

Theme: The Temple finds its focus and fulfillment in Christ, Who is the fullness of God and the atoning sacrifice for sin, and Who makes His people to be God's temple.

## I. Intro - The Place of the Temple??

- A. A lot of controversy over the Temple mount!
- B. How did Jesus view the Temple?
- C. What is relationship between Jesus & Temple?
- D. What about God's Temple today?

## II. The Jerusalem Temple – God's House!

- A. Jesus had great respect for Temple (2:15-17)
  - 1. Angered by those desecrating Temple (15)
  - 2. Calls it "My Father's house" (16)
  - 3. Consumed by zeal for Temple (17; Ps 69:9)
- B. The Temple in the OT
  - 1. Place of sacrifice and offering (Deut 12:4-6)
    - a. Where sacrifices took place
    - b. **Only** place sacrifice can happen (Deut 12:4-6)
  - 2. Place of access to God (Is 56:7; 1 Ki 8:29-30; 41-43)
    - a. Place of prayer for all nations (Is 56:7)
    - b. God's hears Jews prayer toward Temple (1 Ki 8:29-30)

- c. Foreigners come to God here (1 Ki 8:41-43)
- 3. Place of God's dwelling/Presence (Ex 25:8; 1 Ki 6:12-13)
  - a. Tabernacle – God's dwelling (Exodus 25:8)
  - b. Temple – God's dwelling (1 Kings 6:12-13)

## III. The Jerusalem Temple – Now Obsolete!

- A. Jesus spoke of a new temple (2:19-22)
  - 1. He spoke of His body as the Temple (2:21)
  - 2. Disciples later understood Scripture? What?
- B. The necessity of a new Temple
  - 1. Old Temple limited in fulfillment of purposes
    - a. The offerings did not remove sin (Heb 10:3-4)
    - b. Only provided limited access to God (Heb 9:7-8)
    - c. God only dwelled in limited way (1 Ki 8:27; Acts 7:48-50)
    - d. Holwerda 64; Presence removed/Temple destroyed
  - 2. Jesus completely fulfilled purposes
    - a. Jesus – True Lamb of God (last week)
    - b. Jesus gives unlimited access to God (Heb 10:19-22)
    - c. Jesus – fullness of God (Col 2:9)
  - 3. The Old Temple obsolete (Jn 1:14; 2:19; 4:21-24; Mk 15:38; etc.)

- a. The new tabernacle/Temple (Jn 1:14; 2:19)
- b. A new era of worship (John 4:21-24)
- c. The curtain rent – Temple changed (Mk 15:38)
- d. Old replaced by new (Heb 8:13; 9:10; Hol. 74-75)

#### C. The Church – God’s Temple in Christ

- 1. Messiah builds Temple (2 Sam 7:12-13)
- 2. NT texts (Eph 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2:5; 2 Cor 6:16; 1 Cor 3:16;)

### IV. Conclusion & Summary

#### A. Don’t look for an earthly Temple

- 1. Much energy spent on this
- 2. This is **not** God’s plan!
- 3. Shadow is gone – reality is come!

#### B. Jesus is God’s Temple

- 1. He is the True Priest and True Lamb
- 2. He Provides true access to God
- 3. He is the Presence of God in fullness
- 4. This Temple will never be left desolate!

#### C. Believers are God’s Temple in Christ

- 1. We are the ones now offering to God
- 2. We are the place where people meet God
- 3. We are the place where God dwells
- 4. We are God’s Temple in the earth!

#### Christ and the Temple

John 2:13-22

May 23, 2004

Sanctuary OR Glory of the Ages

Numbers 6:24-26

<sup>4</sup> You must not worship the LORD your God in their way. <sup>5</sup> But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; <sup>6</sup> there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. Deuteronomy 12:4-6

<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." Isaiah 56:7

<sup>29</sup> May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive. 1Ki 8:29-30

<sup>41</sup> "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name-- <sup>42</sup> for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm-- when he comes and prays toward this temple, <sup>43</sup> then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. 1 Kings 8:41-43

Have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Ex 25:8

<sup>12</sup> "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. <sup>13</sup> And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel." 1 Ki 6:12-13

But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, <sup>4</sup> because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins Heb 10:3-4

<sup>7</sup> But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. <sup>8</sup> The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. Hebrews 9:7-8

<sup>27</sup> "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! 1 Kings 8:27

<sup>48</sup> "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? <sup>50</sup> Has not my hand made all these things?" Acts 7:48-50

Tabernacles, temples, and even the ark of the covenant cannot guarantee the presence of God. When God departs, these are only buildings and artifacts made by human hands and capable of being destroyed by human hands. *Holwerda, 64.*

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Heb 10:19-22

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form Col 2:9

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

<sup>21</sup> Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:21-24

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Mark 15:38

<sup>13</sup> By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear. Hebrews 8:13

They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings-- external regulations applying until the time of the new order. Hebrews 9:10

When fulfillment happens, the institutions that were types or symbols of that reality are no longer necessary. They are displaced by the reality they symbolize. *Holwerda, Jesus & Israel, 74-75*

<sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring to succeed you**, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> **He is the one who will build a house for my Name**, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 2Sam 7:12-13

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become **a holy temple in the Lord**. Ephesians 2:19-21

<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are **being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5

<sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? **For we are the temple of the living God**. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 2 Corinthians 6:16

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple** and that **God's Spirit lives in you?** <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for **God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple**. 1 Cor 3:16-17