

## The Temple of God The Gospel of John Chapter 2: 13-25

Jesus and His disciples leave Capernaum and travel to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. All male Jews 12 years and up (Lk. 2:42) were required to attend this feast commemorating the deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt (Ex. 12:1-20). The Passover lamb was of the first year, male and without blemish. Jesus fulfilled this type as the sinless Lamb of God (Jhn. 1:29; 2Cor. 5:21). Jesus also' died during Passover (Matt. 26:17).

The temple originally built by Solomon (1Kings 8:14-21) had been destroyed by the Babylonians (Dan. 1: 1, 5 :2) and begun to be rebuilt by Ezra (Ezra 3:8-13). It was still under construction at the time of Jesus under King Herod. Sacrifices were offered at the temple, atonement was made and the Glory of God was present. However, the Jewish religious leaders had desecrated the temple by gouging the people with exorbitant prices for the sacrificial animals and the unfair exchange of foreign currency for lawful Jewish coin. Jesus, consumed with passion for His Father's house, fulfills prophecy by driving out these thieves (Ps. 69:9).

Jesus does not endear Himself to the Jewish leaders. They believe His reply to "Destroy this temple," refers to the physical structure, but He has meant His body (verse 21). The temple type finds its' fulfillment in Christ (2Cor. 1 :20). He is greater than the temple (Matt. 12:6). God does not dwell in temples made with human hands (Acts 17:24). there will be no temple in the New Jerusalem, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its' temple (Rev. 21:22). Christ is the dwelling place of God (Jhn. 1:14; Rev. 21:3); the fullness of God in bodily form (Col. 2:9) made without hands (Isa. 7:14). There is no other foundation (1 Cor. 3: 11). Through faith in Christ, believers become the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20). We are His building (1Cor. 3:9), spiritual stones built into a spiritual house (1Pet. 2:5). Human life is sacred because we are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26); known by Him before being formed in our mother's wombs (Jer. 1 :5).

The greatest miracle is the Resurrection. Jesus had power to lay down His life and power to raise it up again (Jhn. 10: 18). The Resurrection validated Christ's claim as the eternal Son of God and the Messiah. If Christ does not rise from the dead then He has not conquered the evidence of sin, which is death. We are still in our sins and will not resurrect on the last day (1Cor. Chapter 15). He is **the** Resurrection and **the** Life (Jhn. 11:25)!