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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is "[A Short History of God's Temples](#)." It gives a brief survey of some aspects of past Temples, some legitimate and others not legitimate. The presence of God is what determines the legitimacy of the Temple or not. If God's presence is not in the Temple, then it is not a genuine Temple. Most churches today purport to have God's presence within them. Many of the people attending may have God's Spirit, but it is in individuals not in the organization.

### *You Are a Temple of God*

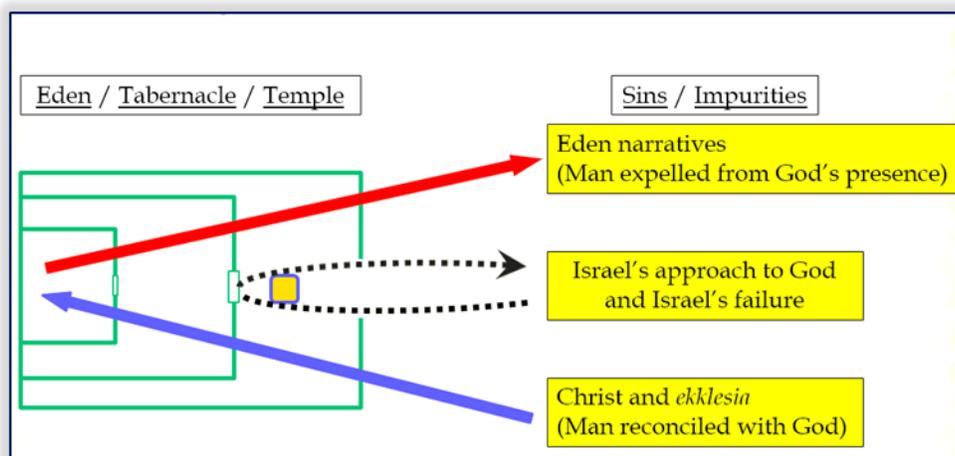
In the graphic below is a representation of the story of creation using the Eden / Tabernacle / Temple pattern. The graphic is from an idea Dr. Martin presented in his article, "[The Temple Symbolism in Genesis](#)." I present it to help you understand God's purpose of the ages which was the reason for God calling the apostle Paul — to show Christ as our example and:

**"to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in God, Who creates all, that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials [heavenlies], through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord;**

**• Ephesians 3:9–11, Concordant Literal New Testament**

God's purpose is to bring every human being into His presence, some before others. When we were born we were separated from God our Father because of Adam. (It's a nasty situation, but get over it, birth pangs of the Children of God are difficult.) Israel tried to approach God and failed, but Christ brought us into God's presence and we are now **"in Christ."** All along God has been conciliated to us, but we have not realized it until Christ acted to bring us legally into God's presence.

### *The Story of Creation — Genesis to Revelation & Basic Structure of God's Sanctuaries (see [page 4 of the article](#))*



As a Christian you are part of Christ and a part of God is with you when you have His Spirit within you. This also makes you a Temple of God as Paul phrases it because of God's presence within you, dwelling in you. This is not just a metaphor. It is the reality at this moment. So says the apostle Paul. You may not feel like a Temple of God, but you are. Accept it. Everything you ever needed for salvation has been accomplished already by Christ. Your job and my job is to act properly toward others, and we actually will receive rewards for doing so.

**“YHWH is in his holy temple, YHWH's throne is in heaven: ...”** (Psalm 11:4). You are legally in heaven **“in Christ”** whether you think you are or not, whether you feel you are or not. Remember what Christ did that we legally participated in:

**“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures [symbols] of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”**

• **Hebrews 9:24**

After our resurrection we will be in the presence of God. We shall see Him face to face. I think that is amazing to contemplate. With this in mind, consider these well-known passages by Paul that I hope will have more impact than ever before:

**“Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”**

• **1 Corinthians 3:16–17**

Further in First Corinthians Paul returns to the same thought, repeating the same phrasing:

**“What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [Spirit] which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.**

• **1 Corinthians 6:19–20**

He wrote another letter to the Corinthian *ekklesia*, returning to the same theme in Second Corinthians:

**“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 in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.’”**

• **2 Corinthians 6:16**

None of these statements use the future tense. They all describe present realities.

**“And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages [eons] to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”**

• **Ephesians 2:6**

## **Thank You**

What a grand and marvelous salvation we have in store, already accomplished for us through Christ. We thank you for being our audience for presenting God's truths of to you. We hope that we **“might make you know the certainty of the words of truth.”** (Proverbs 22:21). After all, we have a **“God of truth”** (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16). Your support of ASK helps others learn what you have worked hard to know and understand, some of you over several decades. Your actions in life are based on that knowledge tempered with wisdom to build the proper character God is molding within you — all without you realizing it! You help us tell others and many of you have been extraordinarily faithful. Thank you again.

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