

BIBLE TEMPLES

(1 Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20)

(2 Cor. 6:16-18)

1. TABERNACLE (a pre-temple)

Tabernacle - a provisional and moveable tent; a place where God would dwell.

When Moses was on Mt. Sinai, God gave precise instructions for the tabernacle:
(Ex. 24:8-9) "make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.
according to all that I show you ... " (see Hebrews 8:5)

(Ex. 25 - 40) The specifics of the tabernacle (design, materials, measurements, objects, etc.).

(Ex. 40:34-38) In their journey to the promised land, they took the tabernacle with them,
guided by a cloud by day and fire was on it by night.

During the Conquest of the land, and during the time of Judges and Kings, the tabernacle was
moved to several locations: Gilgal, Shiloh, Nob, Gibeon, and Jerusalem.

2. SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Temple - a fixed structure; a large house; a building dedicated to the worship of deity.

Building this temple in Jerusalem was first given to David: (2 Sam. 7:4-6)

(1 Chron. 22:6-11) God then gave the work of building to Solomon.
(also recorded in: 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:18-20; 1 Chron. 28:1-9)

(1 Chron. 28:10 - 29:1) David gave Solomon the pattern for the temple's construction.

(1 Kings 6:38) "... So was he seven years in building it."

(2 Kings 25:1-15) This temple, and all Jerusalem, was plundered, burned, broken down,
by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 585 B.C.

3. ZERUBBABEL'S TEMPLE

(Ezra 5:1-5) Cyrus, king of Persia, 537 B.C., issues a decree for many of the captive Israelites
to return to their homeland to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple.

(Ezra 3:8) Zerubbabel is the leader in rebuilding of Solomon's temple; finished in 515 B.C.

(Ezra 1:7-11) The vessels of the temple that were plundered by Nebuchadnezzar were returned
with the workers to Jerusalem (but not the ark of the covenant; it's "lost").

168 B.C., the Syrian army, led by Antiochus Epiphanes, invades Judah, desecrates the temple.

His goal was to exterminate the worship of God and Hellenize (Grecianize) the people.

All observance of Jewish laws and sacrifices were forbidden.
He authorized the city and temple to be dedicated to Zeus.
He offered pigs on the altar and sprinkled the blood over the entire building.

This led to a rebellion by the Jews, led by the Judas Maccabee, and this war resulted in the
overthrow of Antiochus in 163 B.C.

4. HEROD'S TEMPLE

63 B.C., a Roman army, led by Pompey, invades Judah to establish Roman Rule.

37 B.C., the Romans appoint Herod ruler over the province.

20 B.C., Herod, to gain favor with the Jews, has the temple demolished and rebuilt, and the work would not be complete until A.D. 63.

Jesus foretold of this temple's destruction: (Mark 13:1-2) "... See these great buildings? There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be broken down."

The Roman Empire, Vespasian and his son Titus, accomplished the destruction, A.D. 70.

5. (1 Cor. 3:16) "KNOW YE NOT THAT YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD ... "

The verse continues: "and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (v17) "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

(see also: 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16-19)

There are no more stone buildings for God's dwelling: (Acts 7:48) "the most High dwells not in temples made with hands ... "
(Acts 17:24) "... he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands."

Christians, now the "temple of God," are "living stones":
(1 Peter 2:5) "Ye also are lively stones, built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices ... " (v9) "... show forth the praises of Him ... "

God has precise instruction about how we use this "temple:"

- 1) Don't "defile the temple of God" - living an unclean life will do this.
- 2) "the temple of God is holy" - set apart for specific service designed by God.
- 3) "and ye are not your own" - a great price has been paid for our salvation, our redemption; therefore, we submit to God's will and His way.
- 4) "therefore glorify God in your body" - our attitude and actions should honor God.
- 5) "and be ye separate" - the way in which we live should let others know to Whom we belong and on whose side we stand.
- 6) (1 Tim. 3:14-15) "these things write I ... that you may know how to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God ... "
- 7) (Romans 12:1-2) "... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God ... "

CLOSE - let's live our lives according to the pattern God has given us in His word.