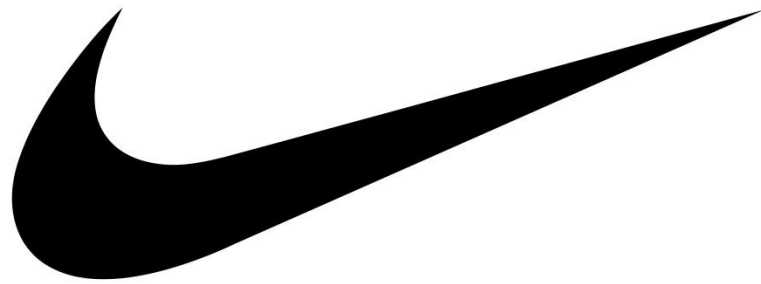


GOD'S TEMPLE

The Church Prefigured in the OT







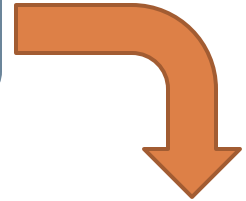
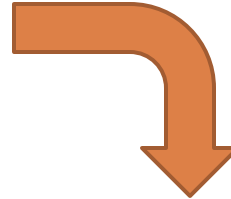
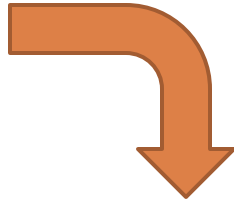
Theory

Deductive Method

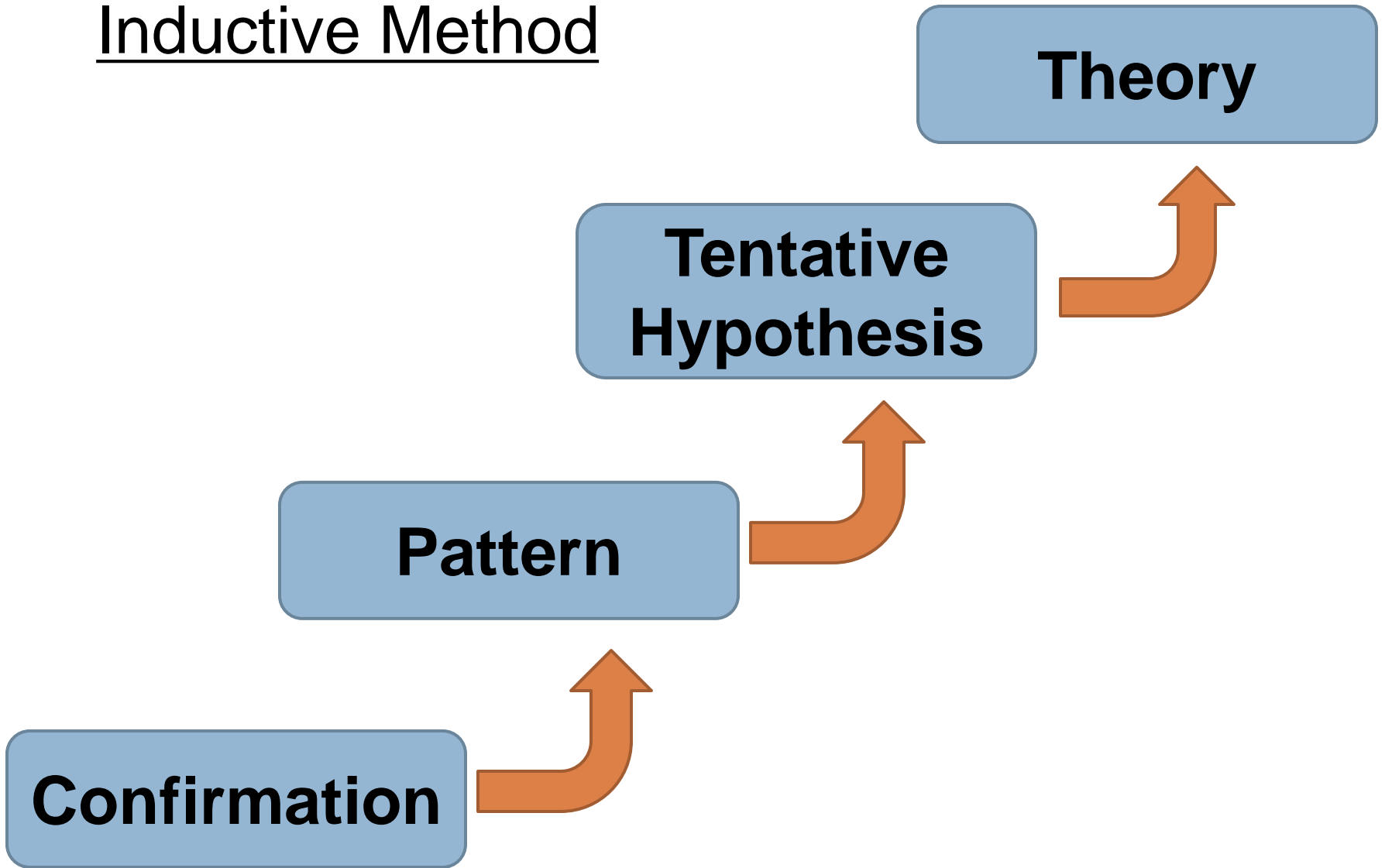
Hypothesis

Observation

Confirmation



Inductive Method



The Garden of Eden

- ▣ **God's Presence:** Eden is a unique place where God manifests his holy presence and fellowships with man (Gen 3:8). “The anthropomorphic description of God “walking” (*mithallēk*) in the garden suggests the enjoyment of fellowship between him and our first parents” (KA Matthews 239).
- ▣ **Boundaries:** The garden has boundaries (physical and spiritual). God's garden is holy and only what is holy and pure can remain in the garden (Gen 3:23-24).
- ▣ **East:** The entrance to Eden is on the East side (Gen 3:24).

The Garden of Eden

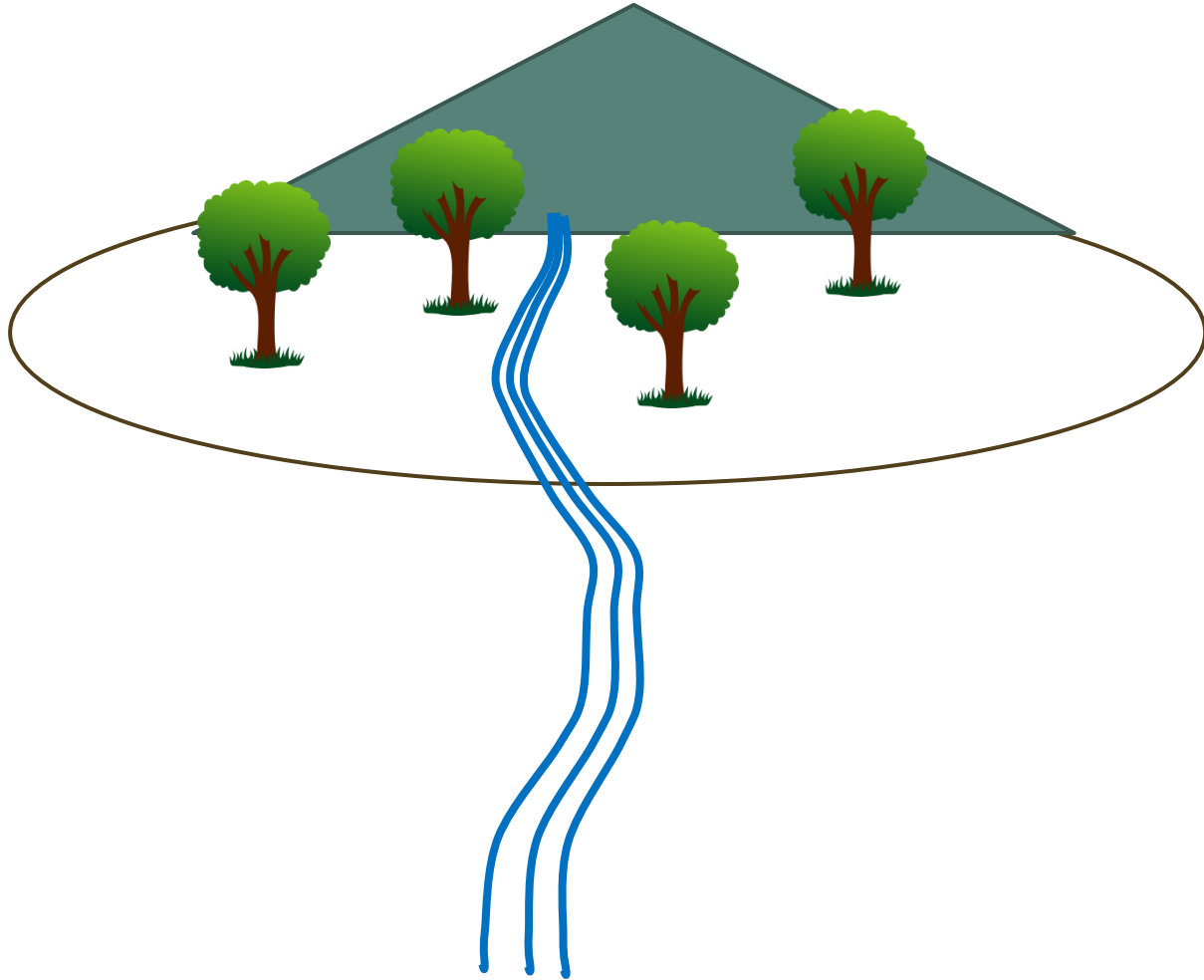
- ▣ **Cherubim:** After man sins, Cherubim (plural, more than one) guard the way to the tree of life (Gen 3:24).
- ▣ **Garden:** Eden is a garden full of plants and trees good for food (Gen 1:29; 2:8-9).
- ▣ **Mountain:** Eden is an elevated place (Gen 2:10) and is later referred to as the “holy mountain of God” (Ezek. 28:13-14).

The Garden of Eden

- **Ezekiel 28:13-14** You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

The Garden of Eden

- ▣ **River:** A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden and divided into four rivers which flowed into different lands (Gen 2:10-14).
- ▣ **Wealth:** The Garden is known for its wealth of precious metals and precious stones: gold and onyx (Gen 2:11-12; Ezek. 28:13).



East

Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ *Narrative*

- Man is kicked out of the garden. He can no longer live in God's holy presence because of his sin. This is not the end. God desires to reestablish Eden's sanctuary.
- There is a problem. God is holy and man is sinful and unholy. It is dangerous for sinful man to live in proximity to a holy God. God devises a plan. The plan involves the building of a tabernacle, a house for God. This house would be a place, not where God would ignore man's sin, but where he would make provision for it through sacrifices.
- Both the tabernacle and later the temple intentionally reflect the Garden of Eden.

Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ *Features:*

- **God's Presence:** Israel's tabernacle/temple was a unique place where God manifested his holy presence and fellowshiped with man.
 - **Exodus 25:8** And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.
 - **Leviticus 26:11-12** 'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. ¹² 'I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ *Features:*

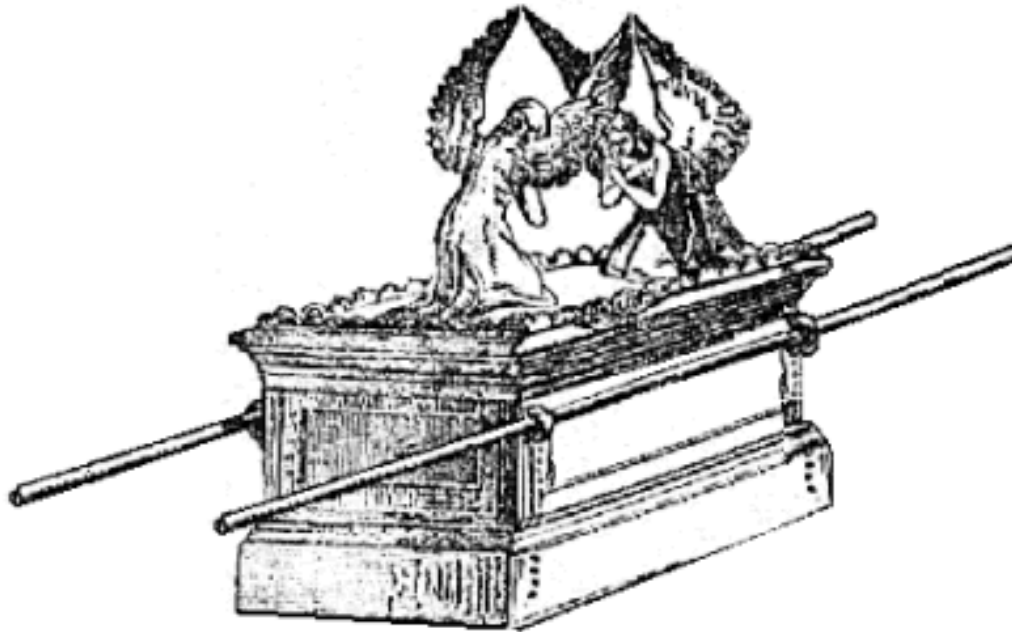
- **Boundaries:** Israel's tabernacle/ temple was a place with boundaries. Much of the law is taken up with who can enter the temple, how far they can enter, and under what conditions. Only what is holy and pure can enter the temple (Lev 15:31).
- **East:** The entrance to Israel's tabernacle/temple is on the East side.
 - **Exodus 26:22** And for the rear of the tabernacle westward you shall make six frames.
 - **Numbers 3:38** Now those who were to camp before the tabernacle eastward, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrise, are Moses and Aaron and his sons, performing the duties of the sanctuary for the obligation of the sons of Israel;

Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ *Features:*

- **Cherubim:** The very next mention of cherubim, after Gen 3:24, is found in God's instructions to Moses for building the tabernacle. Sculpted cherubim are to guard the presence of God in the most holy place.

“They shall construct an ark of acacia wood...you shall overlay it with pure gold...You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold...You shall make two cherubim of gold...The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark...There I will meet with you” (Ex 25:10,11,17,18,20,21,22).



Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ **Features:**

- **Garden:** Solomon had the temple walls engraved with gourds, cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers giving the temple a garden-like atmosphere (1 Kings 6:18, 29, 32, 35).
- **Mountain:** Solomon's Temple was built on a mountain. The mountain of God or Mount Zion is synonymous with Jerusalem and the temple.

Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

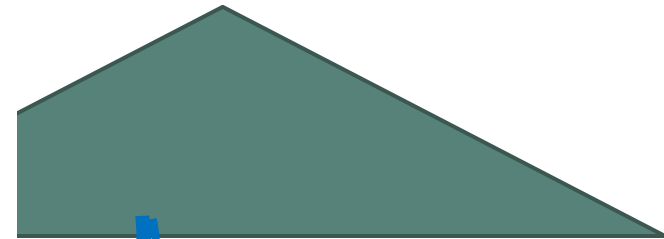
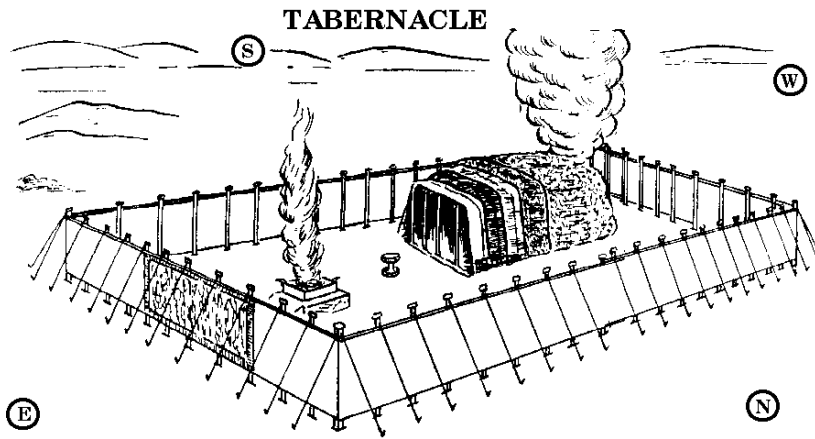
- **2 Chronicles 3:1** Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.
- **2 Chronicles 33:15** He [Manasseh] also removed the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, as well as all the altars which he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside the city.
- **Psalms 68:16** Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the LORD will dwell forever?

Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ **Features:**

- **River:** Although a river did not flow from the tabernacle/temple, God's presence in the temple was seen to be the source of Israel's blessing and that blessing was described as drinking from God's river.
- **Psalm 36:8** They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. ⁹ For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Mt. Sinai



Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

□ *Features:*

- **Wealth:** Much of the tabernacle and the temple was overlaid with gold. Many of the precious stones which clothed the one in the Garden of Eden (Ezek. 28:13) were stones which clothed the High Priest and were part of his breastplate.

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ *Narrative*

- The tabernacle/temple symbolized God's desire to dwell with men and for men to dwell with Him and be his people. God's presence in the midst of the nation of Israel did not keep them from sinning. So God removed his presence, caused the people of Israel to go into exile, and allowed the Babylonians to destroy the temple.
- During this period, prophets spoke to the people. Part of their message was that God in the future was going to do a new thing, and that in the last days, he would build a new and greater temple. The prophets let us know that despite Israel's failure, God has not given up on his intentions to dwell among men.

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ **Features**

- God will never again remove his presence from his people (Ezek 37:26-28).
 - **Ezekiel 37:26-28** ²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land¹ and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. ²⁷ My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ *Features*

- ▣ The building of the new temple will be closely connected to the coming of the Messiah (Ezek 37:24).
 - **Ezekiel 37:24** "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes. the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore."

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ *Features*

- All nations will come to this new temple and walk in God's paths (Isaiah 2:2-4; Zech 8:20).
 - **Isaiah 2:2-3** It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³ and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ *Features*

- All the nations will come with their wealth and the glory of this new temple will be greater than the former (Hag. 2:7-8).
 - **Haggai 2:7-9** And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts."

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ ***Features***

- A river will flow from the temple producing a garden full of trees whose fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing (Joel 3:17-18; Ezek. 47; Zech. 14:8).

A Greater Temple Predicted

□ **Features**

- The Ark of the Covenant with its cherubim will be eclipsed by God's throne (Jeremiah 3:16-17).
 - **Jeremiah 3:16-17** And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.

A Greater Temple

□ *Jesus*

- After many years, a man named Jesus comes on the scene. He claims that he is the temple, and not just another temple, but the fulfillment of the prophet's prediction of a future temple.
- John's gospel emphasizes that Jesus is the fulfillment of this future temple. **John 1:14; 2:19, 21; 4:10; 7:37; 19:34, 41-42; 20:11-12**

A Greater Temple

□ *Jesus*

- **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **John 2:19, 21** Jesus says, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” And John explains by saying, “He was speaking of the temple of his body.”

A Greater Temple

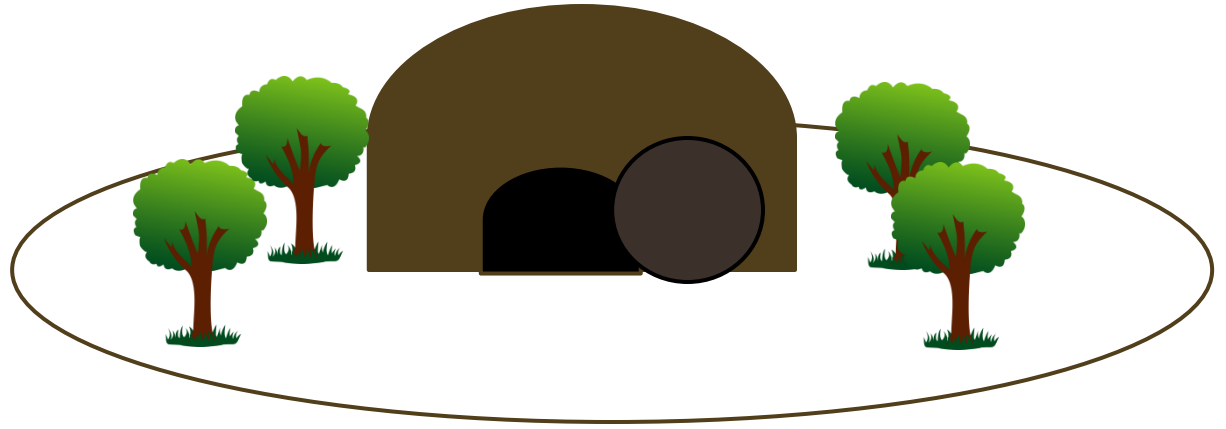
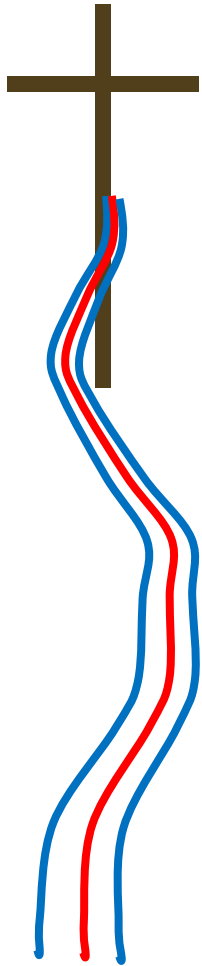
□ *Jesus*

- **John 4:10** Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."
- **John 7:37** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."

A Greater Temple

□ *Jesus*

- **John 19:34** But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.
- **John 19:41-42** Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴² Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.
- **John 20:11-12** But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.



A Greater Temple

- ***Those who believe in Him***
 - Once you move from the gospels to the epistles, you discover that not only is Jesus the fulfillment of the temple, but his followers, those who believe in him, also become part of this greater temple. **1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5a**

A Greater Temple

□ *Those who believe in Him*

- **1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- **Ephesians 2:19-22** 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.
- **1 Peter 2:5a** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house...

A Greater Temple

- ***The Completed Temple (Rev. 21-22)***
 - ▣ The NT makes it clear that this new eschatological temple is a work in progress and is not complete. So when will this temple, the glorious temple which the prophets predicted, be completed and what will it look like?
 - ▣ In his vision, John sees a new heaven and a new earth and a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven from God. The city we are told is the bride, the wife of the lamb, the church. The church is described with both temple and Eden-like imagery.

A Greater Temple

□ ***The Completed Temple (Rev. 21-22)***

- It is a perfect cube. The only perfect cube in Scripture is the holy of holies. The entire city is God's dwelling place.
- It is full of glory and is described as made of precious stones and precious metals.
- We are told that all the nations are present and bring their glory and honor into it.
- There are still boundaries. Nothing unclean will ever enter into it.
- There is a river coming from the throne of God flowing with the water of life.
- On either side of this river are trees of life yielding fruit and whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. We are back in a garden.

Significance and Application

- ***God is determined to dwell among men.***
- ***The new temple of Christ and his church is the place where God is uniquely manifesting his holy presence in this world.***
- ***The church is a temple in the process of being built.***

Significance and Application

- ***God is the source of the water that brings life, sustenance, and healing to those who trust in him.***
 - **Jeremiah 17:7-8** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.
 - **Jeremiah 17:12-13** A glorious throne on high from the beginning Is the place of our sanctuary. ¹³ O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You will be put to shame. Those who turn away on earth will be written down, Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the LORD.