[21]Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. [22]You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. [23]But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. [24]God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:21–24

From the Temple Made with Hands to the Temple *not* Made with Hands

Worshiping in the New Covenant Presence of God

John 4:21–24

God’s Desire to Dwell Among His People

From Genesis to Revelation, the story of the Bible is God’s desire to dwell with His people.

- In Eden, He walked with Adam and Eve.
- In the wilderness, He dwelt in the tabernacle.
- In Jerusalem, He dwelt in the temple.
- And through Jesus Christ, He came to dwell among us in flesh — *Immanuel, God with us.*

But God’s ultimate goal was not to live in a **building** — it was to live in ***a people***.
The temple of stone was a shadow; the temple of believer’s hearts is the reality.

Genesis 2 : 2-3

[2]And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and **He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.** [3]Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Eden as a Temple – God Resting - Dwelling

Psalms 132-7 -14

Let us go into his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool. Arise, O LORD, to your resting place, you and the ark of your might… For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place. (God's Dwelling Place – Temple)

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1 Chronicles 6:41

“Now therefore, Arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, And let Your saints rejoice in goodness.

God Dwelt with Man in Eden – But Sin brought Separation from God

Eden to Tabernacle

Exodus 25:8

“Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”

Exodus 25 describes the **portable dwelling place of God** that Israel was to construct while in the wilderness.

The model of Tabernacle later transferred to Solomon’s Temple

Tabernacle to Temple

The Old Covenant Temple: God's Presence, Yet at a Distance

In the Old Covenant, God's presence was **real but restricted**.

- Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year.
- Worshipers had to bring sacrifices and stand outside the veil.
- The temple represented both **God's nearness** and **human separation**.

It was majestic, but it was **temporary** — a symbol pointing forward to something greater.

Old Covenant Temple
to
New Covenant Temple

Jesus — The True Temple

John 2:19–21

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

Jesus is the true meeting place between God and man.

Jesus was declaring that *He Himself* is the true meeting place between God and man.

- He is the true High Priest.
- He is the true Sacrifice.
- He is the true Presence of God among men.

Jesus is the true High Priest

- **Hebrews 4:14–16** — “We have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God… Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace.”

- **Hebrews 7:23–27** — Jesus, unlike the priests of old, “continues forever” and “offered up Himself once for all.”

- **Hebrews 9:11–12** — “But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ”

2. Jesus is the True Sacrifice

The temple system revolved around continual sacrifices for sin.

But those sacrifices were shadows of the one **perfect sacrifice** that would actually take away sin

- **John 1:29** — “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- **Hebrews 9:26** — “He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”
- **Hebrews 10:10–12** — “We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all… This Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”
- **Ephesians 5:2** — “Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

3. Jesus is the True Presence of God Among Men

In the temple, God's presence dwelt in the Holy of Holies between the cherubim.

In Christ, **God Himself** came to dwell among us in fullness.

- **John 1:14** — "And the Word became flesh and dwelt [literally, *tabernacled*] among us, and we beheld His glory."
- **Colossians 1:19** — "For it pleased the Father that in Him[Jesus Christ] all the fullness should dwell."
- **Colossians 2:9** — "For in Him[Jesus Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

Jesus — The True Temple

When He died, the veil in the temple was torn —as a message:

The old order of separation was ending.

God was opening a new and living way into His presence

Hebrews 10:19–20

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way opened for us through the curtain of His body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God

The Transition — The Old Passes, The New Arrives

Matthew 24:2

“And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

That happened in **AD 70**, when the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed.

God’s visible confirmation that the old covenant system had ended and the new covenant ushered through the work of Lord Jesus Christ

The Transition — The Old Passes, The New Arrives

- The sacrificial system ended because the final Sacrifice had been offered.
- The earthly temple ended because the true Temple — Christ and His Church — had been established.
- God was not abandoning His people — He was moving His dwelling place from stone walls to hearts.

God fulfilled what He promised: **2 Corinthians 6:16**

For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among *them*. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

Jesus Prepares the True Dwelling Place

When Jesus told His disciples in John 14:2-6

"[2]In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so,* I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3]And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also."

We always thought He meant going to heaven to build mansions(KJV) – Greek Word Monae – Room – Dwelling Place

This was Temple Language (In my father's house – John 14 -2-6 ; John 2:16)

Look carefully at what He said later in the same chapter:

John 14:18, 23 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you…
My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Jesus Prepares the True Dwelling Place

So what was the "place" He was preparing?

- It was **a place in the Father's presence** — a way for humanity to dwell with God – *Spiritually*

Through His death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus opened the way into the true Holy of Holies — the household of God.

When He sent the Holy Spirit, that "place" became a **reality within us**.

Jesus Prepares the True Dwelling Place

When the old temple fell, the *Father's house* was no longer one building in Jerusalem — it was a family of believers filled with the Spirit.

We now dwell *with* Christ and *in* Christ, as He dwells *in* us.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

The New Covenant Temple — God’s Spirit in Us

1 Corinthians 3:16

“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

This is the glory of the New Covenant:

God doesn’t live in a building anymore — He lives in His people.

Every believer, every church, every gathering of saints is now **holy ground**.
We don’t go to a temple — we *are* the temple.
We don’t bring sacrifices of animals — we bring **the sacrifice of praise**.

How This Changes Our Worship

1. We worship from within, not from afar
   – No longer do we wait outside of the holy of holies at a distance from the presence of God, but God indwells us - it is not about location anymore, it is about communion

2. We worship in Spirit and truth.
   – Worship isn't about rituals or buildings, but about the Spirit who indwells us and the truth revealed in Chris

3. We worship with confidence.
   – The Old Covenant priest came trembling once a year — but we come boldly to the throne of grace every day.

Final Words

Our worship must flow from the reality that WE are God's dwelling place.

The veil is gone. The sacrifices are complete. The temple has moved

God lives in Us

Eden – Tabernacle – Temple – God's People through Jesus Christ

So let us lift our heart, our voice,

and worship Him, in the fulfilled reality of

His Spirit *in Us* **and in Truth (***i.e. Jesus Christ our Lord***)**