



The New Covenant Temple

Key idea:

Jesus prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed and the Old Covenant would end, for in the New Covenant the people of God are God's Temple.

Key text:

Mark 13:1-4, 24-25

As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" ² "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." ³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"...

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

Key points:

1. Jesus' prophecy in Mark 13 is about the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 AD, not the end of the world.
2. The "heavenly signs" language (sun darkened, stars falling) is metaphorical, drawn from Old Testament prophecies about major world-changing events.
3. The destruction of the temple marked the end of the old covenant and the full establishment of the new covenant.
4. In the new covenant, the church and individual believers themselves are the temple of God, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in them.

5. The new covenant, sealed by Jesus' blood, offers direct access to God and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all believers.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the Old Testament context help us interpret Jesus' words in Mark 13? Why is this important for Bible study in general?
2. In what ways is the new covenant superior to the old covenant? How does this impact our daily walk with God?
3. What does it mean for us to be the "temple of God" individually and collectively as the church? How should this shape our view of ourselves and our role in the world?
4. The teaching emphasized the importance of the Holy Spirit in the new covenant. How have you experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in your life?
5. How does the reality of being God's temple change the way we approach worship, prayer, and our daily activities?
6. Bret mentioned that we often need to be "refilled" with the Holy Spirit. What does this look like practically? How can we cultivate an ongoing openness to the Spirit's work?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, choose an Old Testament passage referenced in the sermon (e.g., Isaiah 13, Joel 2) and read it in full context. Reflect on how it connects to the New Testament and Jesus' teachings.
2. Set aside time each day to consciously invite the Holy Spirit to fill you and guide your actions. Journal about any changes you notice in your thoughts or behaviors.

3. Identify one area of your life where you've been relying on your own strength rather than the power of the Holy Spirit. Make a plan to surrender this area to God and seek His Spirit's help.
4. With others, brainstorm ways you can remind each other throughout the week that you are God's temple. This could involve encouraging text messages, prayer partnerships, or visual reminders in your homes or workplaces.
5. Reflect on how being part of the new covenant impacts your approach to communion. The next time you participate, focus on experiencing God's grace through the work of the Holy Spirit rather than viewing it as a ritual.