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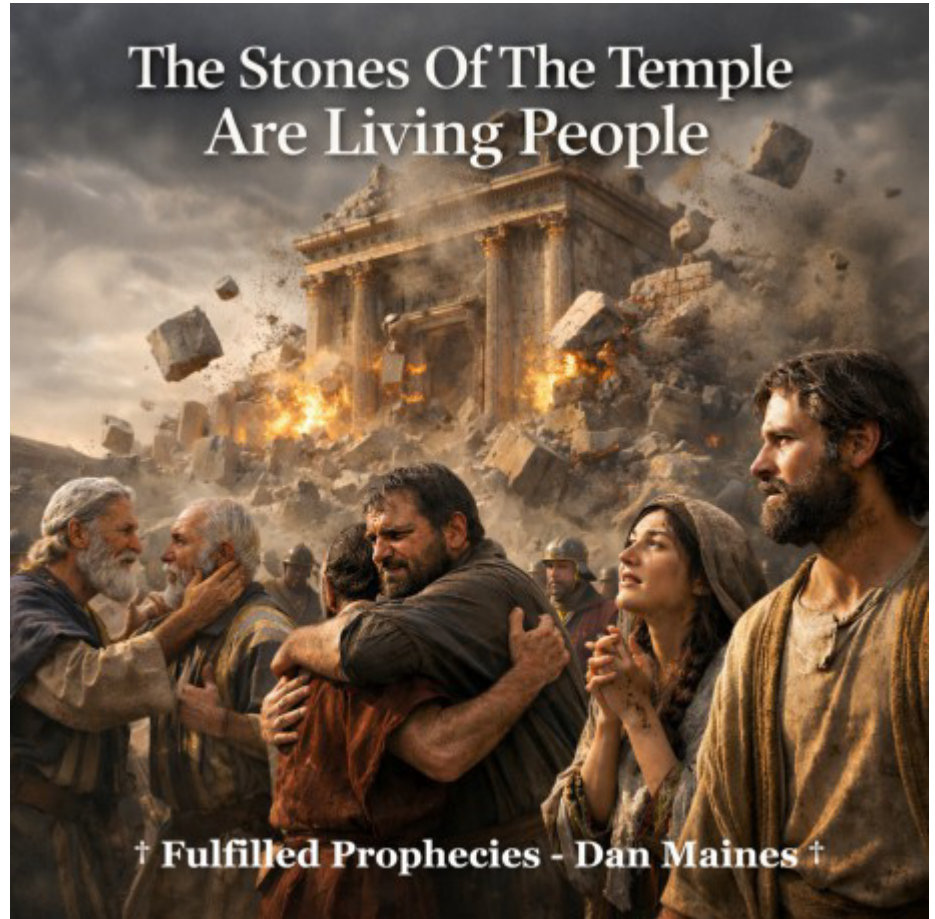
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**Temple - The
Stones Of The
Temple Are Living
People**



By Dan Maines

The Stones Of The Temple Are Living People

Introduction

† The whole argument stands or falls on what the temple really was, and Jesus made it clear that what men saw in stone was not the final reality (Matthew 24:1-2)

† Peter confirms that the true structure of God was never physical stone, it was people being built together by God (1

Peter 2:5)

† When the physical stones fell in AD 70, it did not destroy God's dwelling, it proved it was already complete in Christ (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Matthew 24:2

Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.

† Jesus directly prophesied the total destruction of the physical temple, not partial, not symbolic, but complete removal (Matthew 24:2)

† This means the old covenant structure tied to that temple was coming to an end, because that building represented the covenant system (Hebrews 8:13)

† If God still needed that physical temple, Jesus would not have declared its complete destruction, but He did because something greater was already in place (John 4:21-24)

1 Peter 2:5

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

† Peter identifies believers as the actual stones of God's house, not symbolic in a weak sense, but the true fulfillment of what the temple pointed to (1 Peter 2:5)

† This shows the temple was never about dead stone, it was always pointing forward to a living structure made of people in Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

† The spiritual house was already being built in the first century, meaning the replacement was not future, it was present before

the physical temple fell (Ephesians 2:21-22)

1 Peter 2:6-7

For this is contained in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in Him will not be put to shame. This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very cornerstone.

† Christ is the cornerstone of the entire structure, meaning the temple is defined by Him, not by physical stones (1 Peter 2:6-7)

† The builders rejecting the stone shows Israel rejected the true foundation while clinging to the physical building (Matthew 21:42)

† Once the cornerstone is set, everything else is built in relation to Him, proving the temple is a living structure centered in Christ (Ephesians 2:20)

John 2:19-21

Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. The Jews then said, It took forty-six years to build this temple, and yet You will raise it up in three days? But He was speaking about the temple of His body.

† Jesus declared Himself to be the true temple, showing the shift from a building to a person had already begun (John 2:19-21)

† The physical temple was still standing when He said this, proving the replacement was already in motion before AD 70 (John 2:20)

† His resurrection established the new temple reality, making the old one obsolete (Romans 6:4)

Acts 7:48-50

However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: Heaven is My throne, and the earth is the footstool of My feet; what kind of house will you build for Me? says the Lord, Or what place is there for My rest? Was it not My hand that made all these things?

† Stephen confirms God does not dwell in man-made structures, directly confronting the temple-centered mindset (Acts 7:48)

† This statement was made before the destruction of the temple, proving the issue was already settled spiritually (Acts 7:48-50)

† This is why the old system had to be removed, because it no longer represented where God dwells (Isaiah 66:1-2)

Matthew 27:50-51

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

† God tore the veil from top to bottom, showing He Himself removed the barrier of the physical temple (Matthew 27:51)

† This proved access to God was no longer through that building, but through Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20)

† The temple was still standing, yet God had already departed from its system (Matthew 23:38)

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom

the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

† Paul confirms the same truth, the temple is people being built together, not a future building, but a present reality in Christ (Ephesians 2:19-22)

† The foundation was already laid in the first century, proving the temple was in progress and nearing completion before AD 70 (1 Corinthians 3:10-11)

† This is why the destruction of Jerusalem did not end God's dwelling, it revealed the true temple had already been established (Hebrews 12:22-24)

Hebrews 8:13

When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

† The old system tied to the physical temple was already fading when this was written, meaning its destruction was imminent (Hebrews 8:13)

† This connects directly to Matthew 24:2, what was about to vanish physically was already obsolete spiritually (Hebrews 10:1)

† The timing proves the transition was first century, not thousands of years later (Hebrews 1:2)

Hebrews 9:11

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things having come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made by hands, that is, not of this creation.

† The true tabernacle is not part of this physical creation, proving the temple of God is not a physical structure (Hebrews 9:11)

† This confirms the living temple is a spiritual reality established in Christ, not something rebuilt on earth (Hebrews 9:24)

† The contrast between made with hands and not made with hands shows two completely different systems (2 Corinthians 5:1)

Daniel 9:26

Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

† Daniel prophesied the destruction of the city and sanctuary, directly tying to Jesus' words in Matthew 24:2 (Daniel 9:26)

† This locks the fulfillment into the first century, not a distant future (Luke 21:20-22)

† The same event Jesus warned about was already foretold, showing consistency across scripture (Daniel 9:26)

Jeremiah 3:16

It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land, declares the Lord, they will no longer say, The ark of the covenant of the Lord. And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss it, nor will it be made again.

† Jeremiah shows the physical system would pass away completely, not be rebuilt or restored (Jeremiah 3:16)

† The ark, central to the temple system, would no longer even be remembered, proving total transition (Hebrews 9:4)

† This confirms the shift away from physical elements to a greater spiritual reality (Colossians 2:17)

Zechariah 6:12-13

Then say to him, Thus says the Lord of hosts, Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.

† Christ is the one who builds the true temple, not men constructing a physical building (Zechariah 6:12-13)

† This temple is tied to His reign, not a location on earth (Acts 2:30-33)

† This connects directly to the living stones being built together in Him (1 Peter 2:5)

Historical References

† Josephus records that not one stone of the temple was left upon another, fulfilling Jesus' exact words in AD 70 (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 7.1)

† He also describes how the fire melted the gold, causing the Romans to tear apart every stone to retrieve it, leaving nothing intact, exactly as Jesus said (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6.5)

† Eusebius confirms the destruction of Jerusalem as the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy against the temple (Eusebius,

Ecclesiastical History, Book 3)

† Tacitus also records the complete devastation of the temple and city, aligning with the biblical account (Tacitus, Histories 5.13)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We are not waiting for a temple to be rebuilt, we are the temple right now in Christ (1 Corinthians 3:16)

† Our identity is not tied to a building or location, but to being built together as God's dwelling (Ephesians 2:22)

† The destruction of the physical temple proves the old system is gone, and we are fully in the completed kingdom today (Hebrews 12:28)

† Understanding this frees us from looking to earthly systems and anchors us in the finished work of Christ (Colossians 2:17)

Q & A Appendix

Q If the temple was destroyed, where does God dwell now

A God dwells in His people as His temple, as shown in Ephesians 2:21-22 and 1 Corinthians 3:16

Q Why did Jesus say not one stone would be left

A Because the physical system was ending completely, fulfilling the transition from old covenant to new, as seen in Matthew 24:2 and Hebrews 8:13

Q Are the living stones symbolic or literal

A They are literal people, the true fulfillment of the temple, as clearly taught in 1 Peter 2:5

Q Does this mean there is no future temple

A Correct, the temple is already complete in Christ, and believers are that temple, as shown in Ephesians 2:19-22

Q Why do people still expect a future temple

A Because they are still thinking in physical terms instead of understanding the spiritual fulfillment shown in 1 Peter 2:5 and Ephesians 2:21-22

Q If the temple is people, why was the physical one destroyed

A Because it had served its purpose as a shadow, and once the reality came in Christ, the shadow was removed, as shown in Hebrews 10:1

Q What about prophecies that seem to describe a future temple

A They are fulfilled in Christ and His body, the true temple, as shown in Ephesians 2:21-22 and Hebrews 9:11

Q If we are the temple, what happened to God's presence in the old temple

A God's presence left that system before its destruction, shown by the veil being torn and Jesus declaring it desolate, as seen in Matthew 27:50-51 and Matthew 23:38

Q Why did God allow the temple to be destroyed if it was important

A Because it had fulfilled its purpose as a shadow, and once the reality came in Christ, it was no longer needed, as shown in Hebrews 10:1

Q Does the Bible ever say God would stop dwelling in temples made with hands

A Yes, Acts 7:48-50 clearly states that the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands

Q How do we know the temple is not future

A Because the apostles said it was already being built in their

time, as shown in Ephesians 2:21-22 and 1 Peter 2:5

Q What replaced the priesthood of the temple

A Believers are now the priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices through Christ, as shown in 1 Peter 2:5

Q If the temple is spiritual, does that mean it is not real

A No, it is more real, it is the true fulfillment, while the physical temple was only a shadow, as shown in Colossians 2:17

Q Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem if the temple was going away

A Because judgment was coming on that system, and they rejected the true temple, which is Christ, as seen in Luke 19:41-44

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Matthew 24:2; 1 Peter 2:5-7; John 2:19-21; Acts 7:48-50; Matthew 27:50-51; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:11; Daniel 9:26; Jeremiah 3:16; Zechariah 6:12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Hebrews 12:22-24; Colossians 2:17

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6.5; Book 7.1; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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