

## The Story Of The Bible Week 8: The Temple

### Questions:

1. Has looking at the Bible as a narrative, in its own context, helped you understand the Bible better? What parts of the Bible, if any, that we haven't covered yet are made clearer to you understanding the origin story?
2. Does understanding the Garden of Eden and the Temple help you understand what God really wants and how He is accomplishing that goal?
3. Do you see yourself and live in the reality that, if you are a believer, you are the New Temple.
4. Jesus' Covenant isn't plan B or C it's still the original plan. What do you think about this?
5. Israel abandoned their covenant with the Lord; what can we do to make sure we don't make the same mistake?

### Recap

God's name is Yahweh, which means HE IS.

Man lived in the Garden of Eden, where God dwelled with man face-to-face.

Mankind and the angels rebelled.

God made a nation for Himself through a man named Abraham who became known as the Israelites.

God's people leave Egypt for the promised land where God seeks to partially restore the Edenic principle of God dwelling with man face-to-face.

He has Israel make a Tent for His Presence to dwell in.

He gives the Israelites the Law, which is what the Israelite life should look like if they having believe (loving-loyalty) in Him. It is not a means of earning salvation.

Israel has many ups and down. They ask for a King which makes things worse, until finally they get a King named David who loved the Lord.

David was not perfect, but he was a man after God's heart.

### **David dies and Solomon Becomes King.**

King David had promised Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, that her son Solomon would be the next King of Israel. However, Adonijah, one of David's other sons, tried to usurp the throne. He gathered some of David's men and some of the priesthood and went to En-Rogel in the Valley of Hinnom. The Valley of Hinnom would be called Gehenna in Greek and is where we get the term "hell" from due to the Baal and Molech worship that will take place in the Valley of Hinnom. While they are partying, Nathan and Bathsheba go to King David and tell him what is happening.

### 1 Kings 1:28–35 (ESV)

28 Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.  
29 And the king swore, saying, "As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity, 30 as I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day." 31 Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, "May my lord King David live forever!" 32 King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king. 33 And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' 35 You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah."

Soon after Solomon was made King, David would pass away. Adonijah would try to usurp Solomon's throne by manipulating him but it ended up costing Adonijah his life.

### **Yahweh reveals himself to Solomon.**

1 Kings 3:5–15 (ESV)

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. 7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. 9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. 13 I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. 14 And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." 15 And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Because of the wisdom that the Lord gave Solomon people would come from around the world to hear Solomon speak. His wisdom was like no one that had come before him. At the height of Solomon's empire his wealth is estimated at over \$2 trillion in United States currency.

### **Solomon Builds The Temple**

King David had moved God's heart by desiring to build a house for Him. This caused the Lord to make a covenant with David; however, Yahweh told David it would be his son who would build the house, not David. David began preparations for the temple, which Solomon quickly used when he became king.

1 Kings 5:1–6 (LEB)

1 Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him as king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend for David. 2 Then Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, 3 "You knew David my father, that he was not able to build a house for the name of Yahweh his God, in view of the warfare which surrounded him, until Yahweh placed them under the soles of his feet. 4 But now Yahweh my God has given me rest all around me. There is no adversary, and there is no bad occurrence. 5 Here I am, intending to build a house for the name of Yahweh my God, as Yahweh promised to my father David, saying, 'Your son, whom I will set in your place on your throne, shall build the house for my name.' 6 So then, command that they may cut cedars for me from Lebanon, and let my servants be with your servants. The wage of your servants I will give to you according to all that you say, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."

Solomon built the house of the Lord from only the finest materials. The temple, much like the tabernacle was patterned after the Garden of Eden. Solomon would assemble the elders of the tribes of Israel, and instructed the priest to bring the tabernacle, all of its vessels into the temple. This would be the last time the Tabernacle that Moses built would be mentioned as it was integrated into Solomon's temple. After this the ark of the covenant was brought into the temple.

1 Kings 8:5–6 (ESV)

5 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. 6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

1 Kings 8:10–11 (ESV)

10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

1 Kings 8:12–21 (ESV)

12 Then Solomon said, “The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. 13 I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.” 14 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. 15 And he said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, 16 ‘Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there. But I chose David to be over my people Israel.’ 17 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. 18 But the Lord said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. 19 Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ 20 Now the Lord has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. 21 And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

### **What Does God Want? Why Build A Temple?**

The Temple is one of the most essential ideas to understanding the Bible, if not the most important. The Temple is God’s means of getting what He wants more than anything else: a relationship with you! God wants a family. When God created heaven and Earth, He planted a garden and made both male and female in His image to be His family on Earth. Here, Adam and Eve had that relationship with Yahweh. They walked and talked face-to-face with Him. Heaven and Earth intersect in the Garden, where God’s heavenly family (the angels) and earthly family interact with Him (Genesis 2-3; Ezekiel 28:13-19). But God was betrayed by both his heavenly and earthly family.

When God made man and woman in His image, he shared attributes with them. Paramount of these is free will. We cannot represent God without free will. Robots cannot represent humans; they are entirely different from the bottom up. Without free will, that’s precisely what we would be: robots who could not truly image our Creator. The Bible shows us this free will a lot:

Joshua 24:14–15 (ESV)

14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Deuteronomy 30:19–20 (ESV)

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Colossians 1:21–23 (ESV)

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Hebrews 3:14 (ESV)

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

1 Corinthians 15:2 (ESV)

2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1 Thessalonians 3:8 (ESV)

8 For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:11–13 (ESV)

11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2:21 (ESV)

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

Given God's ultimate desire, He had a few choices:

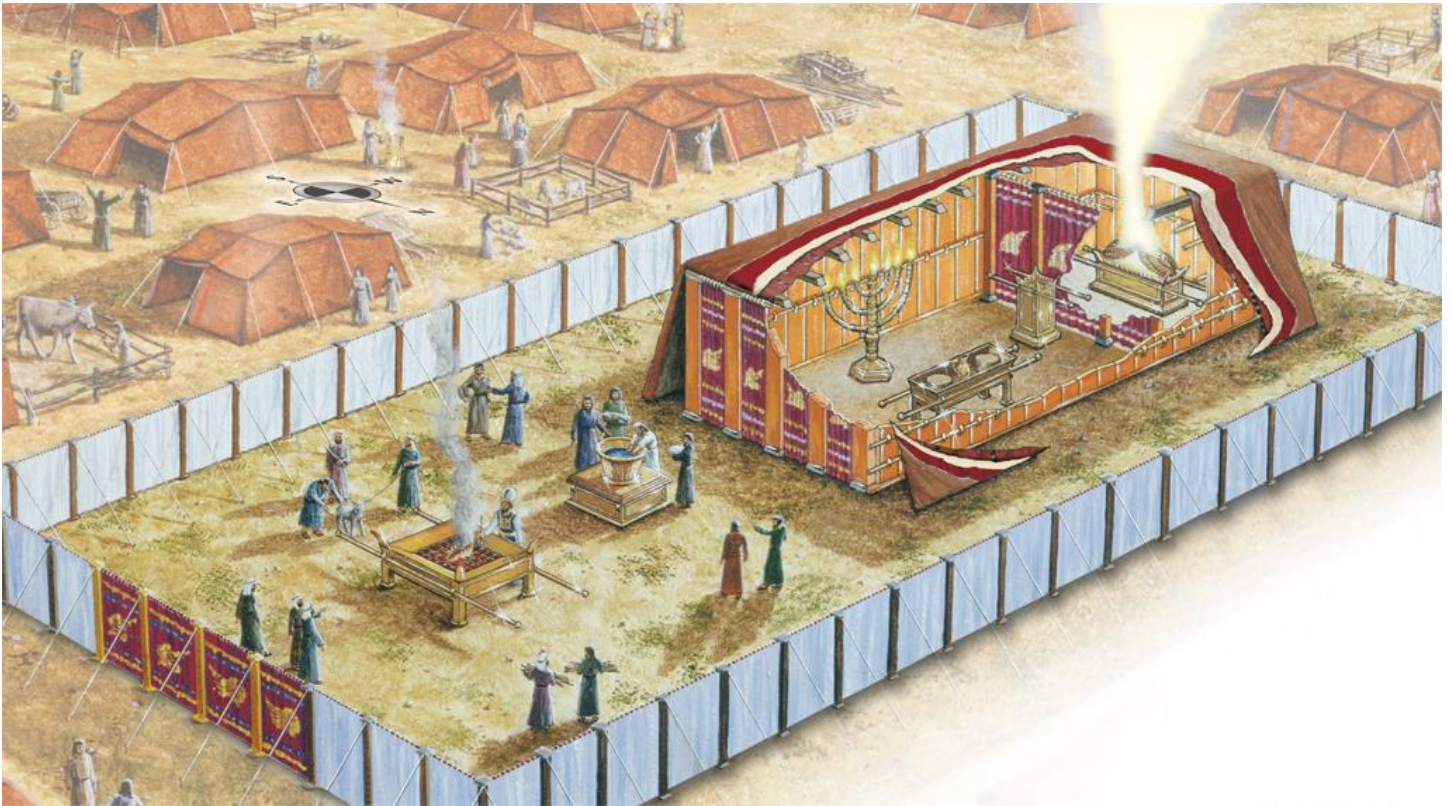
1. Not create a family. Obviously, it's not what He wants to do.
2. Create a family without free will. This would make us mindless slaves incapable of sharing life or genuinely loving Him.
3. Decide that giving His family free will means giving them the option to choose death, to choose someone or something other than Him. To choose to bring Chaos into the world.

God decided He would create His family and give them free will. He knew some would rebel. He knew what it would lead to, but He decided that the chance of a relationship with you was so valuable that it was worth it. It was so valuable that He knew He would come to Earth as a man to die for us on the cross before He created us (Revelation 13:8). The purpose of the cross is not to forgive your sin. Forgiving sin is the means of the real purpose: Jesus wants a relationship with you now and forever. Which brings us back to the Garden and the Temple:

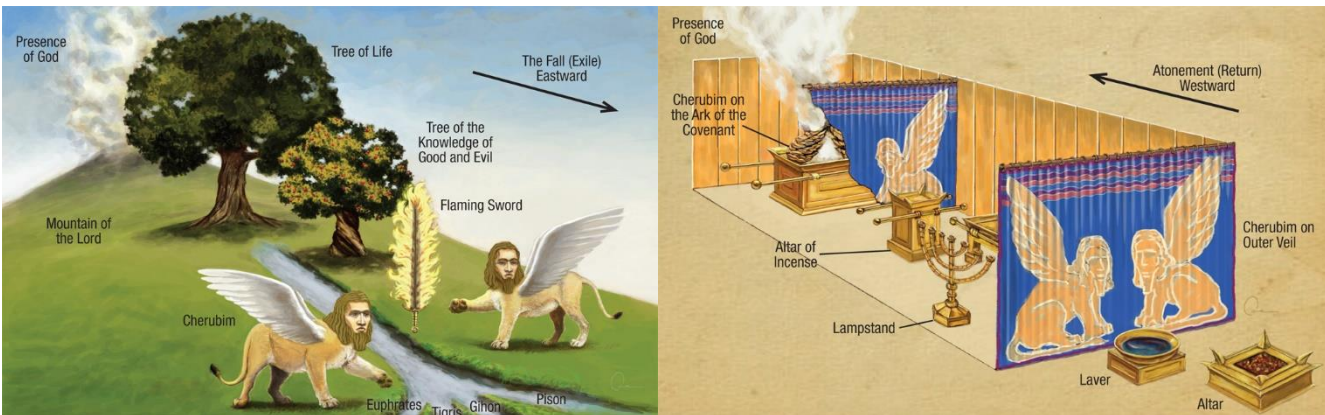
Due to the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden, they are forced to leave the Garden of Eden to the east (Genesis 3:24). Here, God would place throne guardians (Cherubim) to guard the entrance of the Garden. After Adam and Eve's son, Cain, kills his brother, Abel. Abel brought an offering to the Yahweh that He preferred over Cain's. In jealousy, Cain killed Abel. As a result of Cain's sin, they are forced to leave again to the east and leave Eden altogether. Fast forward a long time, and we arrive at Moses leading Israel out of Egypt to a mountain. God's presence would descend upon this mountain, and He would speak to Israel. There, Israel and Yahweh made a "covenant." The covenant is very simple: God will dwell with His family, and they will represent Him. It sounds familiar because he wanted the same thing in the Garden. God's plan hasn't changed.

To make this happen, He first set up the system that allows Him to dwell with them again. Because of our sin, the freedom of walking and talking face-to-face as it was in Eden is not an option, but in the mind of the Lord, it's better than nothing. He wants His earthly family and wants a relationship with them.

He then had Israel build Him a house which was a tent that they called the Tabernacle. This Tabernacle was designed around the Garden of Eden, full of garden “imagery.”



A tent “fence” was set up to keep anyone from wandering into the Tabernacle, you could only enter through the gate on the East side of the structure. Outside of the tent was “normal space” as soon as you entered into the first gate you are now in “sacred space;” the space where God physically dwells. The orientation of the Tabernacle is no accident. Mankind left the presence of God in the Garden of Eden by exiting east. To enter into the Tabernacle you would reverse the process coming from the East into the presence of God. The first section mirrors Cain and Abel, who in Eden offered sacrifices to Yahweh.



He had Israel fill the house with all sorts of things, but the most important item in the house was a box. This box was made of wood, overlaid with gold and the two copies of the law. One was God’s; one was Israel’s. This box is called the Ark of the Covenant. The best way to think about the Ark is as God’s Throne. It’s where He sits, above it is where His Presence is. From above the Ark is where God spoke to Israel from.

Wherever the Ark went, Israel went. If God said, "Hey, we are going over here," they would take the tent down and carry all the pieces until God said, "This is where we are stopping," and they would set the tent up again. For several hundred years, even through the ups and downs, the Ark remained in the Tabernacle until the Israelites decided to take the Ark out to take it into battle. The Israelites tried to control God and get Him to do what they wanted. The Lord had enough; He let the Israelites lose the Ark, and for King Saul's entire reign, the Ark was never sought.



### Temple Timeline

**~1446 BC**  
Exodus From Egypt  
(Early Date)  
Tabernacle is built  
Ark is in Tabernacle

**~1080 BC**  
Ark is Lost  
to Phillistines

**~1011 BC**  
David is King  
**~1003 BC**  
David brings  
Ark Back

**959 BC**  
Solomon finishes  
Temple and Ark is  
brought to it

**587 BC**  
Temple is destroyed  
Ark never seen again



### Temple Timeline

**587 BC**  
Temple is destroyed  
Ark never seen again

**538 BC**  
Return from Exile

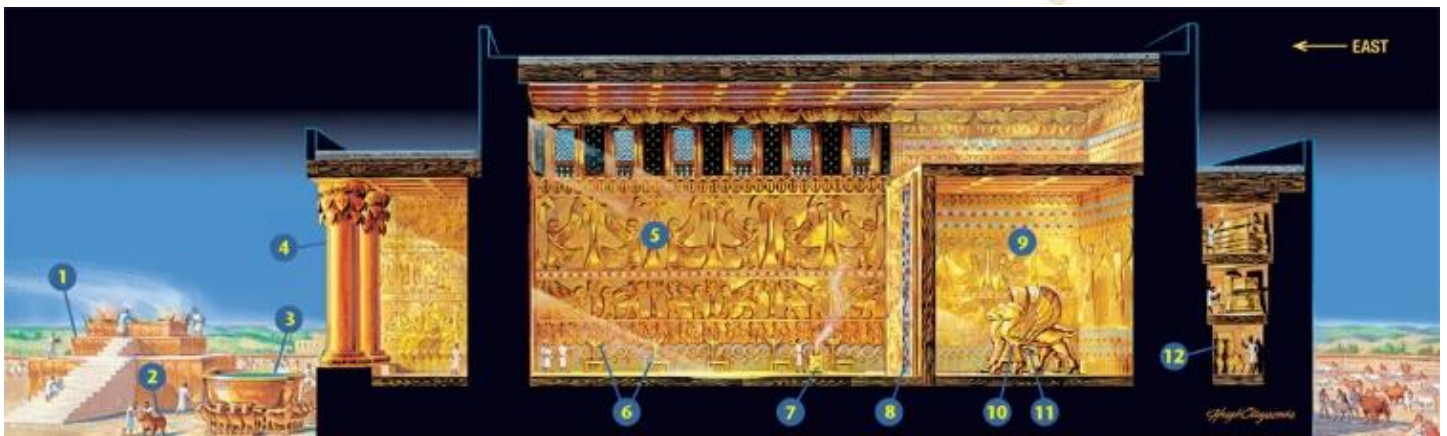
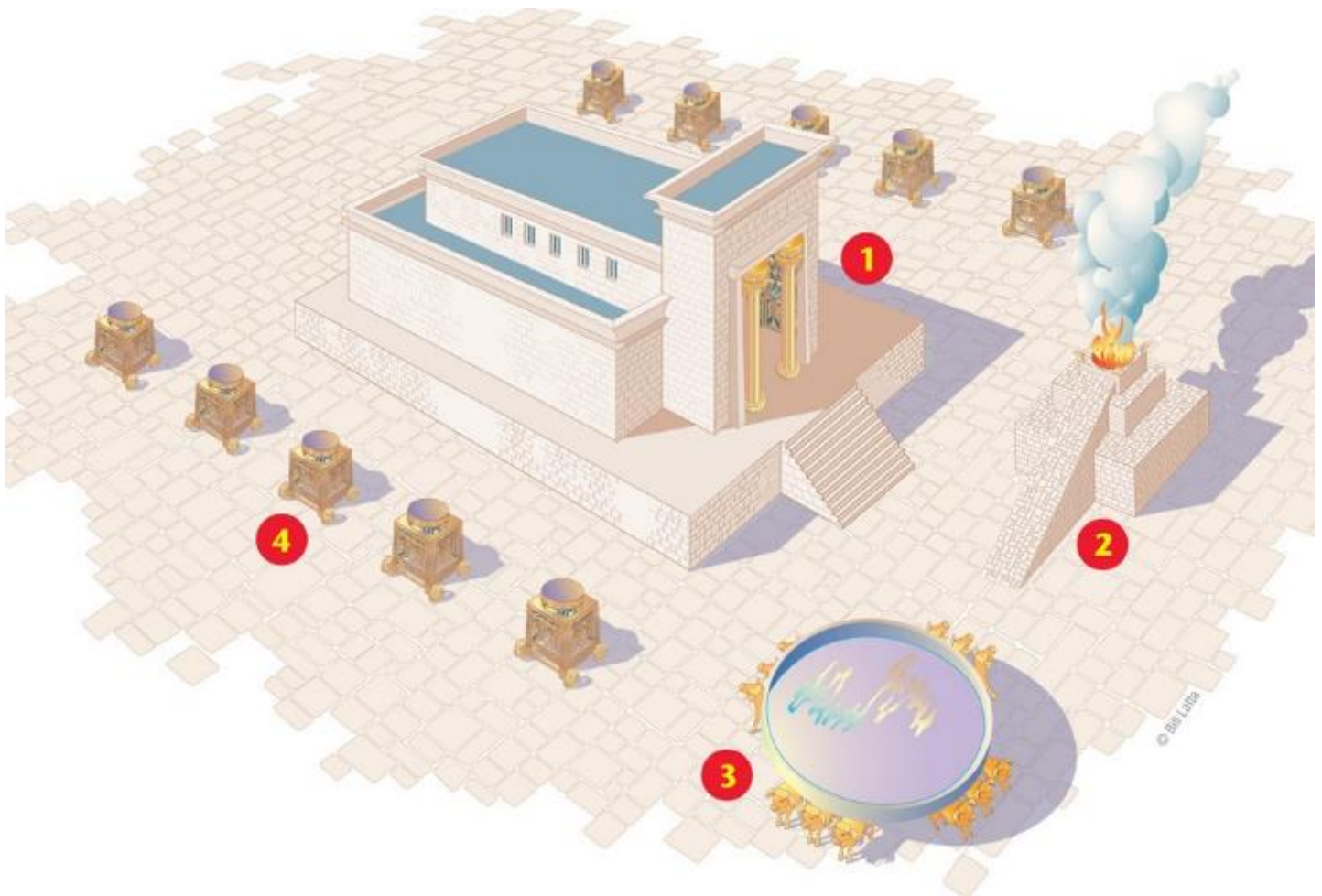
**~516 BC**  
2nd Temple is built  
No Ark, No Presence

**6-3 BC**  
Proposed Dates of  
Jesus Birth

**25 - 33 AD**  
Jesus Crucifixion



When the Ark was taken and kept separate from the Tabernacle in the days of Saul, it was a physical reality that mirrored the spiritual reality. Israel had abandoned the Lord, and the Lord was not with them. When David sought the Ark, this changed. The people began worshipping Yahweh again. David's heart was to build Yahweh a more permanent House—a Temple. The Lord was moved by David's idea and told David his son Solomon would build a temple. In short, the Temple is just a much bigger and better Tabernacle. It's built and decorated like the Garden of Eden. It is the place where He will live with His family. When Solomon built the Temple, and the Glory of the Lord filled it so powerfully that the priests couldn't minister, it was as close to the return to the Garden of Eden as we would see until Jesus came.



Where we will go next in the story is how Israel, again, left their God for other gods. As a result, Israel would be exiled from their land, the Glory of God would leave the Temple, and the Temple would be destroyed. It was the sin of Adam and Eve all over again. Judah was exiled to Babylon (in the East), and God's presence was no longer accessible to them. When the tribe of Judah returned to the land of Israel, they would build a temple again, but something was missing: the

presence of God in the Garden, that was in the Tabernacle, and that was in the first Temple, wasn't there. This leads us to the day that Jesus lived. Even though parts of Israel lived in the land, specifically the tribe of Judah, they still believed they were in Exile. They had a temple, but God wasn't in that Temple. There was still a desire and hope, and that hope would not be met until God dwelled in a Temple with His people again. The House of Yahweh would be a symbol for many things, and these symbols are what is going through a Jew's head when we get to the New Testament.

### **Why is the Temple so important?**

1. The Temple stood as the symbol of Divine Presence. The fact that Yahweh was dwelling with His people, that there was relationship with Him. This is why later when Ezekiel would have a vision of the Glory of God leaving the Temple it would be so devastating. The destruction of the temple and Jerusalem would follow His Presence leaving. When the Second Temple was built God's presence not coming to it was a sign that Israel had not fully left their exile.

2. The Temple stood as a sign of the Covenant. The Tabernacle was made because of the Covenant God made with Israel to be their God and for them to be His people. When the Temple was destroyed, it was because Israel had broken the Covenant and abandoned Yahweh.

When Jesus comes this is why he says He will build a temple:

John 2:19–21 (ESV)

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.

What do we call the church today? We call it the body of Christ, and this is why. Because we are the temple now. This is why Jesus makes a New Covenant during Passover meal (John 13; Luke 22:20); which we now remember in communion (it's also why it's called 'communion'). This is why Jesus gives His disciples a "New Commandment" so that "all people will know that [we] are His disciples. - John 13:31–35.

Then Jesus tells us He will build the Temple when He dies and sends the Holy Spirit:

John 14:1–3 (ESV)

1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house (Greek: oikos - a term used for the Temple) are many rooms (Greek: meno). If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Jesus' disciples go on to ask what Jesus means. To which he tells them:

John 14:15–23 (ESV)

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not the Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home (Greek: meno) with him.

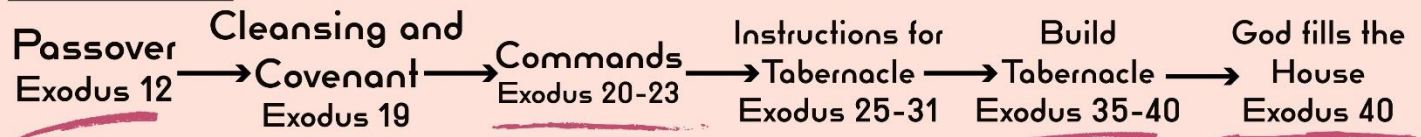
The New Covenant is set in place the same way He did with Israel in the First Covenant.



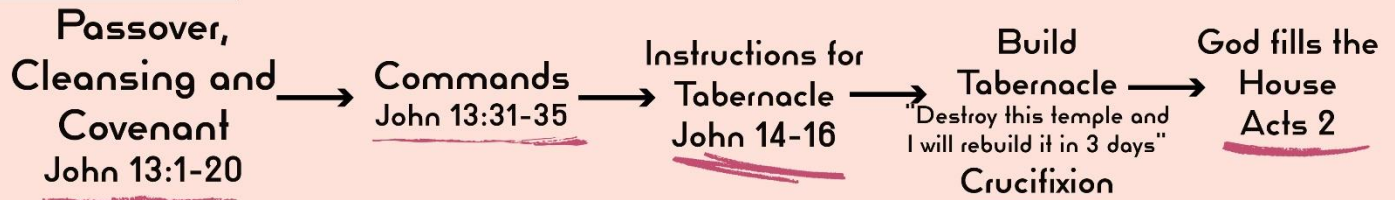


## Temple Timeline

### 1st Covenant



### New Covenant



This is what God wants. A relationship with you. Someday we will be with Him forever, when Jesus tells us what this is like, to hopefully no surprise by now, He uses the Garden of Eden as a template (Revelation 21-22). Until then you are the "room" where God Himself dwells

This is far better than a Tabernacle or a Temple. Now the presence of God can be in you, and you can have a real relationship with Him.

All we have to do is believe Jesus is who He says He is and follow Him (repent). The prophet Haggai prophesied:

Haggai 2:9 (ESV) [Greek from LXX]

9 The latter glory of this house (Greek: oikos) shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts."

That never happened in a building, but it does happen in you and me. When Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead, ascended to Heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit, He made us the New Temple of the New Covenant:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

**Credits:**

Tabernacle cutaway: Randall Price, Rose Guide to the Temple (Torrance, CA: Rose Publishing, 2021).

Eden: Illustration by Cara Nilsen. Randall Price, Rose Guide to the Temple (Torrance, CA: Rose Publishing, 2021).

Tabernacle flow: Illustration by Cara Nilsen. Randall Price, Rose Guide to the Temple (Torrance, CA: Rose Publishing, 2021)

Temple Timeline Source: Logos Advanced Timeline

Temple Illustrations: Randall Price, Rose Guide to the Temple (Torrance, CA: Rose Publishing, 2021).