

Where God Dwells

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God dwells in chosen temples (2Chr. 7:12, 16).

God dwells not in temples (Ac. 7:48).

Rather than the two references above being a Biblical contradiction, they are an example of a *type and an anti-type* that is often used in scripture. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the definition of a type and anti-type is as follows,

One that is foreshadowed by, or identified with, an earlier symbol or type; such as a figure in the New Testament who has a counterpart in the Old Testament.

The apostle Paul stated that God uses the principle of types and anti-types to teach important spiritual lessons,

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, **who was a type of him** (Jesus Christ) **who was to come** (Rom. 5:14; NKJV used throughout unless noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

With this understanding, if God dwelt in a physical temple for a brief period during the Old Testament (type), this was to foreshadow a more complete fulfillment in the New Testament (anti-type) when God would dwell permanently with His people, who would collectively comprise His spiritual temple,

We (witnesses against Jesus Christ) heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple (type) that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands (anti-type, which is a spiritual temple)' (Mk. 14:58; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The apostle Peter understood that God dwelling with His people pictured the fulfillment (anti-type) of the physical temple (type) that was built with hands,

You (members of the body of Christ) also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house (anti-type), a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices (anti-type of the animal sacrifices) acceptable to God through (the sacrifice of) Jesus Christ (1Pet. 2:5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It was never God's plan to dwell in a physical temple. Instead, He foreordained the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the means through which reconciliation could be provided so that He could dwell with His people forever. As physical people cannot dwell with God, who is spiritual, they would have to be transformed into a spiritual state. This is a process that begins when someone repents of sin and begins living a new life (Rom. 6:4). Upon repentance an individual becomes a member of a spiritual temple because the Body of Christ was not made with physical hands,

Do you not know that you (those who repent of sin) are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are (1Cor. 3:16-17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

But you (members of the Body of Christ) are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if indeed the spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he is not His (Almighty God's) (Rom. 8:9; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy spirit which is in you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price (through Christ's sacrifice); therefore glorify God in your body (1Cor. 6:19-20; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you (members of the body of Christ) are the temple of the living God. As God said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people (2Cor. 6:16; cf. Eph. 2:19-22; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Consequently, God used the principle of type and anti-type to emphasize the importance of His plan to fellowship with His people forever in a temple that is not made with hands.

It is also important to note that God did not say that He dwelt in chosen temples in 2Chronicles 7:12, 16. Instead, these verses say the following,

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night and said to him: 'I have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice' (1Chr. 7:12).

For now I have chosen and sanctified (set apart) this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes (attention) and My heart (My concern) will be there perpetually (1Chr. 7:16; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is erroneous to think that Almighty God ever planned to live in a physical structure,

Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord. Or what is the place of My rest (as if God needs to rest)? ⁵⁰Has My hand not made all these things? (Ac. 7:49-50; Ed. note in parenthesis; see study: Where Did The Early Church Meet?).

Therefore, anyone who uses the two scriptural references of 2Chronicles 7: 12, 16 and Acts 7:48, as proof that God contradicts Himself, is twisting scripture in an attempt to discredit the word of God (cf. 2Pet. 3:16).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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