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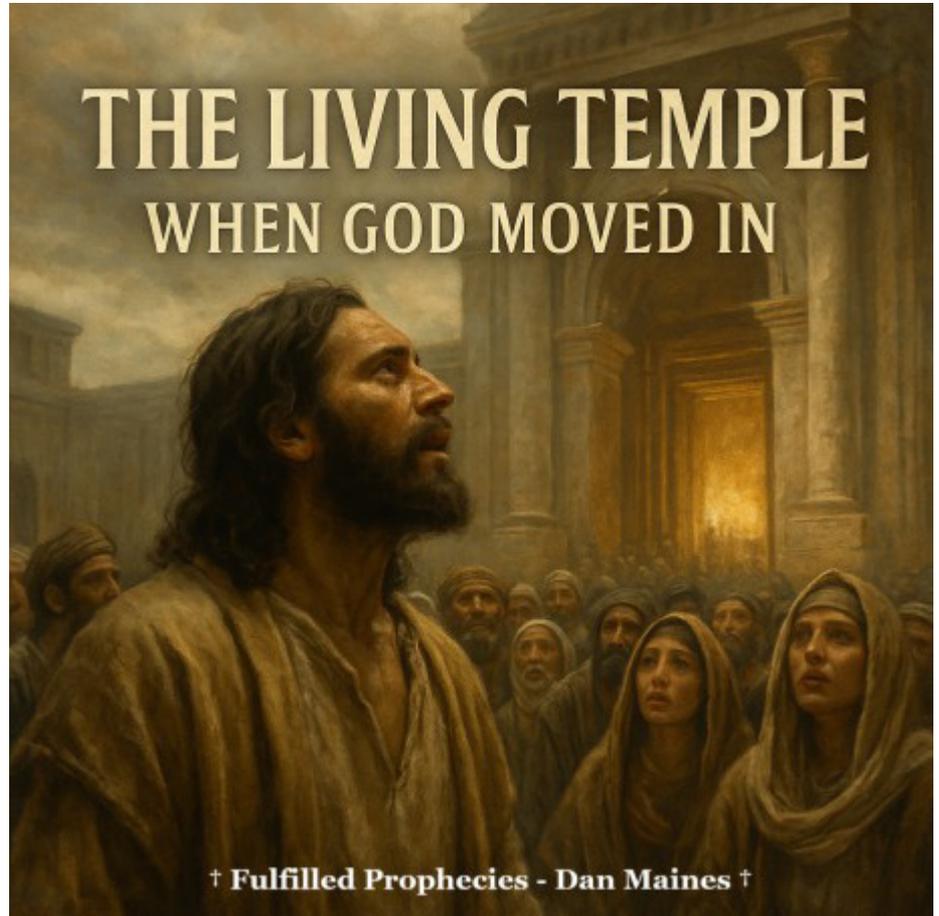
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Temple - The Living Temple: When God Moved In



By Dan Maines

The Living Temple: When God Moved In

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 will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

† Jesus revealed that the true temple was not made with stones but with life. His body replaced the structure in Jerusalem as the dwelling of God.

† When He said "destroy this temple," He foretold both His death and the end of the old covenant system.

† His resurrection after three days became the cornerstone of a new and living temple.

† The presence of God moved from physical walls to a spiritual body composed of believers in Christ.

Matthew 23:38-39

Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

† Jesus declared the temple desolate before His crucifixion, showing God's presence had already departed from the physical house.

† The "house" referred to was not merely a building but the entire covenant structure that was about to fall.

† The blessing of His coming would be revealed in judgment and fulfillment, when the true temple would stand forever.

† The empty temple became a sign that God had moved His dwelling into His people.

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, 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 corner stone, 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 describes the new temple as the household of God, the Church built on Christ as the cornerstone.

† The foundation laid by the apostles and prophets represents the teaching of truth that holds the structure together.

† The temple grows continually, not by human hands, but through the work of the Spirit indwelling believers.

† God's dwelling is now within His people, not in a building of stone, fulfilling what Jesus declared.

1 Peter 2:4-6

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

† Peter affirms the same truth, believers are living stones in a spiritual temple.

† The priesthood is no longer limited to Levites; every believer now offers spiritual sacrifices of praise and truth.

† The rejection of the living stone by Israel marked the end of the old temple order.

† God replaced the shadow with the substance, and His Spirit filled the new temple made of redeemed lives.

Revelation 21:2-3

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them."

† The new Jerusalem represents the completed temple, the union of God and His people.

† "The tabernacle of God is among men" fulfills every promise of His presence dwelling within humanity.

† The destruction of the old Jerusalem in AD 70 confirmed that this new dwelling had fully come.

† God now lives forever in His completed house, the Church, His eternal habitation.

2 Corinthians 6:16

For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

† Paul quotes from the prophets to show that God's dwelling place was always meant to be within His people.

† The covenant promise is now realized, the Creator walks within His creation.

† The Church is not waiting to become the temple; we are that temple, filled with His Spirit now.

† This is the everlasting home of God, living, breathing, eternal.

How it applies to us today

† We are the temple where heaven and earth meet, the dwelling of God by His Spirit.

† The glory that once filled Solomon's temple now fills every believer in Christ.

† There is no veil, no barrier, no distance, the presence of God abides continually in His people.

† The living temple cannot fall, for its foundation is Christ Himself.

† God has moved in, and He will never move out.

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

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Source Index

† John 2:19-21; Matthew 23:38-39; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-6; Revelation 21:2-3; 2 Corinthians 6:16

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 41-42

† Athanasius, On the Incarnation, ch. 40

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