

Revelation Chapter 11

PRELUDE: Immanuel, God with Us

Tabernacle/Temple Background

HISTORY OF GOD'S DWELLING PLACE WITH MAN

- Always God's desire to fellowship, dwell among His people. He has gone to GREAT lengths to enable this.
- Began Garden of Eden, Adam walked with God.
- Sin separated us. God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin.
- He *still* desired to be with His created beings.
- Throughout history, Elohim has made a way to dwell among us, even into eternity.
- Tabernacle and Temple symbols of God's presence with us.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TABERNACLE?

- Physical representation of God's Presence with His people (**this is God's heart!!**)
- **Countless lessons** in construction, dimensions, materials/furnishings (types, indicators or symbols of profound spiritual importance)
- **Points to ultimate sacrifice of God**, for His people, so we may have eternal fellowship with Him, and He can dwell among us, as He originally intended. (*Lessons in the desert, lessons today.*)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

THE TABERNACLE and the TEMPLE

- Expresses very character/nature of God, reveals His heart desire. **He wants to dwell with man!**
- Also symbol of history of Hebrew people. Condition of the Tabernacle/Temple was always an indicator of condition of the people's hearts. **Their history is the Temple's history.**

A fast history lesson....

Tabernacle/Temple Background

It has always been God's desire to dwell with His creation. He...

- walked with His creatures
- desired their fellowship
- created us for His pleasure and fellowship

But man broke this communion with God through disobedience.

- We were banned, but not abandoned
- We could not dwell together any longer
- Cherubim guards appear on Mercy Seat on Ark of the Covenant

Tabernacle/Temple Background

God still has a plan to dwell with His people. He...

- knew in advance of man's rebellion.
- always had a plan
- made provision for us to dwell with Him.
- That plan is still in motion.

Elohim chose one people for example to entire world about His desire for fellowship with us.

- Mankind goes farther away from reconciliation
- Genesis sets stage for God to reveal His plan
- Abraham's calling, Isaac, Jacob, Israel, Egypt

Tabernacle/Temple Background

God delivers His people into the wilderness to teach and shape them.

- Deliverance from Egypt (and bondage)
- Presence (“tabernacling”) with them through pillar of cloud by day, pillar of fire by night
- Forgotten Covenants, forgotten God
- Covenant at Sinai (Mosaic Covenant)

He still wants to dwell with His people. They built Him a special tent “home” among them.

- Cannot be confined to tent, but would meet them there (Mercy Seat) – Visual aid, reminder

Tabernacle/Temple Background

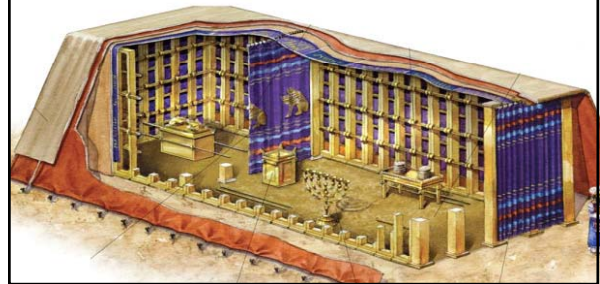
TABERNACLE no ordinary tent! His “residence” among them.

- **MISKAN** - a *residence, dwelling*, habitation tent. Idea of permanent residence, not temporary, continual abiding
- **OHEL** - a very large and conspicuous tent, covering, dwelling, place, home (*able to be seen in the distance*)
- **SKENE** (Greek, NT) - tent, habitation, dwelling
- Very specific instructions
- Large/even larger enclosure, made from specified materials (plunder of Egypt, Ex 12:36)

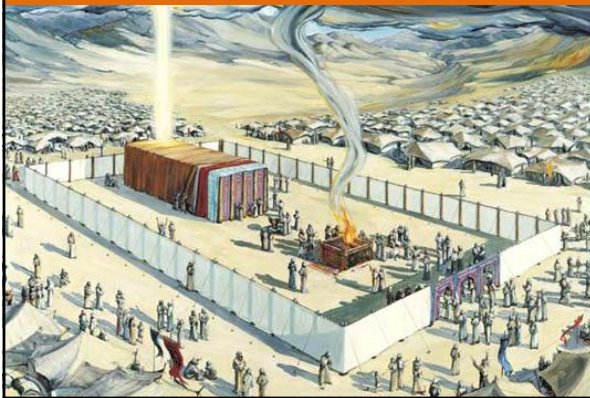
Tabernacle/Temple Background

- Specified materials, furnishings/specified actions
- Good reason for precision: Hebrews 8:5 ***“The work they do as priests is only a copy and a shadow of what is in heaven. This is why God warned Moses when he was ready to build the Holy Tent: “Be very careful to make everything by the plan I showed you on the mountain.”***
- Structure was only a pattern, a representation, of true Tabernacle in heaven
- Tabernacle a portable (but considered permanent) dwelling place

Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background

“I you build it, I will come.” God’s glory filled the tabernacle.

- Visible **sign of His Presence** among them
- God provided plans, materials, workforce
- Elohim’s dwelling place on earth, among His people, began as a desert tent (around 1400 BC).
- Tabernacle taken down **packed up and moved** every time people moved (huge task, Levites)
- Priests from tribe of **Levi, Aaron’s family**.
- Camped around Tabernacle, God provided specific instructions for encampment

Tabernacle/Temple Background

God moved Israel into the Promised Land and the tabernacle went also.

- Ark of the Covenant not generally taken into battle, but at least once, as God commanded, it went before them as they conquered Jericho.
- Tabernacle represented Presence of God with His people, so they opted to take the Ark into battle, with **disastrous consequences**. Captured by the Philistines, who later very much regretted it.



Tabernacle/Temple Background

Building permanent housing, they wanted God's House to be permanent as well.

- After Judges, Monarchy = Saul, David, Solomon
- David wanted to build the Temple, could not. He brought Tabernacle to Jerusalem, where it remained until Temple was built.
- Solomon built the Temple. ★

Seemingly innocuous events. God showed His plan - to have a Son of David build His Temple, His dwelling place. Great spiritual significance. Solomon natural born son of David, built first physical Temple. Jesus is spiritual Son of David, who built the Temple of God, the Body of Christ, today's temple of the Spirit of God.

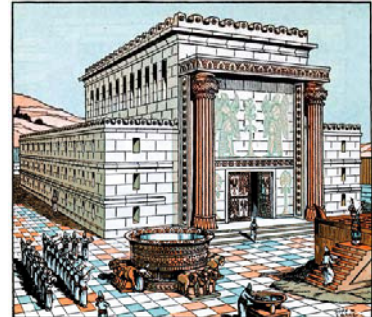
Tabernacle/Temple Background

Solomon builds the first Temple.

- Temple same as Tabernacle, but **permanent**
- "Tabernacle" means *portable tent*, Temple is HEYKAL, a large building, like a palace.
- **Same dimensions/materials** used, but horizontal dimensions doubled. Instead of linen fence and cloth coverings, were stone and board.
- Took about 7½ years to build, 480 years after Israelites left Egypt, around 1000-950 BC.
- Very grand, huge **dedication ceremony**

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Solomon acknowledged this mere house of wood and stone could not contain God, was merely a symbol of His Presence. (1 Kings 8:27-30, Acts 7:8-9)



Tabernacle/Temple Background

"Glory Days" of Israel and the Temple didn't last long.

- United Kingdom of Israel **lasted only through Solomon's reign**.
- His son, Rehoboam, caused division of the Kingdom shortly after Solomon's death
- Kingdom divided into 10 tribes of the **North** (northern Kingdom of Israel), and 2 tribes in the **South** (southern Kingdom of Judah).
- Progression of evil kings in the north led to their destruction by Assyria around 722 BC.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Divided Kingdom – Temple in Trouble

- Many evil kings, a few good ones, in the south, but they too were disobedient and strayed.
- **Judah conquered by Babylon** and led into captivity for 70 years.
- Even before destruction, Temple plundered. (1 Kings 14:25-26) King of Egypt (Shishak) attacked Jerusalem, plundered Temple just 5 years into King Rehoboam's reign. **Temple in very bad shape, just as Israel was.**

Tabernacle/Temple Background

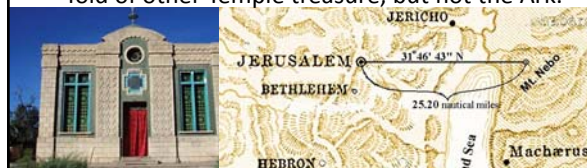
King Joash (Judah) tries to rebuild the Temple and restore its treasure and worship.

- Problems. Didn't remove "high places" (*where people worshipped pagan gods*)
- **Temple in trouble again** - just like the people.
- Joash took all the treasures of the Temple, used them to pay off attacking king. (2 Kings 12:17-18)
- Joash later assassinated by own officials.
- Even **King Hezekiah** stripped off gold on Temple doors/doorposts to give to king of Assyria as payoff.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

The Ark of the Covenant seems to disappear.

- Don't hear anything more about Ark after building of the Temple.
- Don't know where it went, or where it is today. Much speculation, various options (Ethiopia, Mt. Nebo, beneath Jerusalem, etc.)
- Told of other Temple treasure, but not the Ark.



Tabernacle/Temple Background

Evil King Manasseh hastens destruction of the Temple.

- Manasseh's reign shortened already threatened existence of Israel (then southern Kingdom of Judah) (2 Kings 21:13-16)

Josiah tries to rebuild the Temple and restore worship

- One of few good kings of Judah. Only 8 yrs old when he took throne. Determined to finish work of rebuilding and repairing Joash began.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- Unearthed Book of the Covenant (*probably first 5 books of Moses*) (2 Kings 22:10-11). Had been lost for years, had forgotten about their God.
- **Josiah grieved**, realized how far people had gotten away from God, and the Covenant.
- Josiah acted, restored Temple, covenant, priests and sacrificial system, tore down high places, commanded people to celebrate Passover. (2 Kings 22 and 23)
- But God's wrath already stirred against them. They didn't stay with God. (2 Kings 23:3-4, 26-27)
- **Josiah killed in battle with Egypt**. Judah, and the Temple, doomed by God's judgment.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Southern kingdom of Judah falls, Temple is destroyed.

- Assyria conquered/dominated by rising world power - **Babylon**.
- God used Nebuchadnezzar to bring judgment on Judah. (called His "servant")
- In 606 BC Nebuchadnezzar rolled into Jerusalem, established it as part of his kingdom of Babylon, left a Hebrew king there to rule, but that didn't work out too well!

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- Nebuchadnezzar took **first wave of captives** to Babylon at that time (*including Daniel*)
- **Jeremiah** pleaded with people to obey Nebuchadnezzar, that he was God's arm of judgment. They would not listen.
- Nebuchadnezzar **came back to Jerusalem** to settle rebellion and leave another king in charge (2nd siege). Took more captives.
- Finally, as people continued in their wickedness, **Nebuchadnezzar reached end of his patience**.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- **3rd siege** of Jerusalem 586/587 BC. Destroyed the Temple on Tisha b'Av, took final group of captives back to Babylon.
- Temple of Solomon (1st Temple) now in ruins. In His anger, God "thrust" people from His presence. (*2 Kings 25:1-21; 2 Chron 36:18-21*)
- Ezekiel sees **God's glory leave the Temple** and return to heaven (Ezekiel 10-12)

The Temple is gone, the people are gone.

- People removed from land, taken captive to Babylon for 70 yrs (*Deuteronomy 28:36 fulfilled*)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- No Temple meant **no worship, no sacrifices**. In Babylon, concept of synagogues, local places of worship, teaching and assembly, began. But office/duties of priests were gone, including sacrifices.

The people return from captivity and the Temple is rebuilt (2nd Temple)

- **Persian King Cyrus** released Jews to return to the Land, even financed it (God sent personal letter, Isaiah 45, calls him by name)
- Only a **remnant returned** to Israel/Jerusalem. Remainder chose to stay in Persia (Esther)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- With time/struggle, rebuilt Temple, much smaller, less ornate (*Ezra's Temple, about 515 BC*)
- Treasures from Temple taken by Nebuchadnezzar returned (Ezra 6:5)
- BUT, **we do not hear of God's glory filling this Temple**. He will not reside in a stone Temple now, but in "hearts of flesh." *"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."* (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

God has something new in mind for His dwelling place among His people.

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

(The New Covenant, Jeremiah 31:31-33)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- Israel now under Persian domination, then Greeks, later Romans
- People **backsliding again** shortly after return

Herod enhances the Second Temple (Ezra's Temple)

- Massive renovation 500 years later, pride of Israel even though ruled by Rome (took several decades to complete)
- **Messiah here**, He was the dwelling of God in their midst, not the Temple made of stone

Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background

- **Shekinah** Glory dwelled in the Body of Jesus. And the Jews rejected this Temple of God.

The Second Temple is Destroyed

- Jews were not "quiet" under Roman rule. Continued uprising caused Roman emperors to bring complete end to Jewish rebellion.
- **70 AD, Titus/Roman army** held long siege during which many Jews died (many resorted to cannibalism, Leviticus 26:29, 2 Kings 6:28, Jeremiah 19:9, Ezekiel 5:10, Lamentations 4:10). Rest were dispersed to 4 corners of the earth (**The "Diaspora"**)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- So-called "accident," **Temple completely destroyed**, burned to the ground.
- Just as Jesus predicted, no stone left upon another (soldiers removed stones to get to gold melted down in fire).
- Destroyed same day as 1st Temple, **9th of Av**. Coincidence? *Hardly*.
- **Arch of Titus** shows Temple treasures being carried off (*including the Menorah, but not the Ark*). Fulfillment of prophecy, Deuteronomy 28. God did just as He said He would.



Tabernacle/Temple Background

- Before destruction, **Ezekiel given disturbing vision**. Shown abominations committed in Temple, ultimately glory of God (Shekinah) departing (Ezekiel 8-11) and returning to heaven. God no longer dwelled in their midst.

No people, no Temple.

- **132 AD** after another Jewish rebellion, Romans plowed entire city of Jerusalem. Got rid of remaining Jews, redrew land on maps with different name – **Palestina**. To rest of world Jews no longer existed. Neither did God's house.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- **Timing very interesting** from spiritual point of view. Messiah had come - some knew Him, some rejected Him. He **fulfilled all promises** Temple signified - priestly system, access to God, sacrifices, everything.
- Spiritually, in God's plan, **no more need of the Temple**. Ultimate sacrifice was given. Promises fulfilled. **God allowed temple to be destroyed** and people to be scattered, as He said He would, because of their disobedience and hardened hearts.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

A new Temple, not made of stone.

- About 40 years before 2nd Temple destroyed, **new Temple created**. Not built with hands of men. On Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) after Jesus' resurrection, Holy Spirit came to not just dwell WITH men, but to dwell IN believers.
- Paul says **WE are Temple of the Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 6:19). God still dwells among His people. Physical Temple **not needed**. WE are the spiritual Temple of God today.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

The people return...another Temple?

- Today God **restoring "dispersed" of Israel**. Homeland 1948, Jerusalem in Jewish control 1967. **Another temple built?** Preparations well underway. Debate about this.
- Daniel, final world ruler to abolish sacrifices, set himself up as God in Temple, cause ultimate "abomination that causes desolation."
- For this reason, **seems Temple must exist**. Current intense preparations for coming "Third Temple" (perhaps "Tribulation Temple").

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Current Temple "Mount"

- Area of original temples known as "Temple Mount" (*as far as we know - debate*).
- Reduced to **rubble/ruins**, desecrated by Christians in 4th – 6th centuries.
- Site of **Mt. Moriah** (sacrifice of Isaac, Gen 22, "Yehovah Yireh") this is significant
- Also place where Muslims believe Mohammed ascended to heaven, Al Aksa Mosque and Dome of the Rock (*been there 1300 yrs*)

Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background

Current Temple "Mount"

- All Jerusalem reclaimed by Israel after 1967 war.
- Under political pressure, Moshe Dayan (Minister of Defense at time) returned control of Temple Mount to Arabs after the war.
- **Seemingly a problem!**
- However, great **disagreement about where original Temple stood**. Latest technology, possibility current Temple Mount where Dome of the Rock stands not original site.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Current Temple "Mount"

- **Revelation 11** brings up some interesting thoughts. Current thinking = location of actual Temple was **slightly north** of Dome of the Rock.
- If so, another Temple could be constructed **right next to DOR**, on the north side. (*Some talk already of sharing the current Temple Mount, but anything could make way for this*)
- Would **face Eastern Gate** (Golden Gate) now sealed.

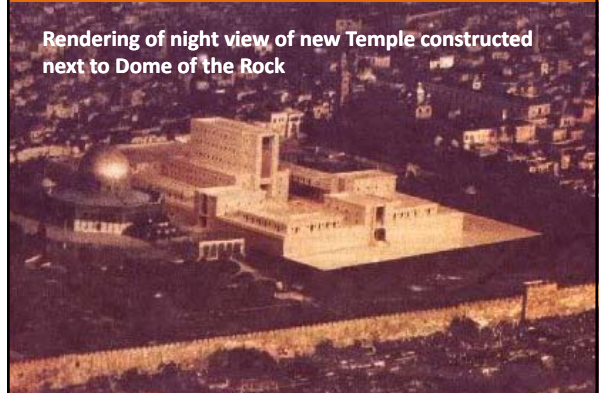
Tabernacle/Temple Background

Current Temple "Mount"

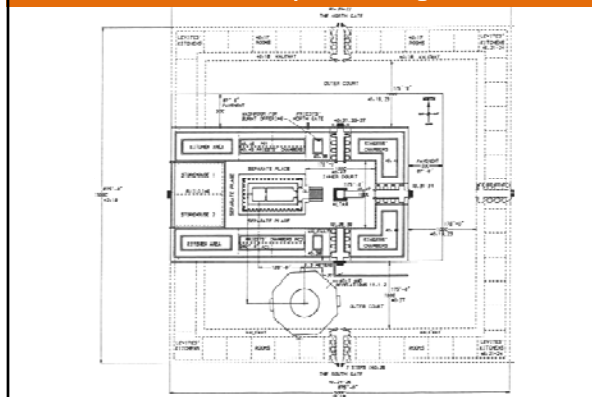
- Plans well underway for such a Temple.
- However, Jews today are using the Temple described in Ezekiel 40-48 as a model.
- Jews referring to this Temple as the **THIRD Temple** (1st being Solomon's, 2nd being Ezra/Herod's)
- **Unlikely** this would be "Tribulation" Temple. Description fits more for a Millennial Temple (*more on this in a moment*), *not what we believe will happen during Tribulation.*

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Rendering of night view of new Temple constructed next to Dome of the Rock

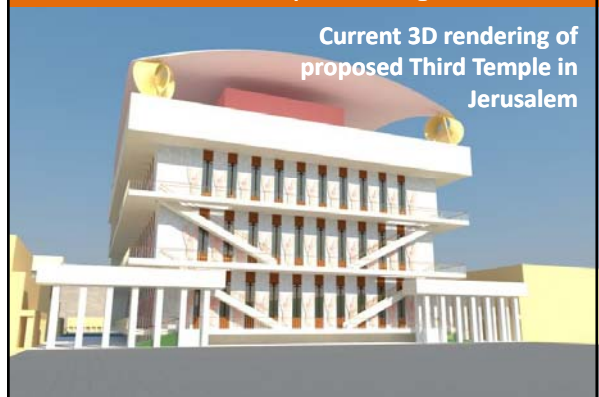


Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background

Current 3D rendering of proposed Third Temple in Jerusalem



Tabernacle/Temple Background



Proposed Third Temple - Bronze Altar in foreground

Tabernacle/Temple Background

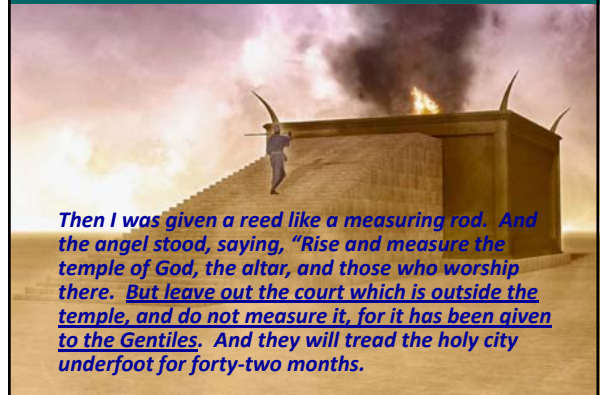
Current Temple "Mount"

- If a Third (or Tribulation) Temple is rebuilt, and if it is positioned next to the Dome of the Rock as some suggest, this puts this GENTILE structure **smack in the COURT OF THE GENTILES**, referenced in Revelation 11. This makes this passage VERY interesting! As always, *beware of speculation*, but it is an interesting thought, one that might have meaning.

Tabernacle/Temple Background



Revelation 11:1-2



Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months."

Tabernacle/Temple Background



Tabernacle/Temple Background



Nothing is impossible to God. If Temple is rebuilt, it will be, regardless of debate/whose control.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

Current Temple "Mount"

- Regardless which plans used, if such Temple is built during or before Tribulation, will also be destroyed.
- Ezekiel's Temple constructed most likely during the Millennial Kingdom.

The Fourth (Ezekiel's) Temple

- Chapters 40-48, very detailed information, Temple to date has never been built. Jews today call it 3rd Temple, others 4th (after Tribulation Temple, later destroyed)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

The Fourth (Ezekiel's) Temple

- Most think **built during Millennium**, on earth during reign of Messiah.
- **No mention of Ark of the Covenant**, or veil separating the Holy of Holies from outer area (Holy Place). **Why not?** Answer simple. Don't need either anymore.
- **Veil torn at death of Jesus**, signifying barrier torn away between us and God. We **now have access to God through Yeshua.**
- Ark of the Covenant where God dwelled. Strongest **symbol of God's Presence.** In Millennium, He will reign in person. **Immanuel!**

Tabernacle/Temple Background

The Fourth (Ezekiel's) Temple

- During Millennium, Jesus Himself will reign from Jerusalem. He will not appear once a year behind shield of smoky incense and blood of animals. He will reign in person. **Jesus IS the Ark of the Covenant**, holder of God's Presence and glory and the fulfillment of God's promises.
- Passage details animal sacrifices. **Why?** God does not explain, but many assume for **memorial purposes** only (*way to remember sacrifice of Lamb of God*).

Tabernacle/Temple Background

The Real Temple

- Tabernacle/temples so far only pattern/visual aids/object lessons to **illustrate one true Temple.**
- Hebrews/Revelation ample references to Temple in heaven, God's dwelling place. Revelation provides glimpse about what this Temple is like. Even this Temple will disappear.

No more Temple. It is not needed any longer.

- After Millennium one more human rebellion quickly ended. After this we enter what we can call the "**eternal state**" or eternity.

Tabernacle/Temple Background

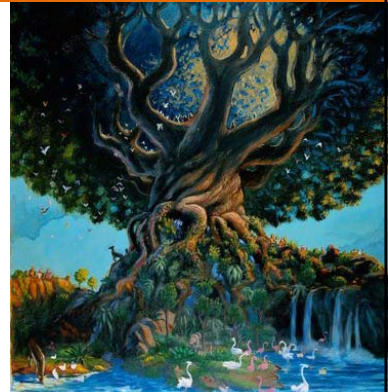
No more Temple. It is not needed any longer.

- Revelation 21-22, brief, amazing description of place we will dwell with God forever.
- Includes Tree of Life from Garden of Eden (Paradise). We will be returned to that place to dwell forever with Him.
- **Sin will not exist.** No longer must we dwell separate from God, no longer do we need Temple to approach God. Revelation 21:22, **"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The new city, the New Jerusalem is the dwelling place of God and Lamb, among His people."** **Immanuel!**

Tabernacle/Temple Background

HE is the Temple

- Finally together again, after long separation from the Garden of His Presence. **We will never be separated again.**



Tabernacle/Temple Background

TABERNACLE/TEMPLE HISTORY RECAP

- History of tabernacle/temple is **history of God's plan of redemption**, and His ultimate plan of dwelling with the people He loves.
- Began in the garden, will end in the garden.
- Important **aid to understand God's love** for His people, and His ultimate plan to reunite us with Him.
- Key to spiritual condition of Hebrews/Jews, key to the spiritual condition of believers today. (*Referenced in Revelation 11 for this purpose.*)

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- Began in the Garden, as Adam walked and **fellowshipped with God**
- Illustrated in the wilderness in a large **tent that moved with the people**
- Given permanent home in Jerusalem (1st Temple, Solomon)
- **Destroyed by Babylon** because of disobedience 586/587 BC (Tisha b'Av, "Glory" departed prior to this)
- **Rebuilt**, but much smaller (Ezra's or Nehemiah's Temple, the 2nd Temple)
- **Enhanced by Herod** over period of 60 years

Tabernacle/Temple Background

- **Destroyed by Rome** in 70 AD (Tisha b'Av again, Jesus prophesied)
- Exists today spiritually in hearts of believers (indwelt by the Holy Spirit)
- **Likely rebuilt for end time** prophecies to be fulfilled (3rd Temple)
- Likely newly constructed in Millennium per Ezekiel's vision (4th Temple)
- Will **end in the garden**. Not needed in eternity. God will dwell permanently with His people made holy by the blood of His Son.
- Until then, **reminds us of His incredible plan and desire to fellowship** with us.

GOD'S PURPOSE? Immanuel, God with Us And Us with God



Tabernacle/Temple

Amazing study of God's ultimate sacrifice
for us and His desire to be with us.
For more information...

http://rockofages.org/topics/Tabernacle_Study.pdf

(a 100-page illustrated self-study guide)

• Welcome to Rock of Ages.org

The purpose of this site is to equip both laypeople and pastors with solid Bible-based teaching guides and handbooks for Bible study purposes. These are also intended for those seeking to learn for their own, recovery, for the truth, and not looking for man-made or man. Thank you very much.

XTRA
Bible-based teaching guides and handbooks

1. RockofAges.org
2. Study Resources
3. Topics
4. "Tabernacle Study" (9th study listed)