

A temple is *a place where God makes His presence known*

### Step 1: Temple Theme From Genesis to Ezekiel

- Garden of Eden as a sanctuary/temple (Genesis 1–3)
- Tabernacle (Exodus 25)
- Temple (2 Chronicles 7)
  - o *Exile* → left asking, “is there any hope of God dwelling with His people again?”

### Step 2: Reading Ezekiel 40–48 in Context

- In exile, Israel kept hope that God’s presence would once again live in a new Temple (Ezekiel 40–48 & Zechariah 2; 14)
- God’s presence shows up (Ezekiel 1–11), judgement is coming on Israel (Ezekiel 12–24) and the surrounding nations (Ezekiel 25–32)
  - o Key moment = Jerusalem has fallen & temple destroyed (Ezekiel 33:21)
- Hope for Israel (Ezekiel 34–37), hope for the nations (Ezekiel 38–39)
- **Ezekiel 40–46:** Section #1—vision of new temple
  - o Ezekiel 40–48’s temple is fulfilled symbolically for **two** reasons:
    - Reason #1: God’s presence will be over His people [Ezekiel 37:26–28]
    - Reason #2: Ezekiel’s temple’s unique features
- **Ezekiel 47–48:** Section #2—Eden imagery
  - o Left asking, “how does the rest of the Bible play out this theme?”

### Step 3: Temple is Best Understood as Fulfilled in Jesus’ Body

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple (Ezra 1–6 & Nehemiah 1–7) destroyed in AD 70
  - o Left asking, “will Yahweh again dwell with His people?”
  - o Authorship of John’s Gospel = post-AD 70 (consensus = between 80–90)
- John writes in the midst of a crisis of Jewish belief
  - o John 1:14 – Jesus “tabernacles”
  - o John 1:51—Jesus connects heaven and earth
  - o John 2:13–25—Jesus restores right worship
  - o John 4:1–42—worshiping God doesn’t need to be at a place
  - o John 7:1–8:59, 10:22–42, 11:48–52—Jesus embodies Jewish festivals
    - *Passover* (John 1:29, 36; 19:29, 33–4, 36), *Tabernacles* (John 7:2; 8:12; 9:5), *Feast of Dedication/Hanukah* (John 10:22–11:53)
  - o John 13–21—Temple drops out of the Gospel
    - John 14:1–2: double-meaning of οἰκία (*physical & spiritual*)
    - μένω “to remain/abide” appears in John 14:10, 17, 25; 15:4 (3x), 5, 6, 7 (2x), 9, 10 (2x), 16; 19:31; 21:22, 23—God’s presence is going to continue in/with His people

### Step 4: The Temple’s Purpose and Our Place

- Question #1: Why does John do this?
  - o To link temple with mission
- Question #2: How does this change how we view the church?
  - o We’re God’s presence on earth
- Question #3: How does this change how we view heaven?
  - o As a new and better Eden where God is forever with His people

## SOME RESOURCES

ANYONE:

Video: Temple | BibleProject™

G. K. Beale & Mitchell Kim, *“God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth”*

SLIGHT NERD:

T. Desmond Alexander & Simon Gathercole, *“Heaven on Earth: The Temple in Biblical Theology”*

EXTRA NERD:

Andrea L. Robinson, *“Temple of Presence: The Christological Fulfillment of Ezekiel 40–48 in Revelation 21:1–22:5”*

G. K. Beale, *“The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God”*