

Gospel Growth: Biblical Theology

Class 3: The Story of Eden to New Jerusalem

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God." (Re 21:1-3)

I. From Eden to New Jerusalem

The Garden-Temple (Genesis 1-2)

The Fall (Genesis 3-11)

The Tabernacle (Exodus 19; 25-31)

Similarities between Eden and Later Tabernacle/Temple:

- Both the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:24) and the later tabernacle and temple (Num 3:38, Ezek 10:19, 11:1, 42:9, 12, 15, 43:1-4, 44:1, 46:1, 47:1) are entered only from the east.
- Both were guarded by cherubim (Gen 3:24; Ex 25:18).
- The tabernacle menorah (or lampstand) possibly symbolizes the tree of life (Gen 2:9; 3:22; cf. Ex 25:31-35)
- Both contain pure gold (Gen 2:12a; Ex 25:2), and precious jewels (Gen 2:12b; Ex 25:7).
- The narrator says the Lord was "walking" in the Garden (Gen 3:8), just as he is later described as "walking" in the midst of Israel's tabernacle and temple (Lev 26:12, Deut 23:14, 2 Sam 7:6-7). Both Eden and the later sanctuaries are portrayed as God's own dwelling place with human beings.

The Jerusalem Temple (2 Samuel 7; 1 Kings 8:10-11)

⁶⁷ He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, ⁶⁸ but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves. ⁶⁹ He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever. Psalm 78:67-69 (ESV)

¹³ For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: ¹⁴ "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. Psalm 132:13-14 (ESV)

¹ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. ³ Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.

¹² Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, ¹³ consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation ¹⁴ that this is God, our God forever and ever. He will guide us forever. Psalm 48:1-3; 12-14 (ESV)

The Prophetic Temple (Isaiah; Ezekiel; Zechariah)

The city has lost its way: Isaiah 1:4, 10-15

A new temple and transformed city are envisioned: Isaiah 2:2-5; 65:17-25

Ezekiel sees stark visions of judgment and destruction of the city, but in 40-48 the visions focus on God's return to a transformed heavenly city: "...And the name of the city from that time on shall be, *The LORD Is There.*" Ezekiel 48:35 (ESV)

Jesus (John 1:14; John 2:18-21)

Church (2 Cor 6:14-18; Ephesians 2:18-22)

"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I

will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:14–18, ESV)

“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:18–22, ESV)

New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22)

Patterns in the Story

Promise-Fulfillment

Typology

Continuity/Discontinuity

Systematic Lessons

- 1) God is a holy creator*
- 2) God dictates how humanity is to have relationship with him.*
- 3) God intends for his glory to fill the earth*
- 5) Christians are the inaugurated temple, designed to expand and spread God’s presence throughout the earth.*
- 6) The Church is the temple as well, they represent outposts of God’s glory.*