



# JESUS: Ours, Always

## *the letter to the Hebrews*

### 8. OUR BETTER SANCTUARY

#### Hebrews 9

#### Meditation 1.

Humans are drawn to sacred spaces, to the “thin places” where the barrier between the dimensions of heaven & earth crack open just a little. Sometimes they’re special natural places. Last September Sue and I visited the Sandstone Caves north of Coonabarabran. It felt like sacred space, like we were somehow close to God there. Or we try to build sacred spaces. Create them with architecture and form them with rites and rituals. The soaring expanses of cathedral ceilings, the dark mystery of temples or modern churches using lighting to create a certain mood. These all feed into the human longing to sense the other dimension, the spiritual dimension we dare to believe exists... a place where we find spiritual sanctuary. This week’s passage shows us our longing to know God is a response to His longing to be known by us and how he makes that possible

#### WHAT’S THE DEAL WITH TEMPLES?

(cf BIBLE PROJECT “Temple” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTnq6I3vUbU>)

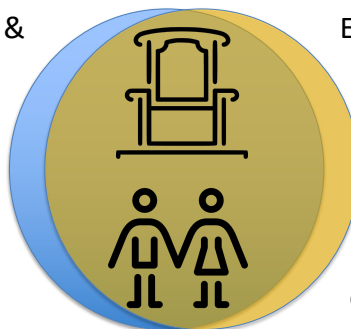
Temples in the ancient world were seen by worshippers as a place where heaven meets earth, where God’s space and our space overlap... a thin place where the spiritual and the natural co-exist. In the Bible this idea unfolds like this:



God pre-existed creation and dwelt in God-space, what is called HEAVEN in the Bible. Heaven is where God RESTS & RULES & HIS BLESSING FLOWS. Then God created EARTH, human-space, where we could partner with him in resting and ruling and flourishing under his blessing



So God’s intention was that HEAVEN & be part of HEAVEN. He walked with them after they disobeyed him. It’s they were hiding from Him! After closeness of walking with God... of Him and watching the stars emerge poison of distrust and deception hid.



EARTH would overlap... EARTH would Adam & Eve. He came looking for heart-breaking when we hear that the beauty of creation, and the watching sunsets together with in the cool of the evening. The corrupted that friendship so that they

We created a rupture between HEAVEN & EARTH

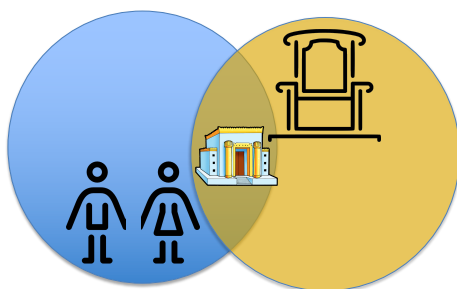


Rather than resting we would toil.. Rather than ruling we would live fearfully. Rather than flourishing we age & die.

BUT because he loves us God promised Adam & Eve that he would turn things around. Then, as we've seen in Hebrews he promised Abraham that through him all people would be blessed



**God's promise to Abraham →**  
*"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you"*  
Genesis 12:1-3



**Tabernacle / Temple**

Then, under Moses, God protected that promise to Abraham by wrapping it in a covenant of law & worship, a TEMPLE. The TEMPLE was the place where HEAVEN met earth, where God was present instead of being absent, where God ruled from, where God's blessing flowed from. Originally it was a TENT (the TABERNACLE) and eventually a magnificent stone TEMPLE... but Hebrews is showing us that all that was like a copy of the real deal. Like a Lego copy of the Opera House. Or like living in a caravan or a shed while you're waiting for your real home to be

built. The old temple was only ever pointing to the true temple.

### **Meditation**

- *When have you sensed "sacred space", that you were in a "thin space" between heaven and earth?*
- *How does God's provision of a temple demonstrate God's longing to know and be known by us?*