

The Five-fold Essence of the Church

(1) The Church as the
Temple of God

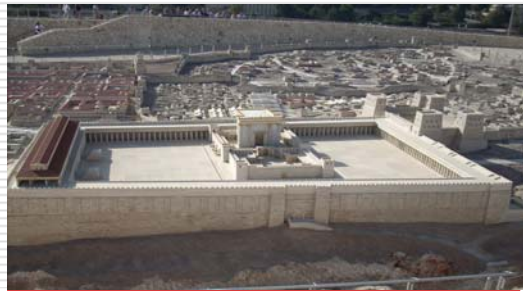
Three words for the Temple

- *Meshachan* = Dwelling Place:
 - Tabernacle in the Wilderness
 - *Hechal* = Royal Palace:
 - The Holy Place at Shiloh
 - The Holy Place of the Temple
 - *Beit* = House:
 - The First Temple (Solomon; 960-586BC)
 - The Second Temple (Zerubbabel, Herod; 515BC-AD70)
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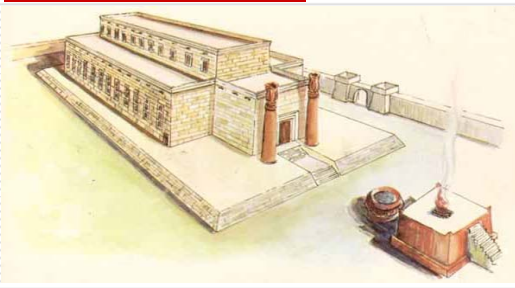
Ideas about the Temple

- First Idea: Jacob Met God at Beth-el (House of God)
 - Idea to Build: David Wanted to Let God's Ark Live in a Better House than His; God Rewarded David with a "House" (Dynasty)
 - Purpose: Solomon Acknowledged that God Doesn't Need a House to Live in; but It's Built for the Benefit of Man.
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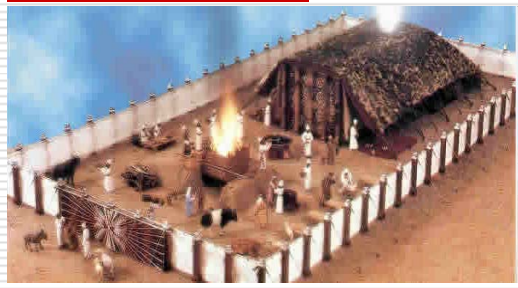
Model of the Second Temple



Model of the First Temple



Model of the Tabernacle



Images of the Furnitures in the Yard of the Tabernacle

Altar of Burt Offering; the Brazen Laver



Images of the Furnitures in the Holy Place

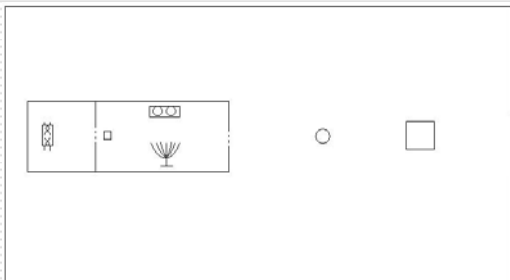
Menorah; Altar of Incense; Table of Show Bread



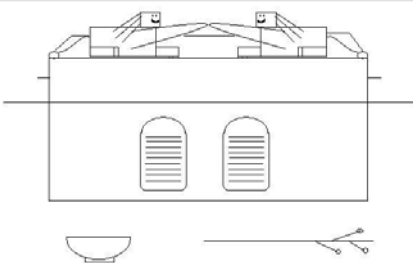
Image of the Ark of Covenant



Theology of the Temple in the Tabernacle



Theology of the Temple in the Tabernacle



Theology of the Temple in the Sacrificial System

- Sin Offering:
 - Man Owes God;
 - Paid by Christ Alone and Fully
- Guilt Offering:
 - Man Owes God and Others Men;
 - Paid by Christ Initially;
 - Man Needs to Repent and Repay the Offended for a Clear Conscience

Theology of the Temple in the Sacrificial System

- Whole Burnt Offering:
 - Dedication to God;
 - Paid by Christ Initially;
 - Man Needs to Give Himself as a Living Sacrifice to God (Rom 12:1)
 - Grain/Cereal Offering:
 - Sanctification by God;
 - Paid by Christ Initially;
 - Man Needs Practical Sanctification
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Theology of the Temple in the Sacrificial System

- Peace/Fellowship Offering
 - Fellowship with God;
 - Paid by Christ Initially;
 - Man Needs to Continue These Offerings (Heb 13:15-16):
 - Praise Offering
 - Thanksgiving Offering
 - Love: It Pleases God!
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Theology of the Temple in the Camp of Israel

- God's Glory Resides on the Cherubim: Composite of Lion, Man, Ox and Eagle
 - Israel's Camp Is Headed by: (Num 2)
 - Judah (E): Acting Firstborn; Lion
 - Reuben (S): Natural Firstborn; Man
 - Ephraim (W): Anointed Firstborn; Ox
 - Dan (N): Maiden-born Firstborn; Eagle
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Theology of the Temple in the Camp of Israel

- The Glory of God Left Israel's Temple on a Wheeled Throne Carried by Four Living Beings (Ezek 1, 10):
 - Face 1 (E): Lion
 - Face 2 (S): Man
 - Face 3 (W): Ox
 - Face 4 (N): Eagle
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Theology of the Temple in the Person of Messiah

- Isaiah Wrote Four "Songs of the Servant of Yahweh," Portrayed Him as
 - The Great Teacher-ruler (Isa 42:1-9)
 - The True Servant (Isa 49:1-13)
 - The Righteous Man (Isa 50:4-9)
 - The Lamb of God (Isa 52:13—53:12)
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Theology of the Temple in the Person of Messiah

- Jesus Christ Has Four Gospels Portraying Him as:
 - Matthew: The Great Teacher-king; Lion
 - Mark: The True Servant of God: Ox
 - Luke: The Righteous Man & Savior: Man
 - John: The Divine Lamb of God: Eagle
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Theology of the Temple in the Person of Messiah

- The Glory of God Rests in the Body of Jesus
 - And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)
 - Jesus Claimed to be the True Temple of God
 - Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." (John 2:19)
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Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

- The Church Is
 - a Spiritual Temple of God,
 - with Christ as the Corner Stone,
 - and the Apostles as the Foundation
 - (Eph 2:20-21) having been built upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a **holy temple** in the Lord
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Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

- Differences between Israel and the Church
 - The Church Is Not Israel
 - Israel Is the Chosen People of God for the Visible Kingdom
 - The Church Is the Chosen People of God for the Spiritual Kingdom
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Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

- Unity between Israel and the Church
 - Church Is the Extension of the Spiritual Israel to All Humanity



Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

- Unity between Israel and the Church
 - (Rom 9:6) For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel
 - (Rom 9:8) That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.
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Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

- Unity between Israel and the Church
 - (Rom 9:30) What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith
 - (Rom 11:24) ... you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree...
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Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

□ Unity between Israel and the Church

- The Church Is a Nation of Priests like Israel
 - (1 Pet 2:4-5) And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as **living stones**, are being built up as a **spiritual house** for a **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Theology of the Temple in the Nature of the Church

□ Unity between Israel and the Church

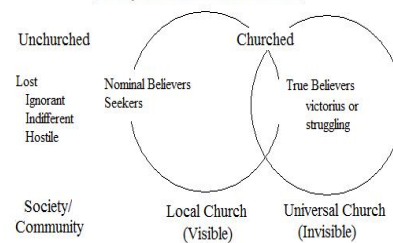
- The Eternal City of the Heavenly Jerusalem Will Be a Combination of All the People of God (Rev 21:12-13)
 - It Will Be a Square City like the Camp of Israel
 - It Will Have 12 Gates Named after the Patriarchs of Israel, 3 on each side
 - It Will Have 12 Foundations Named after the Apostles of the Church, 3 on each side

Images of the New Jerusalem



The Nature of the Church

Many Facets of the Church



The Church as the Temple of God

- The Universal Church Is the Residence of the Glory of God in the NT Dispensation:
 - People Is the Essence
 - Where the People of God Gather (Church Building or Home), There Is the Church
- The Local Church Is Visible Representation of the Dwelling Place of God, for the Benefit of the People of God:
 - Building Is the Representation
 - Church Building Needs to Exhibit God's Holiness

The Church as the Temple of God

- The Church Needs to Execute What the Temple Did Spiritually
 - It Presents the Way to Approach God
 - It Offers the Sacrifices to God:
 - It Offers Christ to Men
 - Lead the Hostile to Be Friendly
 - Lead the Lost to Be Found
 - It Leads Men to Offer Their Portion
 - Lead the Unchurched to Be Churched
 - Lead the Struggling to Be Victorious