

Building Blocks
Various Passages
New Life Assembly
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Main Idea: From the tabernacle to the Christian's body as temple of the Holy Spirit, God was foreshadowing Jesus' body and the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

The writer of Hebrews the mounds the fact that Christians keep drinking milk instead of solitude. Today we are going to leave the elementary teachings of Christianity and focus on a very important tenet of the faith. We're going to talk about how God made the tabernacle a type of Christ's body and the believer's body. When God started with the tabernacle in the wilderness, he was showing that he could dwell among human beings. But that tabernacle plan foreshadowed Jesus' body and how the Holy Spirit dwelt within him. We then learn from the New Testament that the Holy Spirit desires to dwell within every believer in Jesus and that God expects holiness from those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. Today I want to trace the biblical theology of the tabernacle turned into Holy Spirit temple. Let's dive in to this deep teaching this morning.

2 Samuel 7:1-7

1 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, **2** the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." **3** And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." **4** But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, **5** "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? **6** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. **7** In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' "

I. God instituted the tabernacle and allowed the temple.

A The tabernacle was God's plan foreshadowing Jesus' body.

- 1** When the Israelites were in the wilderness and came to Mount Sinai God instituted the tabernacle by giving Moses instructions to build it and take it with them wherever they went.
- 2** The tabernacle was designed as a movable tent that would follow the Israelites as they follow God's presence in the wilderness. God guided the Israelites to where he wanted them to go.

- 3 The tabernacle is the best model for God's presence because the Holy Spirit moved the people in the wilderness to where God wanted them to be. The people had to follow God as he moved.
- 4 But the temple is different because it has a central location for God's presence in the people can decide whether or not to go to it. People no longer sought God's presence where he was moving.
- 5 While God personally gave instructions for the tabernacle and its construction he only allowed David to build the Temple in Jerusalem. God objected to David's desire to build it.
- 6 He asked David if he needs a house to dwell in. He had no trouble putting his presence inside the tabernacle but David's temple made his presence stationary.
- 7 **Application:** We are to seek God's presence no matter where he takes us. When we follow God's presence we will always be within God's will for our lives. When we get away from following God's Holy Spirit wherever he takes us we can fall out of God's will for our lives. We are to seek God and follow him not the other way around. Never stop seeking God and going where he tells you to go.

B The temple was King David's idea that God granted.

- 1 Instead of asking David for a permanent house via the temple God instead promises to build David a house that will never end. God promises that the kingship will always dwell within his family.
- 2 God builds David a house and a lineage with eternal consequences. Of course we now understand this to be leading to Jesus as the ultimate king of Israel who sits on his throne forever.
- 3 Jesus becomes the ultimate king in David's line. We know this from the New Testament and how it shows Jesus' genealogy in Matthew and Luke. Jesus is clearly seen as a descendent of David in the line of kingship.
- 4 We may understand that the temple as a permanent dwelling for God's presence was David's idea and not necessarily the Lord's. However, God granted that David could build it.
- 5 God saw David's heart to honor him and his presence. For this reason alone God allowed David to prepare to build the Temple but because he was a man of blood his son Solomon would be the one to build it.
- 6 God's presence was placed inside the tabernacle because God meant for his presence to dwell in a moving object rather than a permanent place. The tabernacle is the beginning of the revolution of where God's presence would end up.

- 7 **Application:** God sees our hearts even when our desires conflict with his. He honors the desires of our hearts when they honor him. When we seek to glorify God even when we don't do it the way he wishes he accepts that glorification. God works with us when we get it wrong in reality but have the right intentions and motives. We need to see God to find out how he wants us to demonstrate the desires of our hearts to honor him.

<p>Psalm 118:22 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.</p>	<p>Matthew 21:42–44 42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “ ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”</p>
<p>Isaiah 28:16 16 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’</p>	<p>Romans 9:33 33 as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”</p>

Mark 13:1

1 And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”

Matthew 24:2

2 But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

John 2:18–21

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.

II. Jesus’ body became the fulfillment of the temple’s destruction.

A The temple would come down.

- 1 Comparing Old Testament passages with New Testament fulfillments and quotations helps us to see God's plan from the beginning. This not only confirms that God prophesied what he was going to do in the future but then she is as was the fulfillment of prophecies concerning the Messiah and the Temple.
- 2 The cornerstone of the Temple is the very first stone that is laid. It is the foundation for the foundation. After the cornerstone the rest of the foundation stones would be late.
- 3 There are prophecies in Psalm 118 and Isaiah 28 that point to a cornerstone that is rejected by the builders. This cornerstone is not an actual stone but points to the Messiah.
- 4 The cornerstone that is rejected by the builders refers to Jesus who is the cornerstone of the church, God's new movement, and Jesus as the rejected Messiah, rejected by the Jewish religious leadership.
- 5 It is confirmed by history that Solomons, and then Herod's, Temple would not withstand the first century upheaval of the Israelites against the Romans.
- 6 After an uprising and war between the Jews and Romans from 66-69 AD, Caesar Vespasian will destroy the temple as he sacks Jerusalem to the ground in 70 AD.
- 7 The Old Testament pointed to a rejected Messiah it was the cornerstone of God's plan and rejected by the Jewish religious leadership out of their cover 10 his privileged and popular place among the people of Israel.

B The temple was Jesus' body.

- 1 Further Scriptures that Jesus alluded to in the New Testament also point to the cornerstone prophecies referring to Jesus' body as fulfilling the Old Testament Temple model.
- 2 Jesus prophesied based on a prophecy about the cornerstone that the temple would be destroyed and be raised in three days. John makes it clear that Jesus was referring to his body rather than the physical Temple in Jerusalem.
- 3 In Mark 13 Jesus and his disciples are coming out of the Temple and the disciples make mention of the Temple and how beautiful the building is. They are excited about the beautiful Temple that has been made to honor God.
- 4 Matthew 24:2 describes Jesus' response to the disciples when he prophesies that one stone will not be left upon another of the Temple there looking at right then. This prophecy is fulfilled in 70 AD.

- 5 Then in John 2:19-22 Jesus speaks with the Pharisees and prophesies that the Temple will be raised up in just three days but John clarifies that Jesus is speaking about his own body.
- 6 This tidbit of information shows that Jesus' body is the true temple that will be destroyed and raised again in three days, speaking of his own resurrection.
- 7 This also confirms that Jesus is the cornerstone of the Temple that is rejected by the religious leaders in Israel, making them the Messiah that the prophecies spoke of.
- 8 The Pharisees completely misunderstand that Jesus is the Messiah, that their active rejection of them fulfills prophecy and that they are about to fulfill prophecy with their actions in trying to get him killed.

Ephesians 2:19–22

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.

1 Peter 2:1–10

1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. **2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” **7** So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

III. The temple became obsolete as God sought to inhabit the human body.

A The temple became the believer's body.

- 1 As Paul began this paragraph in Ephesians 2 by using the metaphor of citizenship and nationality he mentions it again in verse 19. But he then moves on to another biblical image of a building and its material.
- 2 He also mentions that they are members of God's household, and image related to family relations. They essentially belong to God's family because they have been adopted in by God as his children.
- 3 Now in verse 20 the imagery shifts to that of the building material for the Temple that God is building for himself. This imagery invokes both construction material and the idea that God will be physically with his people and his presence will dwell with them.
- 4 God first tells them that Jesus himself is the cornerstone of the new Temple. He then tells them that the apostles and prophets make the foundation of the house.
- 5 This Temple becomes the dwelling place of God, his Temple with his presence inside. This is why, as we will see later, that the new Jerusalem does not have a Temple. It is a Temple with God's presence dwelling with his people.
- 6 This also fulfills the promise of God throughout the Bible that "I will be their God and they will be my people." This promise is fulfilled in heaven in the new Jerusalem.
- 7 God's clear plan was to use Jesus' body to fulfill prophecy about the Temple being destroyed and God's presence coming to rest inside the souls of those who would become Christians.
- 8 Jesus is the rejected Messiah who was the cornerstone of God's plan to make believers in Jesus the ultimate houses of his presence. Jesus is the catalyst for the final step in God's plan.
- 9 **Application:** Jesus is the reason any of us have a chance at the inheritance of heaven and living with God for eternity. Eternal life comes only because Jesus was willing to sacrifice himself for us. Without Jesus, there is no salvation, no eternal life, no heaven and no inheritance for any of the saints who trust in his name today. We owe so much to Jesus it is impossible to calculate. We must give him proper glory and thanks for all that he has done for us and continues to do!

B The Holy Spirit inhabits the believer's body.

- 1 Peter makes all of the connections for us in the beginning of chapter 2 of his first letter. In it he gives us a clear understanding quoting Old Testament passages.

- 2 We are to realize that for those who believe, they are immediately connected to Jesus by family and as part of this holy building that God is building, a Temple to house himself.
- 3 Peter then shows us that for those who disbelieve in Jesus there is also the warning that they will be offended by the cross and by Jesus and will not receive eternal life or be part of his Temple.
- 4 Peter also uses the imagery of constructing a building, in this case a Temple. It is Paul who will enlighten us to the process of the Holy Spirit indwelling believers at the moment of salvation, where God's presence literally fills the human being and makes that human a Temple, a house for God's presence to literally dwell.

1 Corinthians 3:16–17

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? **17** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Romans 12:1–2

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Deuteronomy 27:5-6

5 And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You shall wield no iron tool on them; **6** you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones. And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God,

IV. Our bodies now become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

A The Holy Spirit expects our bodies are temples to be holy.

- 1 Although Peter mentions the word "holy" in his description of believers as God's temple, Paul stresses it even more throughout his writings. Calling believers holy requires that they live up to God's standards.
- 2 To be holy means to be separate, different and to set apart for God's use. God has a special mission for his holy people and we must not be tainted by Cindy or the world.
- 3 Paul also makes the connection between being God's temple and being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Believers enjoy the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives every day and are also challenged by his high expectations for

them. Being God's temples and being prepared to be part of his holy household in heaven is not a walk in the park.

- 4 The Holy Spirit often expects us to do things his way. He challenges us daily to live up to the high standards God has in place for us that are also part of his character and attributes.
- 5 Paul ties together the importance of being God's temple, housing his Holy Spirit and living a life worthy of that high privilege. The expectations of the Holy Spirit for living a holy life are evident in this passage.
- 6 In fact, the only reason this is brought up as theological significance is because Paul is making the argument that Christians need to live a holy life, one that represents Christ and honors God.
- 7 **Application:** as believers in Jesus we have no idea how important it is for us to live up to God's standards and be his representatives in this world. There is so much riding on the way that we interact with the world and the life we lead here on this earth. That great inheritance demands a high calling of holiness from everyone to trust in God. Let us boldly declare holiness in our lives through our thoughts, words and actions.

B The template for our bodies was set by the stone altars.

- 1 Living holy lives also pertains to how we treat the body itself. Romans 12 opens with Paul asserting that the body must be presented as a living sacrifice to God.
- 2 He also mentions the mind which must not be conformed to the world but to be transformed by God on a regular basis. The body and the mind are key to living a holy life.
- 3 I would argue based on this and other Scriptures that keeping the body holy and pure is to not allow it to be used like the world uses the body. Our bodies are a natural barometer to the world of inner holiness.
- 4 Paul talks about being living sacrifices and in the Old Testament sacrifices were made on altars. There's something interesting in Deuteronomy about the altars that Israel would erect.
- 5 In Deuteronomy 5:6-7 God lays out that the stones that are used to build the altar must be uncut stones. This means that they must retain their natural outward look.
- 6 Creation was designed by the natural processes that God placed in order. To make a point about them remaining uncut by human hands and tools suggest that God wants the rocks to remain looking as he has made them look.

- 7 Based on this and some other statements from the Bible in general we can suggest that God also wants the human body to remain as he has made it to look.
- 8 This is of course based on inference from the Bible in general but it seems that God wants the body to remain as it was originally intended to look. To add things to the body may go against God's preference of how it is presented.
- 9 Application: God has set a very high standard of what he expects of us to be holy before him. We should not be surprised that this includes the body and the mind. The way we think in the things that we do with our hands and feet as well as the way we present our bodies to the world are important to him. We are called to worship God with all of our heart, mind and strength, or body. Let us maintain but God has given us without correcting it so that we can please him the most.

Conclusion

We have seen how the tabernacle/temple model has transformed throughout the years. At first it was a foreshadowing of what God had intended to become the human body. It started out as a way for him to inhabit a moving tent, then a stationary building. We see how he used Jesus' body is part of his plan to redeem humanity from sin. And now we see how his Holy Spirit can indwell the human soul. Because the Holy Spirit resides in us God expects us to live a holy life and represent him on earth. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill these high standards that God has placed before us. Let us obey the Holy Spirit as best we can so that we can worship God with our whole being.