

Session Three

Living as Temples of Skin

What Was Lost In the Temple of Stone?

This is what the Lord says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the Lord. “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. **Isaiah 66:1-2**

Acheiropoietos

adjective

akh-i-rop-oy'-ay-tos

This is the term used to describe *something not made by human hands*

Jesus was persecuted because He believed and taught about a coming temple that was *acheiropoietos* (not made by human hands).

I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. **Matthew 12:6**

They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” **John 2:20**

“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’”
Mark 14:58

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” **John 2:19**

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. **2 Peter 3:7**

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. **Matthew 5:18**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. **Matthew 24:35**

The original phrase translated “heaven and earth” is actually an idiom referring to the temple. Jonathan Welton (2015-04-29).

Understanding the Whole Bible

Paul was persecuted because He believed and taught about a coming temple that was *acheiropoietos* (not made by human hands).

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and ***does not live in temples built by human hands.*** **Acts 17:24**

Paul was accused before the Roman Empire by the Jewish leaders:

“We have found this man to be a troublemaker, stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect and ***even tried to desecrate the temple***; so we seized him.” **Acts 24:4-5**

Stephen, first martyr, was killed because spoke against the temple of stone and referred to a coming temple that was *acheiropoietos* (not made by human hands).

“Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. After receiving the tabernacle, our ancestors under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, who enjoyed God’s favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. **“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands.** As the prophet says: *“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things?”* “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. **Acts 7:44-54**

Temple of Stone Model of Ministry

- 1. Stationary**
- 2. Ceremonial**
- 3. A Place You Have to Go**
- 4. Temptation to be Traditional**
- 5. Authority in Building**

Temple of Skin Model of Ministry

- 1. Mobile**
- 2. Personal**
- 3. A Place You Carry**
- 4. A Place of Fresh Revelation**
- 5. A Place of Recognized Authority**

We must not relegate to the future that which is ours in the present.

Do not let your heart be troubled (afraid, cowardly). Believe [confidently] in God *and* trust in Him, [have faith, hold on to it, rely on it, keep going and] believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and I will take you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. And [to the place] where I am going, you know the way. **John 14:1-4**

John 14 is the portion of Scripture that is read at many funerals. But many scholars believe that Jesus is not talking about taking us to heaven, but is reminding us that we are to become the dwelling place of God here on earth. Jesus tells his disciples:

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going” (John 14:1-4). William Morford writes in his commentary: “*Dwelling Places in Jn. 14:2 is not speaking of buildings, but of a place for each of us to fit into the heavenly organization, operation. The word translated dwelling places, mon-ai, has a primary meaning of staying, tarrying, abiding, dwelling. Used only in Jn. 14:2 and 23, Jesus says He is making a ministry for each of us in the heavenly plan, an assignment for each one. The word Mansion came into John 14 because the Latin word Mansiones was not translated, simply written in English. Mansiones, the Latin word, has a primary meaning of staying, tarrying, abiding – the same as monai in Greek.*” Our assignment is not to go to God's dwelling place but to be His dwelling place. As the words of the song declare” “Let my heart, be Your home, let my heart, be your dwelling place, O God.”