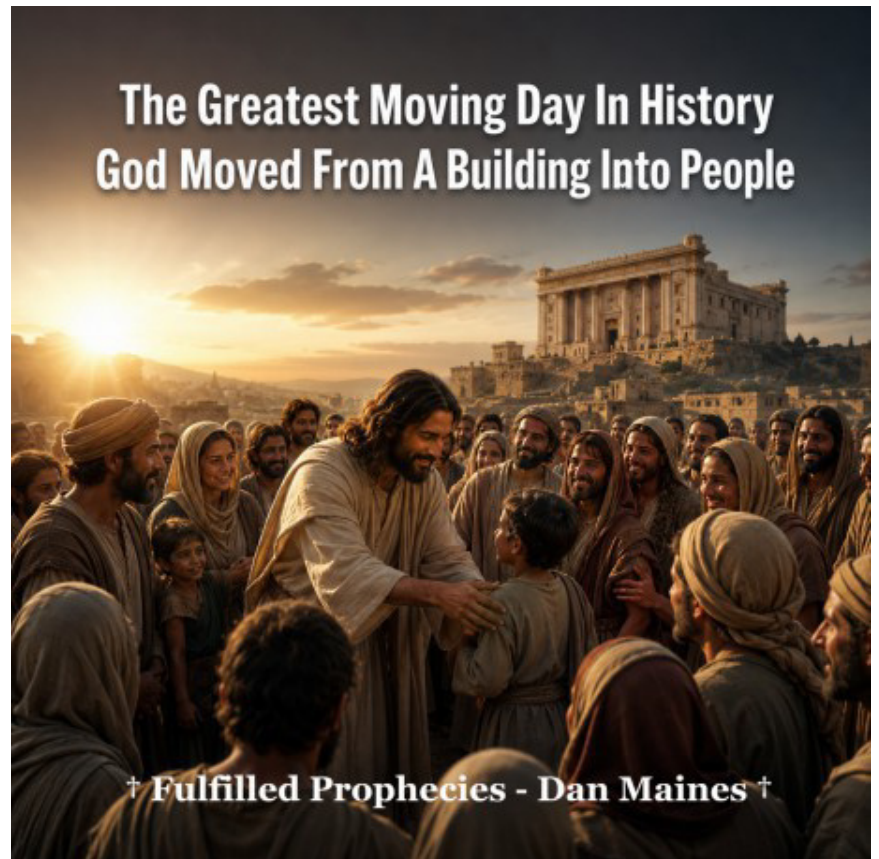


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**Covenant - The Greatest Moving Day In History
God Moved From A Building Into People**



By Dan Maines

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God Moved From A Building Into People**

Introduction

† From the days of Moses until the first century, God's covenant presence was identified with the tabernacle and later the temple in Jerusalem. It was the place where sacrifices were offered, priests ministered, and God's glory dwelt among His covenant people.

† But Jesus came to establish something far greater. He didn't come to renovate the old house, He came to build an entirely new one.

† The greatest moving day in history wasn't when Israel entered Canaan or when Solomon dedicated the temple. It was when God permanently moved His dwelling from a physical building into His redeemed people through the New Covenant.

The Word Became Flesh And Tabernacled Among Us

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us; and we saw His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

† John intentionally uses language that points back to the tabernacle in the wilderness. Jesus became God's dwelling place among His people. (Exodus 25:8; John 2:19-21)

† God's presence was no longer centered in a building of stone, but in the person of Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:9)

† Everything the tabernacle and temple represented was now fulfilled in Christ.

Destroy This Temple

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 redirected attention away from Herod's temple to Himself.

† The true dwelling place of God wasn't made with stones but was standing before them in human flesh. (John 1:14)

† When Christ rose from the dead, the foundation for God's new dwelling was permanently established.

Acts 7:47-50

But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. 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 reminded Israel that even the temple could never contain God. (Isaiah 66:1-2)

† His sermon prepared the way for understanding why God would establish a greater dwelling place through Christ. (John 1:14; Ephesians 2:19-22)

† Stephen's words exposed Israel's dependence on the physical temple instead of the One to whom the temple pointed.

You Are God's Temple

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 no longer points believers toward Jerusalem because they had become God's temple.

† God's covenant presence had moved into His people through Christ.

† This was a present reality while the physical temple was still standing, proving that God was already transitioning away from the Old Covenant system. (Hebrews 8:13)

2 Corinthians 6:16

Or what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

† Paul directly identifies believers as God's temple.

† God's promise to dwell among His people was fulfilled in the New Covenant. (Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:26-27)

† The promise was no longer centered in a building but in the covenant people of Christ.

You Also Are Being Built Together

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 describes believers as living stones being joined together into God's spiritual temple.

† God no longer lived in one geographic location. His dwelling was now His covenant people.

† Jew and Gentile together became one holy temple through Jesus Christ. (Galatians 3:26-29)

You Are Living Stones

1 Peter 2:4-5

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, 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 spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God

through Jesus Christ.

† Peter confirms that believers themselves are God's spiritual house.

† The priesthood, sacrifices, and temple all find their fulfillment in Christ and His people.

† God's house is no longer constructed with dead stones but with living believers.

The Old House Was Ready To Pass Away

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 writer of Hebrews explains that the Old Covenant system was already becoming obsolete.

† God's new dwelling had already been established before the temple's destruction in AD 70.

† When Jerusalem and the temple fell, it publicly confirmed what God had already accomplished through Christ.

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;

† Christ ministers in the greater and perfect tabernacle rather than the earthly sanctuary.

† The earthly temple was only a shadow pointing to the greater reality fulfilled in Christ. (Hebrews 8:5)

† The New Covenant established a better dwelling place than any structure built by human hands.

Historical References

† Josephus records that the temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70 despite Titus initially desiring to preserve it. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapters 4-5)

† Eusebius records that the believers fled Jerusalem before its destruction in obedience to Christ's warning. (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5)

† The destruction of the temple marked the visible end of the Old Covenant sacrificial system exactly as Jesus foretold. (Matthew 24:1-2; Luke 21:20-24)

† Tacitus confirms that the Romans completely destroyed Jerusalem and its temple during the Jewish War. (Tacitus, Histories, Book 5, Chapters 11-13)

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't travel to a holy building because God dwells with His people wherever they gather.

† Every believer has direct access to the Father through Jesus Christ.

† We are called to live as God's holy temple because His presence now dwells within His people.

† Our identity is found in Christ, not in earthly buildings, rituals, or geographical locations.

† Every Christian is part of God's living temple regardless of nationality, race, or location. (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22)

† Our worship isn't tied to a sacred building because Christ has made His people God's permanent dwelling place. (John 4:21-24)

Q & A Appendix

Q: If believers are God's temple, why was the Jerusalem temple still standing?

A: God was transitioning from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. The church was already God's temple while the old physical temple was becoming obsolete until its destruction in AD 70. (Hebrews 8:13; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Q: Does God live in church buildings today?

A: No. Under the New Covenant, God dwells in His people, not in buildings made with human hands. (Acts 7:48-50; Ephesians 2:19-22)

Q: Why was the destruction of the temple so significant?

A: It visibly confirmed that God's covenant dwelling was no longer centered in Jerusalem but in His people through Jesus Christ. (Matthew 24:1-2; Hebrews 8:13)

Q: Didn't Solomon say the temple was God's house?

A: Yes, under the Old Covenant it was the covenant center of God's presence with Israel. Even Solomon admitted that the heavens couldn't contain God, much less the temple. The temple pointed forward to Christ and His people. (1 Kings 8:27; Acts 7:47-50; John 2:19-21)

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

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Source Index

† John 1:14, John 2:19-21, Acts 7:47-50, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:4-5, Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 9:11

† Historical Writers: Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, Chapters 4-5; Tacitus, Histories, Book 5, Chapters 11-13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3, Chapter 5

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