

### 3. The Church: God's Temple

Summer MNM 2015: The Church Prefigured in the OT  
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NOTES:

#### I. The Garden of Eden

1. **God's Presence:** Eden is a \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ between him and our first parents" (KA Matthews 239).
2. \_\_\_\_\_: 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).
3. \_\_\_\_\_: The entrance to Eden is on the East side (Gen 3:24).
4. **Cherubim:** After man sins, Cherubim (plural, more than one) \_\_\_\_\_ the way to the tree of life (Gen 3:24).
5. \_\_\_\_\_: Eden is a garden full of plants and trees good for food (Gen 1:29; 2:8-9).
6. **Mountain:** Eden is an elevated place (Gen 2:10) and is later referred to as the "holy \_\_\_\_\_ of God" (Ezek. 28:13-14).
7. \_\_\_\_\_: A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden and divided into four rivers which flowed into different lands (Gen 2:10-14).
8. \_\_\_\_\_: The Garden is known for its wealth of precious metals and precious stones: gold and onyx (Gen 2:11-12; Ezek. 28:13).

#### II. Israel's Tabernacle/Temple

##### A. Narrative

1. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Eden's sanctuary.
2. 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 \_\_\_\_\_. 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.
3. Both the tabernacle and later the temple intentionally reflect the Garden of Eden.

## B. **Features:**

1. **God's Presence:** Israel's tabernacle/temple was a unique place where God manifested his holy \_\_\_\_\_ and fellowshiped with man.
2. **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 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ can enter the temple (Lev 15:31).
3. **East:** The entrance to Israel's tabernacle/temple is on the \_\_\_\_\_ side.
4. **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 \_\_\_\_\_ the presence of God in the most holy place.
5. **Garden:** Solomon had the temple walls engraved with gourds, cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers giving the temple a \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere (1 Kings 6:18, 29, 32, 35).
6. **Mountain:** Solomon's temple was built on a \_\_\_\_\_. The mountain of God or Mount Zion is synonymous with Jerusalem and the temple.
7. **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 \_\_\_\_\_ and that blessing was described as drinking from God's river (Psalm 36:8).
8. **Wealth:** Much of the tabernacle and the temple was overlaid with \_\_\_\_\_. 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.

## III. **A Greater Temple Predicted**

### A. **Narrative**

1. The tabernacle/temple symbolized God's \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
2. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ temple. The prophets let us know that despite Israel's failure, God has not given up on his intentions to dwell among men.

## B. *Features*

1. God will \_\_\_\_\_ again remove his presence from his people (Ezek 37:26-28).
2. The building of the new temple will be closely connected to the coming of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. All \_\_\_\_\_ will come to this new temple and walk in God's paths (Isaiah 2:2-4; Zech 8:20).
4. All the nations will come with their wealth and the glory of this new temple will be \_\_\_\_\_ than the former (Hag. 2:7-8).
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ 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).
6. The Ark of the Covenant with its cherubim will be \_\_\_\_\_ by God's throne (Jeremiah 3:16-17).

## IV. **A Greater Temple**

### A. *Jesus*

1. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophet's prediction of a future temple.
2. 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**

### B. *Those who believe in Him*

1. 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**

### C. *The Completed Temple (Rev. 21-22)*

1. The NT makes it clear that this new eschatological temple is a work in \_\_\_\_\_ and is not complete. So when will this temple, the glorious temple which the prophets predicted, be completed and what will it look like?
2. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_-like imagery.
  - a) It is a perfect \_\_\_\_\_. The only perfect cube in Scripture is the holy of holies. The entire city is God's dwelling place.

- b) It is full of \_\_\_\_\_ and is described as made of precious stones and precious metals.
- c) We are told that all the \_\_\_\_\_ are present and bring their glory and honor into it.
- d) There are still \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing unclean will ever enter into it.
- e) There is a \_\_\_\_\_ coming from the throne of God flowing with the water of life.
- f) 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## V. Significance and Application

- A. ***God is determined to \_\_\_\_\_ among men.***
- B. ***The new temple of Christ and his church is the place where God is uniquely \_\_\_\_\_ his holy presence in this world.***
- C. ***The church is a temple in the \_\_\_\_\_ of being built.***
- D. ***God is the source of the water that brings \_\_\_\_\_, sustenance, and \_\_\_\_\_ to those who trust in him.***

### **June 29, 2015:**

The NT describes the church as a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). How can we understand the church's task in light of the functions of both kings and priests?