

FROM EDEN TO EDEN

GOD'S THRONE THROUGH THE AGES

Rev. Robert C. Lewis with Rachel Tavera and Shiela Noel
Glendale Baptist Church • Houston, Texas • quicknotes.org • October 2012

1 Original Garden of Eden in heaven (Ezk 28:11–19)



2 Temple built in heaven (Psa 11:4; Rev 11:19)



"The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven" (Psa 11:4)



Old Testament saints: "when he went up to the very heights, he took many captives with him" (Eph 4:8)
Church Age saints: "absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (2 Cor 5:8)

Session of Jesus Christ in Heaven at the Right Hand of the Father (Psa 110:1; Acts 2:33; Eph 1:20–22; Heb 8:1–2)

KINGDOM OF GOD IN HEAVEN

KINGDOMS OF GOD ON EARTH

INNOCENCE

3 Garden of Eden reproduced on earth (Gen 2:8–15)



CONSCIENCE

4 Flaming Sword Theophany and two cherubim bar entrance to the Garden (Gen 3:22–24)



HUMAN GOVERNMENT AND PROMISE

JEWISH AGE

Temples are used to separate the holy from the profane while God permits sin among angels and men. But God prefers to place his throne in a beautiful garden, not in a temple.

Three attempts by God to dwell on earth with men are rebuffed (entrance to Eden in the Age of Conscience, Tabernacle and Temples in ancient Israel, and the future Millennial Temple). But, in the end, God will dwell with his people on the new earth forever (Rev 21:3).

6 Tabernacle (Ex 25:1–9)



7 First Temple (1 Chr 28)



8 Second Temple (Ezra 1)



CHURCH AGE

Since born-again Christians are scattered around the globe, this is the Age of Worldwide Temples. Temples of God are located wherever Christians are present and wherever

Christians go—a combination of portability (like the Tabernacle of Israel) and universality (like the altars built everywhere by patriarchal priests in the dispensations of Human Government, Promise, and Law). As men went to the altar at Eden, to patriarchal altars, and to the Tabernacle and the Temple to meet God, go to a Christian today

9 Our Bodies are God's Temple (1 Cor 3:16–17)
to meet God.
"For we are the temple of the living God" (2 Cor 6:16) and "the temple of God is holy" (1 Cor 3:17).
After the Rapture
"we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess 4:17).



70th WEEK

10 Third Temple of God in Jerusalem is the most corrupt and shortest duration of all (2 Thess 2:4; Rev 11:1–2)



MILLENNIUM

The Fourth Temple in a restored Jerusalem (cf. Acts 3:21) is God's third and final attempt to live on earth among sinful men. People in mortal and resurrection bodies will be present. But this final attempt also ends in failure. Sinful men are ruled with a rod of iron (Rev 2:27–28), and, at the end of this perfect Kingdom (Isa 9:6–7; 11:6–9), millions will rebel against the righteous rule of Jesus Christ and follow Satan (Rev 20:7–10).

11 Millennial Temple in Jerusalem (Rev 3:12)
Even in a perfect environment with God, his Son, and resurrected saints personally present, their rule is rejected by most in mortal bodies. *Conclusion:* Living with sinful men will never work.



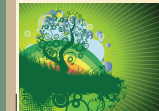
ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH

Only people who desire and choose to live with God are present on the new earth (Rev 22:3–4, 14–15).

Eternal life is the privilege of getting to know Jesus and his Father by living with them forever (John 17:3). There will be no sin, blood sacrifices, rejection, or rebellion against God ever again.

"His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom" (Psa 145:13; Dan 4:3; 7:14, 27; Luke 1:33; Rev 1:15; 22:5) "in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet 3:13).

12 Third Garden of Eden, perhaps in the New Jerusalem (Rev 22:1–5)
The tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people" (Rev 21:3).
But, sad to say, the Lake of Fire will be far more populated than the new earth.



FALL Noah (Gen 6–8) MOUNT SINAI Portable Tabernacle in the Wilderness, Canaan, and Jerusalem Temples in Jerusalem CRUCIFIXION DAY OF PENTECOST RAPTURE DEDICATION OF THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE CREATION OF THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

Comments:

- 1–2.** After creating angels, God created a Garden in heaven called Eden to place his throne (Ezk 28:11–19). But after the fall of Satan and his angels, God abandoned Eden and built a temple in heaven to house his throne (Job 1:6–12; 2:1–7; Psa 18:6; 1 Kgs 22:19–23; Psa 11:4; 29:9; Mic 1:2–4; Rev 7:15; 11:19; 13:6; 14:15, 17; 15:5–8; 16:1, 17). Temples are designed to separate the holy from the profane; so temples are used when sin is present and a Garden when sin is absent.
- 3. Edenic Kingdom:** God intended to form a kingdom on earth (Gen 1:28) and reproduced the heavenly Garden of Eden (2:8–9). God walked in the Garden and had fellowship with Adam and Eve (3:8–10), but sin cut this kingdom short.
- 4. Antediluvian Kingdom:** A flaming sword revolving by itself between two cherubim guards the entrance to the Garden. God continues to dwell with men on earth at the entrance from the Fall to the Flood. Apparently sacrifices were brought to an altar before the flaming sword (Gen 3:21; 4:3–5). Yet even with God's personal presence on earth, only eight people offered sacrifices in the days before the Flood (6:8–9, 18). The rest rejected him (an estimated nine billion people)!
- 5.** Eden is destroyed by the Flood and God is no longer personally present on earth after the Deluge, so altars could be built anywhere in the Ages of Human Government and Promise (Gen 8:20; 12:7–8; 22:9; 31:54; 46:1; Job 1:5; 42:7–9).
- 6–8. Theocratic Kingdom of Israel:** God returns to earth a second time to dwell with his chosen people in a Tabernacle (Ex 40:34–38) and later in the First Temple (2 Chr 7:1–3). Both were miniature models of the heavenly Temple (Acts 7:44; Heb 8:5). Israel rejected God and the First Temple in the reign of Jeroboam I (1 Kgs 12:26–33). Judah worshipped idols and false gods in Solomon's Temple while the Shekinah Glory still lived in the Holy of Holies (Ezk 8:1–18)! God left the First Temple in 591 BC (11:23) and the Shekinah did not return to dwell in the Second Temple—neither Zerubbabel's nor Herod's (Babylonian Talmud). The Shekinah does not return to earth again until the Millennial Kingdom (Ezk 43:1–9).
- 9.** God is not visibly present on earth during the Church Age, but our bodies are Temples of God the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:16–17; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21–22). He indwells, empowers, and reveals himself to men in and through us (Phil 2:13).
- 10.** God never dwells in the Tribulational Temple. At the mid-point the False Prophet places an idol of the Antichrist in the Holy of Holies (Rev 13:14–15)—the abomination of desolation (Dan 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14).
- 11. Millennial Kingdom:** The Shekinah Glory returns to dwell in the Millennial Temple for 1000 years (Ezk 43:1–9; 44:4). A reward for overcomers of the Church Age is to be a pillar (permanent high-ranking servant) in this temple (Rev 3:12).
- 12. Eternal Kingdom:** God creates a third Garden of Eden on the new earth and there establishes his throne forever (Rev 22:1–5). No temple is ever built on the new earth (21:22). And God dwells in perfect harmony with men forever (21:3).