

Biblical Theology Core Seminar
“Eden to New Jerusalem”
Week 6, 02.22.2023

Introduction

Rev 21:1-3 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:, Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples,, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

I. From Eden to New Jerusalem

The Garden-Temple (Genesis 1-2)

The Tabernacle (Exodus 19; 25-31)

Similarities between Eden and Later Tabernacle/Temple:

- Both the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:24) and the later tabernacle and temple (Num 3:38, Ezek 10:19, 11:1, 42:9, 12, 15, 43:1-4, 44:1, 46:1, 47:1) are entered only from the east.

- Both were guarded by cherubim (Gen 3:24; Ex 25:18).
- The tabernacle menorah (or lampstand) possibly symbolizes the tree of life (Gen 2:9; 3:22; cf. Ex 25:31-35)
- Both contain pure gold (Gen 2:12a; Ex 25:2), and precious jewels (Gen 2:12b; Ex 25:7).
- The narrator says the Lord was “walking” in the Garden (Gen 3:8), just as he is later described as “walking” in the midst of Israel’s tabernacle and temple (Lev 26:12, Deut 23:14, 2 Sam 7:6-7). Both Eden and the later sanctuaries are portrayed as God’s own dwelling place with human beings.

The Jerusalem Temple (2 Samuel 7; 1 Kings 8:10-11)

Psalm 78:67-69

67 He rejected the tent of Joseph and did not choose the tribe of Ephraim.
68 He chose instead the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loved.
69 He built his sanctuary like the heights, like the earth that he established forever.

Psalm 132:13-14

13 For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his home:
14 “This is my resting place forever;
I will make my home here
because I have desired it.

Psalm 48:1-3, 12-14

1 Yahweh is great and highly praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain, 2 rising splendidly,
is the joy of the whole earth.
Mount Zion—the summit of Zaphon—
is the city of the great King.
3 God is known as a stronghold
in its citadels.

12 Go around Zion, encircle it;
count its towers,
13 note its ramparts; tour its citadels
so that you can tell a future generation:
14 “This God, our God forever and ever—
he will always lead us.”

The Prophetic Temple (Isaiah; Ezekiel; Zechariah)

The city has lost its way: Isaiah 1:4, 10-15

A new temple and transformed city are envisioned: Isaiah
2:2-4; 65:17-25

Ezekiel sees stark visions of judgment and destruction of the
city, but in 40-48 the visions focus on God’s return to a
transformed heavenly city: “...and the name of the city from
that day on will be *Yahweh Is There*.” Ezekiel 48:35

Jesus as Temple (John 1:1-4, 14; John 2:18-21)

John 1:1-4, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning.
3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not
one thing was created that has been created. 4 In him was life,,
and that life was the light of men. 5 That light shines in the
darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

The People of God, The Church, as The Temple of the Living God

2 Cor 6:14-18 Do not be yoked together with those who do
not believe. For what partnership is there between
righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship does light
have with darkness? 15 What agreement does Christ have with
Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an
unbeliever? 16 And what agreement does the temple of God
have with idols? **For we are the temple of the living God**, as
God said:

I will dwell
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.,

17 Therefore, come out from among them
and be separate, says the Lord;

do not touch any unclean thing,
and I will welcome you.,
18 And I will be a Father to you,
and you will be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.,

When we believe in Jesus, we are united with Christ as a temple:

1 Cor 3:16 Don't you yourselves know that **you are God's temple** and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

1 Cor 6:19 Don't you know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.

Paul says further:

Eph 2:18-22 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

(cf. 1 Pet 2:4-10; Rev 3:12)

The New Jerusalem as God's Dwelling Place with Humanity

Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents as did Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. 10 **For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

13 These all died in faith, although they had not received the things that were promised. But they saw them from a distance, greeted them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth. 14 Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they were thinking about where they came from, they would have had an opportunity to return. 16 **But they now desire a better place—a heavenly one.** Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for he has prepared a city for them.**

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their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. 7 The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.

Patterns in the Story

Promise-Fulfillment

Typology

Continuity/Discontinuity

Systematic Lessons

- 1) God is a holy creator
- 2) God dictates how humanity is to have relationship with him.
- 3) God intends for his glory to fill the earth
- 4) In Christ, God dwells through the Spirit in the worldwide Church.
- 5) Christians are the inaugurated temple, designed to expand and spread God's presence throughout the earth, as outposts of God's glory.