

SIDE TOUR 4: Biblical Temples

God met and dwelt among His people in spiritual houses or dwelling places. There are seven of these dwelling places or temples in the Bible:

1. The Tabernacle
2. Solomon's Temple
3. Ezra-Zerubbabel-Nehemiah Temple
4. Herod's Temple
5. Body of Christ Temple (and the individual Believer)
6. Anti-Christ Temple
7. New Temple

The New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven after Jesus Returns does not have a temple. God and man will live together as one.

The following are Biblical references for each of these 'temples'.

1. The Tabernacle

- Presence of God with the people in the wilderness
- Used until the time of King David

" Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to raise a contribution for Me; from every man whose heart moves him you shall raise My contribution. "This is the contribution which you are to raise from them: gold, silver and bronze, blue, purple and scarlet material, fine linen, goat hair, rams' skins dyed red, porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for lighting, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. **"Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them."** (Exodus 25:1-8, NASB95)

2. Solomon's Temple

- Tabernacle into a Temple
- 7 years to build
- Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed in 606 BC

" Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' households of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, which is Zion. All the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. Then all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. They brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils, which were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites brought them up. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were assembled to him, were with him

before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen they could not be counted or numbered. **Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim.** For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles from above. But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the 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." (1 Kings 8:1-11, NASB95)

3. Ezra-Zerubbabel-Nehemiah Temple

Israel suffering in captivity

536 BC Zerubbabel returned and planned to rebuild the Temple

444 BC Nehemiah came to rebuild the walls and the Temple

165 BC Temple destroyed

" Now these are the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of the exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his city. These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel" (Ezra 2:1-2, NASB95)

" Now in the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all who came from the captivity to Jerusalem, began the work and appointed the Levites from twenty years and older to oversee the work of the house of the Lord. Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers stood united with Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah and the sons of Henadad with their sons and brothers the Levites, **to oversee the workmen in the temple of God.** Now when the builders had laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord according to the directions of King David of Israel. They sang, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, saying, "For He is good, for His lovingkindness is upon Israel forever." And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. Yet many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, while many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the shout of joy from the sound of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard far away." (Ezra 3:8-13, NASB95)

4. Herod's Temple

- 46 years to build
- Jesus referred to this Temple
- 70 AD destroyed by King Titus

"The Jews then said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?'" (John 2:20, NASB95)

5. Body of Christ Temple (Individual believer)

- Each Christian's body
- All believer's corporately (the Church)

The Church

"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, NASB95)

"you also, **as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house** for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed." (1 Peter 2:5-6, NASB95)

The Individual Believer

"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, NASB95)

6. Anti-Christ Temple

- Possibly set up in the Church

"who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in **the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**" (2 Thessalonians 2:4, NASB95)

7. New Temple

- 1000 year reign of Christ

" Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar.

He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side. When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins. Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. "It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. "And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. "But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. "By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.'" (Ezekiel 47:1-12, NASB95)