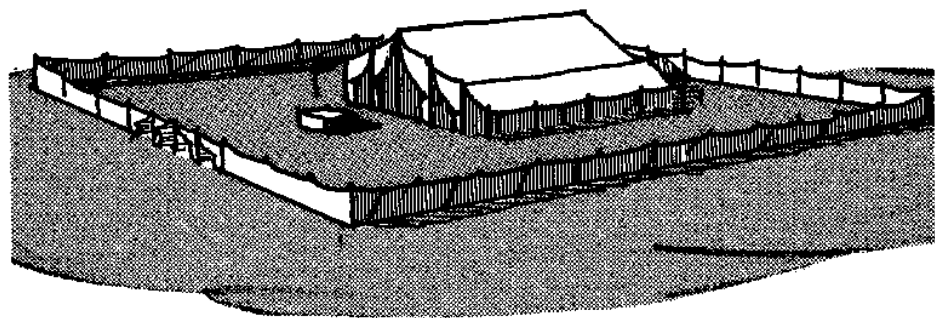
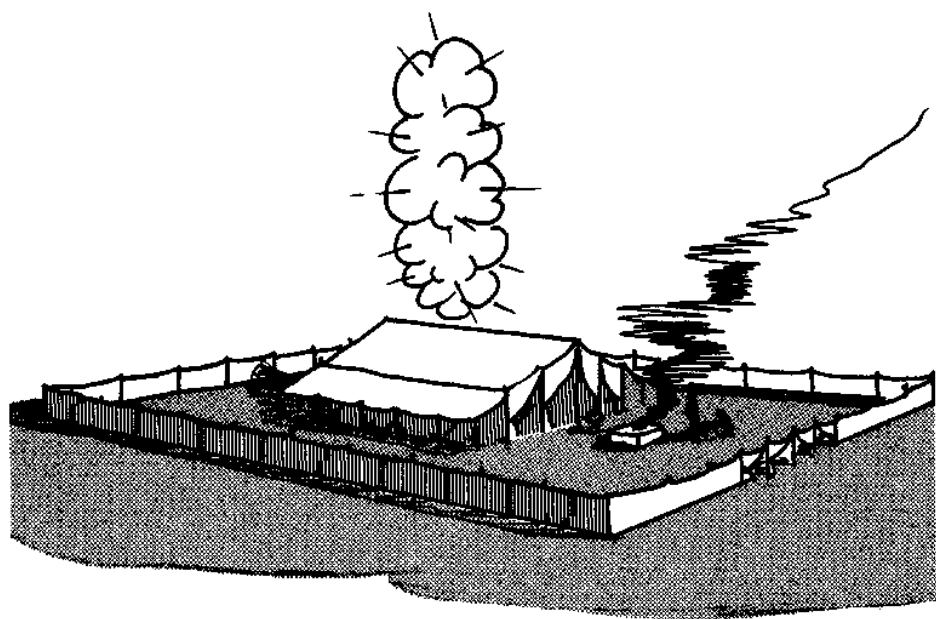


# The Three Temples

# THE THREE TEMPLES



# Introduction

This little paper has been prepared to meet a specific problem in understanding the gospel. Therefore, it is not designed to explain the whole of the provisions of the gospel of Christ. It is important that the reader is aware of this from the outset so that he will not expect more than is there. Other publications complement this one, to achieve a larger presentation of the work of salvation.

Continuously, as we seek to share the saving power of the gospel of Christ with the needy, we are confronted with the difficulty of explaining what the sin problem really is. We are frustrated by the universal acceptance of the idea that the flesh and blood body is the cause of the difficulty so that if only a new sinless, holy flesh could be provided, then the era of sinning would be ended. People everywhere, do not believe and find it seemingly impossible to comprehend that resident in that flesh is another power, namely, the character and offspring of Satan, which makes it impossible for the person to live righteously.

There is no denying that the flesh and blood body with all its appetites, passions and affections is sinful and fallen and is a terrible handicap in the battle against evil, *but it is not the basic problem*. It is only the temple for the indwelling of one or the other of two great powers, that of sin or of righteousness.

These two powers can never occupy the temple at the same time. The power of evil must be removed before the power of righteousness, which is the power of God, can enter and take its place. Only then can a true and living service to God commence.

The word of God confirms our deep conviction that unless these truths are understood, salvation cannot be experienced. They are so important that the Lord provided a picture of great clarity and simplicity so that none need fail to gain this essential knowledge. That picture, worth many thousands of words is given in the sanctuary as the type of the human tabernacle.

***Always***, that tabernacle of old was the combination of two **things**—the building itself composed of earthly sin-cursed materials crafted together by sinful human bodies, and the spiritual presence in that building. That occupant was either the devil or the presence of God. While one or the other was always there, they were never both there together. That was impossible. When Satan was there no service to God

was performed. When God dwelt in the building, even though it was of sin-cursed dust built by feeble human efforts, it did render to God a perfect service, continuously.

AH that was to provide a picture of the situation with the human soul temple.

This tract is designed to teach that:

1. It is not the body temple in its fallen, sinful condition which is the problem but the evil power occupying that temple.
2. The offspring of Satan and that of God can never dwell together in temple at the same time.
3. The nature of Satan must be eradicated from the soul temple before the presence of God can take its place and service to God begin.
4. The temple is one thing but the occupant in the temple is something else. The first is of this earth and sinful; the second is spiritual and is either from above or below.
5. The holy spotless God of heaven does dwell in fallen sinful flesh, both in the incarnation in Bethlehem and in our flesh today.

If these great truths can be understood and experienced as a result of this publication, then the purpose of this paper will have been well achieved.



## COVER PICTURE

*The theme of this booklet is the similarities and differences **between** the three temples, each of which is designed of God for more than the purpose of providing a shelter for worship. Each of them conveys rich spiritual lessons for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. The cover picture is of those three temples, two of them earthly, the last one heavenly. No one knows, of course, the design of the temple on Mount Zion in the new earth so that the attempt here has been made to present a picture of glory and splendour far that immortal structure. It will be noticed that one of the earthly sanctuaries contains the light of God's presence and the service in the courtyard. The other does not. **One** signifies the building **with** God's presence and in God's service. The other, when Satan is the one in control.*

# THE THREE TEMPLES

*by* F. T. WRIGHT

It was for very specific purposes that God gave the sanctuary and its services to the Israel of yesterday and today. Everyone of those purposes is a purpose of blessing. Therefore, if each individual questing for eternal life fails to understand and experience those intended blessings it will be to his present and eternal loss.

Never could this be more true than now when the sanctuary is the very foundation and centre of God's final work for mankind. Without the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, the work in this world could *never* be finished.

"Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The arch-deceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful Mediator. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth.

**Those** who would share the benefits of the **Saviour's** mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious

hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain-seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the Word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise, it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time, or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.

"All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time, and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects, and be able to give an answer to every one that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.

"The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil, **'whither** the Forerunner is for us **entered.'** There the light from the cross of Calvary is reflected. There we may gain a clearer insight into the mysteries of redemption. The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God. Jesus has opened the

way to the **Father's** throne, and through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God." *Great Controversy*, 488-489.

These words of solemn import call upon everyone to search out and understand this great subject as never before. In it, there are heights and depths sufficient to fill a whole library, and to engage the attention to the end of time.

In this study, however, attention will be focused upon certain particular lessons which are revealed in the sanctuary with a clarity found nowhere else.

There has been great difficulty for many, in understanding the real differences between the natures possessed by the converted **and** the unconverted man. Likewise the real nature of the incarnation of Christ has remained a mystery to so many. All this is clarified with convincing simplicity in the sanctuary of which there are three. Consideration of all three will be given in their turn, beginning with

#### The Sanctuary in the Wilderness.

In providing that building and its services, God said, "Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among **them.**" *Exodus*, 25:8.

There are two parts to this verse. The first part states what man must do, while the second part describes God's part.

Here is man's part. "Let *them* make Me a **sanctuary;**"

And God's part, "that I may dwell among them." The message in reality is, "That I may dwell *in* them." This is made clear by Paul who quotes Old Testament verses which say, "And I will set My tabernacle *among* you: and My soul shall not abhor you.

"And I will walk *among* you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people." *Leviticus* 26:11,12.

But, whereas the Old Testament Scriptures quote God as saying, "And I will walk or dwell *among* you," Paul quotes this as "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.

Paul is certainly not changing the Scriptures. He is only giving an enlarged meaning to them to show how closely God, in fact, would be *among* them through their building the sanctuary.

*Their* part, then, was to build the sanctuary. They fulfilled this by building it, whereupon God fulfilled His part by occupying the building and thus dwelling among them. God was content with this *so far*, but He could not and would not be satisfied until he dwelt not only *in* the *material* tabernacle, but *in* their body temples as well.

The very purpose of His having them build that temple for His occupancy, was for them to look upon it and see the possibility, the desire and the intention of His dwelling in their body temples. Unless this was achieved, the real purpose of the sanctuary was lost. It might just as well never have been built at all.

In saying that man fulfilled his part in building the sanctuary, is not to suggest that this was done without **God's** aid. It was God who provided the plan which they had to follow with exactitude. They had no say whatsoever in the *design* of the temple, "For, See, saith He, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." *Hebrews* 8:5.

It was God who provided the materials by impressing the Egyptians to give the Jews a generous supply of gold, silver, brass and other needed supplies.

"And the Lord said unto Moses. . . .

"Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man **borrow** of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold.

"And the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians." *Exodus* 11:1-3.

"And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:



“**And** the Lord gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the **Egyptians.**” *Exodus* 12:35,36.

Not only did God supply the plan and the materials, but He also endowed the workmen with skill to perform the delicate handiwork **involved.**

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

"See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of **Uri**, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:

"And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

"To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass.

"And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

"And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of **Ahisamach**, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded **thee.**" *Exodus* 31:1-6.

God did that much.

He provided the plans, the materials and the endowment of skills.

But He did not, as He could easily have done, make the sanctuary and hand it down as a completed building. There is a time when He will do this. It will be when He builds the New Jerusalem Temple and sends it down to the earth.

It was as a product of the energies, powers, and skills God had put into *human bodies* that the wilderness sanctuary came into existence. A special note should be made of this fact for it has considerable significance.

The second and equally significant fact is that every material used was of the dust of the earth. In fact, it would be extremely difficult, if not entirely impossible, to

think of any solid material known to man which did not find its origin in the dust and is therefore composed of dust.

It is important that not only is it seen that every material used was of the dust of the earth, but that it was of the dust of the earth as *it then was* under the curse of sin.

There was a time before sin entered, when there was no curse upon the earth. When Adam and Eve sinned, the terrible curse of sin and death descended upon the land. God stated this in these words:

“**Because** thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, **of** which I commanded thee, saying, Thou **shalt** not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herbs of the field." *Genesis* 3:17,18.

It would have been quite simple for God to have carefully preserved materials from the Garden of Eden for the day when He called upon Israel to build the sanctuary. With equal simplicity He could have delivered into the hands of Moses, gold, silver, brass, linen and timbers upon which rested no curse of sin, with instructions that the temple be built from these.

But God did not do this for a very good reason. It was critically important that the house of God should be built from materials upon which the curse of sin rested. Had Israel built the sanctuary from any other than sin-cursed materials, God's purpose in building it would have been worthless. Worse than that, the sanctuary would become a **misrepresentation** of God's intended message.

The sanctuary was provided by God as a *pictorial* illustration of the way of salvation. As such, it must be reliably accurate in every detail. Not only must it be so, but the searcher for truth must *believe* it to be so. Therefore, when God provided *sin-cursed* materials when

He could as easily have provided *sinless materials*, He did so because *in that way* the picture lesson is kept *accurate*.

So then, when God had:

provided the plans;

the appropriate materials from the sin-cursed dust;  
and endowed them with the power to do it;

*And* the Israelites had built it with their own hands;

*Then* God came down and personally occupied that building.

It was by the combination of divine and human effort that the sanctuary was erected and brought into service. But nothing of this was an end in itself. It was all a means to an end. It was that God might not only dwell *among* them in the midst of their encampment, but *in* them personally. It was that the mystery of God, "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory," (*Colossians* 1:27) might be fully accomplished.

To achieve this blessed objective, they must firstly see *what* they were to become, so they would be inspired to seek *the way* in which it could be achieved. The *construction* of the sanctuary which is the limitation of our study in this booklet, provides the picture of *what* we are to be, while the *services* of the sanctuary reveal *how* it is to be gained.

The study of the latter will not be covered in this book. We recommend the study of our other publications, *From Bondage to Freedom*, *Awake to **Righteousness***, *Acceptable Confession*, and *Living Righteously*, for the study of *how* this purpose of God is to be achieved *in* us.

In studying the sanctuary as the revelation to us of *what* we are to be, it must be seen as the picture of

### Our Body Temples

Paul understood it as such and sought to have us all share that understanding. More than that, he expected the believers in his day to be established on that truth and expressed surprise that they were not.

"What? *know ye not* that *your body* is the *temple* of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own?" *1 Corinthians 6:19.*

In the wilderness there were two **things**—the tabernacle building, *and* the presence of God in that building.

Likewise, in the Christian, are the same two things. There is the tabernacle or temple which is the human body;

and there is the presence of God in that body.

A simple study of the origin and construction of the human body will show how accurately the sanctuary illustrates the body temple.

The wilderness sanctuary, as well as the temple later built by Solomon, was built *by the hands offallen, simple human beings:*

*with the materials of sin-cursed dust God had provided;*

*according to the pattern God had **drawn up;***  
*and by the power God had given them.*

Likewise our bodies are made *by other human bodies;* of the material *of sin-cursed dust* God has provided; and by the *power* God has given the human family.

Students of God's word are apt to think of man as a created being. This is true of the human race initially for, of us all, Adam and Eve were directly created by God. They were *His* handiwork.

But God built into them and into every one of their children the power to produce other human beings. Therefore, every human being has been made by another human being just as the tabernacle back there was produced by **human beings.**

In making another human being, a man and a woman must use the materials God has provided them. Those are of the sinful, cursed dust of the earth and man can make another human being only by using those materials in the way God has directed.

God calls upon man to make another according to the

pattern He has shown us. To a certain extent, man has no choice in this. He may wish to produce a child with certain abilities but he must accept the law of heredity.

However, when the child is conceived, the father and mother have opportunity to mould his physical and mental powers in accordance with God's pattern or otherwise. Tragically, the educational processes today do not follow God's design for human development. Men are not building according to the pattern.

Despite this wrong education, every person is still intended by God to be a temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. When man has done his imperfect work of building that sanctuary, God desires to come in and occupy that building.

This is achieved at the point when a person is born again. Then the Spirit of God occupies the body temple and God's purpose is realized.

## DISTINCTIONS

No one should have any difficulty in seeing the distinctions between the work of man and God and their results, both in the sanctuary of old and the body temples.

The building is entirely of this earth; is made of sin-cursed dust; is imperfect and must and does pass away. So it was in the sanctuary. So it is with the body temple.

The presence of God in that sanctuary is something entirely of heaven, is perfect and cannot and does not pass away. It is eternal. When the tent in which it abode passed away, it did not cease to exist, but found, instead, another dwelling place. Eventually that will be in a temple of God's handiwork which also shall never pass away.

There are those who have great difficulty in believing that God could dwell in sinful flesh. It is indeed a mystery as to how it could be. It is impossible for a human mind to explain it, but the sanctuary proves that it is a fact to be believed, nonetheless.

In the wilderness, the spotless, perfect, sinless God from heaven, did in reality occupy a temple made by sinful fallen human beings from sin-cursed dust. Just as surely as He did that then, will He dwell again in human bodies today, made by sinful, fallen humans from the sin-cursed dust of the earth. Every one of us can grasp this joyous fact for our own salvation.

Added confirmation of this is provided in

### The Incarnation of Christ

The construction of the sanctuary proves the nature of Christ's humanity in His incarnation. It proves that Jesus came into a human nature made by another fallen, sinful human body from the sin-cursed dust of the earth. As surely as the sanctuary proves that, so surely does the incarnation of Christ prove that God can and does dwell in fallen, sinful humanity today.

"God commanded Moses for Israel, '**Let them** make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among **them**' (*Exodus* 25:8), and He abode in the sanctuary, in the midst of His people. Through all their weary wandering in the desert, the symbol of His presence was with them. *So* Christ set up His tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment. He pitched His tent by the side of the tents of men, that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life. '**The Word** became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld **His** glory, glory as of the Only-begotten from the Father), full of grace and **truth.**' *John* 1:14, R.V., margin." *The Desire of Ages*, 23,24.

In the midst of the paragraph is the *connecting* word "so". It connects two great truths showing that the first is the divinely appointed picture of the second.

The first picture is that of the Old Testament tabernacle with specific reference to its construction.

The second is the incarnation of Christ with direct

reference to the way in which He set up His tabernacle which is His human nature.

The connecting word "**So**", means, "likewise", "in the same manner". To state **the message** of the whole paragraph in other words, it would be said, "Exactly as the tabernacle was set up by sinful, fallen human bodies from sin-cursed materials of the dust of the earth,

*"So, likewise, in the same way,*

"Christ received His humanity by its being made by a sinful, fallen human body from the sin-cursed dust of the earth."

If this was not so, this paragraph could never have been written. If Christ had come in a different flesh and blood from the children of men then, either the sanctuary in its construction could never have been a picture of the incarnation,

*or*

God would have had to direct them to build it differently so as to provide an accurate picture of Christ as He would otherwise have been.

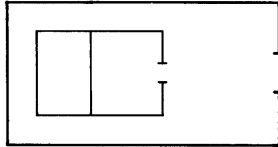
But God directed *fallen, sinful men;*  
to build it of *sin-cursed* materials,  
To provide a truly *accurate* picture  
*of Christ in His incarnation*  
So that we could *truly* understand  
Emmanuel,  
*GOD WITH US.*

The subject of the incarnation is **the** very mystery of God. It is beyond the understanding of man to grasp *how* the Creator of the universe could come down and dwell within the limited human form of His own creation. But, though it is not given to us to understand *how* it could be, we are to know that it is so. On this we can rest in faith. Though a mystery, it is a *fact*.

Because it is so deep a mystery, difficulty is experienced in understanding it. Consequently, minds can and do become confused, because they cannot reconcile the

## The Three Temples

### THE OLD TESTAMENT SANCTUARY WITHOUT GOD'S PRESENCE



BUILT BY

1. Sinful, human beings
  2. From sin-cursed dust
- Therefore it passed away*

IN THIS BUILDING WAS  
SATAN'S PRESENCE

SERVICE TO SATAN ONLY



**THE UNREGENERATE**

**Body Temple**

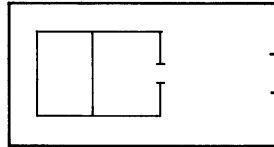
Born of man  
Built by human bodies  
From sin-cursed dust  
Sinful, unholy  
and mortal

**The Spirit**

Born of Satan  
Sinful  
Unholy  
Mortal

**SERVICE TO SATAN ONLY**

### THE SANCTUARY IN MOSES' DAY



BUILT BY

1. Sinful, human beings
  2. From sin-cursed dust
- Therefore it passed away*

IN THIS BUILDING WAS  
GOD'S PRESENCE

A PERFECT SERVICE TO GOD



**CHRIST IN HIS INCARNATION  
AND THE REGENERATE**

**Body Temple**

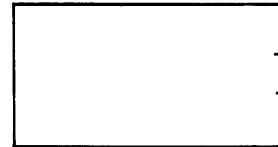
Born of man  
Built by human bodies  
From sin-cursed dust  
Sinful, unholy  
and mortal

**The Spirit**

Born of God  
Perfect  
Sinless  
Holy  
Immortal

**CAN RENDER PERFECT SERVICE  
TO GOD**

### THE NEW JERUSALEM TEMPLE



BUILT BY

1. God
  2. From dust on which is no curse
- Therefore exists eternally*

IN THIS BUILDING IS  
GOD'S PRESENCE

A PERFECT SERVICE TO GOD



**CHRIST IN HEAVEN AND  
THE ETERNALLY SAVED**

**Body Temple**

Made by God  
From dust on which  
is no curse  
Sinless  
Holy  
Immortal

**The Spirit**

Born of God  
Perfect  
Sinless  
Holy  
Immortal

**PERFECT SERVICE  
TO GOD ETERNALLY**

THE SAME

THE SAME



seeming contradictions present in the many statements on the subject.

Let all such turn away from these statements for the moment and look at the simple, clear picture given by the sanctuary. Statements and texts may puzzle, but a picture is clear.

Whenever I feel at all unsettled in this subject, I take one long comforting look at the sanctuary and I know just how Christ came to this earth in His incarnation. That picture is worth more to me than the words, true as they be, of a thousand statements.

Those who become anchored in the truth as it is revealed in the sanctuary, will be strongest to resist the pressures of deception.

#### A Perfect Service.

In this provision of the sanctuary, God has demonstrated the great truth that even though we are handicapped with a fallen, sinful, human nature, we can render a perfect service to God. This is something which is very difficult for the human mind to accept and believe, even though it is essential that this be understood.

It is Satan's great lie that the law of God cannot be obeyed by created creatures.

"From the beginning, it has been the special doctrine of the adversary of God and man, that the law of God was faulty and objectionable. He has ever represented the royal law of liberty, as oppressive and unendurable. He has denoted it 'a yoke of **bondage.**' *He has declared that it was impossible for man to keep the precepts of Jehovah.* This has been, and still is, the work of Satan." *The Review and Herald*, July 31, 1888.

Tragically, the vast majority of mankind believe this lie, to their inevitable damnation. God, ever determined to save the perishing, has declared as clearly as words can convey, the truth that any human being, even in his fallen condition, who will accept the indwelling presence of God in place of

the old sin nature, can render a service to God which is perfectly acceptable to Him.

Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." *Matthew* 5:48.

To those who came to Him for healing and forgiveness, Jesus said again and again, "Go, and *sin no more.*"

Paul reiterated this great call in the words, "**Awake** to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your **shame.**" *1 Corinthians* 15:34.

"Christ came to the world to counteract **Satan's** falsehood that God had made a law which men could not keep. Taking humanity upon Himself, He came to this earth, and by a life of obedience showed that God has not made a law that man cannot keep. *He showed that it is possible for man perfectly to obey the law.* Those who accept Christ as their Saviour, becoming partakers of His divine nature, are enabled to follow His example, living in obedience to *every precept of the law.* Through the merits of Christ, man is to show by his obedience that he could be trusted in heaven, that he would not rebel." *The Faith I Live By*, 114.

The life and teachings of Christ prove that every man and woman whose body temple is filled with God's presence in the place of Satan, can obey the law to perfection.

It also proves that every infant and child can likewise obey to perfection. That this is so, is made clear in the following statement.

"Jesus is the perfect pattern, and it is the duty and privilege of every child and youth to copy the pattern. Let children bear in mind that the child Jesus had taken upon Himself human nature, and was in the likeness of sinful flesh, and was tempted of Satan as all children are tempted. . . .

"**It** is the duty and privilege of every child to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. . . **Every** blessing the Father has provided for those of more mature experience, has been provided for children and youth through Jesus Christ." *Sons and Daughters of God*, 128.

Of course, every child is born into this world as a child of man physically and of Satan spiritually. Therefore, in order for him to obey the commands of God, he must have the Satanic presence expelled and the divine nature take its place. Only as this condition was brought about in the sanctuary, could it produce perfect service to God. Likewise it is only as children and adults have this state of being that they can render perfect service to God.

The infant in arms cannot do it for himself, but a faith-filled parent can and should do it on his behalf. Then every promise accorded to the mature will be experienced by the child.

Let those who are discouraged by the knowledge that they have a fallen, sinful, human nature, look to the sanctuary and the life of Christ and see in both, the witness that, when the divine life of God dwells in just such a temple as is theirs, they can live lives of obedience which are acceptable to God.

## THE SECOND TEMPLE

The second temple is, in reality, the same as the first temple. The important difference is that it has a different occupant.

While the tabernacle remained to the Israelites a model of what they, in their soul temples, should be, God's presence remained in it, and it continued to be a model of what they were to be.

But when they lost sight of that ideal to turn to their own standards, God's presence departed from the building. This was exactly what Satan desired, for then it was his turn to occupy the temple. He was naturally quick to do so.

There is nothing that Satan desires so much as to sit in the temple of God *in the place of God*. Paul recognized this in his writings to the Thessalonians.

“. . .that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;  
"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is

called God, or that is worshipped; so that *he as God sitteth in the temple of God*, shewing himself that he is God." 2 *Thessalonians* 2:3,4.

When Christ came to His temple in the early **part** of His ministry, He certainly did not find the presence of **God's** Spirit there. Rather He "found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money **sitting**." *John* 2:14.

Their presence there was in harmony with the will of Satan. In God's law there was place neither for their activities, nor for the spirit by which they carried them out. They practised every form of extortion, greed and deception. They were oppressors, robbers and destroyers.

The peace of the place was shattered by the loud voices of the wranglers, the bleating of sheep, the lowing of cattle, and the calling of doves and pigeons.

Everything about it declared that God had departed that temple and Satan was in His place. Thus the very building which had been designed for the presence of God had become Satan's abode.

This is temple number two.

So far as its basic construction is concerned, there is no difference between it and temple number one. There *can be* no basic difference, for they are the same building. Firstly it was occupied by God. Then it was occupied by Satan.

Therefore, when Satan was the indwelling presence it was still a building:

made by *fallen sinful human beings*;

from the *cursed dust* of the earth;

according to the *pattern* provided by God.

The similarities between these two temples must be understood in order to learn the messages contained in these services.

When it is said that there **is** no basic difference, this is not to ignore the fact that the temple certainly took on some *superficial* differences when Satan became its occupant.

It fell into disrepair, and became cluttered with rubbish—so much so that when good King Hezekiah sought to restore the neglected sanctuary and its services, it required fully seven days of work to accomplish this. See *2 Chronicles 29*.

Alternatively, there was the embellishing of it with tremendously expensive outward adornment, so that the building which according to God's pattern was to be plain and simple on the outside, became **glitteringly** beautiful instead.

This happened in the days leading up to the first advent of Jesus Christ.

"The disciples had been filled with awe and wonder at Christ's prediction of the overthrow of the temple, and they desired to understand more fully the meaning of His words. Wealth, labor, and architectural skill had for more than forty years been fully expended to enhance its splendours. Herod the Great had lavished upon it both Roman wealth and Jewish treasure, and even the emperor of the world had enriched it with his gifts. Massive blocks of white marble, of almost fabulous size, forwarded from Rome for this purpose, formed a part of its structure; and to these the disciples had called the attention of their Master, saying: '**See** what manner of stones and what buildings are **here!**' *Mark 13:1.*" *The Great Controversy*, 24,25.

Thus, while Satan's presence in the sanctuary did not change its origin of human construction from sin-cursed earth, it did change the general condition of order and cleanliness, and the outward appearance of the building.

Just as surely as the first temple was a picture of the *converted* human being, so this one, in every aspect, is a true and accurate picture of the *unconverted*.

There is no difficulty in seeing that the bodies of the unconverted and the converted are obtained in the same way, for conversion *does not give anyone a new body temple*. Rather it expels the *old occupant*—Satan, and admits a *new occupant*—God.

The body temples of God's children are made by other sinful, fallen humans of sin-cursed earth exactly as are those of Satan's children. It is for this reason that the Christian experiences the same physical limitations as the non-Christian and finds, with them, no escape from death.

But, while God's presence in the body temple of the Christian will lead to cultured refinement, order, industry and perfect service to God, Satan's presence in the Godless will develop the coarser characteristics, lead to disorders and, in many cases, will be manifested in outward adornment. While the presence of God will be marked by the beauty of character within, the indwelling of Satan will be manifested by the artificial outward adorning of gold, silver, costly apparel and the like. If it could only be seen by the Godless, that their wearing of outward adornings is an advertising of their lack of character beauty.

### SONS OF SATAN

In gospel teaching, a great deal has been said about the Christian being a son of God, but few are made aware that *before* sonship with God, there is **sonship** with *Satan*. **The** fact is that Satan is our *first* spiritual father. God only becomes our spiritual father when Satan has lost that role. In speaking of Satan and then of God alternatively as being our fathers, reference is not being made to our physical life but only to the spiritual.

Man **alone** is the father of our physical bodies and natures, through the power which God has given him. Satan does not have this power, for it was never given to the angels to reproduce themselves physically. This is proved by the words of Jesus Christ.

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God?"

"For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels which are in heaven." *Mark* 12:24,25.

But, while Satan has no power to reproduce himself physically, he is able to do it spiritually, so that his nature, characteristics and evil traits become part of those in whom he places them. Nor is he merely content to reproduce the evil of his nature in human beings. He proceeds to develop these as intensively as possible. He was so highly successful in the case of the leaders of the Jews that Christ was given occasion to tell them so.

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” *John 8:44*.

In these words, too plain to be misunderstood, Jesus declared the nature of their spiritual sonship. Satan was their father. Christ proved this by pointing to the presence in their physical temples of the same spirit of the deceiver and the destroyer as was in their father, the devil.

There are *two* ways in which a person can be the son of a certain father. One is by birth, the other is by adoption. There is usually no difficulty in determining which is which in given cases. The son by birth, cannot but be like his father. He will have the same coloured skin, the same general appearance, aptitudes and characteristics.

On the other hand, an adopted child will be different in many respects. He may have the same skin colour, but his physical appearance will not be the same and his general aptitudes and characteristics will differ.

If, for instance, we saw a black pigmy child from the heart of Africa acknowledging and looking to a tall white man of European descent, as his father, we would know he was a son *only by adoption*. We would know that his *real* father was a black man like himself.

Were, then, the Pharisees children of Satan by adoption or by birth? (Let every reader remember that Satan could be their father only in the *spiritual* sense.)

To determine the answer, the question, "Were they like or unlike him in their spiritual natures?" must be asked and answered.

Satan's spirit is that of a *deceiver* and a *destroyer*. In order to identify them as the sons of Satan, Christ argued, "Satan is a liar and a murderer, which is to say he is a deceiver and a destroyer, and you are likewise deceivers and **destroyers.**"

Therefore, in no sense were they children *by adoption*. They were **Satan's** sons *by birth*. His nature and character were *reproduced* in them.

Not only were *they* children of Satan by birth, but everyone of *us* also enters the world in this way. From our physical earthly parents we receive our body temples, but from Satan, by the process of spiritual birth, we receive our evil natures. It is this way **because** Adam sold the whole human race to Satan. We are all born evil. Therefore, God's task is to save us from Satan's kingdom. Some have the notion that we are all born in neutral ground from which point Satan and God compete to win our allegiance. This is not so. Satan already has us through Adam's sin, and God's task is to save us if He possibly can.

There are many who find it difficult to understand and impossible to accept that initially everyone is the son of Satan. This is a sadly serious problem for no one will really understand the plan of salvation till this is comprehended.

Nicodemus found himself instantly out of his depth when Christ began to discuss this problem of

### First and Second Birth

Nicodemus thought to impress Christ by his recognition of His calling from God, but Jesus came right to the point by saying,

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God." *John 3:3.*



**Nicodemus** interpreted these words in the field of the physical world. He thought only of birth *to a human parent*. So he asked, “**How** can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” *John 3:4*.

There are many who have thought that if only they could wipe the record clear and go back to live their whole lives again, they could avoid the sins and mistakes made the first time. The very moment this wistful thought enters the mind, it is chased out by the depressing realization that such a plan would never work. The second attempt would only be a repetition of the first because we would still have the same evil nature in the physical body. A second physical birth is not the answer. It is not the temple but the dweller in the temple which must be changed.

Nicodemus was thinking in terms of the physical and material. He could not look beyond that. But Jesus told him plainly that there was another field, the spiritual, in which births also took place.

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

“**That** which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” *John 3:5,6*.

Thus Jesus informed Nicodemus that, while he was thinking in terms of physical or fleshly **birth**, Christ was talking in terms of the spiritual.

Nicodemus is not the only one who has misunderstood the word of Christ. Ever since, the average person has thought of Christ as talking in terms of the physical *and* the spiritual, whereas He was speaking in the spiritual *alone*.

In other words, here is how these words of Christ are generally understood.

"Nicodemus you were born once as a physical babe to a flesh and blood parent. Now you need another birth in

*addition* to that first birth. This is a spiritual birth which comes by baptism and the regeneration of the Spirit of **God.**"

In **this** interpretation, the physical birth is seen as the first and the spiritual is seen as the second. This is about as serious a misconception of **Christ's** words as was that of Nicodemus.

Christ was not talking in terms of physical *and* spiritual. He was speaking *only* of the spiritual. Therefore, when He said "Ye must be born **again**," He was talking of a second spiritual birth of which another earlier *spiritual* birth was the first.

This spiritual rebirth is a *spiritual* re-birth. It is not something added to a physical body wherein previously there had been no spiritual nature at all. Everyone of us was originally possessed of two births in the birth from flesh and the birth from spirit. The former is from our human parents; the latter is from our father the devil.

No one who is a son of man *and* a son of Satan can, as such, ever enter the kingdom of God. That is an impossibility. That spiritual nature from Satan must be put to death and replaced by a new spiritual nature altogether. Therefore Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again."

The truth of this is pictured with great clarity in the sanctuary.

When the sanctuary was empty of God's presence, it was occupied by Satan. It never stood empty of any presence. When the devil was in it, that building was incapable of rendering any service to God. Only when God was the occupant of the building could it have a place in His Kingdom and service.

*But, never could God and Satan occupy that building at the same time. Satan could not enter while God was there and God would not while Satan was there.*

Therefore, before God could enter the sanctuary at any time when because of the apostasy of the people, Satan

had gained possession of the building, Satan had firstly to be expelled. Only then could God enter that building. No man should have any difficulty in seeing this in the picture lesson from the past.

Therefore, before God could enter the sanctuary at any time when because of the apostasy of the people, Satan had gained possession of the building, Satan had firstly to be expelled. Only then could God enter that building. No one should have any **difficulty** in seeing this in the picture lesson from the past.

If all could see that this picture lesson was given to teach the truths about the soul temple, then there would be no problem in understanding

### The Way of Salvation

The problem so many find insoluble is to see the distinction between the sinful, fallen, *human* nature transmitted by birth from our human parents and the evil spiritual nature acquired by birth from our spiritual father, the devil.

Yet the picture of it in the sanctuary is clear. No one should have trouble in seeing that the building was one thing, while the presence of Satan in it was something else. They never could be called the same thing. The distinction is clearly seen. No mistake is possible.

Through the clarity of that picture, God intends that we shall make no mistake in seeing that the fleshly nature derived from our parents, which is the temple, is one thing, while the presence of Satan's spirit of deception and destruction in us is something else.

As the presence of Satan could be separated from the building, so that it was ready for the infilling of **God's** presence, so the human temple can be freed from the presence of Satan's spirit, to make way for the entry of God's character and life.

As back then, God and Satan could not and did not ever occupy the building at the same time, so it is impos-

**sible** for us to have the old sinful nature and the new life in Christ simultaneously.

When Satan occupied the **building**, it served him, just as we, while we are his children, serve his cause.

When God entered the building, it provided a perfect service to Him. Likewise with God in our body temple, we render a perfect **ministry** of love and peace.

Today, each person upon the earth is either the first or the second of these temples. Either his body temple is the abode of **Satan's** life and spirit, or he is a child of the living God. No one can be both. He is either one or the other.

If he has walked in the way of divine deliverance so that the nature of Satan has been expelled from his life, then he is on the way with every prospect of becoming

### The Third Temple.

This is the glorious temple of the future. It is the New Jerusalem Temple. Unlike the other two, it is not built by human hands **from** sinful, cursed dust. This building is the direct handiwork of God **and** is made from the sinless perfect materials of heaven. Therefore it will never pass away.

Within that building will be the glorious presence of God.

Like the first two, this temple is also a picture of the soul temple. But it is not, very obviously, of the unconverted in this life. It is the picture of the eternally redeemed when they are at last in heaven.

This flesh and blood body which we now have will never enter the kingdom of heaven. It is made from sin-cursed materials and whatever has been touched by sin must die and will certainly pass away.

But, not in this life is the replacement given. Death comes, the body temple returns to the ruins of dust, and in the grave the believer waits till the great resurrection day. Then as Christ descends from heaven, He, by His

creative power, builds a new body for the sleeping saints.

This is the body we shall have through all eternity. It is not provided by birth from fallen, sinful human beings but by the creative power of God. As the New Jerusalem temple is the handiwork of God and not of man so will our heavenly bodies be the work of God and not of man. Then and only then will we have holy flesh. Today, it is holy characters in sinful flesh, just as a holy God dwelt in a building of sin-cursed material.

Then the glorious character of God will fill every holy temple of God's own marvellous building.

No one can ever become this glorious last temple unless he firstly, here, ceases to be a temple for the indwelling of Satan and becomes a sanctuary for God.

Abundant are the provisions which God has made for all to become each of these blessed temples in turn. May not one fail of such holy achievement.

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