



Sanctuary or Meeting Place?

A New Covenant Theology of
God's Temple (pt 2)



God's Temple?

Review

- the OT temple was a symbolic, foreshadow of God's ultimate dwelling with His people which comes to pass in and through Jesus



God's Temple?

Review

- with Jesus' fulfillment of the temple, there is no longer any physical temple, but the church (not the building) is the temple of God

"And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God,

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

(1 Peter 2:4-5)



God's Temple?

"Priests" in the "Temple"

- through Jesus worship is a continuous activity in the context of every day life
- there is no holy place we gather to meet God or to worship God

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and people for God's own possession, *that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him* who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

(1 Peter 2:9)



God's Temple?

Implications

1. There are no parallels between the OT temple and our church facility
2. The church is an expanding, living temple of God's saving presence in the world



God's Temple?

Implications

3. Our facility is a practical tool to enhance our function as God's temple



God's Temple?

Practical Perspectives

1. The Function of the Building
 - not a shrine to be preserved but a tool to be used
 - intended for multipurpose use
 - an emphasis on outreach and community use



God's Temple?

Practical Perspectives

2. The Attitudes of the Church
 - an eternal, kingdom-first perspective
 - selfless love and preference of others
 - forbearance – willing to be inconvenienced