

WHAT IS THE HOUSE OF GOD?

God's house in the Old Testament

In **Genesis 28:11-22** Jacob had a revelation of the house of God.

- It was a place where God spoke to Jacob (**v.13-15**)
- There was a connection between heaven and earth ***"This is none other than the house of God ... this is the gate of heaven"*** (v.17)

God desired to dwell with His people in the earth

Firstly, in the Tabernacle

YAHWEH told Moses, ***"Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell with them"*** (Exodus 25:8)

Secondly, in the Temple built by Solomon

The temple in Jerusalem was literally the HOUSE of God (**1 Kings 9:1a & 2 Chronicles 3:1a**). Solomon prayed ***"I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell in forever"*** 2 Chron.6:2.

There were many chambers

The house that Solomon built for God had many ***"chambers all around, against the walls of the temple [house], all around the***

sanctuary and the inner sanctuary. Thus, he made side chambers all around it" 1Kings 6:5.

- The house of God in the Old Testament had many rooms in it – places to dwell.

God's house is a house of prayer

In **Isaiah 56**, God's house is called ***"a house of prayer for all nations"*** (v.7). Foreigners who ***"join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, ... even them I will ... make joyful in My house"*** (v.6-7).

Even in the Old Testament, God's house was built so that all people could be drawn to God to find a place to dwell with Him in the earth.

God's house in the New Testament

In **Matthew 21:12-16**, when Jesus cleansed the Temple, He declared, ***"It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer"*** v13. Jesus regarded the temple as the house of God, even calling it 'My house', as He was God in the flesh!

- God's house is to be a place of prayer!

After Jesus cleansed the temple, ***"Then the blind and lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them"*** Matt.21:14.

- There is healing in God's house!

Jesus is the Builder of the house

Hebrews 3:1-6 is speaking of Jesus the apostle and the builder of the house of God.

In verse **3**, Jesus is referred to ***"as He who built the house"***.

We are the house!

Hebrews 3:6, the house belongs to Christ, ***"but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are"***. Not only is Christ the owner of the house but **we, His people, are the house!**

The house is the church!

In **1 Timothy 3:15** Paul the apostle is writing to Timothy and says, ***"I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth"***.

- The house of God is the church of the living God
- We need to know how to conduct ourselves in the house of God, which is the church
- The house of God which is the church of the living God is the place where truth is found: the truth concerning God! ***"God was manifested in the flesh!"*** 1Tim.3:16.

There are many rooms in the house!

Jesus said in **John 14:2** ***"In My Father's house are many dwelling places"***.

- There are places to dwell, in God's house!

Jesus prepared the dwelling place!

"I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also" Jn.14:3.

- Jesus went to the cross so that we could be cleansed of sin, and He could come and dwell in us by the Spirit.

- ➔ **The house of God is the church of the living God,**
- ➔ **we are the house!**

It is a spiritual house!

"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house" 1 Peter 2:5.

- We are the living stones being built together as the spiritual house of God.

The house of God is the dwelling place of God in the earth.

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 6:16b *"As God has said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them, I will be their God and they shall be My people'"*.

God is intent on establishing His dwelling place in the earth with men: *"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God" Rev.21:3.*

Jesus is the eternal High Priest of His house

- *"and having a High Priest over the house of God" (Hebrews 10:21)*

Who is building the house?

Jesus said to Peter, *"on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" Matt.16:18.*

- Jesus is building His house in the earth!
- The church is His house!

- The church is built on the revelation of who Jesus is: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt.16:16).*

How is the house being built?

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 3:11.

- The foundation of the house is Jesus Christ.

"Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets" Ephesians 2:20.

- Apostles and prophets build on the foundation by bringing the revelation of who Jesus is.

"Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" Eph.2:20.

- The house is being built into the cornerstone, who is Jesus Christ.
- The church is growing into *"a holy temple in the Lord" (v21)* for God to indwell.

"In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" Eph.2:22.

The house of God, which is the church of the living God, is also the body of Christ!

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" 1 Corinthians 12:12.

- the church, the house of God, is made up of many members

Christ is the head of His body

"Christ is head of the church" Eph.5:23

"He [Christ] is the Head of the body, the church" Colossians 1:18.

- The church, the house of God, is being built up into Christ, who is the Head!

We are the dwelling place of God, individually and corporately.

- Individually, the believer's body is *"the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God" 1Cor.6:19.*
- Corporately we are called *"the temple of the living God" 2Cor.6:16.*

God's people are to dwell with Him in His house!

➤ *"I will dwell in the house of YAHWEH forever" (Psalm 23:6b)*

➤ *"One thing I have desired of YAHWEH that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of YAHWEH all the days of my life" (Psalm 27:4)*

God's house will be built in the earth that He might *"take pleasure in it and be glorified"* (Haggai 1:8)

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