

God created mankind in the Garden of Eden on the sixth day, and first dwelt with his people there¹. In a sense, this garden was the first temple², where man interacted directly with the presence of God. After the fall of man, God brought forth a people for Himself, and Moses was given instructions for the creation of a tabernacle to promote His relationship with them. It took about nine months in the wilderness to finish, and incorporated contributions from many people.

Later, Solomon built a fixed temple in Jerusalem³, where the Name of God was meant to dwell. This took about seven years with over a hundred thousand workers. It was rebuilt after the fall of Judah⁴, taking a bit over four years to finish. Herod the Great later enlarged this second temple, which required forty-six years of effort. This temple was also eventually destroyed by the Romans.

The connection between man and God in times of the tabernacle and temple was through human priests. Think about all of the labor and time that it took for man to try to maintain the connection with God! And remember that none of these physical structures have endured!

Then think about what occurred in only three days and eliminated the need for a physical place to support this connection and the ineffectiveness of man's involvement. Jesus Christ was crucified, "and the curtain of the [physical] temple was torn in two⁵", thus opening the way back into God's presence⁶. He rose from the dead so that His people could live in the presence of God. Jesus hereby accomplished the purpose of the temple: he restored fellowship between mankind and God. Jesus is the true and final temple⁷, and its great High Priest⁸. All of those united to Him become part of it⁹ too¹⁰.

1. Genesis 1.
2. From Mark: A 12-Week Study (Knowing the Bible Book 3); Ortlund, D.; p.64.
3. 1 Kings 6-8.
4. Ezra 6
5. Mark 15:38.
6. From Mark: A 12-Week Study (Knowing the Bible Book 3); Ortlund, D.; p.66.
7. John 2:18-22.
8. Hebrews 4:14-15
9. Ephesians 2:20-22.
10. From Mark: A 12-Week Study (Knowing the Bible Book 3); Ortlund, D.; p.66.