

**The Consummation of
Koinonia:
The Church as the Temple of
the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 2:11-22

February 14, 2010

The Temples of the Jews

- Soon after God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, he commanded Moses to build the tabernacle “according to the pattern” (see Ex 25:40 & Heb 8:5).
- As the history of Israel progressed, Solomon built a great temple in Jerusalem but it was destroyed in ca. 586 B.C.
- By grace, God allowed Israel to build another temple under Nehemiah which lasted until 19 B.C.

The Temples of the Jews

- In 19 B.C., Herod the Great began a building project which greatly expanded and perhaps replaced the Second Temple.
 - Herod's Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Romans
 - The famous “west wall” or “wailing wall” is the last surviving vestige of this temple

The Temples of the Jews

- The commonality of the tabernacle and temples was their pattern: outer court, inner court, holy place and most holy place where God dwelled.
 - Two Greek words describe the temple, *eiron* and *naos*
 - *Eiron* is a more general word and refers to the whole temple complex
 - *Naos* is a more specific work and refers to the holy of holies.

1 Kings 8:27-29

“²⁷ But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ²⁸ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, ²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.”

Jesus & the Temple

- Jesus made an astonishing claim in John 2:19ff.
 - Was Jesus being metaphorical here?
 - I think not because in Col 1:19 Paul writes, “For in him [Jesus] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”

The Church & the Temple

- Even before the resurrection, Jesus began hinting at something that would set Christianity apart from all the religions of the world (see John 16:7).
- This began to be fulfilled in Acts 2 and carried on throughout the Bible and indeed church history.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

*“¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.”*

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

“¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

2 Corinthians 6:16

“What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, ‘I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.’”

Ephesians 2:19-22

“¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Isn't it interesting...

...that the Jewish temple was destroyed just a few years after Jesus raised his "temple" from the dead and it was never rebuilt again?

One Final Thought:

We saw in 1 Corinthians 12 that God is forming us into one body, in Ephesians 5 that God will one day present this unified body to Jesus Christ as his Bride, and today that his Bride will be the Temple of the Holy—this is the only kind of Bride fit for the only begotten Son of God.