

Where Was God During Yeshua's Day?

A Look into the Tabernacle and Temple Sanctity

Slide 1:

- Welcome
- Explain issue in the Second Temple today
 - People argue God was not present in the Second Temple
 - Christian Scholars in particular
 - By doing this, many try to discredit the Temple system
 - Yeshua did away with it
- I want to present both sides, helps gain understanding.
- I believe the opposite; that God was in the Second Temple and that he commanded the building thereof.
 - There are examples where he left the Temple (we will discuss.)
- I will lay out my case and leave you to decide.

Slide 2:

- N. T. Wright, (Anglican Archbishop) writes:
 - "Israel's God had not yet returned to Zion. Nowhere in the so called postexilic literature is there any passage corresponding to 1 Kings 8:10, according to which, when Solomon's temple had been finished, 'a cloud filled the house of Yahweh, so that priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of Yahweh filled the house of Yahweh.'"

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- 1 Kings 8:10-11
 - ¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

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- Similarly, Carol Kaminski writes,
 - “Yet when the Temple is dedicated under Zerubbabel and Joshua (Ezra 6:13-18), there is no indication that God’s glory filled it...There is no sign that God’s glorious presence ever returns to the rebuilt Temple.”

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- Ezra 6:13-15
 - ¹³ Then Tattenai, governor of *the region* beyond the River, Shethar-Boznai, and their companions diligently did according to what King Darius had sent. ¹⁴ So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished *it*, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the ^[e]command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. ¹⁵ Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

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- Ezra 6:16-18
 - ¹⁶ Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this ^[f]house of God with joy. ¹⁷ And they offered sacrifices at the dedication of this house of God, one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸ They assigned the priests to their divisions and the Levites to their divisions, over the service of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.
 - To their point, there is no glory cloud or anything to suggest God’s appearance in the Temple.
 - There was no Ark, the Mishna states that they used the “Foundation Stone” to lay their censor on during Yom Kippur.
- Views like this are held widely in Christianity and some in Hebrew Roots, some to discount the use of a Temple or the significance of one.

Slide 7:

- Explain Temple Chart

- What did people believe in the First Century?

Slide 8: Temple

- Not all Jews believed the same in the first century, no uniformity of belief (Essenes, Sadducees, Pharisees)
 - The Essenes had issues with the Temple, (the priesthood being bought, all the Sadducees were Jewish), many believed it was defiled.
- The absence of the glory cloud or God's manifestation did not discourage Jews. Most still believed God dwelled there.
 - Nationalistic zeal, pilgrimage and sacrifice show this fact

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- 3 Maccabees 2:15-16 shows this
 - ¹⁵For your dwelling is the heaven of heavens, unapproachable by human beings. ¹⁶But because you graciously bestowed your glory on your people Israel, you sanctified this place. (The Temple)

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- Along with 2 Maccabees 3:38-39
 - ³⁹For he who has his dwelling in heaven watches over that place himself and brings it aid, and he strikes and destroys those who come to do it injury.”
- Josephus also writes in Antiquities about multiple omens and miracles after the destruction of the second temple.
 - i.e. earthquakes, angelic beings, voices in the cloud, etc. (Ant. 3.215)
- Half of the sources which speak of God no longer being in the Temple attribute it to Israel's sin.

- How does God manifest himself throughout the Bible?

Slide 11: Glory Cloud

- God walking through the Garden, Adam and Eve hid from the “presence” of God. (Gen. 3:8)
- As a torch passing between the sacrifices of Abram (Gen. 15:17)
- As an Angel, someone sent with authority.
- The Burning Bush.
- We especially see him as the Cloud by night and Fire by day that followed Israel as they wandered. (Exo. 13:21)
- The Glory Cloud/Fire especially shows God can dwell and be wherever he wants without any “house.”
- There are many more examples of Him dwelling or his presence being upon a place.

Slide 12: What Does The Bible Say?

- Now that I have laid the foundations for what the Jews believe and how God manifests himself, what does the Bible say?

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- Very important to remember Luke 1:8-9
 - 8 So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.
 - It says he “ministered before God.” How can he?

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- What does Yeshua himself say on the matter? John 2:13-17
 - ¹³ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers ^[b]doing business. ¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables.

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- ¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house ^[c]has eaten Me up.”
 - “Make not my Father’s house an House of merchandise.”

Slide 16:

- Matthew 23:21
 - ²¹ He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who ^[k]dwells in it.

Slide 17:

- “Dwells” is Strong’s 2730 “**katoikeó**”, to house permanently, reside (literally or figuratively), dwell, inhabit.
- The first use speaks of when Joseph “dwelled” in Nazareth (Matt. 2:23)
- Sources show that people in the first century (and even Yeshua), believed God dwelled in the Second Temple.

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- Ezra 5:1-5, wait
 - Established there was no glory cloud in the 2nd Temple
 - If so, why did they build the temple? Read Ezra 5
- Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who *were* in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, *who was* over them. ² So Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of ^[a]Jozadak rose up and began to build the house of God which *is* in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God *were* with them, helping them. ³ At the same time Tattenai the governor of *the region* beyond ^[b]the River and Shethar-Boznai and their companions came to them and spoke thus to them: “Who has commanded you to build this ^[c]temple and finish this wall?”

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- ⁴ Then, accordingly, we told them the names of the men who were constructing this building. ⁵ But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, so that they could not make them cease till a report could go to Darius. Then a written answer was returned concerning this *matter*.

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- Haggai 1:2-8, Haggai says this on the matter.
 - ²“Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘This people says, “The time has not come, the time that the LORD’s house should be built.” ’ ”³ Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ⁴“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this ^[a]temple to lie in ruins?” ⁵ Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!

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- ⁶“You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.” ⁷ Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways! ⁸ Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the ^[a]temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,” says the LORD.
 - God commanded it. Why would he if he was not going to dwell within?

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- Zechariah 1:16, similarly Zechariah says this:
 - ¹⁶ Therefore thus says the LORD: “I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,” says the LORD of hosts, “And a surveyor’s line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem.”
 - Another example of God commanding it.

Slide 23:

- How does God dwell in the Tabernacle/First Temple comparatively?
- It does not seem like the Glory Cloud constantly accompanied the Temple, nor the Tabernacle. God’s presence in Israel is a conditional covenant, so to speak.

Slide 24:

- Duet. 31:17-18

- ¹⁷ Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be ^[c]devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, ‘Have not these evils come upon us because our God *is* not among us?’ ¹⁸ And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.
 - He hides his face when they turn away from them.
 - God also draws back his presence, his “hand” from our lives if we attempt to walk away. He also does this with Israel.
 - God has done this many times in the Bible, during Samuel’s youth (Eli the Priest.)

Slide 25:

- Psalm 78:56-61
 - Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God,
And did not keep His testimonies,
⁵⁷ But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers;
They were turned aside like a deceitful bow.
⁵⁸ For they provoked Him to anger with their high places,
And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images.
⁵⁹ When God heard *this*, He was furious,
And greatly abhorred Israel,
⁶⁰ So that He **forsook** the tabernacle of Shiloh,
The tent He had placed among men,
⁶¹ And delivered His strength into captivity,
And His glory into the enemy’s hand.

Slide 26:

- “forsook” (Str. 5203) to leave, forsake, permit
- I do not believe the Ark is required for God to dwell.
 - The Tabernacle spent long periods of time without the Ark.

Slide 27:

- 1 Samuel 7:1-2
 - Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. ² So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long

time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

- All this occurred because Israel forsook God in a war with the Philistines.
- Later, David brings it to Jerusalem; it was never taken to the Temple.
- God seems to have no issue.

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- 1st Chronicles 21:28-30
 - ²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there. ²⁹ For the tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, *were* at that time at the high place in Gibeon. ³⁰ But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.
 - God was dwelling in the Tabernacle without the Ark.

Slide 29: Temple

- Different: In scripture, God constantly reaffirms he is with someone on in an area with miracles.
 - Abraham, Jacob, Wilderness, Tabernacle, both Temples.
 - He does this especially with Gabriel in the Temple to Zacharias.
 - One reason why the Temple sight has always been a connection between God and his people.
 - Side note: Kings in the ancient near east would dedicate Temples to their gods after becoming king/battles won, wars, etc.
 - One reason why David wanted to build a Temple for God.
 - He disliked that God was dwelling in a tent when he had a house of his own.
- **The Transition Between Temples**
- Each Tabernacle/Temple sees less and less miracles.
 - Most stark contrast between first and second Temple.
- Ezekiel especially makes the transition between Temple and no Temple.
 - The first 11 chapters reaffirm God can be with his people without a Temple.

Slide 30:

- Ezekiel 11:16-17

- ¹⁶Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Although I have cast them far off among the Gentiles, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet I shall be a little ^[d]sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone." ' ¹⁷Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel."
 - Ezekiel is showing that God's presence would follow them into the countries.
 - I believe this is why we see fewer miracles in the Second Temple.
 - This principle of God's presence versus his glory carried over into the Second Temple.
 - This is where we are also at today, with not necessarily having God's glory physically, but his presence.

Slide 31:

- **Why Does This Matter? (Why do we need a Temple?)**
- Most of the Christian world has no regard for the Temple. One of the most avoided subjects in Christianity and somewhat in Hebrew Roots.
 - Some even believe the third Temple will be an abomination.
 - That Yeshua did away with the Temple.
 - All are untrue.
- The whole purpose for the Temple is for God to dwell with us.
 - (Much of this comes from Rico Cortez and Joe Good.)
 - In the Millennial Kingdom, you do not hear about a Temple.

Slide 32:

- Revelation 21:22
 - ²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
 - In the Millennial Kingdom with New Jerusalem, the world will be an Eden again.
 - Eden was the first tabernacle where God dwelled with humanity.
 - Humanity corrupted it, we failed.
 - However, God still desires to dwell with us, why we have the Temple.
- Out of the 613 commandments (rabbinical), 217 of them are about temple services. (over two thirds. It's a big deal.)
- God wants and desires to dwell with us, Israel who turned away and sacrificed to idols.
- Ezekiel 43 justifies much of what I'm saying

Slide 33:

- Ezekiel 43:5-7
 - ⁵The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the ^[c]temple. ⁶Then I heard *Him* speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. ⁷And He said to me, “Son of man, *this is* the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their ^[d]harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.
- This is speaking of the third Temple.
 - If the Temple will be an abomination, why would God’s Glory fill it?
 - God’s desire is to dwell with his creation; the Temple is a gateway for this.
 - We must educate ourselves on this subject.

Slide 34:

- ¹⁰“Son of man, describe the ^[e]temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. ¹¹And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the ^[f]temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write *it* down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. ¹²This *is* the law of the ^[g]temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop *is* most holy. Behold, this *is* the law of the temple.
- God commands us to learn about his Temple, His House.
 - If we discount the importance of His House, we discount His importance.
 - We also disobey one of His commandments.
 - “This is the LAW of the Temple.”
 - This is our Law as a Kingdom of Priests.

Slide 35: Chart

- Hopefully now this timeline makes more sense in its explanation.

Slide 36:

- Closing Remarks

- Whether or not God was in the Temple during Yeshua's day is your choice.
 - But I do believe it is clear he dwelled there for a time.
- I highly recommend each of you study out this topic further.
 - It is the only way we grow in knowledge and truth.
 - It is also a pivotal point to being part of God's chosen people.

Slide 37:

- This reminds me of Acts 17:10-11
 - ¹⁰Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more ^[d]fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.
 - We all should imitate these Bereans who searched out the Word.
 - Teaching and presenting truly is one of the best ways to grow in knowledge.

Slide 38:

- Comments/Questions