

The last time we were together David had it on his heart to build a permanent structure to house the tabernacle for the Lord. Up to this point David had placed the tabernacle in a tent.

But the prophet Nathan was told by the Lord to tell David that he would not be the one who would build such a house, but rather David's son, Solomon, would have that privilege.

**But this does raise a question. How is it that any person could build a house for the Lord in light of such passages as these?**

**Isaiah 66:1** <sup>NAU</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

**Acts 17:24-25** <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

**If God is spirit how then could he possibly be limited in His presence to a mere structure that man could make for Him?**

**Is there any sense in which God dwells or tabernacles among His people today?**

**2 Corinthians 6:16** <sup>16</sup> Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

**But let's get back to the issue of God dwelling in a man made structure. Was there ever a time in which God did in fact dwell and live among men in a man made structure?**

Absolutely. The God-man, Jesus Christ, spent some 33 years living in man-made structures. In fact, John and Peter on one occasion witnessed that which was nothing less than miraculous as Jesus was transfigured before their eyes as He spoke with Moses and Elijah on the mount.

## **Do you remember what Peter wanted to do for Jesus and Moses and Elijah?**

**Matthew 17:4** <sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

We know that Moses and Elijah didn't have time to spend here on earth they had to get back to business in the present heaven, but this does bring us back to the issue of God dwelling among men in man made houses.

## **Will there ever be a time in which God will dwell among men in man made houses?**

The answer is yes and no.

**Revelation 21:2-6** <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." <sup>6</sup> Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

The word tabernacle in verse 3 of Rev. 21 is the exact same word that Peter used in Mat. 17:4.

## **But in Revelation is the tabernacle in which Jesus dwells on the new earth made by human hands?**

**Does this mean that Jesus could not dwell with any one person in a house that that person may have literally built on the new earth?**

On the new earth Jesus will not be restricted to His throne in the New Jerusalem, but will in fact visit many different places on the earth that He refashions.

The point is that Isaiah correctly records God's very words.

**Isaiah 66:1** <sup>NAU</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?"

This does not mean that He has no intention of physically dwelling with His people on a real throne in a real city on a real earth in the future. And in that day He will still be able to say, Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?

To the degree that the new earth will in fact be heaven, His throne and the earth will be both his dwelling place and His footstool as found in the bodily resurrected Messiah, Jesus Christ.

And thus the saying will come to pass eternally, Emmanuel, God with us.

But in David's time the Lord restricted His presence by visiting His people through the means He provided and that is the tabernacle that He allowed men to build, be it a tent or in the case of Solomon, a grand structure made of brick, wood and gold.

And though that was a mere shadow of His glorious presence among men in the future it was in fact a promise and a hope of a kingdom and a throne on earth forever. This is why time and time again the Lord spoke of David's throne and kingdom lasting forever.

In fact, right here in 1Chronicles 17 we see the Lord making mention of this.

**1 Chronicles 17:11-14** <sup>11</sup> "When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one of* your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup> "He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup> "I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. <sup>14</sup> "But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever.""

**Again, how is it possible for David's throne and kingdom to last forever when David has been in the ground for thousands of years?**

David and Solomon were mere guardians of a throne that was never meant to be a kingdom ruled by mere men, but a kingdom established by God and for God and ruled on the new earth by the Lord of glory Himself, Jesus Christ, who is a descendant of David.

And so, when the Lord says to David regarding his son, Solomon, "but I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever," He is literally saying that that throne and that kingdom was always meant to be a kingdom ruled by the Son of God and Son of man on the earth that God created and would recreate at the end of this age.

Everything that we see in the pages of this word of God always have and always will point to the One who has desired to live among His people in righteousness, be it in the garden of Eden before the fall, or in the future on the new earth.

Back in our text David begins to extend his kingdom by defeating the Philistines in chapter 18. In chapter 19 he defeats the Ammonites.

But when we come to chapter 20 it appears that despite David's victories over the Philistines they still were willing to put men on the battlefield to fight against Israel. In one particular battle with the Philistines we see that the giants were still in the land.

**1 Chronicles 20:4-8** <sup>4</sup> Now it came about after this, that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines; then Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, one of the descendants of the giants, and they were subdued. <sup>5</sup> And there was war with the Philistines again, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear *was* like a weaver's beam. <sup>6</sup> Again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of *great* stature who had twenty-four fingers and toes, six *fingers on each hand* and six *toes on each foot*; and he also was descended from the giants. <sup>7</sup> When he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. <sup>8</sup> These were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

But as we come to chapter 21 a very interesting thing happens.

**1 Chronicles 21:1-4** <sup>NAU</sup> Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. <sup>2</sup> So David said to Joab and to the princes of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan, and bring me *word* that I may know their number." <sup>3</sup> Joab

said, "May the LORD add to His people a hundred times as many as they are! But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why does my lord seek this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt to Israel?" <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore, Joab departed and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

This account of an individual called satan shows clearly that we're not talking about a metaphor for evil. The word satan in our text is translated adversary and this is certainly one of the names given to our enemy and God's.

Peter understood this and makes it clear that this same adversary comes against any and all of God's people who might pose a threat to his plans or just makes him mad that they exist.

**1 Peter 5:8** <sup>8</sup> Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

This adversary hates the people of God and hates the plan God has as He uses His people to accomplish His will.

In this case his hatred for God's chosen people Israel causes him to stand against Israel, which essentially means he is warring against Israel with the intent to destroy her.

This has been the plan of satan from the beginning as he tried to destroy mankind through Adam and Eve. And he did a pretty good job.

**1 John 3:7-8** <sup>7</sup> Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup> the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

So, from the beginning, and by beginning, we don't mean the beginning of humanity.

### **What beginning are we talking about here?**

Satan's beginning. Shortly after his creation it would seem that this very special angel did that which God deemed abhorrent and sentenced him to an ultimate eternal existence in the lake of fire.

**Matthew 25:40-41** <sup>40</sup> "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Notice why the lake of fire was created by God and for whom it was originally prepared. Though in His eternal plan God would send all of those who rebel against Him to this lake of fire, including human beings, this particular place was prepared for the devil and his angels. The word prepared gives the sense that it was specially designed for the express purpose of punishing satan and his angels.

It then would make all the sense in the world to also send those who follow Satan, who is essentially the father of all who follow him, into the same fate, at least to the same place.

It is this same satan who takes a stand against Israel. Notice what it doesn't say. It doesn't say he took a stand against David.

### **Why is this important?**

Because it shows us that satan is not ultimately concerned with only individuals, but with anything that God loves and has an interest in. This certainly would not exclude individuals, like Job for example, but if you go back and look at what satan was interested in at the time it was not simply destroying Job.

**Job 1:6-12** <sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." <sup>8</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." <sup>9</sup> Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?" <sup>10</sup> "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup> "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face." <sup>12</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

**Prior to God pointing out that there was one particular man who loved the Lord what seems to be satan's interest in Job?**

None. It isn't until God points out the relationship He has with Job, and Job with Him, that then and only then does satan want to destroy him. He hates what God loves. It isn't about satan fearing God-loving human beings. satan's war is certainly against human beings, but we aren't the ultimate target, his creator is.

In his hate-filled, destructive murderous psyche he has convinced himself that he can fight against and somehow win against the One who has judged him and forced him to roam the earth far from his original home, which at one time was the present heaven.

As we see in the beginning of the book of Job the sons of God, which in this case is specifically describing angels, they come before the throne of God, presumably getting their orders for the day to serve God's people. But we also see that another angel is permitted to come before the throne of God, in this case satan.

**Have you ever wondered why satan is allowed to come before the throne of God?**

Because in a somewhat similar way to the other angels, satan is still a servant of the Most High God and is forced to humble himself in a way before his creator that he must carry out God's will in His redemptive plan for His people.

We sometimes get the impression that satan is this rogue angel who is out doing his own thing and is conspiring to destroy all that God has created.

**But what are we told about satan destroying Job?**

**Job 1:10-11** <sup>10</sup> "Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.  
<sup>11</sup> "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse You to Your face."

The message is clear; satan couldn't give a flip about Job.

**What is his real motivation for going after Job according to verse 11?**

To see him curse God to His face. That's what would delight satan. And don't think for a moment that he isn't working over time in the midst of the church to accomplish the exact same thing as he goes about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour.

In the final analysis satan couldn't give a flip about you or me, only that he might use us to bring disgrace to the God who has given us life. Just go back to Eden and what do we see?

**Genesis 3:4-5** <sup>4</sup> The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

### **What is the motivating factor for satan tempting Eve?**

To disgrace God.

**Revelation 17:12-14** <sup>12</sup> "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. <sup>13</sup> "These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. <sup>14</sup> "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful."

### **What is the one purpose of these kings who have followed the beast?**

To make war against the Lamb. Yes, they will war against the sheep of the Lamb, but it's not really the sheep they're interested in defeating but the One who has given life to the sheep, the Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of the world.

This was satan's motivating factor in the beginning and it will be satan's motivating factor at the end as satan will deceive his minions to fight against God.

**Revelation 19:19** <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

What I find interesting in all of these battles is that we don't see satan leading the charge against God but his willing humans to try to do his dirty work.

Even at the very end satan is not the main character leading the charge, but he is the one still deceiving with the intent of coming against God's chosen.

**Revelation 20:7-9** <sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, <sup>8</sup> and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. <sup>9</sup> And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Here a myriad of warriors come against the camp of the saints. Kind of sounds like the bully on the playground gathering all of his buddies to pick on the one little kid who won't submit to him. And just like in the movies the big brother shows up and makes waste of all of the bullies. In the same way, our God and creator and savior doesn't even need to battle against the army at Jerusalem's gate.

**How does God end the conflict that was started in Eden, according to verse 9 of Rev. 20?**

With a word God sends fire and the war is over forever and ever, Amen.

**Revelation 21:1-2** <sup>NAU</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.