

The Cleansing of the Temple

“A Brief History” Part I

John 2:13-25

INTRODUCTION:

This morning, we come to the back half of chapter 2 of the Gospel of John. A few weeks back we covered the front half regarding Jesus performing his first sign, often called a miracle, of turning the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The talk today concerns an institution within Judaism that has much history regarding the people of Israel and their religious worship. We will read our text this morning and then watch a short video on the history of the Jewish Temple and discuss this at some length which will set up the rest of our talk next week.

JOHN 2:13-25 NLT

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.

¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.”

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”

¹⁹ “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰ “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” ²¹ But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

²³ Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. ²⁴ But Jesus didn’t trust them, because he knew all about people. ²⁵ No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person’s heart.

A Biblical Theology of the History of the Temple

- Cosmic Temple – Genesis 1 & 2

John Walton

“When we adopt the biblical perspective of the cosmic temple, it is no longer possible to look at the world (or space) in secular terms. It is not ours to exploit. We do not have natural resources, we have sacred resources. Obviously, this view is far removed from a view that sees nature as divine: As sacred space the cosmos is his place. It is therefore not his person. The cosmos is his place, and our privileged place in it is his gift to us. The blessing he granted was that he gave us the permission and the ability to subdue and rule. We are stewards. At the same time, we recognize that the most important feature of sacred space is found in what it is by definition: the place of God’s presence. The cosmic-temple idea recognizes that God is here and that all of this is his. It is this theology that becomes the basis for our respect of our world and the ecological sensitivity that we ought to nurture.”

- Fall & Heaven and Earth Separate – Genesis 3

Genesis 3:22-24

²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. ¹

- A World in Need of Redemption & Rescue enter the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12-22)

Genesis 22:9-19

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Ge 3:22–24). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.²

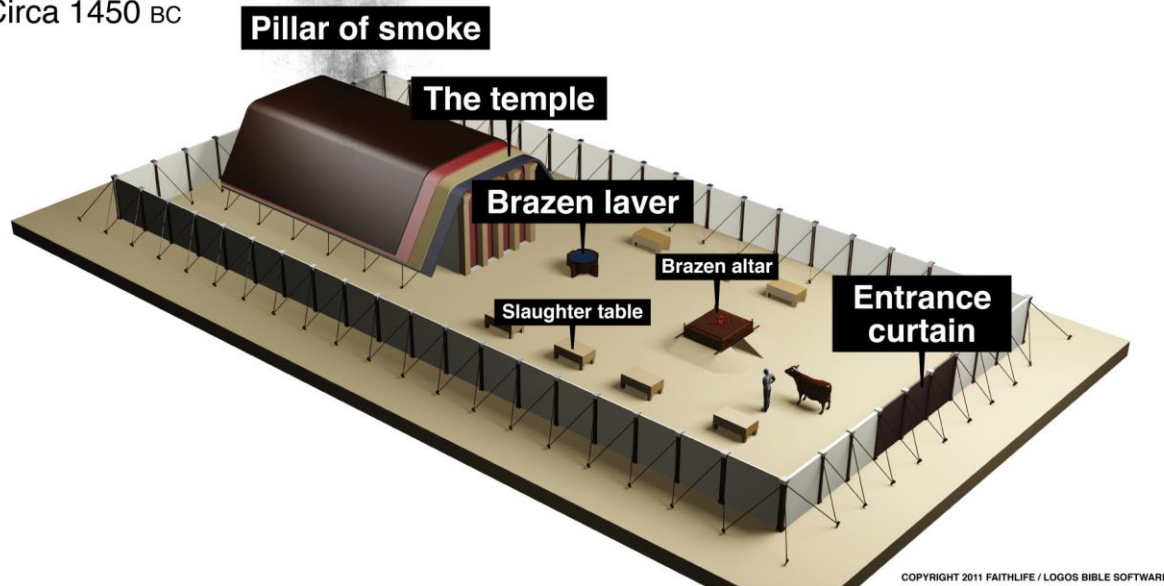
- Tabernacle during the time of Moses -Exodus 24-31

Hebrews 8:5-6

⁵ They serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

The Tabernacle

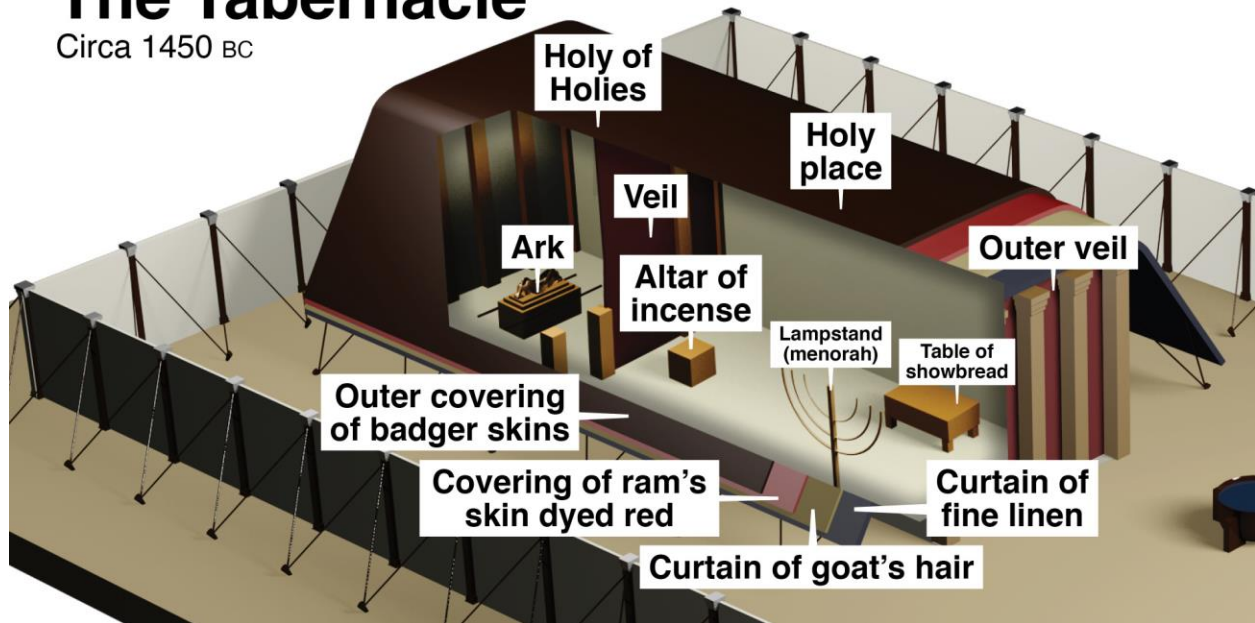
Circa 1450 BC



² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Ge 22:9–19). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

The Tabernacle

Circa 1450 BC



- David's desire to build a Temple but this responsibility was passed onto his son, Solomon because David's life had too much blood on them.

2 Chronicles 28:1-11

David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the officials of the tribes, the officers of the divisions that served the king, the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, the stewards of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the seasoned warriors. ²Then King David rose to his feet and said: "Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD and for the footstool of our God, and I made preparations for building. ³But God said to me, 'You may not build a house for my name, for you are a man of war and have shed blood.' ⁴Yet the LORD God of Israel chose me from all my father's house to be king over Israel forever. For he chose Judah as leader, and in the house of Judah my father's house, and among my father's sons he took pleasure in me to make me king over all Israel. ⁵And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ⁶He said to me, 'It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father. ⁷I will establish his kingdom forever if he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.' ⁸Now therefore in the sight of all

Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever.

⁹“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. ¹⁰Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.”

¹¹Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple,³

- Solomon builds the Temple.

II Chronicles 6:1-21

Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. ²But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.” ³Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. ⁴And he said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, ⁵‘Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel; ⁶but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’ ⁷Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ⁸But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. ⁹Nevertheless, it is not you who shall build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ ¹⁰Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹¹And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people of Israel.”

Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication

¹²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. ¹³Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (1 Ch 28:1–11). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven, ¹⁴ and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ¹⁵ who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. ¹⁶ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.’ ¹⁷ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.

¹⁸ “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! ¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, ²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive... ⁴

II Chronicles 7:1-3

As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD’s house. ³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” ⁵

<https://youtu.be/Xt6lQAe8ues?si=A7Rq9XxbfQBphvMw>

- The Babylonians plunder the Temple (597 B.C.) & later destroy Jerusalem and the Temple (586 B.C.)

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (2 Ch 6:1–21). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (2 Ch 7:1–3). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

2 Kings 25:8-17

On the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, a servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. He burned the LORD's temple, the king's palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem; he burned down all the great houses. The whole Chaldean army with the commander of the guards tore down the walls surrounding Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, deported the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the population. But the commander of the guards left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and farmers.

Now the Chaldeans broke into pieces the bronze pillars of the LORD's temple, the water carts, and the bronze reservoir, which were in the LORD's temple, and carried the bronze to Babylon. They also took the pots, the shovels, the wick trimmers, the dishes, and all the bronze articles used in temple service. The commander of the guards took away the firepans and the sprinkling basins—whatever was gold or silver.

As for the two pillars, the one reservoir, and the water carts that Solomon had made for the LORD's temple, the weight of the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure. One pillar was 27 feet tall and had a bronze capital on top of it. The capital, encircled by a grating and pomegranates of bronze, stood five feet high. The second pillar was the same, with its own grating. ⁶

- Zerubbabel rebuilds the Temple after the exiles return according to Ezra and it is completed in 515 (B.C.)

Ezra 5:2

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to rebuild the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them. ⁷

- King Herod updates it (19 B.C.)

63. In that year the Roman general Pompey and his army invaded Jerusalem, and he defiled the temple by entering it. Israel and the land of Palestine now came

⁶ [The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version](#). (2 Ki 25:8–17). (2009). Holman Bible Publishers.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Ezr 5:2). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

under Roman rule, through puppet kings, for the remainder of its ancient history. In 37 Herod, son of the Idumean Antipater II, became the king of Judea. Herod the Great, as he came to be known (although “the Cruel” would have been a more suitable epithet), advanced Roman Hellenism in Palestine and engaged in grand building projects, including the enlargement and beautification of the Jerusalem temple.⁸

- Jesus in our passage (27-30 A.D.)
- Jesus in His resurrection becomes the Temple where Heaven and Earth connect.
- We as Christ’s followers are a part of His body, and we now share in what it means to be a part of the Temple of God where Heaven and Earth come together. The way the believer experiences the invasion of Heaven is through prayer.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.⁹

- Cosmic Temple -Upon Christ’s return, He will set up His kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven (Revelation 21 & 22). There will be no physical Temple because there will be no need for a Temple where God meets with mankind but He will be in their midst.

Revelation 21:3-4

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:22

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

⁸ Hagner, D. A. (2012). [The New Testament: A Historical and Theological Introduction](#) (p. 32). Baker Academic.

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (1 Co 6:19–20). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

G.K. Beale

The rationale for the worldwide encompassing nature of the paradisaal temple in Revelation 21 lies in the ancient notion that the Old Testament temple was a microcosm of the entire heaven and earth. One of the most explicit texts affirming this is Psalm 78:69: ‘And He built His sanctuary like the heights,/Like the earth which He has founded *forever* (or from eternity)’. The psalmist is saying that, in some way, God designed Israel’s earthly temple to be comparable to the heavens and to the earth. Similarly, the earlier ‘pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture’ was made ‘after the [heavenly] pattern ... which was shown ... on the mountain’ (Exod. 25:9, 40; cf. Exod. 26:30; 27:8; Num. 8:4; Heb. 8:5; 9:23–24).¹⁰

Hebrews 8:1-6 ESV

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. ⁴ Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. ⁵ They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” ⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises¹¹

¹⁰ Beale, G. K. (2004). [*The Temple and the Church’s Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God*](#) (D. A. Carson, Ed.; Vol. 17, pp. 31–32). InterVarsity Press; Apollos.

¹¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Heb 8:1–6). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

