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The Temples of God

The Tabernacle. The house of God in Israel for 400 years was only a tent. Most of the time it stood at Shiloh. (See on Exodus 25–40.)

Solomon's Temple. Its glory was short-lived. It was plundered within five years after Solomon's death and was destroyed by Babylonians 340 years later, in 586 B.C.

Zerubbabel's Temple. Also known as the Second Temple. Built after the return from captivity, it stood for 500 years. (See under Ezra and Nehemiah.)

Herod's Temple. This was the temple to which Christ came. It was an expansion of Zerubbabel's temple. Built by Herod the Great, it was a truly magnificent building of marble and gold, surrounded by courts and porticos. It was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. (See under John 2:13.)

Christ's Body. Jesus called His body a temple (John 2:19-21). In Him God lived among men. Jesus said that earthly temples were not necessary to the worship of God (John 4:20-24).

The Church, collectively, is a temple of God, God's dwelling-place in the world (1 Corinthians 3:16–19; there is no biblical basis for calling a church building a "temple").

Each Individual Christian is a temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:19), of which the grandeur of Solomon's temple may have been a type.

Ezekiel's Temple (Ezekiel 40-43) was not an actual temple, but a vision of a future, ideal, restored temple.

The Temple in Heaven. The tabernacle was a pattern of something in heaven (Hebrews 9:11, 24). John saw a temple (Revelation 11:19). Later, God and the Lamb had become the temple (Revelation 21:22).

(**Synagogues** do not belong in this list. They came into existence during the Babylonian captivity and were not temples but houses of teaching and worship in any community that had a large enough Jewish population. See pp. 487–88.)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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