



## Old Covenant's Temple

2<sup>nd</sup> in the Advent Series

Isaiah 27:6

December 7, 2025

Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction:** In this Advent message, we trace the beautiful trajectory of the temple and “God with Us” in the Old Testament.

Advent Series Theme: God’s plan to be “God with us” is the story that all of Scripture tells, from Genesis to Revelation. God desires to dwell with His people, and that is the goal of Creation, Israel, the Incarnation, and the New Creation.

- 1) God has been progressively dwelling with His people from the beginning of creation, and this development can be clearly seen in the Old Testament.
  - a) [From last week] God designed the world to be his sacred dwelling place for humanity – a cosmic temple!
  - b) Every “sacred structure” God provided for his people represented a re-establishment of Eden – a symbolic picture of creation as God’s temple.
    - Noah’s Ark: Declaring God’s saving presence.
    - The Tabernacles: Extending God’s physical presence.
    - The Temple: Promising God’s permanent presence.
- 2) The message of “God with us” in the Old Testament teaches the church today three things about God’s intentions to dwell with us.
  - a) God always intended to make all creation his dwelling and to dwell with us forever.
  - b) God’s people share in God’s mission to expand his presence to the world.
  - c) Throughout the Old Testament’s message of the temple, one significant component is missing: a faithful and capable representative of God’s ministering presence.

## Response

Advent trains us to sit in the beauty of and longing for “God with us.”

## Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) What do you think was the purpose of the Jerusalem temple in the Old Testament?
- 2) How does the Jerusalem temple look *back* toward God's original intentions in the Garden of Eden and look *forward* toward the future and complete dwelling of God with us in the new creation?
- 3) How does the Old Testament's temple theme help you understand the theme of temple in the New Testament, especially 1 Cor 3:16: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"
- 4) What does God's desire – from the beginning of creation! – to dwell with us, tell you about his character and love?
- 5) Even in the Old Testament, God's people were commissioned to bring God's presence and light to the nations. How are Christians today also commissioned for such service, and what should that look like?
- 6) While sin blocks us from understanding or even fully appreciating God's presence, what do you think it will be like to be with God fully, without the hindrance of self and sin?
- 7) How can Advent, and its focus on the past and present "dwelling" of "God with us," help Christians annually to relearn to wait on God, to long for God, and even to experience God?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the message of this week's text: Genesis 1:28 (Mon); Genesis 12:6-8 (Tues); Psalm 78:69 (Wed); Isaiah 66:1 (Thurs); Isaiah 27:6 (Fri).