

- With the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus the centre of gravity shifted from earth to Heaven and remains there. Jesus reigns as King and ministers as HP from the heavenly Palace (King) and Temple (Priest).
- **Jesus is also *the Veil* of this Heavenly Temple:** Heb 10:19-20 [Read] portrays Jesus as *the Veil* through which his people *to enter into* and *dwell in the Holy of Holies*: "... by a living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil – which is *his flesh*..."
- In Heb 12:18-21 the author compares the old covenant with the New Covenant, Mt. Sinai – which represents fear – with Mt. Calvary which represents Mercy, Love, Forgiveness, Joy and Peace.

On Mount Calvary believers enter into a Temple/Sanctuary which cannot be shaken. Cf Dan 2:44 **"The God of Heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed ... it will endure forever."**

- This eternal kingdom of Daniel is associated with ***the Stone*** of Daniel 2:45 which became a great mountain and filled the whole earth Dan 2:34-35. This stone is contrasted with the ungodly kingdom it smashes to dust! *This was the stone rejected by the Jerusalem leaders!*

### **The Temple in the Apocalypse**

All that we have done before points to the final eschatological Temple which is present in the Apocalypse. It is very clear in Rev 11: 1-4 [read].

Here the church is the true temple, but Christians can be in different parts of it depending on their relationship with Christ:

- Those in the **Innermost Court** live in deep union with God, in His Divine Will
- Those in the **Inner Court** live a real spiritual life. They seek to do God's Will always
- Those in the **Outer Court** *are not committed*, therefore don't have the same protection as those in the inner courts, because they *are not committed* to God's Will. The human will reigns. They will be purified by persecution for 42 months: Dan 8:10

Yet it's all the same Temple! Remember John and Judas at the same table at the Last supper?

- The Outer Court of the old temple of Israel represented the physical side of creation. The protection there is less because of the influence of the outside world.

**Measuring the Temple:** In the OT 'measuring' denoted some degree of protection.

- In 1 Enoch 61:1-5 the angels measure the righteous elect so that their faith will be "strengthened in righteousness", not destroyed even under persecution. The result being that "the elect begin to dwell with the elect"!
- The measuring of the Temple needs to be seen against the backdrop of Ezekiel's prophecy regarding the temple in Ezek 40-48 where DIAMETREO verb and METRON noun are used 30 times each in both the building and the protection of the temple.
- In Rev 21:15-17 the angel measures (metreo) the city, gates and wall with a reed just like Rev 11:1-4. He measures the security of the city dwellers against any harm that can come to them from unclean and deceptive people: 21:27
- This protection against sin/evil guarantees God's Presence among them: 21:27; Heb 12:14.
- God's Presence preserves the faith of those chosen 'ab aeterno' and 'sealed' in Rev 7:3-8, so measuring and sealing are 2 sides of the same coin! This is because the church, patterned after Christ, IS the Temple.
- The church will suffer and be persecuted but won't be destroyed because Jesus is in the boat Lk 8:22-25. It is God's Presence in the church which guarantees final victory.
- The word NAOS = sanctuary/temple refers to the whole temple in Mt 26:61; 28:2; Jn 2:20, but in Revelation 13 times is used to mean the inner court; the Holy Place.
- Here in Rev 11 the whole redeemed community of Jesus **is the Spiritual Temple** where the H. Sp. dwells. Jesus specifically dwells in our Tabernacles also. Therefore, the church is both a physical and spiritual reality which reaches its fulfilment in Rev 21/22
- In Rev 21:22 John saw *no temple* in the New Jerusalem **"because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple"**. Cf 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21-22; 1 Pet 2:5.
- The individual Christian is also a temple: we are the *Corporate Christ* (Mystical Body): 1 Cor 12
- Before the writing of the NT the Qumran Community understood themselves to be a spiritual temple – a corporate body carrying the Presence of God within the group and the individuals in the group. They declared the Jerusalem temple *apostate*: 1QS 5:5-6; 8:4-10; 9:3-6.

- The Community perceived that the Presence of God protected them from the deceptive plans of BELIAL (Satan): 4QFlor 1:7-9; CD 3:19. They also spoke of measuring with **"the cord of righteousness and the plumbline of truth."**
- Just like the 2 witnesses of Rev 11, Qumran also said that worship was – not physical sacrifices – but proclaiming God's Word, and obedience to God's Will with a sincere heart: 1QS 9:3-5.
- This was how Israel learned to worship during their exile in Babylon: Ps 137:1-4 where offering a physical sacrifice was not possible.
- In fact, Ezekiel 11:22-23 told the exiles that the Presence of God would go with them into exile and continued to be with them in *invisible, spiritual temple*! It was this that Qumran continued in their desert retreat. Cf. Ps 50/51: 13-17. They learned to worship in spirit and in truth.

**The Two Witnesses**: represent all witness to Christ.

- They "stand before the Lord of the earth" – that means the Throne of God. In Zech 4:10 and rev 5:6 we have a similar message. This is also the message of Jubilees 30:18-20 and DSS 1QH 4:21; 18:24-29.
- Even though we must witness in present danger we are secure in our relationship with Christ – the Lord is on our side! Also, Ex 27:21; 30:8; Lev 24:3 speak of priests being and operating in God's Presence ...
- Therefore, anyone living in the Divine Will is in the same position of continuously standing in God's Presence in a priestly capacity glorifying God and interceding on behalf of souls.



**Lampstands**

- The witnesses in Rev 11: 3-13 are also called Lampstands. The 7 churches of Asia were also called 'lampstands' in Rev ch.1-3. The lampstand stood in the Presence of God in the Tabernacle: Num 8:1-4; Ex 25:30-31; 1Kgs 7:48-49.
- The lampstands are MER'OROT = THE LIGHTS, so the whole church is the lampstand which Jesus has placed in a prominent position so that all the world can see it. Cf. Mt 5:14-16 "In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven."
- Ps 90:7 says that we live in "the light of your Face (Countenance), and **it is that Light** which the world must see.
- When Zec spoke in ch. 4:10 he said that the H. Sp. would accomplish the work of building the temple for them: "Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord". It is the same for us today. It is God working within us that enables us to accomplish His Will: Phil 2:13.
- In the boat scenes in the Gospels the apostles learned the hard way that success would only come from 'on high'!
- Revelation makes it clear that the New Jerusalem is established entirely by God's power and God's dealings with both church and world.
- Both Zec 4 and Rev 11 combine the images of *lampstands/ olive trees*. The olive trees are God's anointed ones who stand before the Lord. For Zec the 2 anointed ones were the HP Joshua, and the king, Zerubbabel.
- The intertestamental period understood that the 2 witnesses were not confined to these two, but referred to the whole of faithful Israel (so they help us to understand the texts better).
- Today, God's anointed ones are different. They are those living in deep union with him regardless of age, colour, class etc. It is entirely between that person and God, but they are recognised by their fruits: Mt 7:15-20.
- Because the spiritual temple is invisible, its witnesses may appear weak and insignificant to the worldly, but the world is shocked to see God's intervention on their behalf!
- Taking the church as a whole the world is amazed to find that she thrives on her martyrs and their witness whom we find in a powerful intercessory position before the Throne of God in Rev ch. 7:13-15.

- Rev 2:1-7 is addressed to the whole church at Ephesus, who had failed in love, and was threatened with having the lampstand *removed* from the Presence of God! This in spite of the fact that they are called to “eat of the tree of life in God’s paradise” 2:7.
  - Remember that the lampstand in the Tabernacle represented the Tree of Life. So, this temple language is used to urge us to preserve our union with God, and not go the way of Adam and be expelled from Paradise!
  - DSS compare the Qumran saints with the Tree of Life in Eden, also with “a wellspring of light” and “brilliant flames” which are linked to the testimony of the Teacher of Righteousness: Cf Hymn Scroll 1QH 7.24 “I will shine with a 7-fold li[ght] in the E[den which] thou has made of gold (Ex 25). 2 Enoch 8:3-4 also saw the Tree of Life made of gold!
  - Hymn Scroll 1QS 8:5-6 speaks of the Essene Community as *a House of holiness and an everlasting planting* ... who are witnesses to the truth.
  - **Notice** that the problem with the 5 churches John criticized in ch.1-3 **were all failing to bear witness**, so their lamps were not lighting! The world could not see the testimony of Jesus there.
  - From the very beginning of the Garden of Eden humans were meant to spread all over the earth bearing God’s Presence with them ... therefore they would be like trees bearing much fruit: Ps 1:3; Rev 22:2 ... “bearing 12 crops per year”
  - In 1QH 6:14-17 the Qumran Community compared itself with the Tree of Life in Eden which God planted in the past, but intended it to provide shade for Humanity into the future.
- Jesus said that his little humble mustard seed in Mt 13:32 would carry out that function, and it would succeed in that “the birds of the air would nest in its branches”
- I Rev 21:22 -22:5 John says that he saw **no physical temple** in the city because **the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb ARE its temple**. Everyone in this city is living in deep union with God and is in continuous surrender to the divine Will.
  - The citizens all “walk in the light” because “the Lamb IS THE LIGHT” Rev 21:23
  - The names of the citizens are given in Rev 3:12 ....

1Pet 2:9 "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light"

**Conclusion:** The church is the lampstand which Jesus put on a prominent stand where the whole world could benefit from its light: Mt 5:15 He himself is the foundation stone holding the lampstand, so she survives trials because of him only.