



How things fit together in the Kingdom

What is 'The House of the Lord'?

Our King has instructed me to teach from the revelations he gives me, not scripture. However, in this article I need to show those who have their feet in both the OC¹ and the NC² that the NC understanding of this question has already been addressed by the Apostle Paul.

Originally in the OT 'the house of the Lord' was an alternative term for the temple in Jerusalem. It personalized the fact that the presence of God was in the building, within the Holy of Holies, just like a person's house is where they are. For example:

1 Samuel 1:24 (NKJV) – *Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.*

'The Lord's house' is used 211 times in the OT in the New King James Version.

Another way of expressing this is 'the Lord's house'. For example:

2 Chronicles 7:2 (NKJV) – *And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.*

'The house of the Lord' is used 21 times in the OT in the New King James Version.

IMPORTANT: This term is not used anywhere in the NT in the New King James Version.

This absence of use is telling. If the expression for the place where God dwells (i.e. his temple) is missing from the NT then it must be irrelevant under the NC. Let's see if this is the case.

The first thing to note before proceeding is that there's quite a bit of spiritual imagery in relation to this topic. Some of it is relatively easy to comprehend, while other components aren't because we have no experience of consciously living in the spirit realm.

(1) We are individually the temple – Each one of us houses the Spirit of God which we received at our spiritual rebirth. This means that we are the spiritual version of the OT temple because the presence of God is inside us. This is absolutely clear from Paul's revelation of the way things are in the Kingdom under the NC.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NKJV) – *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.*

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV) – *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NKJV) – *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? 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."*

1 – Old Covenant (Up to 70 AD)

2 – New Covenant (After 70AD)

(2) The *ekklesia* is God's house – The whole collection of saints are the house of God. Both Paul and Peter use 'the house of God' in this way. There is some difficulty with this use of the term because the Greek word used (οἶκος) can be translated as 'temple', 'house' or 'household' (i.e. those who live in the house). This means it can infer family because 'household' was commonly used in the OT & NT to mean a person's relatives – e.g. the house of Israel.ⁱⁱ

Hebrews 3:6 (NKJV) – *but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

1 Timothy 3:15 (NKJV) – *but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground^s of the truth.*

1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV) – *For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?*

(3) We are part of a spiritual temple – Similar to #2 above, the whole collection of saints are part of the temple of God. This is hard to grasp, as I said, but it was understood by Peter and Paul to be a reality.

1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV) – *you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NKJV) – *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

(4) We are also part of the New Jerusalem – Again this is a spiritual concept that most people don't comprehend because they visualise the 'holy city' as a physical entity coming down from Heaven onto the Earth. However, Revelation deciphers this symbolism for us within itself.

Revelation 21:2 (NKJV) – *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Revelation 21:9-10 (NKJV) – *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

(5) The New Jerusalem has God as its temple – Following straight on from #4 in Revelation chapter 21 is this statement regarding the New Jerusalem:

Revelation 21:22 (NKJV) – *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*

So there you have it. **Under the New Covenant there is no physical structure in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth which is a temple or the house of God.** It's all about Father's sons who have him inside them by the Spirit.

This being the case, there should be no reason for any church leader to refer to the church building as "the Lord's House" or "the House of God". If they do, it's clear they have little understanding of the reality of the NC as it is in place today.

Speaking from my 40-year sojourn in the church system it was apparent to me that church leaders who refer to their buildings this way are endeavouring to psychologically manipulate the congregation for their own purposes. On one occasion the senior pastor of the group I was attending used the term 'the house of the Lord' when he was wanting us to give money for improvements to the facilities. He even used an OT quote to solidify his stance. The same occurs with those who refer to the auditorium as the "sanctuary"

3 – 'foundation' or 'mainstay' classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+3%3A15&version=NKJV#en-NKJV-29747

and the table at the front as the “altar”. These are all instances of bringing to OC into the NC, which keeps people in bondage to religion.

Now, it may be fair to refer to a church building as ‘God’s house’ because the first members of God’s *ekklesia* met in each others’ housesⁱⁱⁱ to fellowship, for teaching and to eat meals. These days they are using specialized building in the same manner. However, this is a far stretch to coin the use of “house” in this way, but it still isn’t NC thinking. This is because the background for using ‘the Lord’s house’ nowadays is to justify meeting in a dedicated edifice which is an OC tradition.

In conclusion: **We are the Lord’s house.** We are his temple and there’s no reason for a retrograde step towards the OC to justify a church building as being his house.

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References are on the next page

i **REFERENCES**

ii – e.g. Numbers 20:29

iii – See Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2 (Acts 20:20)