

Temple of God

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on the temple of God. Those who look to follow God are well aware of the Old Testament temple. It has been nearly two millennia since the destruction of that temple. Do we need such a temple again? Did God choose the temple as his dwelling place? Where does God dwell today? We will deal with these questions from a biblical perspective, and will see that there is a clear message on the temple of God.

THE TABERNACLE

The tabernacle is the earliest form of the temple of God that we see in the Bible. The tabernacle was a temple in a tent. The tent could be taken down and put up as the children of Israel moved around the desert. The tabernacle was in use from just after the Exodus until Solomon.

Looking to the scriptures we see that God commanded how the tabernacle was to be made in every detail.

Exodus 25-27

Moses was given the greatest of detail including measurements, building materials and items for the tabernacle, down to how many hooks to fasten the materials to the beams.

Exodus 31:1 - 6

Verse 1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Verse 2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

Verse 3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

Verse 4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,

Verse 5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

Verse 6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;

We see that God selected the artisans to lead the work. God filled them with the spirit to be able to complete the works as given to Moses.

Exodus 36-38:1-20

We see that Bezaleel and Aholiab, through the spirit of God, complete the tabernacle as God instructed Moses. We see also that others are moved to assist with the project.

Exodus 38:22

Verse 22 And Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses.

Exodus 39:43

Verse 43 And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the LORD had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.

We see that the tabernacle was completed exactly as God had instructed.

Leviticus 15:31

Verse 31 Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.

Leviticus 16:16

Verse 16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Numbers 19:13

Verse 13 Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the

tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.

Anything unclean, including unclean people, entering the tabernacle caused it to be defiled.

THE TEMPLE

The tabernacle was still used after Israel had settled the promised land. It was David who first purposed to build a permanent structure in which the ark of the covenant should abide and for the name of the Lord.

1 Chronicles 17:1

Verse 1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains.

1 Chronicles 28:2

Verse 2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

God gave directions to David, as with Moses, on how the house should be built. As with the tabernacle all furnishings and utensils are also included in the instruction.

1 Chronicles 28:11 - 20

Verse 11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat,

Verse 12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

Verse 13 Also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD.

Verse 14 He gave of gold by weight for things of gold, for all instruments of all manner of service; silver also for all instruments of silver by weight, for all instruments of every kind of service:

Verse 15 Even the weight for the candlesticks of gold, and for their lamps of gold, by weight for every candlestick, and for the lamps thereof: and for the candlesticks of silver by weight, both for the candlestick, and also for the lamps thereof, according to the use of every candlestick.

Verse 16 And by weight he gave gold for the tables of shewbread, for every table; and likewise silver for the tables of silver:

Verse 17 Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden basons he gave gold by weight for every bason; and likewise silver by weight for every bason of silver:

Verse 18 And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

Verse 19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

Verse 20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

1 Kings 6-7; 2 Chronicles 3-5:1

We see that Solomon builds the house of God according to the instructions received from his father David.

Ezekiel 40-43:17

We see that Ezekiel is given a vision of God showing him how to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. The instructions once again are detailed including exact measurements and furnishings.

THE NEW TESTAMENT TEMPLE

The Temple at Jerusalem fell at the siege of 70 A.D. and has not since been rebuilt. Does the Bible give us instruction on a New Testament Temple? We will start in the Old Testament as we know God does not change.

2 Samuel 7:12 - 16

Verse 12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

Verse 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

Verse 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

Verse 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

Verse 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

We see here a prophecy of the building of the temple.

1 Chronicles 22:9 - 10

Verse 9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

Verse 10 He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

We see that David proclaims Solomon to be the son of the prophecy.

Psalms 2

Verse 1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Verse 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Verse 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Verse 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Verse 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Verse 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Verse 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Verse 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

Verse 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Verse 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

Verse 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Verse 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Noting particularly verse 7, David tells us more of the one to be declared son by the Lord.

1 Chronicles 22:9-10

Verse 9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

Verse 10 He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

We see that David proclaims Solomon to be the son of the prophecy. Solomon did build the temple and was a son of David. There are points of the prophecy that Solomon did not fulfill.

We will look closer at 2 Samuel 7:14 and Psalms 2:7 portion of the prophecy given to David. We are told in these verses the Lord would declare him a son. Was Solomon proclaimed to be the son of God?

Matthew 3:16-17

Verse 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Verse 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Mark 1:9-11

Verse 9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of

John in Jordan.

Verse 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

Verse 11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
The prophecy of David is fulfilled in these scriptures. Jesus is proclaimed by the voice from heaven to be his son.

Acts 13:33

Verse 33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

Hebrews 1:5 - 9

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Hebrews 5:5

Verse 5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

We see witness to the understanding of Jesus being the one proclaimed son of God and thereby fulfilling the prophecy of the Old Testament.

We may ask, when did Jesus build a temple?

John 2:19-20

Verse 19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Verse 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

Mark 14:58

Verse 58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

Jesus is recorded as saying he would rebuild the temple.

John 2:21

Verse 21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

Hebrews 8:2

Verse 2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

The temple Jesus spoke of was his own body.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - 17

Verse 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Verse 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19

Verse 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

2 Corinthians 6:18

Verse 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Ephesians 2:22

Verse 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

We, that is to say our bodies, are now the temple of God. Jesus taught us this. God walks with and in us, as he tried to do with Israel until the rejection at Sinai.

God always wanted to dwell in his people, not in a building.

Exodus 13:21-22

Verse 21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Verse 22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

Exodus 29:45

Verse 45 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

Leviticus 20:12

Verse 12 And if a man lie with his daughter in law, both of them shall surely be put to death: they have wrought confusion; their blood shall be upon them.

2 Samuel 7:5-7

Verse 5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?

Verse 6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

Verse 7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

God Almighty chose to live with and in his people, to guide and protect them day and night. Israel rejected a personal relationship with God at Mount Sinai. This rejection resulted in a house for God to dwell in. In these last days God has allowed the temple to be destroyed, forcing his people to allow him into their hearts. Will you choose to reject God, or be the living temple of God.

Created by the Church of God
Headquarters Oshawa, Ontario
www.thechurchofgod.info
postmaster@cogsd.org