

A MESSAGE ON PRESENCE

temporary
TEMPLES

INTRODUCTION

Temporary...

A seemingly negative word that can actually give us **hone**

- Temporary pain.
- Temporary setbacks.
- Temporary fixes.

*“Temporary things can be a placeholder —
until something better comes.”*

A QUICK STORY

My Ring



Chris, my boys, and I train Jiu Jitsu.



A QUICK STORY

My Ring



The ring serves its purpose. It's a placeholder.

GOD'S TEMPORARY HOUSES

How His Plan Unfolds Old Testament to New

1

Tabernacle

2

Solomon's Temple

3

Zerubbabel's Temple

4

Herod's Temple

TEMPLE ONE

The Tabernacle



- God instructed Moses to build it.

instructed His people to move.

Not just anybody could enter every part of the Tabernacle.

1. The Courtyard — Israelites could enter

The outer courtyard to bring sacrifices and worship.

2. The Holy Place — Priests only

3. The Most Holy Place — High Priest only

Behind the veil was the Most Holy Place, where the Ark of the Covenant was located.

Exodus 40:34–38

*God's glory filled the Tabernacle
the moment it was completed.*

2 Samuel 6:3-7

*Oxen stumble and Uzzah dies
from accidentally touching the
Ark of the Covenant.*

TEMPLE TWO

Solomon's Temple

Built on Mount Moriah • Seven years to complete • One of history's greatest construction projects

7

Years to complete

184,000

Total workforce

\$500B

Estimated modern cost

It represented the absolute best humanity could offer God.

EVEN SOLOMON ADMITTED

“The house I am about to build will be great... But who is able to build Him a house, since heaven, even the highest heaven, cannot contain Him?”

2 Chronicles 2:5–6

“The greatness of God can't fit inside a building.”

... it was temporary. The Babylonians destroyed it.

TEMPLE THREE

Zerubbabel's Temple

After the exile, the people rebuilt — with mixed feelings.



Joy

Priests blew trumpets, Levites clashed cymbals, and the people gave a great shout of praise as the foundation was laid.



Weeping

Older priests and leaders who remembered Solomon's Temple wept aloud at how modest the new foundation looked.

Ezra 3:10–13

“The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise heard far in the distance.”

“Be Strong... My Spirit Remains Among You”

Haggai 2:3–9

‘Does anyone remember this house—this Temple—in its former splendor? How, in comparison, does it look to you now? It must seem like nothing at all! But now the LORD says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies.

My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.’ “For this is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: In just a little while I will again shake the heavens and the earth, the oceans and the dry land. I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. The future glory of this Temple will be greater than its past glory, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. And in this place, I will bring peace. I, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!”

“My Spirit remains among you.”

The method may change. The music may change. The generation may change. The building may change. But the message never changes!

TEMPLE FOUR

Herod's Temple

An add-on to Zerubbabel's temple — enlarged and beautified. Where Jesus was dedicated as a child, visited, taught... and cleansed.

John 2:13–22

In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, "Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!" Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me." But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it." "All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

Passion for God's house: God's holiness is just as present as it was in the first temple (The Tabernacle)

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TEMPLE

Jesus Himself walked into the temple — and then revealed that He was the true Temple.

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

John 2:19

“It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body.

4 TEMPLES, 4 ENDINGS

1 Unfolding Plan

1	Tabernacle	~480 years	<i>Until Solomon's Temple was dedicated</i>
2	Solomon's Temple	~373 years	<i>959–586 BC — destroyed by Babylon</i>
3	Zerubbabel's Temple	~496 years	<i>516 BC–AD 70 — after completion</i>
4	Herod's Temple	~90 years	<i>As Herod's expanded temple, until AD 70</i>

THE TURNING POINT

Where Is The Temple Now?

*John 16:7 — “It is better that I go away, so that another advocate,
the Holy Spirit, will live with and in believers.”*

1,990+ YEARS AND COUNTING

Believers Are The Temple

God ultimately decided not to house His Spirit in magnificent, expensive, man-made buildings. Those were all temporary — placeholders. He no longer dwells behind curtains or stone walls. He decided to house His Spirit in **you**.

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?”

1 Corinthians 3:16

“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.”

1 Peter 2:5

THE VESSEL AND THE TREASURE

Power That Lives Inside You

Male, female, young, old — we're the vessel. He is the treasure on the inside.

*"We have this treasure in earthen vessels (jars of clay),
that the excellence of power may be of God and not of us."*

2 Corinthians 4:7

*"The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in
you."*

Romans 8:11

ONE MOUNTAIN, TWO PROVISIONS

Mount Moriah

1

The Temple

The first Temple was built on the southern end of Mount Moriah.

Mount Moriah is also where Abraham went to offer Isaac — and the Lord provided a ram, sparing his life.

2

Mount Calvary

Mount Moriah was also the location of Mount Calvary.

There, the Lord made another provision — our substitute, Jesus — put to death in our place, for our sins.

The God who provided the sacrifice was also preparing the way for His presence to live in us.

GOD OUR PROVIDER, GOD A MULTIPLIER!

The Widow's Last Meal

1 Kings 17:8–16

“I have instructed a widow there to feed you.” So, he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?” As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.” But she said, “I swear by the LORD your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.” But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid!

Go ahead and do just what you’ve said,

but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain and the crops grow again!” So, she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

Just like the widow surrendered her last meal and saw it multiply, Jesus laid down His life — and after He rose and ascended, His life was multiplied through the Holy Spirit living in billions of believers all over the world.

NOT TEMPORARY. NOT STATIONARY.

A Powerful Mobilized Church

Phone Booth

Fixed. Stationary. You had to go to it.

Cell Phone

Mobile. It goes wherever you go — like the church.

“God's presence went from a place you had to travel to, to a Presence you carry with you.”

Matthew 28:19

“Go and make disciples of all nations... teach them to obey all I have commanded. And be sure of this: I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Romans 10:14–15

“How can they hear without someone telling them? How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

THE CHURCH CANNOT BE DESTROYED

Buildings Can Fall. The Spirit Cannot.

Not Behind Curtains

Not Behind Stone Walls

**In Redeemed People,
Everywhere**

We are here to stay. Come what may, Jesus Christ will always be represented — He will always be proclaimed. He lives in redeemed people all over the world.

Matthew 16:18 — “On this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”



*We never really arrive.
There is no projected finish date for this temple.*

*"He who began a good work within you will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day
when Christ Jesus returns."*

Philippians 1:6

Do you not know you are the temple?

LET'S PRAY

Take It Further

1

What needs to be chased out?

Is there something in your life that doesn't belong in God's temple?

2

How does that change your life?

If the Spirit of God dwells in you — do you need wisdom? Healing? Peace? All of it is accessible through Him.

3

Where are you carrying His presence?

Who needs to encounter Jesus? Go — take Him with you. Don't leave that part of yourself when you go to work or school.