

Rebuilt Temple?

Some believe that there will be a rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem before the 2nd Advent. The most commonly used verse of Scripture used to support such a view is 2nd Thessalonians 2:4 (“...so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”). Let’s look at the other verses of Scripture that refer to the “*temple of God*”.

First look at the references for the phrase “*temple of God*”. These are found in First Corinthians 3:16-17, Second Corinthians 6:16, Second Thessalonians 2:4, and Revelation 11:1.

1st Corinthians 3:16-17: “Know ye not that ye are the **temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the **temple of God**, him shall God destroy; for the **temple of God** is holy, which temple ye are”. We are plainly told that the Holy Spirit resides inside of the bodies of saved individuals, not a literal block-and-stone temple at Jerusalem. The new covenant of salvation in Christ’s blood did away with the old way of animal sacrifices for sins. God rent the “*veil of the temple*” in two (Matthew 27:51) at the crucifixion showing that the old way was done away with in the person of Christ.

2nd Corinthians 6:16: “And what agreement hath the **temple of God** with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, **I will dwell IN them**, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people”. Again, we are plainly told that Christians are the “*temple of God*,” not a block-and-stone temple.

2nd Thessalonians 2:4: “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the **temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God.” The word “*sitteth*” can mean “dwelling among”. It is used much the same way as in “the judge presided/sat over the court” or “the proctor sat over the exam”. See this same thing demonstrated in Revelation 7:15 (“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them”).

Revelation 11:1: “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the **temple of God**, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” Notice that John never does measure the temple. **Why?** Because he can’t! How can you measure something that is alive and made up of saved people? The “*temple*” John is told to measure is made up of believers, not a literal block-and-stone temple!

The word used for “*temple*” (Greek-“*naos*”) in II Thessalonians 2:4 and Revelation 11:1 is **NOT** the same word for a block-and-stone temple (“*hieron*” vs “*naos*”). “*Hieron*” (Greek) is used when referring to the block-and-stone temple (a sacred place, temple at Jerusalem), whereas “*naos*” (Greek) is used when referring to the body of believers who make up the temple (the sanctuary/holy place itself), not to the literal block-and-stone temple at Jerusalem.

Now look at **John 2:18-21**: “Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **But he spake of the temple of his body.**”

Now we are plainly told that believers make up the “*temple of God*” and that believers belong to the “*body of Christ*”.

1st Corinthians 12:27: “Now ye are the **body of Christ**, and members in particular.”

Ephesians 4:12—“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the *body of Christ*”.

And again we are told that believers not only make up the “*temple of God*” and the “*body of Christ*”, but they are also called the “*one body*”.

Romans 12:5—“So we, being many, are **one body** in Christ, and every one members one of another.”

1st Corinthians 10:17—“For we being many are one bread, and **one body**: for we are all partakers of that one bread.”

1st Corinthians 12:12-13: “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that **one body**, being many, are **one body**: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

Colossians 3:15—“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in **one body**...”.

We are told that the “*body*” that believers belong to is a “*spiritual body*”, not a block-and-stone temple.

1st Corinthians 10:4—“And did all drink the same **spiritual** drink: for they drank of that **spiritual** Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

1st Corinthians 15:44—“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **spiritual** body. There is a natural body, and there is a **spiritual** body.”

1st Peter 2:5—“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **spiritual** house, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual** sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” Again, the “*spiritual house*” is the “*temple of God*”, not a stone-and-block temple in Jerusalem. There isn’t going to be any rebuilt temple at Jerusalem as many prophecy teachers have taught.

Acts 7:48—“Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in **temples** made with hands”. **Where does God dwell? In believers!** Colossians 1:26-27 says “*Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ IN you, the hope of glory*”.

Acts 17:24—“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands”. The Lord dwells **IN** believers, not a block-and-stone temple, whether rebuilt or not!

Hebrews 9:11—“But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building”.

We are also told to offer “*spiritual sacrifices*” to God as believers.

Romans 12:1-*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living **sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

Ephesians 5:19-20: *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”.*

Philippians 2:17-*“Yea, and if I be offered upon the **sacrifice** and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all”.*

Philippians 4:18-*“But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a **sacrifice** acceptable, wellpleasing to God.”*

Hebrews 13:15-16: *“By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice** of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such **sacrifices** God is well pleased.*

1st Peter 2:5-*“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual **sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

Will there be a rebuilt temple at Jerusalem before the 2nd Coming? No way! Would God allow the Jews to rebuild a temple for the purpose of offering animal sacrifices for sin? Absolutely not! Our sins were paid for by the blood of Christ. We no longer have to go through temple sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins. Would God reverse His economy of salvation and allow the Jews to go back to offering animal sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins? Of course not! Therefore the references to the “*temple of God*” and the “*sacrifice*” that the antichrist causes to cease are not to a literal block-and-stone temple at Jerusalem.

So what does 2nd Thessalonians 2:4 mean? It means that the antichrist, after receiving his deadly head wound (Revelation 13:3, 12, and 14), will be empowered by Satan (Revelation 13:1-4), exalt and show “*himself that he is God*” (2nd Thessalonians 2:4), and **SIT** (or dwell) among the believers, causing them to be killed if they refuse to worship him as God via his “*image*”. The believers in Revelation 6:9-11 are those who get saved **AFTER** the Rapture has already taken place. These believers will be persecuted and caused to be killed (Revelation 6:9-11 and Revelation 13:15). They will refuse to worship him and take his “*mark*” of allegiance (Revelation 12:11).

Daniel 9:27-*“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: **and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”***

The antichrist will cause the “*sacrifice and the oblation to cease*”. **The sacrifices of believers are clearly referenced in Romans 12:1, Philippians 2:17, Philippians 4:18, Hebrews 13:15-16, and 1st Peter 2:5, which we studied above.** The word “*oblation*” is the act of making an offering to God through a sacrifice.

The antichrist will make the “*sacrifice and oblation to cease*” by causing believers (who previously missed the Rapture) to be **KILLED**. Notice what **Daniel 9:26** says “*...and unto the end of the war desolations are determined*”. “*Desolations*” are killings, resulting in no believers being left alive!

Daniel 9:27 says that the antichrist will cause an “overspreading of abominations” and make the “sanctuary” (verse 26) “desolate”. The believers themselves are the “temple of God” **and** the “sanctuary”! They refuse to worship the antichrist and are therefore killed, resulting in desolation. That is how the antichrist causes the “sacrifice and oblations to cease”. By killing the Christians!

Daniel 7:21-“*I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them*”.

Daniel 7:25-“*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*”

Revelation 13:7-“*And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*”

The antichrist will completely wipe out all believers. This explains Christ's statement in Luke 18:8 (“*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth*”)? **The answer is NO.** Jesus won't find faith on the earth when He returns because the antichrist will have caused all the believers (truly saved Christians) to have been killed!