

TEMPLE DESIGN: GOD'S PRESENCE WITH MAN

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God's Earthly Dwelling Places

- God gave Moses directions for the Tabernacle in 1445 B.C.
- Solomon's Temple was finished in 960 B.C. (destroyed in 586 B.C.).
- The Second Temple was finished in 516 B.C. (destroyed in 70 A.D.).
- In the NT, Jesus, the church and the Christian are described as temples.
- There will be a Tribulation Temple during the 70th week of Daniel.
- There will be a Millennial Temple for 1,000 years.
- God and Christ will be the only Temple in eternity future.

God's Glory Departs Before Judgment Falls

- Solomon's Temple – Before the Babylonian Captivity (Ezek. 8-11)
- Spiritual Temple (Church) – Before the Rapture (1 Thess. 1:10; 2 Thess. 2:7)

The First & Second Temples

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First Temple (Solomon's Temple)

- Prelude to the Temple
 - David's Purchase of the Threshing Floor (2 Sam. 24:18-25)
 - David's Passion for God's House (1 Chron. 17:1-2; cf. 2 Sam. 7:1-3)
- Plans for the Temple
 - David Prepares Materials (1 Chron. 22:1-5; 28:9-19; 29:3-6)
 - David Prepares Solomon (1 Chron. 22:6-19)
 - The Temple is Built (2 Chron. 3)
 - Construction begins → about 967 B.C. (2 Ch. 3:2).
 - Construction ends → about 960 B.C (1 Kings 6:38)
 - The Temple is Filled (2 Chron. 5)
- The Purposes of the Temple (Dr. Randall Price)
 - Station of the Divine Presence
 - Sign of the Covenant
 - Signal of the End of Exile
 - Socio-Political Institution
 - Symbol of National Sovereignty
 - Secured National Blessings

- Source of Worldwide Blessing
- Service as the Focal Point of Prayer
- The Temple Sacrifices
 - Sin Offering & Guilt Offering (Lev. 4-6; Num. 15:1-12)
 - Sin offering: Focused on paying for sin; atoned for sins against God.
 - Guilt offering: Focused on sins against other people.
 - Burnt Offering (Lev. 1)
 - Represented total dedication/surrender to the Lord
 - Unblemished male animal → bore the sins of the offerer, died in their place
 - Blood sprinkled on altar
 - Animal entirely burned up → none was roasted for eating
 - Grain (Meal) Offering (Lev. 2)
 - Thanksgiving offering
 - Fine flour, unleavened cakes, roasted grain → given to priests
 - Priests burned handful on altar and could eat the rest
 - Fellowship (Peace) Offering (Lev. 2; 7:11-21)
 - Symbolized fellowship/peace with God through shed blood
 - Part of the meat ceremonially waved, given to priests
 - Then, worshippers/guests share in the meal as a feast to God
- The Destruction of the Temple
 - Shortly after dedicating the Temple, God appears to Solomon with a warning.
 - 1 Kings 9:6-9

- Israel's Decline

- Solomon does not remain loyal to God
 - Rehoboam → divides kingdom: Israel (north), Judah (south)
 - Rehoboam (Judah) Jeroboam (Israel)
- Northern Kingdom
 - Apostasy
 - Brings judgment → 722 B.C.: Northern Kingdom exiled by Assyria
- Southern Kingdom
- Wicked kings, but also reformers
- God's judgment held back for 135 years
- Judgment: 605 B.C. → Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invades Jerusalem, takes king, thousands of nobles and laborers back to Babylon (Daniel and company).
- Judgment: 597 B.C. → More deportations to Babylon; all remaining treasures taken from Temple (2 Kings 24:13)
- Judgment: 586 B.C. → King Nebuchadnezzar surrounds Jerusalem, sieges for 18 months. Burns Temple, palace, all Jerusalem buildings. Bronze pillars, molten sea, bronze stands all broken up and taken away (2 Kings 25:13; Jer. 52:17). Further exile of inhabitants.

Second Temple (Herod's Temple)

- Returning to Israel
 - Captivity will last 70 years (Jer. 25:11-12)
 - The Medes & the Persians (under Cyrus) overthrew Babylon in 539 B.C. (2 Chron. 36:20-21; Dan. 5:30-31).
 - 538 B.C. → God stirs up the heart of Persian king Cyrus, who issues a decree that allows the Jewish people to return and rebuild the Temple (2 Chron. 36:22-23).
 - Under leadership of Zerubbabel, nearly 50,000 Jewish people return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-4; 6:1-5)
 - There is no question, for the Jewish people, where they will rebuild the Temple → it will be on the same site as the First Temple (cf. Ezra 2:68).
- Construction of the Temple
 - 535 B.C. — Construction begins
 - Construction is put on hold for 15 years (2 Kings 17).
 - March 12, 516 B.C. → Temple dedicated, about 20 years after the return from exile.
 - Old guard: “It’s not the same!”
 - No Ark of the Covenant
 - No Shekinah glory
- From Construction to Destruction
 - Alexander the Great: Hellenism
 - Antiochus Epiphanese: wants to continue Hellenism
 - 168 B.C. → outlaws biblical Judaism, desecrates Temple

- The Maccabees: warriors for God
 - December, 165 B.C. → rededicate Temple
 - Hanukkah

- The Romans: The Great Power
 - 63 B.C. → General Pompey invades Jerusalem
 - Herod the Great
 - 20 B.C. → wants to expand Temple complex
 - Creates a large platform with retaining walls (one of the stones discovered beneath the present-day ground level = 45' by 11' by 14-16' & weighs 600 tons!

- Jesus' Life & Ministry at the Temple
 - Important to remember → Jesus' entire earthly life and ministry took place in Israel, much of it in Jerusalem, especially in the Temple.
 - Presentation at the Temple (Lk. 2:22-27, 39)
 - Dialogue w/religious leaders (Lk. 2:41-49)
 - Tempted at the Temple (Matt. 4:5-7)
 - Taught in the Temple (Mk. 12:35; Lk. 22:52-53; Jn. 8:20; 10)
 - Entered the Temple on Palm Sunday (Matt. 21)
 - Rides down Mount of Olives and through Eastern Gate
 - Cleansed the Temple (Matt. 21)
 - Accused of Planning to Destroy Temple (Matt. 26:61)
 - Foretold the Temple's Destruction (Matt. 24:1-2)
 - The Temple Veil is Torn (Mk. 15:37-28)

- The Destruction of the Temple
 - AD 66 → Roman governor takes 17 talents of gold from Temple treasury;
results in Jewish revolt
 - AD 70 → Temple destroyed by Rome (Matt. 24:1-2)
 - Rabbinic Judaism is born
- Why Not Rebuild?
 - Primary reason: the Jewish people have only been in control of Jerusalem for the last 55 years!
- The Temple In the Church Age?
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16

TRIBULATION TEMPLE: CENTER OF REBELLION

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Four Groups of Tribulation Believers

- The Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:1-12)
- The 144,000 Witnesses (Rev. 7:1-8; 14:1-5)
- The Great Multitude (Rev. 7:9-17)
- The Restored Nation of Israel (Isa. 4:3; Zech. 13:8-9; Matt. 24:13; Rom. 11:26)

The Two Witnesses

- Identify
- Evangelize
- Train
- Commission

... the 144,000 Witnesses

How will the Temple be built so quickly?

- The covenant with the Antichrist will allow for the use of the location.
- The Two Witnesses will identify the proper priests.

The First Abomination of Desolation

- Dan. 8:13; 11:31

- Antiochus IV Epiphanes
- Seleucid, Syrian, Greek king
- Ruled over the Holy Land from 175 to 165 (164) B.C.
- Antiochus:
 - Plundered the Temple
 - Established an altar to Zeus
 - Sacrificed swine
 - Theos Epiphanes = “God Manifest”

The Millennial Temple: The King's Palace

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Why A Millennial Kingdom?

- God's unfulfilled promises
- God's unfulfilled prophecies

Features of the Kingdom

- A One-World Ruler
 - Psalm 2
- A One-World Government
 - Isaiah 9:7
- A One-World Worship
 - The object of worship: the God of Israel (Zech. 14:16)
 - The place of worship: the Temple (Ezek. 40-48)

The Temple in Ezekiel

- **Background**
 - Ezekiel chapters 40-46 encompass a vision given by God to the prophet/priest Ezekiel, while he was living in exile in Babylon (Ezek. 1:1; 40:2).
 - Vision comes to Ezekiel in the 25th year of Israel's captivity (approx. 573 B.C.).
- **Interpretation: Historical, Symbolic, or Future?**
 - Historical: Ezekiel's idealized memory of Solomon's Temple → will inspire a generation of Israel that never saw that Temple as they return to the land. Or it is the blueprint to be used in constructing the Second Temple, upon Israel's return from exile.
 - Symbolic/Figurative: Describes a symbolic Temple that represents either the restored nation of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church, Heaven, or the New Heavens and the New Earth of the eternal state.¹

¹ http://library.mibckerala.org/lms_frame/eBook/Temple%20of%20Ezekiel's%20Prophecy%20-%20Randall%20Price.pdf

- Future, Literal: The Temple described is a literal, future Temple, to be built following the Tribulation; referred to as the Millennial Temple in the Millennial Kingdom.

The Construction of the Temple

- Location: Jerusalem
- Measurements:
 - The Outer Wall (40:5) → 10.5' thick, 10.5' high, 875' long
 - The Dimensions of Temple Building → 175' (100 cubits) long and 175' (100 cubits) wide (Ezek. 41:13-14)
 - Angel measures each side (42:1-20) → each side of the complex is 500 rods (875'). The total area = 765,625 square feet → more than 13 football fields!
- The Temple River (Ezek. 47)
 - Flows down to the Dead Sea, healing its waters (47:8). Fish will swarm in the waters, and fishermen will fish from the banks.

The Filling of the Temple (Ezek. 43:1-12)

- The Jewish nation will no longer defile God's presence.
- The Temple mount is to be holy.

Worship at the Temple

- Israel: Worship Leader of the World
- Gentiles: Worshipers of Israel's God
- Sacrifices
 - They are memorial: The sacrifices will remind believers of what Jesus did on their behalf. Comparison often made to the Lord's Supper.
 - They are testimonial: The sacrifices will be a graphic picture to the unsaved in the MK of what Messiah did on their behalf, too.
 - They are ceremonial: The sacrifices deal with ceremonial uncleanness and will prevent human beings from defiling the Temple, where God's presence dwells.
- The Prince (44:3; 46:2)
- The Priests

- The Levites (44:10-14)
- The Zadokites (44:15-31)
- The Feasts (Convocations)
 - Passover/Unleavened Bread (45:21)
 - Sukkot/Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14:16-18)
 - The Sabbath (46:1-5)