



## God Wants to Move in Much Closer than Next Door

Some historical parallels are not mere coincidence. Sometimes God causes events in history to repeat patterns to let His people know that His hand is at work. When God's people failed to live in fellowship with Him, He used events to point out how greatly human beings need a savior that only God can provide. Many of these events are recorded in the Bible so that His people will understand God's plan to bring salvation to those who believe in Him.

The events recorded in the Bible are woven together into a tapestry of God's revelation of His plan for the salvation of His people. Direct statements of prophecy are fascinating, but the fabric of God's revelation is much more intricately beautiful than straightforward statements. Think of the difference between one musical instrument playing a simple melody and a large orchestra playing a much more powerful version of the same piece of music. In the Bible God has provided a symphony of revelations that help us to understand the immensity and fullness of God's plan to save His people and to dwell with them.

### Do you walk with God, the way He walked with His people in the past?

Adam and Eve, and also God's people in other times, walked with God.

When God had fellowship with Adam and Eve, He walked in the Garden of Eden. When they sinned, they were able to recognize the sound of His footsteps ([Genesis 3:8](#)) because they had heard the sound before.

Ezekiel states that Eden was a Temple. He calls it "the garden of God ... the holy mountain of God" containing "sanctuaries" (Zeek, [16](#), [18](#)).

The Bible mentions God "walking" with His people by being present with them in the Temple ([Leviticus 26:12](#)). God told the ancient Israelites to keep their camp holy because He walked in the midst of their camp ([Deuteronomy 23:14](#)). When David made plans to build a temple God reminded him that He has been "walking about in a tent" for His dwelling ([2 Samuel 7:6](#)), referring to the tabernacle.

Eden was God's first Temple with the people He created. When Adam and Eve sinned the potential for a greater and deeper relationship with God was interrupted. God offered them hope. He told them that a Savior would be coming at a later time ([Genesis 3:15](#)).

A temple was a place where God walked with His people.

We all know what it feels like to be lonely. God designed human beings to be in fellowship with Him and with each other in such a way that loneliness would have never happened. Sin entered the world and God's solutions for loneliness were removed, but God has a plan to end loneliness that He won't abandon even though human beings have sinned against Him.

Do you walk with God? If you do, you are walking away from loneliness.

## Do you live in fellowship with God?

### Noah: Fellowship Is Lost Again

Adam and Eve sinned in a garden. Noah sinned in a vineyard that he grew after the flood ([Genesis 9:20-21](#)). The vineyard of Noah never reached its potential as a new Garden of Eden, or as a Temple of the living God. God's plan had been for His people He created to spread the glory of His presence throughout the world. Instead, later generations of human beings spread rebellion "over the face of the whole earth" ([Genesis 11:9](#)).

In Noah's time God gave the promise of His faithfulness to the people He created when He created rainbows. He provided the rainbow to assure human beings of His promise to be faithful to them. [Genesis 9:16](#) "16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

The fellowship between God and humanity was broken again when Noah sinned ([Genesis 9:20&21](#)). But God does not withdraw the rainbow. His promise to be faithful to humanity remains in effect.

When God has called you into fellowship with Him did you turn away?

## When God walked with you did you run away?

The Temple and the Tabernacle: God moved next door to His people.

Tabernacle - God moved into His house to dwell among His people.

[Exodus 40:35](#) "35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and **the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.**"

Temple - God once again moved into a house built for Him by His people.

[1 Kings 8:11](#) "11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for **the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.**"

[2 Chronicles 5:14](#) "14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God."

As a result of God's presence within believers, they become His temple, or a place where He dwells. Paul puts it this way, "[2 Corinthians 4:6](#) "For **God**, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," **has shone in our hearts** to give the **light of the knowledge of the glory of God** in the **face of Jesus Christ.**"

Does your life show God's glory in your actions and words? What do you plan to do about it?

# When Jesus has run after you, did you receive Him?

## Jesus' Body

God moved into the body on one single human being. In that one human body God joined together God and man, divinity and humanity united in one person, Jesus Christ. This is a tremendously important event in God's plan to dwell with His people. Jesus coming to earth, God in the body of a human being, is the very central core of what Christians believe.

Jesus made this very clear when He said: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" ([John 2:19](#)). When He said this His own disciples didn't understand that He was talking about His physical body being a Temple of God. Only after He died and rose again did they understand ([John 2:22](#)). Jesus' body held the presence of the one, true God, the God of Abraham. It was a Temple like nothing that had existed before, but it was a Temple all the same.

Have you seen something like this: No Jesus. No Salvation. / Know Jesus. Know Salvation.

Only Jesus could save humanity. Only one born as a human being could pay the debt owed because of Adam's sin. Only God could endure paying the price for Adam's sin. Only Jesus, as man and God in one human body, could be the Savior of humanity. Only Jesus didn't owe the price for sin, because He never sinned ([Hebrews 4:15](#); [1 Peter 2:22](#)). The wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)). But Jesus paid the price of sin, even though He was not guilty of any sin. "The Author of Life ... was raised from the dead" ([Acts 3:15](#)). A greater injustice has never taken place.

Jesus is running to you now, not merely walking. Will you receive Him?

# Even Closer: Is your heart God's true home?

## The Church - God Moved in Much Closer than Ever Before

God moved in and demonstrated that He moved in by causing fire to appear above the heads of believers. [Acts 2:3](#) "3 And **divided tongues as of fire** appeared to them and rested on each one of them."

This fire was a smaller version of the fire that had been seen previously when Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. In fact, in a sense, Mount Sinai was also a Temple where God met with His people. [Exodus 24:17](#) "Now the appearance of **the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain** in the sight of the people of Israel." The presence of God on Mount Sinai, and the seen also **when God moved into the Tabernacle and the Temple**, is seen when **God moves into Christ's new body, the Church**.

Prophets foretold this:

[Isaiah 4:2-6](#) "2 **In that day** the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. 3 And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, 4 when **the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem** from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. 5 Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies **a cloud by day**, and smoke and the shining of a **flaming fire by night**; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. 6 There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain."

Read more about these prophecies in [Isaiah 30:27-30](#); [Jeremiah 3:16-17](#); and [Zechariah 1:16-2:13](#)

On the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit moved into the new Temple, in His sermon Peter's quoted a direct prophecy, which fits into the larger fabric of God's revelation.

[Joel 2:28-30](#) "28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh**; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 "And **I will show wonders** in the heavens and on the earth, **blood and fire and columns of smoke.**"

Is your heart God's home?

What can you do to make your heart a better place for God to dwell?

David wanted to make a better home for God. God left the building of the temple to David's son, Solomon. Every believer has a place where God can dwell. We don't have to wait. Have you made your heart the best you can make it so that God can dwell there?

## Do you feel alone?

Those who believe in Jesus Christ are never alone. [Matthew 28:20](#) "... And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age."

Those who believe in Jesus Christ are living stones in God's house, or Temple ([1 Peter 2:5](#)).

Are you walking with the Lord? Or are you walking the same old path? We are told that God's Word can be a light for the path we walk ([Psalm 119:105](#)). Paul instructs believers to understand that they are the "light in the Lord", so they should "walk as children of light" ([Ephesians 5:8](#)). The light of Christ shines through our actions.

## Is the glory of God shining through your life?

Are you walking with God (as in Eden, tabernacle, temple)?

Do you turn toward closer fellowship with God or turn away, like Adam and Noah?

When God walks closer to you, do you run away like the people of Israel who rebelled against God?

When Jesus runs to you do you receive Him? He has come in a human body to call you to Himself.

Is your heart God's true home? The body of Christ is the body of believers.

Pray with me.

### 1 Peter 2:4-10

S	I	G	H	T	M	N	Z	O	F	F	E	R	R	N	As you <b>come</b> to him, a <b>living stone rejected</b> by
T	V	C	P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	H	A	M	E	men but in the <b>sight</b> of God <b>chosen</b> and
A	H	O	N	O	R	G	O	P	H	C	O	M	E	B	<b>precious</b> , you yourselves <b>like living stones</b> are
N	P	K	C	B	C	C	N	R	O	R	L	N	Y	H	<b>being built</b> up as a <b>spiritual house</b> , to <b>be</b> a
D	L	P	H	E	Y	L	A	I	U	I	Y	H	P	L	<b>holy priesthood</b> , to <b>offer spiritual sacrifices</b>
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	S	P	I	E	R	M	<b>acceptable</b> to God through <b>Jesus Christ</b> . For it
U	B	S	I	N	H	K	C	S	E	T	D	K	M	Y	<b>stands</b> in <b>Scripture</b> : " <b>Behold</b> , I am <b>laying</b> in
F	E	P	S	G	T	E	E	T	B	U	I	L	T	P	<b>Zion</b> a <b>stone</b> , a <b>cornerstone chosen</b> and
L	H	I	T	V	K	J	P	H	U	R	T	N	A	N	<b>precious</b> , and whoever <b>believes</b> in him will not
C	O	R	N	E	R	S	T	O	N	E	S	T	Y	G	<b>be</b> put to <b>shame</b> ." So the <b>honor</b> is for you who
H	L	I	V	I	N	G	A	O	V	C	T	M	R	J	<b>believe</b> , but for those who do not <b>believe</b> , "The
O	D	T	U	L	R	Y	B	D	P	E	O	P	L	E	<b>stone</b> that the builders <b>rejected</b> has become
S	T	U	M	B	L	E	L	A	Y	I	N	G	C	S	the <b>cornerstone</b> ," and "A <b>stone</b> of <b>stumbling</b> ,
E	T	A	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	V	E	I	L	U	and a rock of offense." They <b>stumble</b> because
N	I	L	S	R	E	J	E	C	T	E	D	C	P	S	they disobey the word, as they were destined to
T	E	M	D	T	S	J	T	B	D	D	O	N	C	E	do. But you are a <b>chosen</b> race, a royal

were not a **people**, but now you are God's **people**; **once** you had not **received mercy**, but now you have **received mercy**. ([ESV](#))