

Temple, tabernacle, house...

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TEMPLE, tabernacle, house, refuge, secret place, and other places where the Lord God dwells...

Any discussion of the New Testament meaning of **temple** or **house of God**... particularly as it relates to the time of the Gentiles being fulfilled... must be tempered within the context of what has gone before.

The question that needs to be answered is: What will you do with the Chief cornerstone that was rejected?

The following are only 6 Hebrew words which translate many different ways... describing where God lives.

Old Testament:

hekal (68) **temple**;

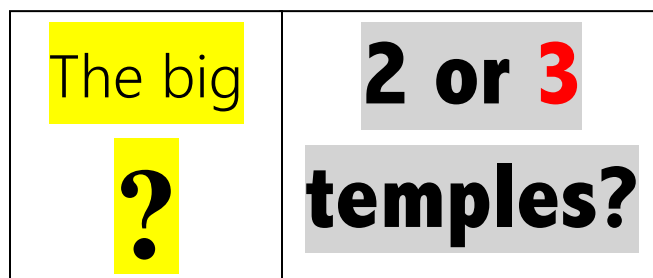
bayit (11) **temple** / (1766) **house**

miskan (114) **tabernacle**

mahseh (13) **refuge**, (2) **shelter**;

seter (4) **secret place**

maon (3) **dwelling place**



Genesis 7: a little read chapter now days; begins with the first time **bayit** (house) is mention in the Bible setting the precedent for its use thereafter: The LORD said to Noah, Come, you and all your **house** into the ark; -- now does anybody really think Noah and his boys got up from their busy construction site; and took their hammers to go knock down a chimney and some windows and walls and doors... to carry them into the ark? If they do, then they need to have a metanoia moment... and rethink some things.

2 Samuel 7: another little read chapter now days, David told Nathan the prophet, that he wanted to build the LORD God a house in Jerusalem... to replace the old tabernacle -- you know, that temporary dwelling place the LORD designed, and Moses replicated exactly as he was told... but when Nathan returned to David with the answer... we learn the LORD protested, **He wasn't overly thrilled with David's idea**... yet He allowed his son Solomon to build it.

Psalms 23: David ends this most loved psalm saying of the Lord, his goodness and mercy pursues me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Now, is David talking about some brick or stone building?

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I don't think so! No brick or stone building will last forever; the word of the Lord lasts forever, but heaven and earth won't even last that long... they will be replaced. David is telling us about where the LORD's adopted family – where all His brothers and sisters, will gather one day.

And if we listen closely to the Lord and pay attention to his way of saying things, you get the impression all along He considered things to be very temporary down here.

He has plans to reveal to those who wait on him... who love him and walk with him... plans that no one could imagine in 1,000 years.

Isaiah 56: Isaiah the prophet writes: those with disabilities... and foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, I will bring them to My family-gathering... and make them joyful in My family-gathering of prayer, for My family-gathering will be called a family-gathering of prayer for all the nations.

And we might ask: is the Lord really talking about a brick and stone house? After all, He said: for all the nations. Try to imagine such a building! It doesn't make sense, does it?

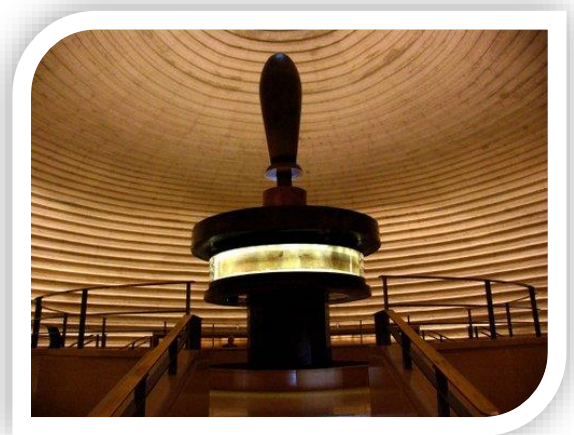
Or how about these songs... regularly sung in the congregation, and heard in their homes and the streets:

Psalms 61: Oh God, lead me to the Rock that is higher than I; for You have been a shelter for me; a strong tower from the enemy. I will dwell in thy tabernacle forever.

Psalms 91: the one who dwells in the secret place of the most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, my Refuge and my Fortress / the Lord is a brick fortress? I don't think so, my God in Him will I trust.

Though God's people saw the daily bloody sacrifices being offered at that brick and stone building in Jerusalem... none of these psalms... seem to suggest that that building is where... they are taking refuge, or that that place... is the secret place of the most High.

Isaiah 57 declares: For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place; also with the one who is crushed in the dust and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, to revive the heart broken in pieces.



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So, where this One lives who inhabits eternity... does **not** sound like that bloody building complex... where they sacrificed little calves, and sheep and goats... morning and evening... every day, come rain or shine, does it?

Now fast-forward to the New Testament: where Jesus the Christ, the son of a Carpenter; the Good Pastor, without lifting a hammer or a saw, where He said, I will build My Church.

David's confusion in the OT is no different than what we hear in the **church** today... when people say: I go to such and such a church on such and such a street; obviously they are describing a wood, brick or stone building. Sadly, the **congregation** / the word John Tyndale first used to translate: **ekklesia**... after his death later some genius translators (probably to save ink) decided to use: **church**, for **ekklesia**... the **called-out people** ... to assemble in the name of the Lord... even where 2 or 3 gather.

The word emphasizes: people.
Jesus said, I will build My **church**...

He is still putting together His **congregation**... piece by piece... even in our genius 21st century... Jesus is daily adding people one by one to His gathering!

The 2 most common **words** in the **New Testament** translated: **temple**.

hieron (71), always refers to where the bloody sacrifices were made, as well as where the people went in hopes to hear the teaching of the word of God. We know the word: **hierarchy**, originally describes the religious chain of command among the clergy, from the trash collectors and toilet washers on the bottom of the rung, to the high priest at the top.

From Matthew, Mark, Luke and John... the word **hieron** is always used whenever Jesus is at the massive **temple** complex teaching, when He was confronted by the religious hierarchy -- the high priests and Pharisees. In 70AD, that **building complex** was demolished by roman soldiers under Emperor Titus.

At the **Temple** Mount, Jewish people still offer prayers at the Western Wall, or as some call it the Wailing Wall... where 3,000 years ago... the Lord God gave promises to all if they would come to this place and call on His Name, He would hear. This place is also where Muslims constructed the Al Aqsa mosque in 705AD; but their building was completely destroyed by an earthquake; and rebuilt in 754AD.

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The Eastern Gate (to the right, this is not original construction from 2000 years ago; rather the entire area was reconstructed in the 1400s) The Eastern Gate – the only double-door gate... is where Jewish, Muslim and Christian faiths all believe Messiah one day will come to the Temple Mount. After the Gospel writers, this word: **hieron** is only used in the book of Acts, still believed by most to depict this same familiar location 2,000 years later.



Without question, this is the biblical word: **hieron**, meaning: **temple**.

After the book of Acts, this word suddenly is no longer used... except once in 1 Corinthians 9:13... when Paul compares the **old way** of legalistic traditions and those who ministered in the temple... with the **new way** after the resurrection and those who minister the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Otherwise, it is as if the **hieron** disappeared... no longer needed. And the religious **hierarchy** was also out of a job,

The Chief cornerstone having been rejected.

Next, we look at the **second** word in the New Testament frequently translated: **temple**...

naos (43) and from Strong's Concordance we read: it generally denotes the temple building, but is also used figuratively for a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit in God's people...

but I would venture to say, this comment does not seem to take into account the Pharisees and all those lovers of artificial traditions, and their well-rehearsed drama... appearing to be righteous... preferring their hocus pocus traditions... to the word of God.

naos... a noun, is used 46 times in the New Testament. In the book of Acts, it is used 3 times, 1 time translated: shrine, when Paul is talking about the sacred place to worship God in Athens;

Acts 7: As Stephen concluded his detailed witness at his trial answering his accusers point by point... correcting their faulty thinking... declaring God's faithfulness to them in each generation... in spite of all that, they rejected every messenger God sent them; then Stephen laid the total blame of the murder of Jesus on those who were stubborn and resisted the Holy Spirit; which prophet had they not killed?

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I'm sure Stephen understood he was not going home that night; sealing his own death he declared: **the most High does not dwell in naos made with hands.**

Perhaps, this word should have been translated: the **most holy place...** or the **sacred place.**

Psalm 91: remember they already sang for 1,000 years: dwelling in the **secret place** of the Most high... and that's not a building made with hands.

John 2: records the word used 3 times, he uses the word correctly...

Jesus, the good Teacher said: Destroy this **naos...**this **sacred place** and in 3 days I will raise it up. Then the Jewish leaders probably having co-opted the word to caricature it's meaning... said, 46 years was this **naos** under construction, and will you build it up in 3 days?

But **Jesus spoke of the naos of his body.** So Jesus used this word **most correctly.**

1 Corinthians 3: 16-17: the next time this word is used, Paul asks: Do you not know that you are the **naos** of God...the **sacred place** of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the **naos** of God, God will destroy him; for the **naos** of God is holy, which you are!

Ephesians 2: Paul says, you are no longer strangers... but joint-citizens of the household of God; built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, growing into a holy **naos** in the Lord... Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone....

2 Thessalonians 2: the next and only time **naos** is used... talking about the man of lawlessness, the evil politician coming at the end of the time of the Gentiles... **sitting in the naos of God;** And none of these verses sounded like the need to call on those skilled in carpentry and masonry... to get their tools out to fashion some edifice of brick or stone, did they?

Revelation 3 – 22: **naos** is used 16 times exclusively... to describe events in heaven, including when we learn about the new heaven and the new earth: **Revelation 21:22** And I saw no **naos** ... no **sacred place** therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the **naos** of it!

Now I could imagine for example: a prominent world leader visiting the **temple complex** in old Jerusalem. That would be suspicious; but not a cause to be wary.

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The last time Jesus was at the **hieron**... the **temple complex**, Jesus ended his confrontation with the religious leaders who sought to destroy him,

Matthew 23: He said: **Your house** (no longer His Father's house) is left to you a waste and desolation.

John 14: the night Jesus was betrayed He said, **In My Father's house are many mansions!**

When Jesus speaks... everybody's opinion, all the modern scholars... along with all the prophets of old... their judgments and conclusions only bow... to the good Pastor's correct assessment and clear teaching. With these words, Jesus was faithfully doing his part... to **not** leave any unfinished business or confusion. Here, we see Jesus gave his students last details of final lessons for all to keep passing forward to each generation... as they guard to protect His words and His commands... while taking what He taught His own... to the ends of the earth.

Jesus said, **In My Father's house are many mansions!** And I bet they are not made with brick and stone!

So when Paul writes about the last great world leader... some evil politician who enters the world stage as the whole world is broken... at the time when the Gentile nations come to an end... as the great apostasy, the great falling away of the faithless and ignorant is happening, and people are losing their foothold...

when Paul writes: the man of lawlessness... **sitting in the naos** / sitting in the sacred place **of God**;

is a building of stone or brick required? **No!**

do we need to wait for a 3rd temple ...to be constructed on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem before the Gentile nations come to an end? **No!** or the Tent of David to be found and raised up – too late, the Messiah already tented among us; and He was from the House of David.

Read on, if you still think a temple is needed.

Any discussion about a 3rd temple, is only led by people (be they zealots of Judah or ignorant folks in the church without knowledge, or others who are too late) they need to change their thinking. The ones who rejected the Chief cornerstone, might be a little too slow, and certainly confused. Another temple **for bloody sacrifices** is no longer needed;

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because in the 21st century through the media more **hearts**... the sacred place where the Spirit of God comes to reside, to make a home; there in that place... in the **hearts** of men and women... through the media those sitting around a big screen, rather than sitting in a building... more **hearts** are captured in conquest.

Isaiah 4 clearly says: when Messiah the Branch comes, **there will be a TENT** (a tabernacle; a shelter) to give shade from the heat of the day -- remember, they killed Isaiah,

Zechariah 6 clearly says: when the Branch comes,

he will build the temple of the Lord;

even **He will build the temple of the Lord**, it is His honor; He will be a priest upon His throne. So, how many times does the Lord need to repeat Himself? He doesn't need any hierarchy's help. And I bet He'll do a good enough job, since He is a Carpenter's Son.

Zechariah 14 clearly says; when He comes He will stand on **the Mount of Olives**, and then the biggest earthquake splits the region... and I bet in one shaking He knocks down all the ancient graven junk and clutter that dots the skyline of old Jerusalem. And in less than 1 minute, the piles of rubble as far as they can see... will be the clue to His people what they will be busy doing for the next several months.

Then amid all His stunned people stand there gawking; then the Carpenter's Son will break the astonishing silence and probably say: why are you standing here? Start there... so He can get on with raising His Tent. I'm sure He's anxious to start teaching His people.

The question that needs to be answered is: **What will you do with the Chief cornerstone that was rejected?**

Instead of waiting for a building to be built... run to your window and look up! He is near... even at the door!

