



Sanctuary or Meeting Place?

A New Covenant Theology of
Church Buildings



God's Temple?

- this building is not a temple, sanctuary or God's house, but a meeting place for God's temple and a tool for ministry



God's Temple?

Definition

- God's "dwelling place" (temple) is the special manifestation of His revelatory presence



God's Temple?

OT Background

- the garden of Eden was the first temple and archetype for subsequent temples



God's Temple?

OT Background

- the tabernacle/temple of Israel was a symbolic microcosm of creation pointing to the world-wide, end-time "temple"



God's Temple?

New Covenant Fulfillment

1. Jesus is the "new temple"

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

(John 1:14)

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.’

The Jews therefore said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?

But He was speaking of the temple of His body.”

(John 2:19-21)

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father...

But an hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”

(John 4:21-23)



God's Temple?

New Covenant Fulfillment

1. Jesus is the “new temple”
2. Jesus' body (the church) is the extension of the new temple in this age

“Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy Him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

(1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

“in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

(Ephesians 2:21-22)



God's Temple?

New Covenant Fulfillment

1. Jesus is the "new temple"
2. Jesus' body (the church) is the extension of the new temple in this age.
3. The eternal kingdom is the culmination of God's temple



God's Temple?

Implications

1. There are no parallels between the OT temple and our church facility
2. As God's temple, we are to expand God's presence through Christ in this age