

# **“In My Father’s House”**

**The Theme of TEMPLE from Genesis to Revelation -  
What the Bible is All About From Start to Finish**

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**Title:** Which Temple do You Worship In – Babel, or Christ?

**Text:** Selected from the Gospels and Acts

**Reading:** Genesis 11:1-9

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## **Introduction**

Listen to this statement once again by Randy Alcorn in his book, Heaven –

*“In Eden, God came down to Earth, the home of mankind, whenever he wished (Genesis 3:8). On the New Earth, God and mankind will be able to come to each other whenever they wish. We will not have to leave home to visit God, nor will God have to leave home to visit us. God and mankind will live together forever in the same home – the New Earth.”*

THIS IS THE END POINT OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE! OF ALL OF HISTORY. This is God’s great purpose, and He is unceasingly carrying it out in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Understand this – the theme we are calling “TEMPLE,” and you will understand what the Bible is all about –

Leviticus 26:11-12 ESV

(11) I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you.

(12) And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

Leviticus 26:11-12 NBLH (11) 'Además, haré Mi morada en medio de ustedes, y Mi alma no los aborrecerá. (12) 'Andaré entre ustedes y seré su Dios, y ustedes serán Mi pueblo.

We know that we are not exaggerating the importance of this purpose because it is repeated over and over and over throughout the Bible –

2 Corinthians 6:16 ESV

(16) What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 6:16 NBLH

(16) ¿O qué acuerdo tiene el templo de Dios con los ídolos? Porque nosotros somos el templo del Dios vivo, como Dios dijo: "HABITARE EN ELLOS, Y ANDARE ENTRE ELLOS; Y SERE SU DIOS, Y ELLOS SERAN MI PUEBLO.

And it is all REAL! A real place. A real Earth. Real people with Real bodies. Real animals – and all of it more REAL than we have ever known. And by “real” we mean not only “physical” but – *familiar* –

*“Unless we grasp the resurrection, we won’t believe that we’ll continue to be ourselves in the afterlife. We are physical beings. If the eternal Heaven is a disembodied state, then our humanity will either be diminished or transcended, and we will never again be ourselves after we die...The risen Christ said, ‘Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!’ ....Jesus called people in Heaven by name, including Lazarus in the intermediate Heaven (Luke 16:25) and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the eternal Heaven (Matthew 8:11). A name denotes a distinct identity, an individual. The fact that people in Heaven can be called by the same name they had on Earth demonstrates they remain the same people. In Heaven I’ll be Randy Alcorn – without the bad parts – forever. If you know Jesus, you’ll be you – without the bad parts – forever.” [Heaven]*

This is the thing we are considering in this series which we have called Temple.

### Review

Alright then, a brief review of where we have been -

T - Trinity (John 17:5, 24)

E - Eden & Eviction– (Genesis 1-3)

M - Moses (the history of Israel)

- Abraham (Genesis 12-15)

- Moses, Israel, and the Tabernacle (Exodus)

P - Poetry & Prophets Psalm 23 Ezekiel 36

**L - Lamb John 1:14; Eph 2:19-22**

E - Eden Excelled

Each form of the Temple is a miniature of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

From Eden and back to Eden – only better! There and back again.

Let's continue then with L – Lamb. We had arrived at Christ as the Temple when He entered this world –

John 1:14 ESV

(14) 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.

John 1:14 NBLH

(14) El Verbo (La Palabra) se hizo carne, y habitó entre nosotros, y vimos Su gloria, gloria como del unigénito (único) del Padre, lleno de gracia y de verdad.

*Dwelt among us.* There it is again – that same theme. And at each new phase, this dwelling among advances to a greater intimacy, just as the Son of God come to live among us is far more intimate communion of God with us than the Old Testament Tabernacle. And one day the holy of holies will break out into all the universe, with no more separation between heaven and earth. The New Jerusalem will descend from heaven –

Revelation 21:1-3 ESV

- (1) 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.

Revelation 21:1-3 NBLH

- (1) Entonces vi un cielo nuevo y una tierra nueva, porque el primer cielo y la primera tierra pasaron, y el mar ya no existe.
- (2) Y vi la ciudad santa, la nueva Jerusalén, que descendía del cielo, de Dios, preparada como una novia ataviada para su esposo.
- (3) Entonces oí una gran voz que decía desde el trono: "El tabernáculo de Dios está entre los hombres, y El habitará entre ellos y ellos serán Su pueblo, y Dios mismo estará entre ellos.

Jesus has set it all in motion. We said that Christ, coming as another Adam, succeeds where the first Adam and where the first earthly Israel *failed*. Christ is faithful to obey His Father, to overcome Satan, and to take the Temple out into the whole creation – “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*” That is what He is doing even right now. In Christ the temple veil separating the holy of holies from us has been ripped away so that the glory of God is breaking out. Christ healed the sick. Christ rose from the dead. He performed miracles that are a reversal of the curse. Jesus is man as he should be – a faithful priesthood

taking the knowledge of the Lord into all creation. Redeeming creation from the curse of sin and death.

I don't know if you have ever watched the Star Trek movies – some are better than others – the whale one is pretty cheesy! But there is one scene in particular that I remember where something called the Genesis Effect had been discovered. This object was a kind of bomb, but instead of destroying a planet, it could be dropped on a dead planet and the “explosion” would be one of life, so that trees and animals and plants and water came into being.

Christ is the great and true Genesis Effect. He was “shot” into this world from heaven, and the moment He landed, the Genesis Effect went into action. And the explosion is still not complete. The thing is still “going off.” Resurrections are happening – and the great resurrection is yet to come. Sin and death are being abolished. Life is replacing death. The devil is defeated. The desert will literally blossom. All because God's Temple always was intended to fill the whole creation – even the first Temple in Eden. Adam and Eve were to subdue and govern all creation until Eden filled the whole Earth. They failed. Jesus succeeds.

In the rest of our time this morning, let me show you from several places in the Gospel of John, how Jesus is seen functioning as the Temple. As the New Creation. I think that you will understand more clearly how knowing about God's great purpose to come and dwell among us and to spread His presence out through all the creation – makes the pieces of the puzzle of the Bible fit all together into one great portrait that will make you want to just gaze and gaze and gaze at it.

### **Destroy This Temple And...**

Much of Jesus' teaching and ministry occurred in the Jerusalem temple and this is no accident. Early on in the Gospel of John we find Him cleansing His Father's house –

John 2:14-21 ESV

(14) In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

(15) And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. (16) And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

(17) His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

(18) So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?"

(19) Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

(20) The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?"

(21) But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

#### John 2:14-21 NBLH

(14) En el templo encontró a los que vendían bueyes, ovejas y palomas, y a los que cambiaban dinero allí sentados.

(15) Y haciendo un látigo de cuerdas, echó a todos fuera del templo, con las ovejas y los bueyes; desparramó las monedas de los que cambiaban el dinero y volcó las mesas.

(16) A los que vendían palomas les dijo: "Quiten esto de aquí; no hagan de la casa de Mi Padre una casa de comercio."

(17) Sus discípulos se acordaron de que estaba escrito: "EL CELO POR TU CASA ME CONSUMIRA."

(18) Entonces los Judíos Le dijeron: "Ya que haces estas cosas, ¿qué señal nos muestras?"

(19) Jesús les respondió: "Destruyan este templo, y en tres días lo levantaré."

(20) Entonces los Judíos dijeron: "En cuarenta y seis años fue edificado este templo, ¿y Tú lo levantarás en tres días?"

(21) Pero El hablaba del templo de Su cuerpo.

Jesus has a dual meaning here –

- 1) The old, physical temple at Jerusalem was going to be destroyed in 70AD. Already it had been replaced by His own body.
- 2) When Jesus died and rose again, His own body became an even greater Temple – the Church.

Mark 14:58 ESV

(58) "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

Mark 14:58 NBLH

(58) "Nosotros Le oímos decir: 'Yo destruiré este templo hecho por manos, y en tres días edificaré otro no hecho por manos.'"

### **Jesus as Jacob's Ladder**

John 1:51 ESV

(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."

John 1:51 NBLH

(51) También le dijo: "En verdad les digo que verán el cielo abierto y a los ángeles de Dios subiendo y bajando sobre el Hijo del Hombre."

When Jesus said this, He was announcing that HE is the ladder between heaven and earth that Jacob saw in his dream –

Genesis 28:12-14 ESV

(12) And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

(13) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.

(14) Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:12-14 NBLH

(12) Tuvo un sueño, y vio que había una escalera apoyada en la tierra cuyo extremo superior alcanzaba hasta el cielo. Por ella los ángeles de Dios subían y bajaban.

(13) El SEÑOR estaba de pie junto a él, y dijo: "Yo soy el SEÑOR, el Dios de tu padre Abraham y el Dios de Isaac. La tierra en la que estás acostado te la daré a ti y a tu descendencia.

(14) "También tu descendencia será como el polvo de la tierra. Te extenderás hacia el occidente y hacia el oriente, hacia el norte y hacia el sur; y en ti y en tu simiente serán bendecidas todas las familias de la tierra.

The Temple is the connection between God's Heaven and Earth. Jesus is that connection – the Ladder or Stairway (escalera). He is the way by Whom we come into the Father's presence. He is effecting the building of a permanent temple and it is under construction now.

### **Jesus as Living Water**

In the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well. He asks her for a drink and she replies –

John 4:10-14 ESV

(10) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

(11) The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

(12) Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

(13) Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, (14) but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

John 4:10-14 NBLH

(10) Jesús le respondió: "Si tú conocieras el don de Dios, y quién es el que te dice: 'Dame de beber,' tú Le habrías pedido a El, y El te hubiera dado agua viva."

(11) Ella Le dijo: "Señor, no tienes con qué sacarla, y el pozo es hondo; ¿de dónde, pues, tienes esa agua viva?"

(12) "¿Acaso eres Tú mayor que nuestro padre Jacob, que nos dio el pozo del cual bebió él mismo, y sus hijos, y sus ganados?"

(13) Jesús le respondió: "Todo el que beba de esta agua volverá a tener sed,

(14) pero el que beba del agua que Yo le daré, no tendrá sed jamás, sino que el agua que Yo le daré se convertirá en él en una fuente de agua que brota para vida eterna."

God's Temple always has *water*. Eden was the source of a river that grew larger and larger, watering the earth. The Old Testament tabernacle and later the temple had a brazen sea of water. Ezekiel's vision of the final Temple – the New Earth – has a river flowing from it that grows deeper and deeper. And we see the same thing in the renewed Eden – the river of the water of life flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb (Rev 22). *When Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that He will give her living water that will well up to eternal life, He is telling her that He is the Temple. He has begun the construction of the new and final Temple – the New Heavens and the New Earth. This is the same thing Jesus says in John 7-*

John 7:37-39 ESV

(37) On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

(38) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"

(39) Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:37-39 NBLH

(37) En el último día, el gran día de la fiesta, Jesús puesto en pie, exclamó en alta voz: "Si alguien tiene sed, que venga a Mí y beba.

(38) "El que cree en Mí, como ha dicho la Escritura: 'De lo más profundo de su ser brotarán ríos de agua viva.'"

(39) Pero El decía esto del Espíritu, que los que habían creído en El habían de recibir; porque el Espíritu no había sido dado todavía, pues Jesús aún no había sido glorificado.

You begin to understand then and appreciate how it is the theme of Christ as the Temple that makes sense of and gives unity to all of these teachings and actions of Jesus. In Christ, God is moving ceaselessly forward in His purpose to dwell among His people, and that purpose is carried out by God creating a New Heavens and a New Earth in which His people will live with Him forever. It is now...and not yet. Every Christian is already a New Creation – having been raised from the dead by Christ. But one day He will raise our bodies from the dead as well – and we will then be perfectly fit for our new home.

### **The Temple Advances in Acts**

This brings us now to an even greater way that Jesus became the Temple. As we move on from the Gospels to the book of The Acts of the Apostles, an even more intimate dwelling of God among His people comes to be. Christ, by His Spirit, “moves in” – into every believer – and we find ourselves one step closer to the New Earth –

Acts 2:1-4 ESV

(1) When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

(2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

(3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

(4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4 NBLH

(1) Cuando llegó el día de Pentecostés, estaban todos juntos (unánimes) en un mismo lugar,

(2) y de repente vino del cielo un ruido como el de una ráfaga de viento impetuoso que llenó toda la casa donde estaban sentados.

(3) Se les aparecieron lenguas como de fuego que, repartiéndose, se posaron sobre cada uno de ellos.

(4) Todos fueron llenos del Espíritu Santo y comenzaron a hablar en otras lenguas, según el Espíritu les daba habilidad para expresarse.

The New Testament will go on to interpret this event, as we will see in Ephesians chapter 2. Now the Temple is Christ AND His people – the Body of Christ whose Head is Jesus. Notice also that the moment the Holy Spirit came upon the believers at Jerusalem, they began to *preach the gospel of Christ*. That is to say, they were doing what Adam did not do – spreading Eden to all the world. Christ is the Temple and His Body, the Church, is the Temple. This is where He resides. Incredibly, the Christian has become the Holy of holies! Hear it once more –

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV

(19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,

(20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NBLH

(19) ¿O no saben que su cuerpo es templo del Espíritu Santo que está en ustedes, el cual tienen de Dios, y que ustedes no se pertenecen a sí mismos?

(20) Porque han sido comprados por un precio. Por tanto, glorifiquen a Dios en su cuerpo y en su espíritu, los cuales son de Dios.

And again –

Ephesians 2:18-22 ESV (18) For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

(19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

(20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

(21) in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

(22) In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18-22 NBLH

(18) Porque por medio de Cristo los unos y los otros tenemos nuestra entrada al Padre en un mismo Espíritu.

(19) Así pues, ustedes ya no son extraños ni extranjeros, sino que son conciudadanos de los santos y son de la familia de Dios.

(20) Están edificados sobre el fundamento de los apóstoles y profetas, siendo Cristo Jesús mismo la piedra angular,

(21) en quien todo el edificio, bien ajustado, va creciendo para ser un templo santo en el Señor.

(22) En Cristo también ustedes son juntamente edificados para morada de Dios en el Espíritu.

Man reconciled to man, man reconciled to God so that once more we have access to the Father. We have been made citizens of the Father's house – in fact – we ARE that house! Do not miss this –

***“In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”***

## Conclusion

Let's close with this observation, and then a very serious question to ask of ourselves. First, Acts chapter 2 is a reversal of Babel (Genesis 11). You remember the story. God had commanded men to spread through the entire earth. But man rebelled and arrogantly began to build a temple – the tower of Babel – to reach into the heavens for himself. God forced them to do what they should have done obediently – scatter throughout the earth – by confusing their language. Acts 2 is a reversal of this judgment as people from all nations were present in Jerusalem and heard the gospel of Christ preached in their own language.

But there is another very important way that this new Temple is a reversal of Babel. At Babel, rebellious human beings set themselves to build their own temple that would take them up into the presence of God. Babel in other words was the beginning of false religion – at least on a large scale. In Christ, *God builds a temple – the only true temple – by which He comes down to us.* And so we can state the principle this way –

***“There are two kinds of temples (religions) – one made by man, the other made by God. Babel and Christ. Babel Religion is a feeble and wicked attempt by man, through his own doings, to ascend into heaven and bring God down to earth. The Religion of Christ is a temple made without the hands of man, a temple made by God, in which God comes down to us and raises us up into His presence. Two religions and two temples. Only two.”***

And here, then, is the question –

***“Which temple is yours? That is to say, are you of Babel or of Christ? Are you working to make your own temple through your own doings and ‘good works’ to bring yourself into God’s presence? Or have you come into the true temple by believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior? The Apostle Paul puts the challenge to us this way –***

Romans 10:6-10 ESV

(6) But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)

(7) or "'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). (8) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);

(9) because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

(10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:6-10 NBLH

(6) Pero la justicia que es de la fe, dice así: "NO DIGAS EN TU CORAZON: '¿QUIEN SUBIRA AL CIELO?' Esto es, para hacer bajar a Cristo,

(7) o '¿QUIEN DESCENDERA AL ABISMO?' Esto es, para subir a Cristo de entre los muertos."

(8) Pero, ¿qué dice? "CERCA DE TI ESTA LA PALABRA, EN TU BOCA Y EN TU CORAZON," es decir, la palabra de fe que predicamos:

(9) que si confieras con tu boca a Jesús por Señor, y crees en tu corazón que Dios Lo resucitó de entre los muertos, serás salvo.

(10) Porque con el corazón se cree para justicia, y con la boca se confiesa para salvación.

Examine yourself. Here is the sure test that sorts out the true religion of Christ from all false religions and temples made by man. *Is the temple of your religion being built by YOU, or by GOD in Christ?*

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

(1) For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:1 NBLH

(1) Porque sabemos que si la tienda terrenal que es nuestra morada, es destruida, tenemos de Dios un edificio, una casa no hecha por manos, eterna en los cielos.