




SOUND OF HEAVEN

FOUNDATIONS

www.soh.church

 [soundofheaven7](https://twitter.com/soundofheaven7)

 [soh.church](https://www.instagram.com/soh.church)

12 WEEK FOUNDATIONS COURSE



The Church



5- Fold Ministry



Salvation Through
Jesus



Mission



Overcoming Adversity



Covenants



Sola Scriptura



Worship



Giving



The End Times



Spiritual Gifts



Discipleship

Current Day
CHURCH STATISTICS



77%

of people in the USA believe that religion is important in one's life

36%

of Christians attend a service at least once a week

45%

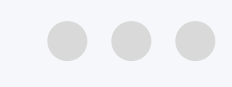
of Christians seldom or NEVER read the scriptures

83%

of people are fairly certain that God Exists

Overview

ABOUT THE CHURCH



The word church in the Bible is the Greek word "Ekklesia" which means "a called out assembly". Over 90% of the times the church was referred to in the scriptures, it was referring to the local church. God's intent is to have many strong local churches. There is just something special in the atmosphere when people gather together to learn and worship Jesus. There are some things that God only does when we are together corporately, rather than just by ourselves.

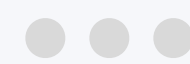


The Power of The Body

When you are not committed to a local church you are taking yourself out of the plan that God has for the earth. God is going to glorify Himself through us (plural), not me/you (singular). At Sound of Heaven, we are strong believers in being committed to the mission God has given us. We want your life to be blessed and to benefit from everything God is doing. When we take care of God's house, He takes care of ours.

About The

OLD TESTAMENT TEMPLE/TABERNACLE



There are major differences between the gatherings of the old and new testaments. The Old testament temple (H1964- heykal)) is very different from the New Testament Church (G1577- ekklesia). So let's take a look.

1 Chron 28:8- ...I charge you to obey carefully everything that the Lord our God has commanded us, so that you may continue to possess this good land and so that you may hand it on to succeeding generations forever."

The word for temple in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew root word yakol which means to prevail, to overcome, to endure, to have power, or "to be able to." The temple always was the place the presence of God dwelt, and it was always in His presence where victory was..

The Israelites (people of God) have just left Egypt (bondage) and are now free. They supernaturally cross through the Red Sea and get to the other side. Their enemies are swallowed up by the Red Sea and they are finally free to move forward. A little later, God then instructs them to build a tent (tabernacle- a dwelling or settling). In this tent, God would keep the ark of the covenant (promise) which consisted of the tablets with the 10 commandments (law), the staff (authority), and manna (provision). The Tabernacle was a meeting place between God and man. When the people of God left Mt Sinai for the promised land of Canaan, they would need a solution to bring God with them and the tent was that answer.

Exodus 33:5 tells us that if God had come up in our presence, that we would die because of our sin. When building the Tabernacle they had to put up curtains and a thick veil that would serve as a separator, a veil between man and God. The access that man had was extremely limited due to our sin.

Exodus 36:13- "And he made fifty clasps of gold, and joined the curtains to one another with the clasps, so the tabernacle was a unit." A few things to point out about the temple is that it took everyone to help build it. Everyone had to do their part because all of the people would benefit from it. Also, the excellence of the tabernacle through workmanship and its materials show the excellency of God.

Once Israel possessed the land of Canaan there was no need for a moving tent. Nathan quickly (and apparently without consulting God) encouraged David to build a temple (1 Chron. 17:2). God had different plans. David had been a man of war and had shed much blood. God would indeed allow a temple to be built, but it would be built by Solomon, David's son, a man of peace. The cool thing is that while David wanted to build God a house, God promised to give David a house, and so it is in the context of David's request to build a temple that God proclaims what has become known as the Davidic Covenant." A promise that David's seed will rule forever, and so it became known that Israel's Messiah would be the "Son of David" (1 Chron. 17:4-15).



What are the positives and negatives to God only dwelling in a permanent location?



In your opinion, why wouldn't God give total access to everyone?

About The NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH



Imagine the very thing that God had given you in the past became the biggest stumbling block to your future. It truly is one of the best things we can ever learn, never bring old blessings to new places. Or, as the Bible puts it, old wine into a new wineskin.

John 1:14- The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

The issue with the Old Testament was sin and that sin separated us from God. Our sin cannot live in the presence of God, which is why they had to build the veil...but there was a solution! If we can remove sin, then we no longer need a veil. The answer God had was Jesus. A final sacrifice to finally remove the separation.

The physical building (the temple) had become a kind of idol to many of the legalistic, unbelieving Jews of Jesus' day. The presence of the temple was proof to them that God was with them and that they were pleasing in His sight. Even the disciples were impressed by the beauty of the temple building, yet Jesus cautioned such enthusiasm, knowing that the temple would soon be destroyed (cf. [Matt. 24:1-2](#)). You can imagine how upset the scribes and Pharisees would have been when our Lord spoke of destroying God's temple (not knowing, of course, that it was He who was that temple). The destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. was a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and the unleashing of the New Covenant Kingdom age.

Ephesians 2:19-22- "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

God no longer lived in a physical building, but a building not made with human hands.

Acts 7:48- However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says...

When Jesus was crucified, the Bible (and history) record a major earthquake that ripped right through the temple and tore the veil from top to bottom. "It Is Finished", Jesus said. Sin and death had finally been defeated and the temple no longer needed a veil. God finally dwells with man and man dwells with God. We are the temple where the lights never go out. The Lord lives in us and we take Him wherever we go and have access to Him anytime we need. Understanding that we are now the church helps us know that we overcome, prevail, endure and are able to walk with the identity, authority and provision from God. It is now up to us to use this to change the world.



What is the main benefit of God now living in your heart?



If you truly believed this reality, what would be different about your life?



EXPECTATION

That you come to Sound of heaven each and every week ready to do the 3 C's!

Celebrate

Connect

Contribute

Review:

- 1- Where did God dwell in the Old Testament?
- 2- What were some benefits of the Tent or Tabernacle?
- 3- What separated us from God?
- 4- What was the solution?
- 5- How can we apply this today?



Homework For Next Week

Read Ephesians 4

