

The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan

Contents of Chapter 14

The Prophetic Pattern of the Tabernacle – From the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem

The Prophetic Pattern of the Tabernacle and the Garden of Eden	2
The Pattern of the Tabernacle	2
Illustration: The Tabernacle	4
The Tabernacle Pattern and the Garden of Eden	4
The Tabernacle Reveals God's Master Plan of Redemption	9
Ark of the Covenant	9
Veil Separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place	9
Menorah	10
Table of Showbread	11
Altar of Incense	11
Laver	12
Court of the Women (Herod's Temple)	13
Court of the Gentiles (Herod's Temple)	13
Tracing the Dwelling Place of God from the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem	14
Garden of Eden	14
Tabernacle of Moses	15
Solomon's Temple (First Temple)	15
Second Temple and Herod's Temple	15
Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua	16
Millennial Temple (Ezekiel's Temple, Third Temple)	17
New Jerusalem	17
References	18

The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan (Online Edition)

by Peter and Christie Michas

Original Title *God's Master Plan: From Aleph to Tav* © 1994

The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan © 1997, 2001, 2011–2016 (Online Edition)

Messengers of Messiah, 7231 Boulder Avenue #164, Highland, CA 92346 USA

Tel. 909-425-8751 – www.messengers-of-messiah.org

Revised November 2016

This publication may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied in total with no alterations or deletions. The authors' names, ministry name and website address, mailing address and telephone number, and copyright notice must be included. No charge may be levied on recipients of distributed copies. Brief quotations may be embodied in critical articles and reviews without breaching copyright. This publication is available for free at Messengers of Messiah's website www.messengers-of-messiah.org

Chapter 14

The Prophetic Pattern of the Tabernacle – From the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem

THE PROPHETIC PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The main themes of this book are based on the research and insight of Peter A. Michas. Years of study led by the Spirit of God opened up his understanding to see the prophetic pattern linking the Garden of Eden to Jerusalem (Chapter 1). In addition, Peter came to understand that the prophetic pattern of the Tabernacle not only reveals details of God's master plan of redemption but also reveals details about the Garden of Eden.

The Pattern of the Tabernacle

The Tabernacle was the portable sanctuary containing the Ark of the Covenant during the time the Israelites were in the wilderness. Later, the Temple, the permanent sanctuary based upon the pattern of the Tabernacle, was built on Mount Moriah (Temple Mount) in Jerusalem.

God instructed Moses to follow the detailed and precise pattern for the Tabernacle –

“And let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I am going to show you, **as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture**, just so you shall construct *it* (Exodus 25:8-9, bold emphasis added).

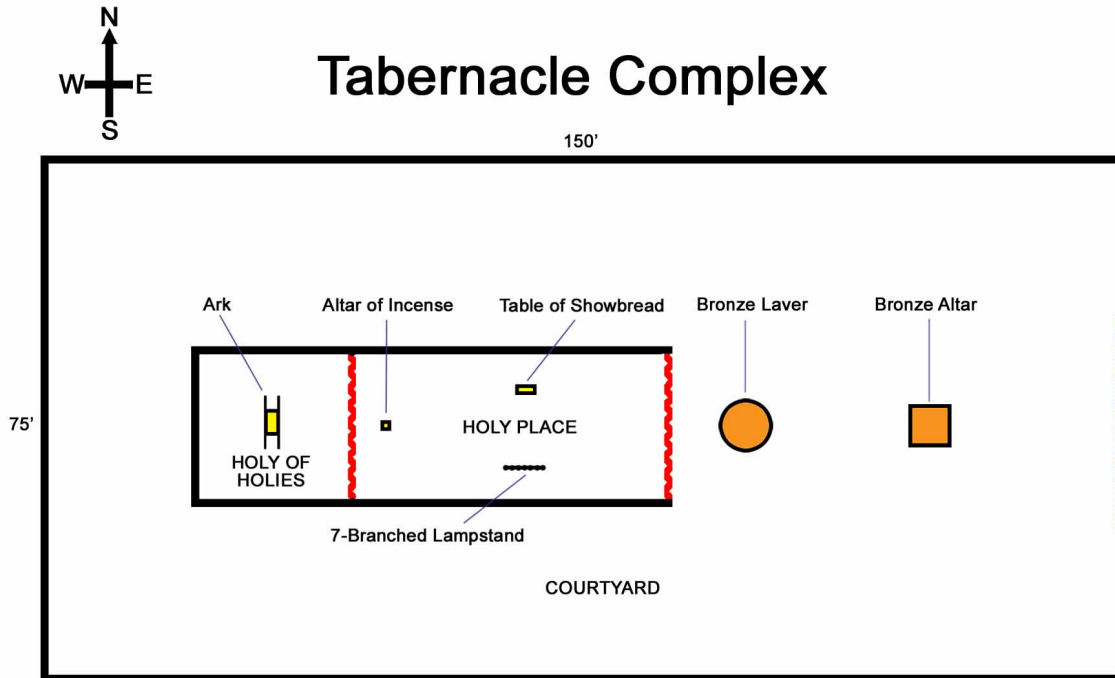
“Then you shall **erect the tabernacle according to its plan** which you have been shown in the mountain [Mount Sinai]” (Exodus 26:30, bold emphasis added).

The pattern of the Tabernacle and its furniture is of great prophetic significance and for this reason God told Moses to make everything exactly according to the revealed pattern.

As we can see from the illustration (below), the Tabernacle was located inside a rectangular courtyard surrounded by an outer perimeter. There was one entrance to the courtyard on the east end, and one entrance to the Tabernacle, also on the east end. Moving from east to west inside the courtyard, we first see the Altar for sacrifices, then the Laver with water for purification.

Inside the Tabernacle, we first come to the Holy Place, containing the Table of Showbread, Menorah (seven-branched lampstand), and Altar of Incense. A Veil separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. The Holy of Holies, containing the Ark of the Covenant, was located at the western end of the Tabernacle.

Illustration: The Tabernacle (next page)



Copyright 2011, Ralph F. Wilson (pastor@joyfulheart.com). Permission to reprint is granted if copyright information is included

The Tabernacle Pattern and the Garden of Eden

According to the prophetic pattern as Peter Michas believes God showed him, there is a correlation between the basic elements of the Tabernacle and details about the Garden of Eden at the time of Adam and Eve.

1. Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of God above the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant –

“And you shall put **the mercy seat on top of the ark**, and in the ark you shall put the testimony [Ten Commandments] which I shall give to you. And there I will meet with you; and **from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you** about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel” (Exodus 25:21-22, bold emphasis added).

Now when Moses went into the tent of meeting [Tabernacle] to speak with Him, **he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat** that was on the ark of the testimony [covenant], from between the two cherubim, so He spoke to him (Numbers 7:89, bold emphasis added).

The Holy of Holies correlates with the Tree of Life, revealing that the Tree of Life grew on Mount Moriah (Temple Mount), where God's presence dwelled at the center of the Garden of Eden. The place God manifested His presence as He fellowshiped with Adam and Eve before they sinned became the place God manifested His presence in the Temple, and will also be the place where Messiah Yeshua will establish His Throne during the Millennial Kingdom.

2. Laver for the waters of purification of the priests –

“You shall also make a **laver of bronze**, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it **between the tent of meeting [Tabernacle] and the altar**, and you shall put water in it. And Aaron and his sons shall **wash their hands and their feet** from it; when they enter the tent of meeting [Tabernacle], they shall wash with water, that they may not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire *sacrifice* to the LORD” (Exodus 30:18-20, bold emphasis added).

The Laver correlates with the Gihon Spring in Jerusalem that also links to the Gihon River of the Garden of Eden. The Gihon River is a reflection of the Heavenly River of the Water of Life that flows from the Throne of God.

And he showed me a **river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb**, in the middle of its street. And **on either side of the river was the tree of life**, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:1-2, bold emphasis added).

The Book of Revelation shows us a direct connection between the River of the Water of Life flowing from the Throne of God and the Tree of Life. The Heavenly picture is reflected in the water of the Gihon giving life to the Tree of Life on Mount Moriah.

During the future Millennial Kingdom, water from the Gihon Spring will flow above ground from the south side of the Millennial Temple and form a river that divides into two branches, one flowing West into the Mediterranean Sea, and one flowing East into the Dead Sea (Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 14:8; Joel 3:18). As a result, the Dead Sea that is currently devoid of life will

be transformed into a body of water teeming with animal and plant life.¹

Then he brought me back to the door of the house [Temple]; and behold, **water was flowing from under the threshold of the house [Temple] toward the east**, for the house [Temple] faced east. And **the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar**. ... Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there *were* very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said to me, **“These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the [Dead] sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters *of the sea* become fresh**. And it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. **And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there, and *the others* become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes**. ... **And by the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all *kinds of* trees for food**. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. **They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary [Temple], and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing”** (Ezekiel 47:1, 7-9, 12, bold emphasis added).

And it will come about in that day that **living [flowing] waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea [Dead Sea] and the other half toward the western sea [Mediterranean Sea]**; it will be in summer as well as in winter (Zechariah 14:8, bold emphasis added).

And it will come about in that day That the mountains will drip with sweet wine,
And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water;
And **a spring will go out from the house [Temple] of the**

¹ Note: The Dead Sea is 9.6 times as salty as the ocean. The high salinity prevents fish and aquatic plants from living in it, which is why it is called the Dead Sea. This will change when the massive amounts of fresh water from the spring in Jerusalem flow into it - See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea - Wikipedia, article: Dead Sea, section: Introduction; section: 7 Fauna and flora – accessed April 9, 2016.

LORD, To water the valley of Shittim [region Northeast of the Dead Sea]²
(Joel 3:18, bold emphasis added).

3. Altar for sacrifices and offerings –

“And you shall make the **altar of acacia wood**, five cubits long and five cubits wide; the altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits. And you shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze” (Exodus 27:1-2, bold emphasis added).

The Altar correlates with the altar built by Adam that we believe was located on the Mount of Olives, in the area where Adam and Eve committed the first sin. According to the prophetic picture as Peter Michas understands it, this is also the place where King David planted the miraculously budding almond rod from the Tree of Life, called Aaron’s Rod, that grew into the Crucifixion Tree upon which Messiah Yeshua was crucified. The pattern reveals that Messiah Yeshua’s ultimate, perfect, and complete sin-atonement sacrifice for all humanity’s sins was made in the same place where Adam and Eve committed the first sin. (See *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God’s Master Plan*, Chapter 6 Aaron’s Rod, the Tree of Life, and the Crucifixion Tree, free at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.)

After Adam and Eve sinned, God expelled them **east** of the Garden of Eden –

So He drove the man out; and at the **east of the garden of Eden** He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life (Genesis 3:24, bold emphasis added).

The cherubim (angelic beings) guarded the Tree of Life. Adam and Eve were expelled **east** of Mount Moriah, where the Tree of Life grew, to the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives is located directly opposite and east of Mount Moriah, separated by the Kidron Valley.

From the Mount of Olives, Adam and Eve would have looked from the east toward the west to the place where they had fellowshiped with God. This is the same pattern revealed in the Tabernacle, with the only entrance to the Tabernacle being located on its eastern end. Later, when the Temple was built on Mount Moriah, there was only one entrance on its eastern end and it could be seen

² Merrill C. Tenney (General Editor), *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 5, p. 418.

from the summit of the Mount of Olives.

According to this pattern, Adam and Eve offered sacrifices for sins on an altar at the summit of the Mount of Olives. During Temple times, the summit of the Mount of Olives became the place where the Red Heifer, the holiest sacrifice, was offered. The prophetic picture reveals the sacrifice of the ultimate and holiest of all sacrifices, Messiah Yeshua, on the summit of the Mount of Olives. (See *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, Chapter 2 The Mount of Olives – True Site of the Crucifixion, free at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.)

During Temple times, the ashes of the sin sacrifices offered on the Altar of Burnt Offerings in front of the Temple were deposited on the Mount of Olives. This is another link of sin sacrifices to the Mount of Olives and Messiah Yeshua's ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins.

As God offered Himself in the person of Messiah Yeshua, the Son of God, as the final sacrifice for humanity's sins, God also made the first sacrifice for Adam and Eve's sin, for it was God who clothed Adam and Eve with the skins of animals –

And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them (Genesis 3:21).

4. Veil with Cherubim separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place –

“And you shall make **a veil of blue and purple and scarlet *material* and fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim**, the work of a skillful workman. And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, their hooks *also being of gold*, on four sockets of silver. And you shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and shall bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and **the veil shall serve for you as a partition between the holy place and the holy of holies**” (Exodus 26:31-33, bold emphasis added).

The Veil embroidered with Cherubim formed the partition in front of the Holy of Holies. The Cherubim represent the actual Cherubim who guarded the Tree of Life that grew on Mount Moriah in the area that eventually became the Holy of Holies of the Temple.

THE TABERNACLE REVEALS GOD'S MASTER PLAN OF REDEMPTION

Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle. The Ark was later placed in the Holy of Holies of the Temple. Before the Temple's destruction by the Babylonians, the Ark was removed and its whereabouts never again mentioned in the Word of God.

The Ark of the Covenant was made of gold (symbolizing deity) covering wood (symbolizing humanity), symbolizing the deity of Messiah Yeshua who came into the world in a physical human body. Inside the Ark were the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the Word of God. Yeshua is the Word of God, and fully God –

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He [Yeshua] was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ... He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ... And **the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father**, full of grace and truth (John 1:1-3, 10, 14, bold emphasis added).

Veil Separating the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place

The tearing of the Veil in the Second Temple, at the moment Yeshua gave His life as the perfect and complete sin-atonement sacrifice, symbolized the removal of the spiritual separation between humanity and God –

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split (Matthew 27:51).

Yeshua is the only mediator between humanity and God –

For there is one God, *and* **one mediator also between God and men, *the man Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]*** (1 Timothy 2:5, bold emphasis added).

But now He [Messiah Yeshua] has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as **He is also the mediator of a better covenant**, which has been enacted on better promises (Hebrews 8:6, bold emphasis added).

And for this reason **He [Messiah Yeshua] is the mediator of a new covenant**, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15, bold emphasis added).

In the Millennial Temple, a Door replaces the Veil between the Holy of Holies and the Holy Place. The Door can be understood to represent Yeshua, who referred to Himself as The Door, the one and only way of salvation –

“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9, bold emphasis added).

Menorah

The Menorah (seven-branched lampstand) in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle (later in the Temple) symbolized the Light and Truth of God.

“Then you shall make a lampstand [menorah] of pure gold. The lampstand *and* its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be *of one piece* with it. And **six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side, and three branches of the lampstand from its other side”** (Exodus 25:31-32, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua said He is the Light of the World –

Again therefore Jesus [Yeshua] spoke to them, saying, **“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life”** (John 8:12, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua is God and God is Light –

And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is light**, and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua said He is the Truth –

Jesus [Yeshua] said to him, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me”** (John 14:6, bold emphasis added).

Table of Showbread

The Table of Showbread in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle (later in the Temple) symbolized the sustenance of life by God.

“And you shall make a table of acacia wood, two cubits long and one cubit wide and one and a half cubits high. And you shall overlay it with pure gold and make a gold border around it. ... And you shall **set the bread of the Presence [Showbread] on the table before Me at all times**” (Exodus 25:23-24, 30, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua said He is the Bread of Life –

Jesus [Yeshua] said to them, **“I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst”** (John 6:35, bold emphasis added).

Altar of Incense

The fragrant smoke of the incense rising from the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place of the

Tabernacle (later in the Temple) symbolized prayers ascending to Heaven through the mediating service of the priests.

“Moreover, you shall make an **altar as a place for burning incense**; you shall make it of acacia wood. Its length *shall be* a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height *shall be* two cubits; its horns *shall be* of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it. ... And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps” (Exodus 30:1-3, 7, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua is the High Priest of the New Covenant, the one and only Mediator between humanity and God. Therefore, prayers are directed through Him to Father God.

May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering (Psalms 141:2, bold emphasis added).

And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb [of God, Messiah Yeshua], having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of **incense, which are the prayers of the saints** [believers] (Revelation 5:8, bold emphasis added).

And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to **the prayers of all the saints [believers] upon the golden altar which was before the throne**. And **the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints [believers], went up before God** out of the angel’s hand (Revelation 8:3-4, bold emphasis added).

Laver

The laver held the water for the spiritual cleansing of the priests. Yeshua cleanses us spiritually by His sacrifice –

“Then **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean**; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, **I will**

give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances” (Ezekiel 36:25-27, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua said –

“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you” (John 15:3).

Court of the Women (Herod’s Temple)

The Court of the Women was a later addition to the Temple complex of Herod’s reconstructed Second Temple. The Court of the Women was the farthest women were allowed to enter the Temple precincts.

Yeshua removed the spiritual barrier between women and men, spiritually uniting them as one in Him –

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, **there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]** (Galatians 3:28, bold emphasis added).

Court of the Gentiles (Herod’s Temple)

The Court of the Gentiles was the outermost court of the Temple complex of Herod’s reconstructed Second Temple. Gentiles were allowed in the Outer Court, but not the Inner Court.

Yeshua removed the spiritual barrier between Gentiles (non-Jews) and Jews, spiritually uniting them as one in Him –

There is neither Jew nor Greek [Gentile], there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]** (Galatians 3:28, bold emphasis added).

Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands — *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ [Messiah], excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua] you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ [Messiah]. **For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one*, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall** (Ephesians 2:11-14, bold emphasis added).

TRACING THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO THE NEW JERUSALEM

We can trace the dwelling place of God on Earth from the Garden of Eden, to the Tabernacle, to Solomon’s Temple (First Temple), to the Second Temple (and Herod’s Temple), to the Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua, to the Millennial Temple, and ultimately to the New Jerusalem that descends from Heaven.

Garden of Eden

God dwelled with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden –

Then **the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden** to cultivate it and keep it (Genesis 2:15, bold emphasis added).

And **they [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden [of Eden]** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden (Genesis 3:8, bold emphasis added).

In this book, *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God’s Master Plan*, we have shown that the place God dwelled with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is the same place God chose on Earth as His dwelling place throughout Israel’s history – the site of Jerusalem. From the beginning, God chose Jerusalem to be His dwelling place on Earth, the center of His master plan of redemption for humanity. According to God’s prophetic pattern and plan, the place where Adam and Eve committed the first sin was to be the place Messiah Yeshua paid the ultimate price for all

humanity's sins. (See *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, Chapter 1 Jerusalem – The Center of the Garden of Eden, free book www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

Tabernacle of Moses

(Approximately 1450 BC to 1000 BC)

The Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of the Lord's Presence, indwelled the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary, during the forty-year wilderness period of the Israelites –

Then the cloud [Shekinah, Glory Cloud] covered the tent of meeting, and **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle** (Exodus 40:34, bold emphasis added).

Solomon's Temple (First Temple)

(Approximately 1000 BC to 586 BC)

For a time the Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Tabernacle of David, until David's son, Solomon, built the First Temple, which was indwelled by the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of the Lord –

And it came about when the priests came from the holy place, that **the [Shekinah glory] cloud filled the house [Temple] of the LORD**, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the house [Temple] of the LORD** (1 Kings 8:10-11, bold emphasis added).

The Babylonians destroyed the First Temple in 586 BC. The Ark of the Covenant was removed from the Holy of Holies sometime before the Temple's destruction, and has remained hidden ever since. Ezekiel had a vision of the Shekinah leaving the Temple prior to its destruction (Ezekiel 10-11).

Second Temple and Herod's Temple

(515 BC to AD 70)

The Second Temple was built by the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after seventy years of exile in Babylon –

“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house [Temple] in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and **rebuild the house [Temple] of the LORD**, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem. And every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house [Temple] of God which is in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:2-4, bold emphasis added).

The Temple and Temple Mount were later expanded and reconstructed by Herod. The Ark of the Covenant was not present in the Holy of Holies of the Second Temple. Neither did the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of God’s Presence, continuously dwell in the Holy of Holies of the Second Temple as it had in the First Temple. However, at times God’s presence did manifest in the Second Temple up until its destruction by the Romans in AD 70.

Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua

(From Pentecost, following Yeshua’s Resurrection, to the Present)

Following Yeshua’s resurrection, on the day of Pentecost (Shavuot), Yeshua’s disciples were filled with God’s Holy Spirit. From that time on, those who put their trust in Messiah Yeshua for salvation were and are indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. This is the Spiritual Temple or Church of Messiah Yeshua, with Yeshua as its one and only Head.

Do you not know that **you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?** (1 Corinthians 3:16, bold emphasis added)

... Christ [Messiah] also is the head of the **church [spiritual temple]**, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23, bold emphasis added).

Yeshua told His disciples something very important –

“But I say to you, that something greater than the temple is here” (Matthew 12:6).

The purpose of the Temple and its sacrificial system was to point to Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua is far greater than any earthly physical Temple. In the same way, the Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua is far greater than any earthly physical Temple.

It is interesting to note that the Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua is the fifth dwelling place of God on Earth because the number five in the Word of God signifies grace³ – and it is by God’s grace alone, through Yeshua’s perfect and complete sin-atonement sacrifice, that human beings can have the forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of God’s Holy Spirit, and become members of Messiah’s body, the Spiritual Temple of the Living God.

Millennial Temple (Ezekiel’s Temple, Third Temple)

(Coming in the Near Future)

The Third Temple will be built by Messiah Yeshua when He returns to Earth to rule for one thousand years during the Millennial Kingdom. The Millennial Temple is also referred to as the Third Temple or Ezekiel’s Temple, based on Ezekiel’s vision of the future Temple.

The Shekinah Glory Cloud will indwell the Millennial Temple –

And **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD came into the house [Temple]** by the way of the gate facing toward the east. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the house [Temple]** (Ezekiel 43:4-5, bold emphasis added).

Note: For our in-depth prophecy study about the Millennial Temple, see *A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies*, Part 14 The Future Temple of the Millennial Kingdom, free study at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.

New Jerusalem

(The Eternal State)

At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, this Heaven (Universe) and Earth will pass away and the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem (the Eternal State) will be revealed. There will be

³ E. W. Bullinger, *Number in Scripture: Its Supernatural Design and Spiritual Significance*, p. 135.

no need of a Temple in the New Jerusalem because Father God and His Son, Messiah Yeshua, the Lamb of God, “are its temple” –

And I saw no **temple** in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its **temple** (Revelation 21:22, bold emphasis added).

REFERENCES

New American Standard Bible version unless otherwise noted (Accordance Bible Software).

Wikipedia articles and other Internet sources are subject to revision after date originally cited in this study.

Bullinger, E. W. *Number in Scripture: Its Supernatural Design and Spiritual Significance*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1967.

Conner, Kevin J. *The Tabernacle of David*. Portland, OR: Bible Temple - Conner Publications, 1976.

Conner, Kevin J. *The Tabernacle of Moses*. Portland, OR: Bible Temple Publishing, 1975.

Tenney, Merrill C. (General Editor). *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Five Volumes). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975, 1976.