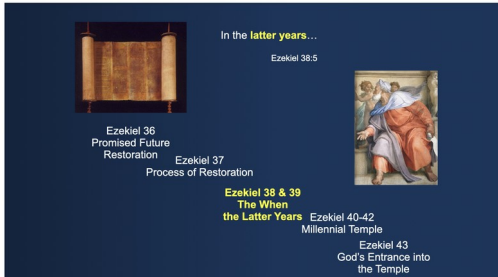


Connecting the “Dots” of the Tabernacle and Temple

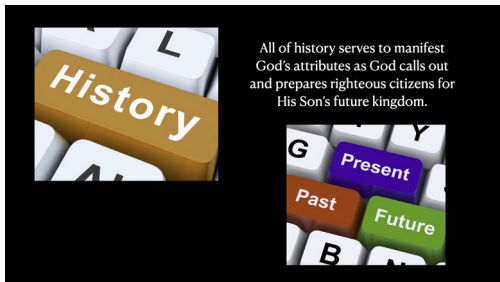
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God** is with men, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3



Last week we discussed the sovereignty of God as seen in the battle of Gog-Magog in Ezekiel 38 and 39. In the following chapters, Ezekiel teaches about the Millennial Temple and about worship in the Millennium.

Since our class is to “connect the dots” of Scripture, I want us to connect the dots of the temple history; past, present, and future, before we move forward in the series.

I was surprised at how much material this involved. The first “dot” begins with Abraham and continues through 17 “dots” until the New Heaven and Earth.



As we begin, never forget that God’s plan and purpose in history was to manifest His attributes that could only be exercised by His creation and mankind.

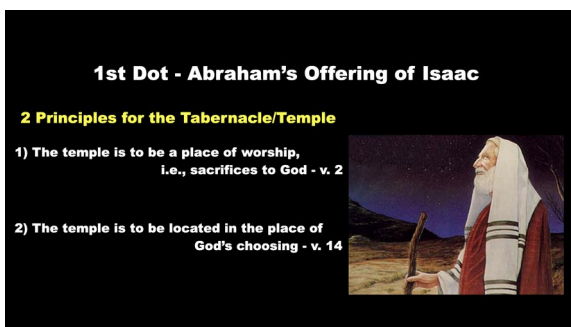
Both the tabernacle and temple on earth were to represent and demonstrate God’s presence upon the earth . At the completion of that task, God will create a new heaven and earth where He will permanently achieve His goal of “dwelling with man,”

those righteous people who chose to spend eternity with Him – Revelation 21:3

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God** is with men, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Therefore, the tabernacle and the temple are temporary instruments to **point us** to our eternal purpose and our presence and fellowship with our Creator.

At this point, I want to re-iterate that God is infinite and is not limited to one place. He is omnipresent. Therefore, any manifestation to humans is God’s accommodation to our finite being so we can know that He is working with us.



Let’s now begin to see how they will achieve that purpose.

The First “dot” – Abraham’s Offering of Isaac

As I have already taught about Abraham and the selection of the future site of the Temple, I will just briefly recap.

In Genesis 22 verses 2 and 14 we see two principles indicating that God would be present at the tabernacle and at the Temple.

- 1) The first principle is that the temple is to be a place of worship, i.e., sacrifices to God – v. 2.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

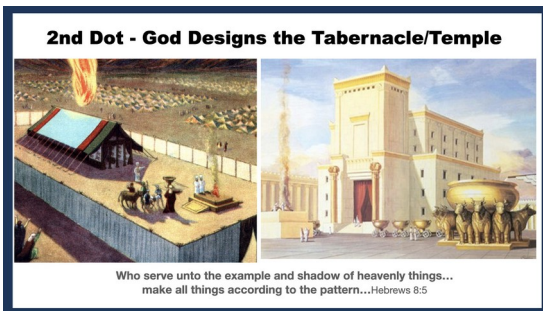
- 2) The second principle is that the temple is to be located in the place of God's choosing – v. 14

*And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, **In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.***

Notice this again indicates that the temple is where God's presence is to be manifested.

As I showed in a previous class, the threshing floor of Araunah, bought by King David (2 Samuel 24:24), was upon Mount Moriah. Today this location is on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Significantly, this re-enforces the two principles of a place for sacrifice chosen by God.

The Second "dot" – God Designs the Temple



Our next "dot" is God's instructions, given to Moses concerning the design of the Tabernacle.

Unlike pagan temples, God's place for His earthly presence was designed by God and reflected His heavenly presence. We read in Hebrews 8 verses 1-5:

¹ Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of **the throne of the Majesty in the heavens**; ² A minister of the sanctuary, and of **the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.**

³ For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. ⁴ For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: ⁵ Who serve unto the **example and shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou **make all things according to the pattern** shewed to thee in the mount.

Notice:

- 1) the location is at the throne of the Majesty in the heavens – v. 1.
- 2) this is the true tabernacle, which the Lord made and not man – v. 1.
- 3) the tabernacle on earth is merely an example of that in heaven – v. 5
- 4) the original tabernacle was God's design and not man's idea of a place of worship – v. 5.

In Exodus 25, verses 8-9, Moses records God's words instructing him on the design and construction of the tabernacle. This is the original Old Testament passage referred to in Hebrews 8.

⁸And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. ⁹ According to all that I shewed thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it...⁴⁰ And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.

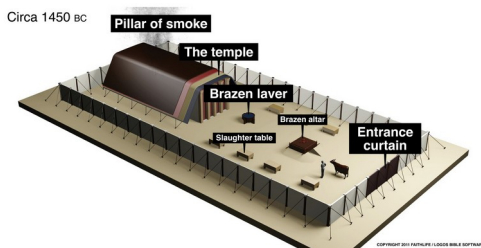
Again, God stresses that the purpose is that He may dwell among His people.

In Moses' Song of Moses, Exodus 15 verses 17 and 18, we read that the Temple mount is to be set apart for Israel to worship the Lord, and the Temple was to be a permanent place of worship, in contrast to the temporary Tabernacle.

17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established. ¹⁸ The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

The Tabernacle was temporary and portable during the 40 years that Israel wandered in the wilderness. Once the kingdom was established under King David, its temporary function was no longer needed.

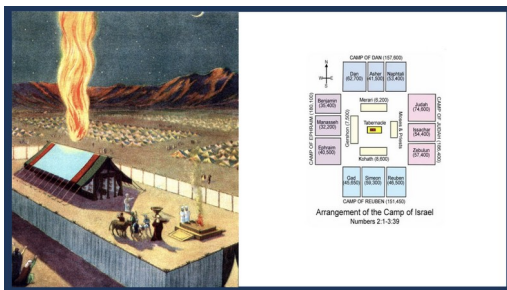
3rd Dot - The Wilderness Tabernacle



The Third "dot" – the Wilderness Tabernacle

Just briefly, here is the plan for the Tabernacle and how it probably appeared. We need to note three characteristics.

- 1) It was temporary
- 2) It contained the Shekinah glory of God that was His presence on earth as He guided Israel.
- 3) It was the center of Israel's worship



The Fourth "dot" – David Plans for a Temple

King David understood the temporary nature of the tabernacle, therefore, he desired to build a permanent structure for God's presence and worship.

We read in 2 Samuel 7 verses 1 and 2:

¹ And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; ² That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

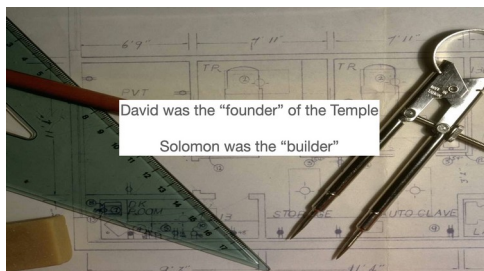
Notice, that when there was peace in the land of Israel, an idea came into David's head.

As king, David had fought many battles with the Lord's help.

But God intended that the Temple would be a place of peace in contrast to David's days of war.

Therefore, God did not allow David to build the Temple – 1 Chronicles 28 verses 2 and 3:

² Then David the king [in Jerusalem, v. 1] stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: ³ But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build a house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.



God's plan for David was to be the "founder" of the Temple; the one who would gather materials to construct it, but he was not to be the "builder." That task was for his son, Solomon. Verses 9 and 10:

⁹ And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. ¹⁰ Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.

Unlike King David, King Solomon's kingdom was established in peace.

Ultimately, God's Millennial Temple will represent total peace in the land when the Messiah comes to His kingdom – Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We read in 1 Chronicles 28 verses 11 and 19 that Solomon built the Temple using David's plan and materials.

When Solomon brought the Ark into the new Temple, he offered a prayer of dedication and re-iterated the principle that God's perfect presence is in heaven and His presence in the Temple reflects His blessing upon Israel – 1 Kings 8:27-30.

²⁷ But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? ²⁸ Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day: ²⁹ That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. ³⁰ And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

The Fifth “dot” – The 1st Temple

5th Dot - Solomon's Temple

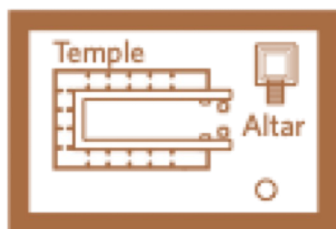


Solomon's Temple was build in the 4th year of his reign, 960 BC.

The location was Mt. Moriah which David had purchased at the end of his reign. Construction required the leveling of the top of the mountain, an area of 400 cubits by 200 cubits. Construction was finished in the 11th year of Solomon's reign, 949 BC.

This picture gives us some idea of the size of these two structures.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



COURT OF THE TABERNACLE



Unlike the Tabernacle, the Temple was a permanent structure.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL FIELD



100 x 50 yards | 300 x 150 ft

God's approval of the Temple was seen when the ark was transferred from the Tabernacle to the Temple, in 1 Kings 8 verses 10 and 11 we read:

¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the

cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD. 1 Kings 8:10, 11

God's presence was now among His people, Israel.