

# The Temple Of God

## *(Part 2)*

***“Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” (1Corinthians 3:16-17)***

In the previous issue we learned that God asked His people to meet Him in a certain place, and He gave them certain rules to follow. The place was the tent of meeting or the tabernacle that they made according to the pattern and instruction of God given through Moses. The tent was divided into two compartments, the Holy Place, and the inner sanctuary or the Most Holy Place. An ark, a rectangular box made of acacia wood overlaid with pure gold that symbolized the covenant of God to His people was placed in the Most Holy Place. The ark served as depository for the tablets of stone of commandments written by the hand of God. ***“Then put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you.” (Exodus25:16)*** In the inner sanctuary where the ark was, God met his servants Moses and Aaron, thus it served as the symbol of divine presence of the Lord. And while the people of God were wandering in the desert the tent of meeting was being moved from place to place. As they settled in the Promised Land, this portable sanctuary was stationed at Shiloh and then at Kiriath-Jearim until it was brought to Jerusalem by King David.

King David decided to build a temple for God: ***“He said to Nathan the prophet, ‘Here I am, living in a place of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.’(2Samuel 7:2)*** But God told David that one of his offspring would build the house for the Lord. “But this word of the Lord came to me: ***“You have shed much blood and have fought many wars? You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest. He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father.” (1Corinthians 22:8,9,10)***

King Solomon, David’s son built a temple of God designed like the tabernacle with courtyards, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Most Holy Place of the temple. On the day of dedication of the temple after King Solomon’s prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and sacrifices and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. The temple became the permanent place for the people of God to offer sacrifices and to worship God. But the Most Holy Place was restricted only for the High Priest to enter to offer sacrifices in behalf of the people. And the situation continued on until God sent His Son Jesus into this world. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross as atonement for the sins of this world, ***“at that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” (Matthew27:51)*** The curtain represented the division between the outer Holy Place to the inner Most Holy Place, the place where the Ark of the Covenant was the symbol of God’s presence. By the blood of Jesus, God became accessible for all. The Most Holy Place of the Temple became accessible to those who believed and

trusted in Christ. A new covenant was made between God and man as He promised: ***“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”*** The presence of the Spirit of God is no more found in the temple built with stones and woods but now found living in the hearts of His people. ***“Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” (1Corinthians4:16-17)*** These further imply that:

1. No building can be considered sacred or as a place for God’s dwelling except a pure heart. ***“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.” (Psalm119:1)***
2. No blessing abounds to any place if the spirit of God is not allowed to reach the heart of man through believing in Jesus and obeying God’s commands. ***“All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God.” (Deuteronomy 28:2)***
3. No ground, city or country is considered sacred or a dwelling place of God other than among the believers of Jesus. ***“What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (2Corinthians 6:16)***
4. No object worship of idols, pictures, statues or symbols can replace the true worship to God. ***“But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed.” (Deuteronomy 30:17-18)***

Some people consider certain places in the world as holy and sacred, and there they go to worship God. Or from there they bring water, sand, stone or any object that they consider holy, and to bring them closer to God or would give them good fortune. When the Samaritan woman asked Jesus about the perfect place to worship God, Jesus declared; ***“You Samaritan worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth, for they are kind of worshipers the father seeks. God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24)***

As the topic is concluded, it becomes clear that God does not remain in houses or certain places or objects, but He dwells among His people, in the hearts of those who keep His new covenant. ***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.” (1Corinthians 6:19-20)***

***My dear and Beloved:*** We have now life and freedom to reach God directly and to enjoy His Spirit who lives in us. Let us pray and thank God for that new life that He gave us through Jesus. And, let us ask God to cleanse us from all things that defile our body, soul and spirit because we are the temple of God.

***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit my body, soul and spirit in your hand. Lord cleanses me from all my unrighteousness. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and use me as your temple, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*