

## 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5 “Usurping The Temple Of God”

5-11-22

### I. The Son Of Perdition - 2 Thess 2:3

### II. He Sits As God - 2 Thess 2:4

1. Apodeiknymi - Brazenly And Aggressively Taking For Himself What Is Not His

### III. “The Temple Of God” - What Kind Of Temple, And Where Is It?

1. Hieron – Generally Refers To An Entire Temple Complex Of Any Kind
2. Naos – Sometimes Refers To Inner Sanctuary
3. Often Used Interchangeably In Both Classical And Koine Greek

### IV. A Heavenly Temple

1. Pros
  - Scripture - Ps 11:4; 18:6; Is 66:1; Rev 11:19; 14:15, 17; 15:5-6 8; 16:1, 17
  - Where Satan, The First Antichrist, Set His Sights - Is 14:12-14
  - Scriptural Precedent For A Man With This Ambition – Ezek 28:1-2
2. Cons
  - The Present Context Speaks Of Events On Earth

### V. An Earthly Temple

1. The Then-Existing Temple In Jerusalem
  - The View Held By Preterists
  - Pros
    - The Double Article: “The Temple Of The God”
    - Immediate, Tangible Visibility
  - Cons
    - No Clear Case Of An Emperor Being Seated In The Temple
2. A Future Rebuilt Temple In Jerusalem
  - The View Held By Dispensationalists
  - Pros:
    - The Double Occurrence Of The Article The – “The Temple Of The God”
  - Cons:
    - A Rebuilt Temple Obscures New Testament Revelation
      - God’s Presence Among Men, Not In A Building – Mk 15:38; Heb 9:8
      - Not In Houses Made With Human Hands - Acts 7:48; 17:24
      - Jesus Christ Is Our Atoning Sacrifice – Heb 9:12-14; 10:4
      - Ezekiel’s New Temple – Ezek 40-48
        - The Sacrifices Are For Atonement Of Sin
        - Atonement: Ezek 43:20, 26; 45:15, 17, 20;
        - Sin Offering: Ezek 40:39; 42:13; 43:19, 21, 22, 25; 44:27, 29; 45:17, 19, 22, 23, 25; 46:20
    - The Old Temple And System Is Now Obsolete – Heb 8:10-13
    - Genuine Revival Brings Understanding, Restoration, And Blessing
    - Deception And Judgement Result From Hardness Of The Heart – Rom 1:18-28; 2 Thess 9:1-12

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## V. An Earthly Temple (Continued)

2. A Future Rebuilt Temple In Jerusalem (Continued)
  - Cons: (Continued)
    - New Testament Writers Give No Importance To The Physical Temple
    - The New Testament Writers Give The Meaning Of The Rebuilt Temple
    - Little Scriptural Evidence For A Rebuilt Temple Exists
  - Then What About Ezekiel's Temple? – Ezek 40-48
    - Like Revelation, A Description Of The Ideal Temple
    - Ezekiel – The Perspective From Before The Cross Of Christ
    - Revelation – The Perspective From After The Cross Of Christ

## VI. The Church

1. Pros
  - A View Held By Some Of The Church Fathers And The Reformers
  - The New Testament Writers' Use Of Temple
    - Paul's Almost Exclusively Figurative Use Of Temple:
      - Never Refers To A Literal Temple, Always Refers To Believers:
      - Individually: 1 Cor 6:19
      - Congregationally – 1 Cor 3:16-17 (3x); 2 Cor 6:16 (2x)
      - Universally – Eph 2:19-22; 2 Thess 2:4
  - Functional Synonyms
    - Peter's Description – 1 Pet 2:4-6
    - The Gospels - Mark 12:10-12; Matt 21:42, Luke 20:17; Ps 118:22-24
    - The Use Of Tabernacle
      - Used Interchangeably With Temple – Heb 13:10; Rev 13:6; 21:3
      - Figuratively Identical To Temple – Acts 15:14-17; Heb 8:2, 5; 9:1-28
    - The Temple Still Stood, But Their Reference Was Always To The Church
2. Cons:
  - No United Church From Which Antichrist Can Rule
  - While Naos Is Used Figuratively, It Doesn't Always Refer To The Church
  - 2 Thessalonians' Context Different Than Paul's Other Epistles
  - Apostasia Likely Refers To A General Rebellion, Not Just The Church
  - "The Temple Of The God" Most Naturally Refers To The Jerusalem Temple
  - The Desecration Of The Jerusalem Temple A Well-Known Theme

## VII. An Answer That Tentatively Fits All Facts & Meets Objections Of All Views

1. Paul Uses The Jerusalem Temple As A Metaphor
  - A Vivid Description Of The Lawless One's Usurping God's Place & Authority
2. Modern Examples:
  - "He's Hitler"
  - "They Live In Camelot"
  - "D-Day Is Coming"
3. Advantages
  - Accounts For Both A Christian Apostasy & A General Rebellion Against God
  - Accounts For Both The Spiritual And Social-Political Elements Of Apostasia
  - Accounts For The Practical Universalism Required For Such A Rebellion

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