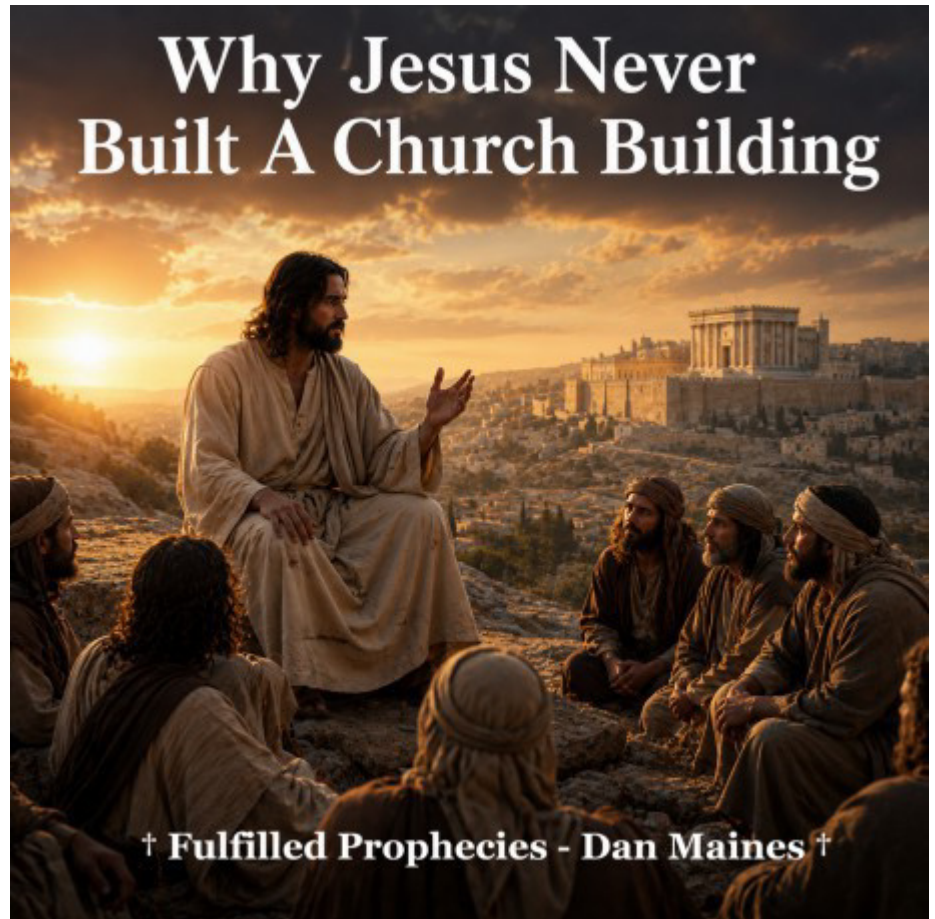


Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#) > [W](#) > [Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Why Jesus Never Built A Church Building



By Dan Maines

Why Jesus Never Built A Church Building

Introduction

† From the very beginning of Scripture, God's dwelling place was never meant to remain in one physical location. Throughout history, His holy place continued moving according to His redemptive plan. The Garden gave way to the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle gave way to the Temple, the Temple pointed to Christ, and Christ established His people as God's everlasting dwelling place. The greatest surprise is that Jesus never built a church building because He was building a living temple. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-22)

† Every earthly sanctuary was temporary because it pointed to something greater that was yet to come. (Hebrews 8:5; Hebrews 10:1)

† The New Covenant didn't produce another sacred building. It established a living people in whom God now dwells through Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:22)

Genesis 3:8-9

Now they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

† The Garden was the first place where God dwelt with mankind. (Genesis 3:8)

† Sin interrupted that fellowship, making redemption necessary before God's dwelling with man could be fully restored. (Genesis 3:23-24; Romans 5:12)

† The Garden was the beginning of a story that ultimately finds its fulfillment in Christ dwelling with His people. (John 1:14; Revelation 21:3)

Exodus 25:8-9

Have them construct a sanctuary for Me, so that I may dwell among them. According to all that I am going to show you as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, so you shall construct it.

† God instructed Israel to build the Tabernacle so He could dwell among His covenant people. (Exodus 25:8)

† The Tabernacle was a temporary sanctuary built according to a heavenly pattern. (Hebrews 8:5)

† It pointed beyond itself to the greater dwelling place God would establish through Christ. (Hebrews 9:11; John 1:14)

1 Kings 8:27

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!

† Even Solomon acknowledged that no earthly building could contain the infinite God. (1 Kings 8:27)

† The Temple served God's purpose under the Old Covenant, but it was never God's final dwelling place. (Hebrews 9:8-10)

† The Temple itself pointed forward to the greater reality that would come through the Messiah. (John 2:19-21)

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 that He Himself was the true Temple. (John 2:21)

† The earthly Temple was a shadow, but Christ became the reality to which it pointed. (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:1)

† God's dwelling place was no longer centered in a building but in His Son. (John 1:14; Colossians 2:9)

Matthew 23:37-38

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

† Jesus declared that the Temple was no longer His Father's house but "your house," showing that God had departed from the Old Covenant sanctuary. (Matthew 23:38)

† The desolate Temple stood under judgment because Christ, the true Temple, had come. (John 2:19-21; Matthew 24:1-2)

† The dwelling place of God was no longer centered in Jerusalem's Temple but in His Son. (John 1:14; Colossians 2:9)

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 declared that God does not dwell in temples made with human hands. (Acts 7:48)

† He quoted Isaiah to show that this truth had always been revealed in Scripture. (Isaiah 66:1-2)

† His message exposed the failure of those who continued trusting in the earthly Temple after Christ had come. (Acts 7:51-53; Matthew 23:38)

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

† Paul plainly identifies believers as God's Temple. (1 Corinthians 3:16)

† Under the New Covenant, God's Spirit dwells in His people rather than in a building made with hands. (Ephesians 2:21-22)

† The holy place had moved from stone walls to living believers united in Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Peter 2:5)

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 identifies believers as God's holy Temple under the New Covenant. (Ephesians 2:21-22)

† Christ is the cornerstone, and His people are the living stones of God's spiritual house. (1 Peter 2:5-6)

† God's dwelling place has moved from buildings made with hands to the people redeemed by Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:22)

John 4:21-24

Jesus said to her, "Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true

worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

† Jesus announced the end of worship centered on sacred locations. (John 4:21)

† True worship would no longer depend upon Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim but upon Christ. (John 4:23-24)

† This prepared the way for God's dwelling among His people instead of within an earthly sanctuary. (Ephesians 2:22; Revelation 21:22)

Revelation 21:22

I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

† John's vision reaches the final destination of God's dwelling place. (Revelation 21:22)

† There is no physical Temple because God and the Lamb are now the Temple of His people. (John 2:19-21)

† The movement that began in the Garden reaches its fulfillment in Christ and His redeemed people. (Revelation 21:3; Ephesians 2:21-22)

† The progression is complete: Garden, Tabernacle, Temple, Christ, and finally His Body, where God dwells forever. (Genesis 3:8; Exodus 25:8; John 2:21; Ephesians 2:22; Revelation 21:22)

Historical References

† The Garden, the Tabernacle, and the Temple each served as temporary dwelling places that anticipated the greater reality fulfilled in Christ. (Genesis 3:8; Exodus 25:8; John 2:21)

† Stephen proclaimed that God does not dwell in temples made with hands shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem's Temple in AD 70. (Acts 7:48-50; Luke 21:5-6)

† The New Testament consistently identifies Christ and His people as God's true dwelling place under the New Covenant. (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't travel to a holy building to find God because He now dwells with His people through Christ. (Ephesians 2:22; 2 Corinthians 6:16)

† Every believer is part of the living Temple God is building, founded upon Jesus Christ Himself. (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:20-22)

† Our identity isn't found in a physical sanctuary but in being God's dwelling place through the finished work of Christ. (John 4:21-24; Revelation 21:22)

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why didn't Jesus build a church building?

A: Jesus came to build His church, not a physical sanctuary. His people are the living Temple in whom God now dwells. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:21-22)

Q: Where does God dwell today?

A: God dwells in Christ and in His redeemed people through the Holy Spirit, not in temples made with human hands. (Acts 7:48-50; 2 Corinthians 6:16)

Q: What was the purpose of the Tabernacle and the Temple?

A: They were temporary shadows pointing to Christ, who became the true Temple and established His people as God's dwelling place. (Hebrews 8:5; John 2:19-21)

Q: Why is there no Temple in the New Jerusalem?

A: Because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its Temple, fulfilling everything the earthly Temple foreshadowed. (Revelation 21:22)

Q: Does this mean church buildings are sinful?

A: No. A building can be a useful place for believers to gather, but Scripture never calls it God's Temple. Under the New Covenant, God's dwelling place is His redeemed people in Christ. (Acts 7:48-50; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:21-22)

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

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Genesis 3:8-9, Exodus 25:8-9, 1 Kings 8:27, John 2:19-21, Matthew 23:37-38, Acts 7:48-50, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Ephesians 2:19-22, John 4:21-24, Revelation 21:22

† Moses, Solomon, Isaiah the Prophet, Matthew, Luke, John the Apostle, Stephen, Paul the Apostle

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/2072462830308514/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.