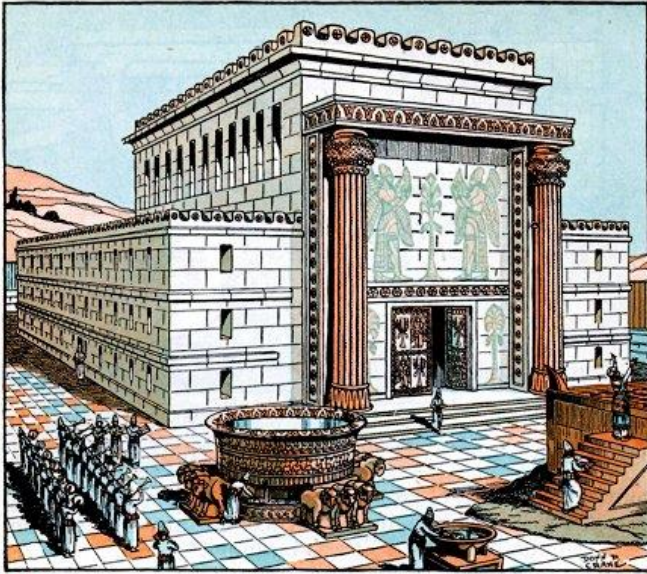


Solomon's Temple (1)



There are 5 different physical temples recorded in Scripture.

1. **Solomon's Temple** (1 Kings 5-8, 2 Chronicles 2-6). This temple was destroyed in 586BC by Nebuchadnezzar (Psalm 79, 2 Kings 25.8-9).
2. **Zerubbabel's Temple**. After the 70 years captivity Israel returned to re-build the temple (Ezra 1).
3. **Herod's Temple**. This temple took 46 years to build and greatly expanded and renovated Zerubbabel's Temple. This is the temple which Zacharias was serving in (Luke 1.8-10) and the Lord Jesus taught in (Mark 12.35). This temple was destroyed in AD70 by the Roman army (Matthew 24.1-2).
4. **Antichrist's Temple**. The Scriptures speak of another temple which will likely be built by the Jews during the Tribulation period. This is where the Antichrist will appear claiming worship as God (Daniel 12.11, Matthew 24.15, 2 Thessalonians 2.4, Revelation 11.1-2).
5. **Ezekiel's (Millennial) Temple**. This temple (Ezekiel 40-48) will

be built by the Lord Jesus (Zechariah 6.13) and form the centre of worship for Israel and all the inhabitants of the earth during the Millennium (Isaiah 56.7).

There are a number of other temples in Scripture which merit time and study. In 1 Corinthians 3, the local church is viewed as a 'building' whose foundation is Jesus Christ, and a 'temple' indwelt by God (1 Corinthians 3.9-17, 2 Corinthians 6.16). The principle teaching is that the local assembly is holy because it is the very dwelling place of God. Wuest translates 2 Corinthians 6.16 as: 'I will dwell in them in fellowship with them as in a home and I will live my life in and through them.' The local assembly is a place where God is seen and manifested.

The universal church is also viewed as a temple (Ephesians 2.21-22). All believers are living stones who are being closely joined together and growing into 'an holy temple in the Lord'. This is the church in its future millennial glory which will then be the permanent dwelling place of God. *Revelation 21.22: And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*

Finally, the physical body of believers is also described as 'the temple of the Holy Ghost' (1 Corinthians 6.19). Our bodies are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and therefore are holy and belong to Him. We must be careful not to defile our bodies through immorality and fornication.

The verses quoted above show that it is quite scriptural to take Solomon's Temple as a picture of the church, both in its local and universal character, but particularly in relation to its future glory.

An Outline of Solomon's Temple:

Main Theme	Specific Subject	Kings Reference	Chronicles Reference
Preparation	Solomon and Hiram	1 Kings 5.1-12	2 Chronicles 2.1-16
	The Workforce	1 Kings 5.13-16	2 Chronicles 2.17-18
Construction	The Foundation	1 Kings 5.17-18	
	Site and Date	1 Kings 6.1, 37-38	2 Chronicles 3.1-2
	Temple Measurements	1 Kings 6.2	2 Chronicles 3.3
	The Porch	1 Kings 6.3	2 Chronicles 3.4
	The Greater House	1 Kings 6.4-10	2 Chronicles 3.5-7
	The Most Holy House	1 Kings 6.15-29	2 Chronicles 3.8-14
	The Promise of the Lord	1 Kings 6.11-14	
	The Floor and Doors	1 Kings 6.30-35	
	The Pillars (Jachin and Boaz)	1 Kings 7.13-22	2 Chronicles 3.15-17
Furnishings	The Bronze Altar		2 Chronicles 4.1
	The Molten Sea	1 Kings 7.23-26	2 Chronicles 4.2-5

Main Theme	Specific Subject	Kings Reference	Chronicles Reference
	The Ten Bronze Lavers	1 Kings 7.27-39	2 Chronicles 4.6
	The Courts	1 Kings 6.36	2 Chronicles 4.9-10
	The Vessels of Brass	1 Kings 7.40-47	2 Chronicles 4.11-18
	The Vessels of Gold	1 Kings 7.48-51	2 Chronicles 4.7-8, 19-22
Dedication	Bringing the Ark	1 Kings 8.1-11	2 Chronicles 5.1-14
	Solomon's Speech	1 Kings 8.12-21	2 Chronicles 6.1-11
	Solomon's Prayer	1 Kings 8.22-66	2 Chronicles 6.12-42

The Site

2 Chronicles 3.1: Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Solomon's temple was built in mount Moriah on the site of the threshing floor of Ornan (Araunah) the Jebusite. Both sites speak of sacrifice. Mount Moriah is where Abraham 'offered up' his only son Isaac (Genesis 22.2). This speaks of **substitutionary** sacrifice. The threshing floor of Ornan was the place where David sacrificed in order to appease the wrath of God through the 'angel that destroyed' (2 Samuel 24, 1 Chronicles 21). Mercifully, God demonstrated His acceptance of the sacrifice by sending fire from heaven and withholding any further judgment (1 Chronicles 21.26-28). This speaks of **propitiatory** sacrifice. This pictures the beautiful truth that the church is founded upon sacrifice. God can only dwell with men on the basis of a paid ransom (cf. 2 Samuel 24.24, 1 Chronicles 21.25) and an accomplished redemption (Exodus 25.8).

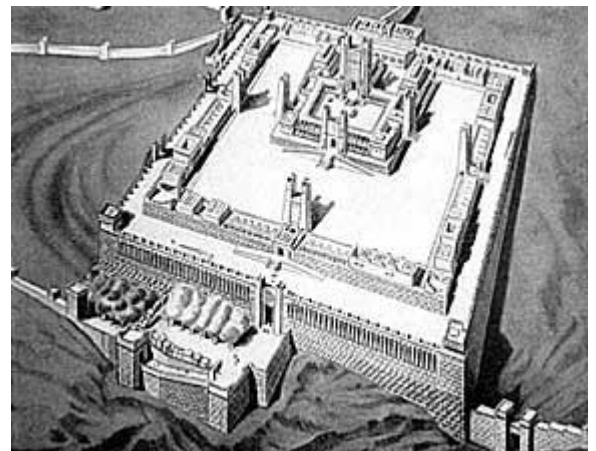
The name 'Moriah' can mean '**chosen** of Jehovah' and indicates that God purposely **chose** this particular site to place the Temple, and therefore His name. Likewise, the local church today is the place where Christ has put His name. It is not for us to choose the place! The threshing floor belonged to Ornan (meaning 'perpetual light') or Araunah (meaning 'shout for joy') who was a Gentile. This demonstrates that God desires Gentiles to share in the blessings of His dwelling place; a place that displays the glory, light and joy of the Lord (Revelation 21.22-24).

The Foundation

1 Kings 5.17: They brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

Isaiah 28.16: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

The natural summit of Mount Moriah was too small for the Temple buildings. Consequently, Solomon built huge retaining walls with 'great stones' some of which can still be seen today and measure up to 40ft in length.



Recent archaeological excavations have discovered a chief foundation stone at the bottom of the south-east corner. It is 14ft long, 4ft high and buried at a depth of 80ft. Its markings show that it was intended to be the foundation cornerstone before it left the quarry. Matthew 16.18 and 1 Corinthians 3.11 tell us that Christ is the **Foundation Rock** of the church (both universal **and** local). Isaiah 28.16, Ephesians 2.20 and 1 Peter 2.6 show that Christ is also the **Foundation Corner Stone**. *Ephesians 2.20: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.* The corner foundation stone occupied an honourable position and gave strength and character to the building.

As the foundation stones speak of Christ, the adjectives in these passages must speak of Him:

Reference	Adjective	Meaning
1 Kings 5.17	Great stones	01419 – great in size, great in importance
	Costly stones	03368 – precious, rare, splendid
	Hewed stones	01496 – cut, cut off, sever
Isaiah 28.16	Tried stone	0976 – strong, secure, tested, examined
	Sure foundation	03245 – to be firmly fixed, something immovable
1 Peter 2.6	Elect stone	1588 - chosen
	Precious stone	1784 – held in honour, prized, valued