The temple which is built by Herod the Great in Jesus' time takes far longer. It is scarcely completed before it is destroyed by the Romans in ad 70.

Solomon also builds a palace for himself, which is called the 'Palace of the Forest of Lebanon' because of its fine cedar pillars and beams. The throne hall is larger than the temple and provides an impressive court, in which Solomon delivers his famous judgments. It takes thirteen years to build this palace—which is perhaps an indication of Solomon's real priorities.

Andrew Knowles, *The Bible Guide*, 1st Augsburg books ed. (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 2001), 150.

Explore:

8:6–9. The priests put the ark in its place under the outstretched wings of the golden cherubim in the most holy place. As God had commanded they left the carrying poles in the rings (Ex. 25:15). When the doors into the most holy place were open the poles ... could be seen from the holy place ... but not from outside. The statement that the poles are still there today suggests that this part of 1 Kings was written before the temple was destroyed in 586 b.c. The two stone tablets of the Law placed in the ark by Moses were still there. They served to remind Israel that the nation was still under the blessings and responsibilities of the Mosaic Covenant. The pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded, which had been preserved in the ark

(Heb. 9:4) for many years, were no longer there. They may have been removed by the Philistines or some other enemy. Or perhaps the objects, being in front of the tabernacle, not in the ark (cf. Ex. 16:33–34; Num. 17:10), were added to the ark sometime later than Solomon and then eventually were lost.

8:10–11. The cloud that filled the temple was a visible representation of the Lord’s glory. A similar manifestation took place when the tabernacle was dedicated (Ex. 40:34–35).

Thomas L. Constable, “1 Kings,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F.

Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 503.

Explore:

1 Kings 8:1-11

King Solomon had completed the Temple at Jerusalem as a place for God to manifest His presence among His people. He gathered the leaders of Israel in Jerusalem and gave a memorable speech to commemorate the occasion. Countless sacrifices were offered as the people worshiped the Lord. The priests then carried the ark to its place inside the Most Holy Place in the Temple. The ark represented the ruling presence of God. When the priests came out of the Holy Place, God manifested His awesome presence and glory in the form of a cloud that filled the Temple.

Explore:

1 Kings 8:12-21

The Temple had been completed, and now it was time for Solomon to remind the people of God's faithfulness to His promises. The vision for the Temple had been birthed in his

father's heart and the resources had been acquired by his father's hands. But, as God had promised, the realization of the dream had been passed down to Solomon. Solomon praised God for being faithful to His promises. He indicated that God Himself had accomplished it by His own hand. This was one of many promises of God that Solomon recognized as being fulfilled. God is always true to His Word. Gathering at the completed Temple on this occasion was a result of God's fulfilling His word and using Solomon as a means to an end. Solomon had been faithful to carry out the task of building this Temple in which the Lord's name would dwell.

Explore:

1 Kings 8:22-61

From Solomon's speech to the people, he moved to the altar to offer a prayer of consecration and dedication of the Temple. He

opened with words of praise and adoration, thanking God for His goodness throughout history and asking God to bring about what He had promised. Solomon asked God to turn His attention to His people to answer their prayers and forgive them when they called out to Him. Emphasis was placed on the Temple as a place where forgiveness, direction, mercy, and compassion would be offered and extended to all who would seek it, regardless of their nationality or sin.

Question 1 of 5

Did God fight a sea monster at the beginning of creation? If not, what is Psalm 74 referencing?

Question 2 of 5

How does a person draw near to God and seek His presence?

Question 3 of 5

In what ways might God demonstrate His presence to us as we worship and draw near to Him?

Question 4 of 5

Why is repentance necessary for a close walk with God?

Question 5 of 5

How do God's presence and work in our lives point others to Him?

