

Doctrine of the Temple

1. There was first a Tabernacle and then four Temples built for Israel.

1.1 The Temple of Solomon

1.2 The Temple of Zerubbabel

1.3 The Temple of Herod the Great

1.4 The Temple for Christ during His reign in the Millennium

2. In the Church Age the Temple is the soul of each believer priest.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the Temple of God with an idol? For you are the Temple of the living God; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2.1 Historical Summary of Jerusalem and the Temple:

2.1.1 When David captured the city in c. 1000 B.C. many of the Jebusites were absorbed into the Jewish people. The Jebusites lived in the Jerusalem which later became Jerusalem after David captured the city.

2.1.2 David made the city the capital of his Kingdom. His capital was moved from Hebron to Jerusalem.

2.1.3 In c. 960 B.C. Solomon built the Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant and to provide a place to worship.

2.1.4 In 586 B.C. the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and the Temple. The Jews in the main were exiled to Babylonia.

2.1.5 Fifty years later in c. 536 B.C. Cyrus a Persian King conquered Babylonia and in c. 500 B.C. the Jews were permitted to rebuild the Temple. See the Book of Zechariah and/or the Book of Haggai. Zerubbabel built a smaller version of Solomon's Temple.

2.1.6 Persia ruled the city until c. 333 B.C., when Alexander took control of the city. Later Ptolemy a Rome senator in c. 60 B.C. took control of all of Palestine. In c. 198 B.C. Antiochus conquered Judaea making it a tributary to Syria.

2.1.7 Later in c. 165 B.C. the Jews successfully revolted under the leadership of the Maccabees reconsecrating Zerubbabel's Temple.

2.1.8 Herod later modified Zerubbabel's Temple thus it became known as Herod's Temple.

2.1.9 This Temple was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.

3. Hebrew Etymology:

3.1 The principal Hebrew word for "temple " is HEKAL, " palace, a large building."

HEKAL

Isa 39:7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the "palace" of the king of Babylon.

1Ki 21:1 And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the "palace" of Ahab king of Samaria.

3.2 It is often used with reference to the Temple in Jerusalem; (being either the Temple of Solomon or the Temple of Herod).

3.3 The word is also used of the Sanctuary at Shiloh after the division of Palestine i.e. Israel and Judah.

1Sa 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the "Temple" of the LORD.

1Sa 3:3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

3.4 Hekal is uniquely used of God's heavenly abode.

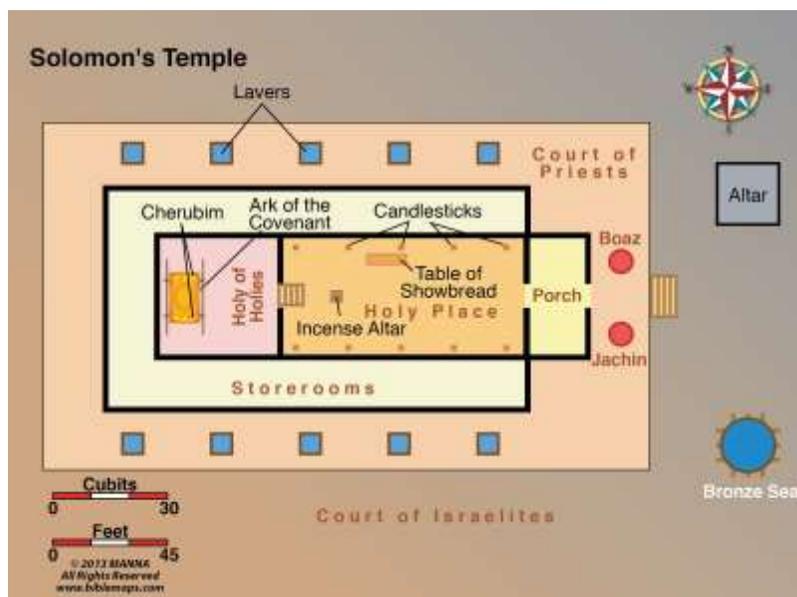
2Sa 22:7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Psa 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

3.5 It was sometimes used of heathen temples.

Joe 3:5 For you took my silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples.

4. As contrasted to the open-air "high place", the Temple was considered primarily a "house" or dwelling place of various deities, and only secondarily as a place of worship.



5. The inner sanctuary had the two Cherubs, Ark, Golden Censor and Golden Throne; it was a rather small room called the Holy of Hollies.

6. At several Israelite sites beginning with the divided monarchy several

enclosed sanctuaries have been found.

6.1 Amos denounced the worship at Beer-sheba and Gilgal and compared it with the temples which Jeroboam I built at Dan and Bethel on the north and south borders of his kingdom.

Amo 5:5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

Amo 8:14 They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again.

6.1.1 The walls forming an Israelite high place (20 by 61 feet) at Dan have been discovered but no temple building has yet been located.

7. In the Greek there are two terms that mean "Temple."

7.1 The more general HIEROS, the place of the priest, which applies to the entire temple complex with all its courts and auxiliary buildings.

7.2 The more specific is NAOS, "sanctuary, shrine," the chief Temple building itself.

7.3 The biblical use of these terms is primarily in reference to the national sanctuary of the Jews in Jerusalem, located on Mount Moriah.

8. Solomon's Temple

8.1 The building was completed in Oct./Nov., 960 B.C., requiring a total of seven and a half years

1Ki 6:1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

1Ki 6:37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD

laid, in the month Zif.

1Ki 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

8.2 The origin of this house of worship is credited to David.

8.2.1 In 1Chronicles chapter 28 God ordered David to replace the Tabernacle with a permanent building.

8.2.2 Although David was forbidden to build this house because he was a warrior and had shed blood, he purchased much of the material to be used in its construction.

1Ch 28:3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.

2Sa 24:21 And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

1Ch 22:2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

1Ch 22:3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight;

1Ch 22:4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

8.2.3 David committed the task to his son Solomon.

1Ch 22:6 Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel.

8.3 The plan of this edifice was similar to that of the Tabernacle; but the dimensions were doubled, with the height triple that of the former sanctuary.

8.4 The stone walls were lined with carved cedar which was overlaid with

gold.

1Ki 6:22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

8.4.1 The ceilings and even the floor were covered with gold. The partition separating the holy of hollies from the holy place apparently was also gold covered.

1Ki 6:16 And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

1Ki 6:20 And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so, covered the altar which was of cedar.

8.4.2 The entrance to the holy of hollies consisted of a double door of olive wood with carvings and overlaid with gold.

1Ki 6:30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

1Ki 6:31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall.

8.4.3 This doorway stood open, but was veiled with material similar to that in the Tabernacle, evidently held in place by gold chains in front of the partition.

8.5 In the Holy of Hollies or inner sanctuary was placed the ark of the covenant, its top or lid being called the mercy seat.

8.5.1 It stood between two cherubim which were ten cubits high, being made of olive wood covered with gold.

8.5.2 It is believed that these appeared as winged sphinxes, with a lion's body and human face. The wings of the cherubim were outstretched and

touched each other over the ark.

1Ki 6:23 And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high.

1Ki 6:24 And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits.

1Ki 6:25 And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size.

1Ki 6:26 The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub.

1Ki 6:27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.

1Ki 6:28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold.

2Ch 3:10 And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold.

2Ch 3:11 And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.

2Ch 3:12 And one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was five cubits also, joining to the wing of the other cherub.

2Ch 3:13 The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward.

8.5.3 Here God especially manifested His presence in His Shekinah Glory.

8.6 In the Holy Place were the altar of incense, ten golden lamp stands with seven lamps to each stand) and ten tables for the show bread.

8.7 Five of the lamp stands and tables were on each side of the Holy of Hollies. The Holy Place, being higher than the side chambers, had upper windows.

1Ki 6:4 And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.

1Ki 6:5 And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

8.8 Flanking the entrance to the porch were a pair of huge, free-standing bronze pillars with great inscriptions carved on the pillars.

8.8.1 Such free-standing columns were a common feature of ancient near eastern temples.

8.9 There were two courts, an inner court which surrounded the holy area which was reserved for the exclusive use of the priests (1Ki 6:36; 2Ch 4:9), and an outer court or "great court" which was for the use of the people.

1Ki 6:36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

2Ch 4:9 Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the doors of them with brass.

8.9.1 The inner court was called the "upper" or "higher" court (Jer 36:10), and here were found the huge basin called the molten (cast-metal) sea and the bronze altar of sacrifice, as well as lesser items of equipment, including ten lavers.

Jer 36:10 Then read Baruch in the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the higher court, at the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S house, in the ears of all the people.

8.10 This magnificent edifice was dedicated in a week-long ceremony of solemn thanksgiving and prayer. As Solomon prayed in consecration of the building in front of the altar, fire fell from heaven and consumed the burnt offering.

2Ch 6:36 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies,

and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;

2Ch 7:1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

8.11 When Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon in 586 B.C., Solomon's Temple was plundered of its wealth, and the building was burned to the ground.

2Ki 25:9 And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire.

8.12 Periodic plundering had occurred earlier, however, e.g., in the days of Shishak's invasion, c. 925.

1Ki 14:25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:

1Ki 14:26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away a all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

9. Herod's Temple

9.1 HEROD the Great “built” the Temple in Jerusalem to appease the Jews. The building took 46 years.

Joh 2:20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

9.2 The Temple was smaller than the Temple of Solomon but enlarged over the Temple constructed by Zerubbabel.

9.2.1 Zerubbabel's Temple has little Scripture describing it however we do know it was small and did disappoint the people. See Neh 6:10-11 and Hag 2:1-18.

9.3 The Temple of Herod in contrast was said to have been a magnificent structure built of beautiful stones.

Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

Mar 13:1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!

9.3.1 There was a Beautiful Gate located on the east side leading onto Solomon's Porch.

Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

9.4 The Temple had on the east side near the city gate leading to the Mount of Olives a porch designated Solomon's Porch.

Joh 10:23 And Jesus walked in the Temple in Solomon's porch.

Acts 3:11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

Acts 5:12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch).

9.5 This Temple was the place where great wealth was accumulated.

Mar 12:41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

9.6 It is here that Zacharias, the officiating priest received a promise of a son.

Luk 1:11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Luk 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is

heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Luk 1:57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

9.7 Jesus was brought to Herod's Temple according to the law and Simeon blessed the infant.

Luk 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

Luk 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Luk 2:26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Luk 2:27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

Luk 2:28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Luk 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

9.8 Anna, the prophetess, dwelled in this Temple.

Luk 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

9.9 Jesus as a youth was found in this Temple discussing the Word.

Luk 2:46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

9.10 Jesus was taken to the pinnacle of this Temple during his temptation.

Mat 4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

9.11 Jesus often taught in the Temple.

Mar 14:49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

9.12 Jesus performed miracles in this Temple and it was here that He cast out the money exchangers.

Mat 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

Mat 21:12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

9.13 The Temple of Herod had its own police force.

Acts 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

9.14 Judas casts down the pieces of silver in Herod's Temple.

Mat 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

9.15 The curtain of this Temple was torn at the time of the crucifixion.

Mat 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

9.16 The disciples worshipped in the Temple of Herod after the resurrection.

Luk 24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

Luk 24:53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.
Amen.

9.17 Peter heals the lame man at the gate of the Temple.

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour ...

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

9.18 The Disciples preach in Herod's Temple.

Acts 5:20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

9.19 Paul had a vision in this Temple telling him to leave the Jews alone and get out of town.

Acts 22:17 And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

Acts 22:18 And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

9.20 Paul observes the ritual of the Law in the Temple after getting some very bad advice from James the half-brother of Jesus.

Acts 21:26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.

9.21 Paul is apprehended in this Temple where Roman soldiers intervene.

Acts 21:30 And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

Acts 21:31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

9.22 Jesus foretells of the destruction of Herod's Temple.

Mar 13:2 And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

10. Ezekiel's Temple

10.1 The Temple which the prophet Ezekiel saw in vision (Eze 40:2-47:2) apparently belongs to the eschatological age following the destruction of Gog and his hordes (Eze 38-39). This will be a literal Temple built for worship during the millennial reign of Christ.

10.1.1 The Temple of Ezekiel is mentioned here in deference to those unfortunate souls who are not Pre-Millennial in faith-they think of this Temple as an intervening structure between Solomon's and Herod's.

10.1.2 In its essential features Ezekiel's Temple was patterned after Solomon's Temple.

10.2 The gates, described in great detail (Eze 40:6-44), match almost exactly the city gates built by Solomon's architects, which archaeologists have excavated at Megiddo, and noted the amazing resemblance between it and the Solomonic gate of Megiddo.

10.3 Both have the same number of piers and recessed chambers (KJV "little chambers"), both have a double vestibule or porch, and the over-all measurements are similar.

10.4 Some surmise that as a young man Ezekiel had known the actual Temple of Solomon before he was taken captive from Jerusalem.

10.5 The main feature of Ezekiel's temple is its perfect symmetry throughout. The whole precinct, 500 cubits square.

10.6 Perhaps the chief point of difference from Solomon's Temple is the absence of the great "sea" or laver. (cf. 1Ki 7:23-26)

10.7 Its place seems to be taken by the river of living water flowing eastward from the threshold of the temple toward the Dead Sea, making its water fresh and bringing life to the barren wilderness.

11. Ezekiel's Temple is a Millennial Temple which is more the subject of the Millennium and is therefore discussed in greater detail under the Doctrine of the Millennium.

12. There is really no Church Age significance to the Temple other than the ritual so taught therein as amplified by the reality described in the musterion or mystery doctrine reserved for the Church Age.

12.1 We are now the Temple of God and the Holy Spirit forms the Temple permanently in each Believer so that the residence of God the Father and God the Son.

13. I want to close by providing a chart showing the Schematic of the Tabernacle which was of course, the pattern of the Temples to come.

