

005 The Church as a Temple

Please

don't for one moment think we have finished with the Kingdom of God. As I said in the previous studies, the Kingdom is the central or pivotal aspect of God's purpose as it is Eternal.

The Church as we shall see, is the joining place of all believers here on the earth.

We are going to look at the church over the next few studies as follows.

- 1 The church as a Building
- 2 The church as a Community
- 3 The church as a Family
- 4 The Church as the Bride

I need to warn you that this is a longer study of 16 pages and you might want to work at it in a couple of sessions.

As a building the church in the scripture is referred to as a number of things as we shall see.

The important factor of this is that the church is the **meeting place of God**, the place where He has designated to put His name.

We need to go way back to find the first meeting place.

Gen 28:10-22

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran.

11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

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15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

*16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "**Surely the Lord is in this place**, and I was not aware of it."*

*17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! **This is none other than the house of God**; this is the gate of heaven."*

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.

19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear

21 so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God

*22 and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be **God's house**, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."*

NIV

Here we have the story of Jacob returning to his father's house and when night fell he put a stone, (and I don't think it was made of duck down) as a pillow and slept. Whilst he slept he had a meeting with Almighty God.

The first thing he proclaimed in v16 was the very presence of God was there. Now I want you to remember this throughout this study. **God was there.**

This was Jacobs personal encounter with God and Gods personal encounter with Jacob. The revelation of the ladder arising from earth to heaven was the beginning of God showing that he did not want to be confined to His Spiritual, Heavenly realm.

He wanted to come into our sphere and reveal Himself to us. He desired a dwelling place here with man.

This brought Jacob to the second proclamation – v17 "***This is none other than the house of God***"

Jacobs's immediate earthly reaction was to build something. Just like we talked about in the first study of what Peter wanted to do. Build three tabernacles or shelter for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Here was the desire to hold onto and contain an experience and encounter.

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For Jacob, it was the stone pillow that he had slept on. He raised it up, anointed it with oil and he named this stone “God’s House” v22 and he called it Bethel.

Some years later Jacob was brought back to this place Bethel, to this meeting place with Almighty God, and it was here at this first church building that his name was changed from Jacob, which means supplanter or deceiver to Israel, which means striven with God.

So the first Church Building or Temple or God’s House was a large Rock or Stone.

The next unfolding of God’s revelation of God’s idea of the Church – His meeting place comes in Exodus.

Ex 25:8-9

*8 "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, **and I will dwell among them.***

*9 Make **this tabernacle** and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.*

From a stone for one man and his family, God’s revelation has now progressed to an animal’s skin and cloth Tabernacle or Tent for a nomadic people on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, because God wanted to show that He desired to dwell in the midst of His people. Where they went He was going too.

Understand this. The Old Testament was an unfolding or picture of God’s desires and dealings with mankind lived out through the Hebrew nation. But it was a pattern or shadow of what was to come.

So the stone and the tabernacle was a pattern or picture of something greater to come.

Our next revelation of God’s dwelling with man comes in 1 Kings 8

1 Kings 8:10-13

*10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the **temple of the Lord.***

*11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the **glory of the Lord filled his temple.***

12 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

*13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, **a place for you to dwell forever.**"*

NIV

God’s house was now this magnificent Temple in Jerusalem. It was a place of such grandeur and beauty. There within its walls Praise and Worship went on 24/7 as ordered by king David, Solomon’s father.

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The progress was from a stone for one man and his family, to a tent for a nomadic people, to a magnificent Temple for a nation.

400 years later this temple was ransacked and burned to the ground by the Babylonians who took the children of Israel into captivity because of their disobedience and rejection of God's ways and laws.

Now we come to another temple found in Haggai. That is the third to last book in the Old Testament.

Hag 1:9

9 "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why" declares the Lord Almighty? "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.

NIV

Hag 1:14

14 So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God,

NIV

It is now about 70 years since Israel was taken into captivity and a remnant were back in their own land. They were building their own houses and the house of the Lord lay desolate.

It was the stirring of the Lord upon the spirit of the people that caused them to rise up and begin to rebuild the house of the Lord again.

Hag 2:3-9

3 'who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?

*4 But now be strong, O Zerubbabel,' declares the Lord. 'Be strong, O Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the Lord, 'and work. **For I am with you,**' declares the Lord Almighty.*

*5 'this is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my **Spirit remains among you.** Do not fear.'*

6 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

7 I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord Almighty.

8 'the silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty.

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9 'the glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty."

This temple is known as the Restoration Temple and in its appearance it could not be compared to Solomon's Temple. His was made of the finest stone and best timbers covered in gold leaf. This temple was made out of odd stones and timber. Anything they could buy to build with. Yet God promised far greater Glory than Solomon's day, although this was prophetic of what was still yet to come.

Solomon's temple stood for 400 years. The Restoration temple stood for 500 years.

Herod's temple which, was still being built in Jesus day, lasted only 6 years after completion. In Biblical numerology, 6 is the number of man. We are not going to say anything about Herod's temple because God did not initiate its construction at all. It was not built out of a desire to worship God; it was built purely for selfish political reasons and that which is build for such reasons, never lasts.

Here we need to refresh and highlight some points. I will use the word 'Temple' but I am referring to Jacobs's stone, Moses Tent, Solomon's Temple and the Restoration Temple.

The Temple spoke of: -

- 1 God's desire to come down to man
- 2 God's desire to dwell with man – His House.
- 3 God's desire to reveal himself to man – His Glory
- 4 God's desire to fellowship with man
- 5 God's desire to be loved and worship by man
- 6 Each situation was initiated by God
 - a. Jacobs dream
 - b. Command to Moses
 - c. David knowing God's heart
 - d. God stirring the restoration remnant
- 7 Each temple was built sacrificially at personal cost
- 8 Each temple was anointed and consecrated
- 9 Each temple was a Holy Place
- 10 Each temple was a place where man could meet with God.

Suddenly one day a whole NEW meaning of what we have been talking about began to dawn on mankind. God was now giving a fuller Revelation.

Matt 1:23

*23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "**God with us.**"*

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Now here is the fulfillment of the second half of Haggai's prophecy quoted above starting from verse 6

*6 "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.
7 I will shake all nations, and **the desired of all nations will come**, (speaking of Jesus), and I will fill this house (Jesus) with glory,' says the Lord Almighty.
8 'the silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty.
9 'the glory of this present house (Jesus) will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. '**And in this place (Jesus) I will grant peace**,' (The Prince of Peace) declares the Lord Almighty."*

Now the real Temple of God began to emerge from the shadows of what we have looked at being in the past made with human hands to the temple not made with hands. Moving from a natural material past into a living Spiritual present and future.

Once atonement for sin and receiving forgiveness was via animal sacrifice and rituals and offerings. NOW God's dwelling place walked along the shores of Galilee among men. Now Jesus was saying, "your sins are forgiven you, rise up and walk.

Jesus was the dwelling place; he was the meeting place of God with man.

John 14:9

9 Jesus answered: ... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

John 14:10

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Jesus is the chief corner stone.

1 Peter 2:6

*6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious **cornerstone**, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."*

In Daniel 2 we read of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of all the coming kingdoms on the earth and suddenly there appeared **a stone** that was cut without hands and it struck the statue and crushed it to powder. That **single stone** grew until it covered the whole earth. Read Daniel chapter 2 for yourself.

In its early days, the early church still met in the temple to worship, but slowly the truth began to dawn on them.

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Acts 7:45-50

45 Years later, when Joshua led the battles against the Gentile nations, this Tabernacle was taken with them into their new territory, and used until the time of King David.

46 "God blessed David greatly, and David asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob.

47 But it was Solomon who actually built it.

48-49 However, God doesn't live in temples made by human hands. 'The heaven is my throne,' says the Lord through his prophets, 'and earth is my footstool. What kind of home could you build?' asks the Lord. 'Would I stay in it?

50 Didn't I make both heaven and earth?'

TLB

Here was Stephen ready to be the first martyr beginning to unfold the **Next** revelation of God about the Temple. Stephen clearly points out that God does NOT dwell in a house made with hands.

Acts 15:14-18

14 Peter has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people to bring honor to his name.

15 And this fact of Gentile conversion agrees with what the prophets predicted. For instance, listen to this passage from the prophet Amos:

16'Afterwards' [says the Lord], 'I will return and renew the broken contract with David,

*17 so that **Gentiles, too**, will find the Lord-all those marked with my name.'*

18 That is what the Lord says, who reveals his plans made from the beginning.

TLB

The apostle James expands this understanding even further when quoting from the prophet Amos they realize that the gentiles (all those who were not born Jews are called gentiles) are to be part of this new thing God is doing.

Acts 15:16-17

*After these things I will return, and I will build again the **tabernacle** of David, which is fallen; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:*

17 That the residue of men may seek after the Lord, And all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called,

ASV

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Now the concept of a temple made without hands is growing. It is now covering the gentiles. It now has a worldwide application fulfilling Daniels interpretation of the vision of the stone growing and covering the whole earth.

Now the apostle Paul brings the whole thing to light.

1 Cor 3:10-17

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.

11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Paul speaks of careful building with the correct foundations and the most precious materials.

Then He tells us what the building is: -

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

NIV

So now the Temple consists of all those who believe in Christ and are saved by His grace, whether Jew or Gentile and this Temple, this meeting place with God will cover the whole earth.

Beloved, we are Gods Temple and Gods meeting place with humanity. He has chosen to reveal himself through you and me.

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Eph 3:8-11

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

*10 His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,*

11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NIV

We are Gods dwelling place – Gods Holy place.

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

NIV

Or the Message puts it this way

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you.

20 God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.

(from THE MESSAGE:

The glorious unfolding of Fathers eternal heart and long cherished hope still continues.

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2 Cor 6:16-17

*16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For **we** are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."*

17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

NIV

Now it is not just an individual concept of the Temple, but that God's Temple is Corporate. "We are the Temple". The Temple is the Church, We corporately are God's dwelling place – His Temple – His Holy Place – His House – His Building. That is why Jesus said 'I will BUILD my church'.

Paul is speaking to this Gentile church in Ephesus.

Eph 2:19-22

9 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

NIV

Again the Message puts it: -

Eph 2:19-22

19 That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all — irrespective of how we got here — in what he is building.

20 He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone

21 that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day — a holy temple built by God,

22 all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

(from THE MESSAGE: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. All rights reserved.)

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Here is the building of the Temple made of corporate lives and constructed of 'living stones' fitted together and growing. Jesus that Chief cornerstone – Jacobs stone – Nebuchadnezzar's dream stone growing and covering the whole earth being made without hands, being made into Gods dwelling – His meeting place.

1 Peter 2:4-10

4 Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor.

5 Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.

6 The Scriptures provide precedent: Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it.

7 To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him, the stone the workmen threw out is now the chief foundation stone.

8 For the untrusting it's . . . a stone to trip over, a boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

9 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you —

10 from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.
(from THE MESSAGE:)

This singular stone “Jesus”, rejected by men, to the world becomes a stumbling block, becomes its downfall. They are doomed – crushed to powder as the living stone grows into the Spiritual house with a Holy Priesthood, showing forth His holiness and through this, the world will see His Glory.

What an exciting responsibility is ours, His Holy Temple – His meeting place with mankind – His Royal Priesthood – the Church of God.

Hang on – there is more.

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Heb 6:18-20

18 He has given us both his promise and his oath, two things we can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to tell a lie. Now all those who flee to him to save them can take new courage when they hear such assurances from God; now they can know without doubt that he will give them the salvation he has promised them.

19 This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven,

*20 where Christ has gone ahead to plead for us from his position as our **High Priest**, with the honor and rank of Melchizedek.*

TLB

This temple not only has priests, it has a High Priest – Christ Himself. He has entered into the Holy of Holies and serves as our High Priest, securing our redemption and interceding for us.

Heb 8:1-6

1 What we are saying is this: Christ, whose priesthood we have just described, is our High Priest and is in heaven at the place of greatest honor next to God himself.

2 He ministers in the temple in heaven, the true place of worship built by the Lord and not by human hands.

3 And since every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices, Christ must make an offering too.

4 The sacrifice he offers is far better than those offered by the earthly priests. (But even so, if he were here on earth he wouldn't even be permitted to be a priest because down here the priests still follow the old Jewish system of sacrifices.)

5 Their work is connected with a mere earthly model of the real tabernacle in heaven; for when Moses was getting ready to build the tabernacle, God warned him to follow exactly the pattern of the heavenly tabernacle as shown to him on Mount Sinai.

6 But Christ, as a Minister in heaven, has been rewarded with a far more important work than those who serve under the old laws because the new agreement that he passes on to us from God contains far more wonderful promises.

TLB

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This is speaking of Jesus High Priestly ministry being so much better than the earthly High priests.

But notice verse 5. Moses, who built the Tabernacle in the wilderness, saw the Heavenly pattern. What ever had been built on earth is a copy or a shadow of the REAL thing. Moses saw what was Gods Eternal purpose and heart.

Heb 9:24

*24 For Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear now before God as our Friend. It was not in the earthly place of worship that he did this, for that was merely a copy of the **real temple in heaven.***

TLB

So now we find that the unfolding revelation of the Temple has to do with Heaven itself, and this is what was revealed to Moses.

Heb 10:19-22

And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies, where God is, because of the blood of Jesus.

20 This is the fresh, new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain-his human body-to let us into the holy presence of God.

21 And since this great High Priest of ours rules over God's household,

22 let us go right in to God himself, with true hearts fully trusting him to receive us because we have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean and because our bodies have been washed with pure water.

TLB

We are part and parcel of the Heavenly Temple. We are personally involved in the worship in heaven – in this true temple. We have total access to God himself through Christ Jesus.

Heb 12:22-24

2 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

NIV

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We have come.
We have arrived.
We are part of the assembly.
The church of the first-born.
The church of Jesus.
This true heavenly Temple.

So what is this Temple?

Heb 9:23

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

NIV

Heb 9:23

That is why the sacred tent down here on earth and everything in it—all copied from things in heaven—all had to be made pure by Moses in this way, by being sprinkled with the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven, of which these down here are copies, were made pure with far more precious offerings.

TLB

Heb 10:12-14

12 But Christ gave himself to God for our sins as one sacrifice for all time and then sat down in the place of highest honor at God's right hand, 13 waiting for his enemies to be laid under his feet.

14 For by that one offering he made forever perfect in the sight of God all those whom he is making holy.

TLB

This tells us that the earthly temple had to be cleansed with the blood of bulls – but the heavenly temple cleansed with a better sacrifice, and who was cleansed by the sacrifice of Jesus? Certainly not heaven itself, nor anything or anyone in it, so who was cleansed – we are – the church triumphant – the true heavenly temple.

1. We are the temple that reveals or demonstrates Gods desire to come down to man.
2. We are the temple that shows Gods desire to dwell with man – His house.
3. We are the temple that shows Gods desire to reveal himself to man – His Glory.
4. We are the temple that shows Gods desire to fellowship with man.
5. We are the temple that shows Gods desire to be loved and worshiped by man.
6. We are the temple that was initiated by God
7. We are the temple that that is being built sacrificially.
8. We are the temple that is anointed and consecrated.
9. We are the temple that is His Holy Place.
10. We are the temple where men can meet God.

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This is our glorious position, calling and responsibility as the church – His Holy Temple. The challenge is – what manner of people we ought to be.

But hold on again – this is still not the end. This is not Gods ultimate goal. There is one more step in Gods unfolding plan that started with Jacob and a stone.

Rev 11:19-12:1

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

NIV

Here we begin to see the temple is made open for all to see. The Ark of his Covenant was always in the Holy of Holies, so now we can see straight into the Holy of Holies whereas only the High Priest was allowed in there once a year. Christ Jesus has entered the Holy of Holies and the veil is rent from top to bottom and he has opened it up for all to see.

Rev 21:3

3 And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, (and be) their God:

ASV

This is beginning to open up further. “The tabernacle or dwelling place of God is with men”. Well yes through the church. No it doesn't say that it say that “God Himself shall be with them.”

But verse 22 says something amazing.

Rev 21:22

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

NIV

Wow! This is it. This is God's ultimate goal and unfolding purpose. Your see, from Jacobs's stone, through the Tabernacle of Moses, Solomon's Temple, The Restoration Temple, through the Church as the Temple, God was making a meeting point where man could meet with Him. Where he could dwell with mankind.

Rev 22:3-5

3 There shall be nothing in the city that is evil; for the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him.

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be written on their foreheads.

*5 And there will be no night there — no need for lamps or sun — **for the Lord God will be their light; and they shall reign forever and ever.***

TLB

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“And they shall see His face”. God Himself has become the meeting point. There is no need of a temple now. It is all summed up in Himself. He has removed ALL barriers that hid him from his people.

What a glorious goal. God and His people face to face forever.

Now remember our first study where God Himself **IS** Light. Here it is again, no lamps or sun, just God Himself the meeting point and the Light.

Also remember the Glass Ball of the Eternal Kingdom, well here it is **“and they shall reign for ever and ever”**.

What an amazing future we have to look forward to. We haven't arrived there yet. We are still in the postage stamp part. We are still the Temple, the meeting place for humanity to meet with God which truly challenges us as to what kind of temple are we in this world. When people meet you and I, do they meet God through us or don't they know He is even there?

I leave you with this challenging question.

We have seen Gods unfolding revelation from beginning to the end related to His temple, the question is, where does the teaching of a current day rebuilt temple in Jerusalem fit in to God's unfolding revelation culminating in Himself?

We shall answer this in later studies.