



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Intro: This Is The Hill God Desireth To Dwell In

**Why leap ye, ye high hills? This is the hill
which God desireth to dwell in; Psalm 68:16**

INTRODUCTION

- a look through the Bible reveals God has always longed for fellowship with mankind...and He is constantly moving closer to the heart of man

why does the One who flung the stars into
space care to spend time with us?

NOTE: please be aware that God did not create us
because He was lonely or because He wanted someone
to love Him...God is all powerful and self-sustaining

- the Hebrew word translated as *tabernacle* ('mishkan') means "a dwelling place" and originally carried the idea of a tent

from that concept, the Old Testament often referred to the Temple as 'The House of God' or 'The House of the Lord'

Ezra 6:7 King Darius

Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

2 Chronicles 7:11a

...Solomon finished the house of the LORD,
and the king's house:

- thus we have the concept of God dwelling among His people

Numbers 35:34

Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit,
wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the
children of Israel.

Psalm 68:16

1. GOD IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 3:8

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

this verse only hints at the relationship God had with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

in **Genesis 2** we find God creating Adam, placing him in the garden, and apparently communing with him on a regular basis

once sin entered into the heart of Adam and he chose to eat of the fruit, the relationship was forever damaged

Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, but God continued to influence and direct their thinking

throughout *Genesis* and *Exodus*, we find God walking with Enoch, talking to Abraham, and directing Moses and Aaron in the wilderness until the Tabernacle

2. GOD IN THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 25:8

...let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:22

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Moses never suggested building a house for Jehovah...it was God who commanded the people to make Him a place to dwell

Looking down with love on a people He had led from bondage in Egypt, God desired to not only direct them home, but to settle with them as well

He instructed Moses to build this tabernacle and to pitch it in the midst of the people, much like a Bedouin chief would do in his encampment

the Tabernacle was a portable, temporary living space...the Israelites were pilgrims living in tents, moving from place to place

the idea of the tabernacle, then, was that God became a pilgrim with pilgrims and occupied a tent with tent-dwellers

He came down to where man was that he might have fellowship with him

3. GOD IN SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

1 Kings 8:11

...the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

after their wilderness wanderings ended and the Promised Land was divided among the tribes, the nation of Israel developed an on-again-off-again relationship with Jehovah

during the period of settlement and the times of the judges, the Tabernacle was moved several times

Gilgal...Shiloh...Kirjath-Jearim...Gibeon

in King David, God found a man after His own heart, yet he was a man of war whom God would not allow to build the anticipated Temple

that privilege passed to Solomon, David's son

the Temple was a building of great magnificence, the most expensive in the kingdom

1 Kings 10:1-8 Queen of Sheba

on the day of dedication, the glory of the Lord came down and filled the place so that God occupied a permanent dwelling, in the midst of a permanent people

it was here Israel met with God and He promised to hear their prayers

4. GOD IN ZERUBBABEL'S TEMPLE

Ezra 6:15-16

And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king. And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy...

following the return of Israel's seventy year exile in Babylon, the Temple was finally rebuilt

sadly, this Temple was not as splendid as the first one...many of the older generation who had remembered the luster of times past wept at seeing Zerubbabel's efforts for the first time

Ezra 3:12-13

But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

while not as expansive or impressive as the first Temple, God chose to once again take residence among His people

they would rebel, of course, and God would move out from among them.

NOTE: God did not dwell in Herod's Temple...Herod was an Idumean and served as a puppet ruler under Roman authority

Matthew 23:38-24:1-2

5. GOD WAS IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

His name was *Immanuel*, meaning "God with us"

while the Tabernacle and Temples were only temporary, Jesus said that if His 'temple' was destroyed, in three days He would raise it again.

John 2:19-21

in the person of Christ, in the form of a man, God was moving nearer to man in fellowship

even as the practices of worship became cold and traditional, Jesus moved with compassion

He had feelings and emotions...He was tempted like as men were, yet, remained sinless

Tabernacles, Temples...they were each destroyed by man, but the temple that was Christ's body was nailed to a cross

through that sacrifice a way was opened for God to move even closer to His creation

6. GOD IN YOU

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

what a humbling thought this should be to the believer...if we ever come to the place where this was our focus, what changes might occur in us???

the holy, righteous Creator of the universe lives within each believer, longing for communion and fellowship.

if you are a child of the King, He resides with you...think on that!

However, even this temple is not permanent. One day, the last enemy, death, will destroy it, and God, in His infinite wisdom, is preparing a place that we will never have to leave

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

this is the only permanent temple...it knows no end

what will this 'building' look like? **Hebrews 9:23-24**

in eternity, we will live with God, commune with Him, and worship Him with all that we shall become

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.