



## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD “TEMPLE” IN REVELATION?

In the Book of Revelation the word “temple” is used 15 times. Jesus first uses the word temple while addressing the church in Philadelphia in Revelation chapter 3. The word temple is also used in chapters 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, and 21. Is the word “temple” referring to a future earthly rebuilt third physical temple in Jerusalem, or the heavenly temple in the spiritual realm? Or is it both? The meaning of the word temple in the Book of Revelation is always in the spiritual realm.

The temple references that deal with human souls and the saints are directly or indirectly focusing on the spiritual temple of God in heaven, or in the new Jerusalem after the Day of the Lord.

### **Revelation 21:22 (NIV)**

**I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

The Revelation temple is in the spiritual realm, even in chapter 11, the temple is spiritual, while contrasting to the physical earthly outer court on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem given to Islam (the “Gentiles” or “nations”), and the trampling of Jerusalem for 42 months (1278.4 days/years from 688 when the Dome of the Rock was set up to the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967).



Exclude the Outer Court

**But exclude the  
outer court; do not  
measure it, because  
it has been given to  
the Gentiles.**

Revelation 11:2 (NIV)

## UNDERSTANDING THE GREEK WORDS FOR TEMPLE

The Greek word for the God dwelling temple in Revelation is “nao”, “naon”, “naou”, or “naos.” In the book of Revelation, “Nao” is used three times in 3:12, 7:15, and in 11:19b. “Naon” is used three times in 11:1, 15:8b, and in 21:22a. “Naou” is used five times in 14:15, 14:17, 15:6, 16:1, and in 16:17. “Naos” is used four times in 11:19a, 15:5, 15:8a, and in 21:22b.

The Greek word “nao” and derivatives are distinguished from the Greek “hieron,” meaning a non-holy (non-God dwelling) temple. The Greek word for the physical temple structure is hieron. The Greek word for the spiritual temple is nao. The Greek word “nao” for temple can mean the physical building in Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of holies. Otherwise it means the sanctuary of God in the spiritual, third heavenly realm. The best way to understand “nao” is to visualize an area where the true God dwells—the third heaven.

The translation to English of the Greek word for “temple” can be confusing. The term employed in the original (“nao”) does not mean the physical building structure (“hieron”), but only the God dwelling “Holy of holies,” which was separated from every other part of the sacred structure by the second veil.

## BELIEVERS ARE “A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD”

Jesus Christ proclaimed the dwelling of the three divine persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in the spiritual temple in those who should accept His Gospel truth.

### John 14:23-24 (NIV)

**Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”**

Paul tells us every soul is the authentic temple of God. Every Christian soul is a consecrated temple, which must not be profaned. Paul said we become “a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”, and believers will become “*a holy temple in the Lord.*”

### 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

**Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.**

### Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

**Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

## 15 REVELATION SCRIPTURES REFERRING TO THE TEMPLE

### 1. REVELATION 3:12 VICTORIOUS BELIEVERS WILL NEVER BE AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE NEW JERUSALEM

The Greek word for temple in Revelation 3:12 is “nao”

#### Revelation 3:11-12 (NIV)

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will **make a pillar in the temple of my God**. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

Here in Revelation 3:11-12 Jesus is promising to the victorious believers at the church of Philadelphia they will always be in the presence of God in the new Jerusalem. They will be a pillar in the temple of God and “*Never again will they leave it.*” Jesus promises this will be in the heavenly new Jerusalem; “*I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.*” In Revelation 21:22, we know the new Jerusalem has no physical temple because God and the Lamb are their temple: “*I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.*”

### 2. REVELATION 7:15 BELIEVING RESURRECTED SAINTS FROM THE TRIBULATION WILL BE BEFORE GOD IN HIS TEMPLE

The Greek word for temple in Revelation 7:15 is “nao”

#### Revelation Chapter 7:13-18

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” 14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, **“they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne** will shelter them with his presence. 16 ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’” And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The second time the word temple is used is in Revelation 7:13-17. John is told that the great mass of people in white robes have come out of the tribulation. The context indicates this is in the heavenly realm of the new Jerusalem. These resurrected saints are in the temple of God in heaven. Verse 17 says it holds the living water that comes from Christ. “*For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’*”

Revelation 22:1-2 tells us the living water from Jesus is in the new Jerusalem; *“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.”* Revelation 21 is in the new Jerusalem and has the same phrase. Revelation 21:4 says: *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”* The 7:17 phrase *“And God will wipe every tear from their eyes”* is in the spiritual new Jerusalem as well.

### **3. REVELATION 11:1 MEASURE THE TRUE CHURCH WITH THE WORD OF GOD; EXCLUDE THE OUTER COURT OF THE TEMPLE; THE HOLY CITY WILL BE TRAMPLED FOR 42 MONTHS BY THE GENTILES (NON BELIEVERS)**

The Greek word for spiritual temple in Revelation 11:1 is “naon”

#### **Revelation Chapter 11:1-4**

**1** I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure **the temple of God** and the altar, with its worshipers. **2** But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. **3** And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” **4** They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”

In Revelation 11:1, John is told to “measure” the temple of God and the altar with its worshipers. But John is told to exclude the outer court and not to measure it because it has been given to the Gentiles, or in some translations, the “nations.” God was telling His people to use the Word of God as a measure to determine the true church, the spiritual temple of God, and who the false church was.



John was measuring the spiritual temple because John was in heaven. All of Revelation prophecy after Revelation verse 4:1 is in heaven. (Revelation 4:1 *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*) John wrote Revelation in 95 AD and the physical temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.

Measuring is "judging against a standard." When we measure a thing, we take something with a fixed proportion - like a length or a weight that is known or standardized - and we compare it to whatever we are trying to quantify or measure. We see how it measures up: how long it is, how wide it is, how tall it is, how heavy it is, etc. We can also see if it fits a pattern or a template that is necessary for the item to do its part. For entrance to heaven the word of God is the measurement criteria. The true church acknowledges Jesus is the Son of God. The true words of Jesus will judge all mankind.

### **John 17:17 (NIV)**

**"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."**

### **John 12:48 (NIV)**

**"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."**



**"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."**

John 12:48 (NIV)

Those in the false church (Islam and the Qur'an) would seize the outer court (set up the blasphemous Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque) where the old temple stood before it was destroyed in 70 AD. Islam (the "Gentiles") would then trample Jerusalem for 42 months, or 1278.4 days/years from when the Dome of the Rock (the abomination) was set up in 688 and continue until 1967. The Bible gives no time limitation on possession of the outer court, as Islam still holds the Temple Mount today.

**USE THE BIBLE TRUTH AS “A REED LIKE A MEASURING ROD”  
MEASURE FALSE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM BY THE TRUE WORD OF GOD**

**Isaiah 28:16-17 (NIV)**

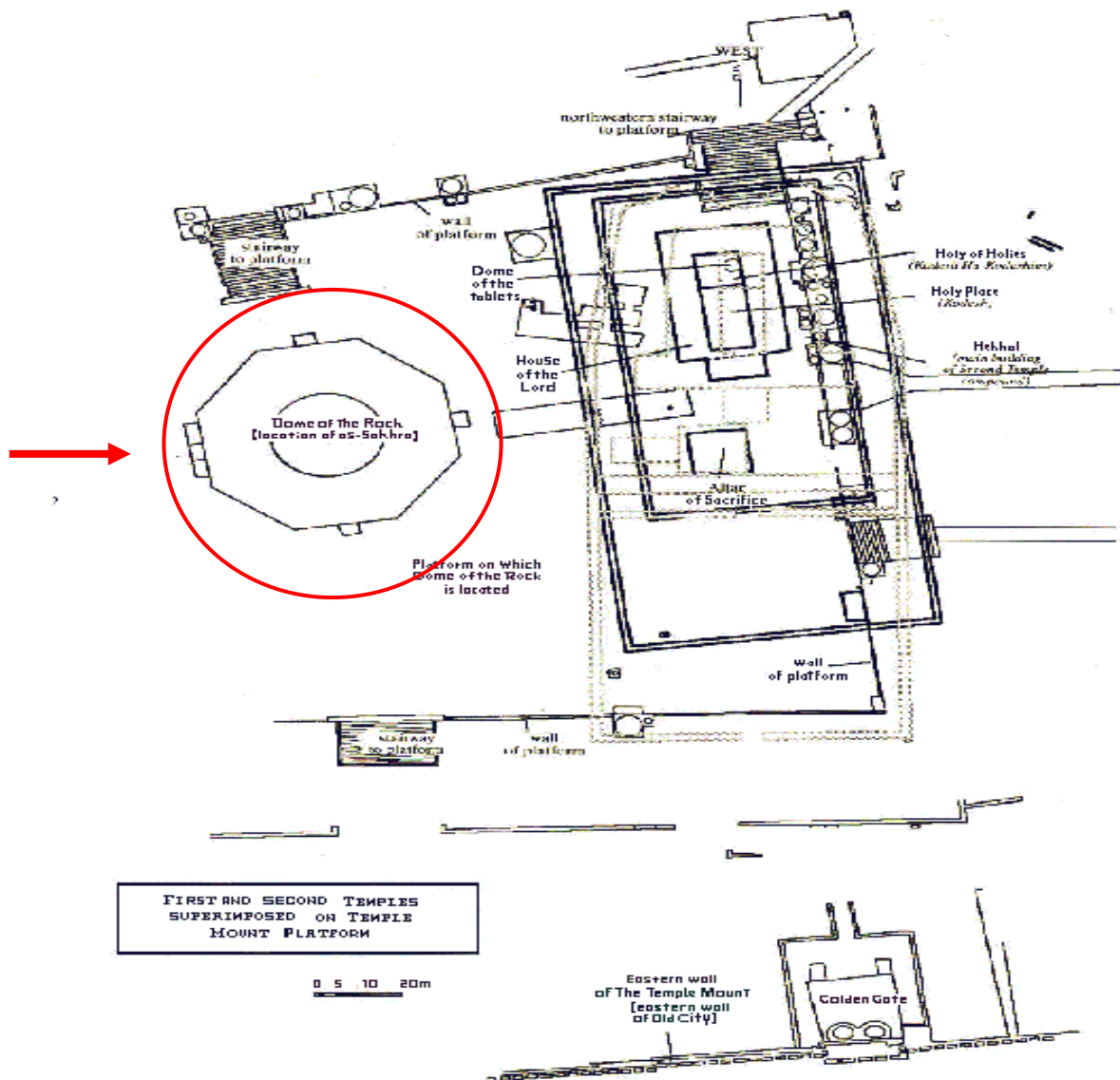
**So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.”**

Islam was given the area of the outer court on the Temple Mount. We can “measure” the false teachings of the Qur’an and Islam from the mouth of the false prophet Mohammad, using the true Word of God, and see that Islam is the false church that Jesus warns us throughout Revelation.

**False Stories in the Koran**

Truth	Bible Verse	Bible Text	Koran Verse	Opposite and False Koran Text
<b>Jesus is the Son of God.</b>	John 14:13	"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."	Koran 17:111	And say, "Praise to Allah , who has not taken a son and has had no partner in his dominion and has no need of a protector out of weakness; and glorify Allah with great glorification."
<b>Jesus was crucified.</b>	Matthew 27:35-37	When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	Koran 4:157	And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.
<b>Jesus rose from the dead.</b>	Matthew 28:5-6	The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."	Koran 3:55	Allah said, "O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you in submission to Allah alone superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.
<b>Jesus is the only path to heaven.</b>	John 14:6	Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."	Koran 4:59	O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey his Messenger [Mohammad] and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best way and best in result.
<b>The worst sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit.</b>	Matthew 12:31-32	"And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."	Koran 4:171	O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul created at a command from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son.
<b>God first loved us.</b>	1 John 4:19	We love because he first loved us.	Koran 51:56	And I did not create the jinn [angels] and mankind except to worship Me.
<b>Jesus is the only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son of God.</b>	John 3:16	"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."	Koran 112:3	Allah begets not, nor is He begotten.
<b>Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit-the spirit of truth.</b>	John 14:26	"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."	Koran 61:6	Jesus, the son of Mary, said "O Children of Israel! Truly I am the Messenger of God unto you, confirming that which came before me in the Torah and bearing glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me whose name is Ahmad [Mohammad]."

**GENTILE GIVEN THE OUTER COURT--THE DOME OF THE ROCK ABOMINATION IS IN THE OUTER COURT OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT**



The Bible says to test each spirit to see if they acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God. Islam denies Jesus is the Son of God. The spiritual temple of God is truth. The Word of God is truth.

**John 17:17 (NIV)**

**“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”**

**1 John 4:1-3 (NIV)**

**Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.**

## THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE ABOMINATION IS ON WING OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Al-Aqsa Mosque ("the Farthest Mosque"), is the third holiest site in Sunni Islam and is located on the southern edge (wing) of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Originally the entire site on which the silver-domed mosque sits, along with the Dome of the Rock, seventeen gates, and four minarets, was itself historically known as the Al-Aqsa Mosque, today a narrower definition prevails, and the wider compound is usually referred to as al-Haram ash-Sharif ("the Noble Sanctuary").

Muslims believe that Mohammad was transported from the Sacred Mosque in Mecca to al-Aqsa during the Night Journey. Islamic tradition holds that Mohammad led prayers towards this site until the seventeenth month after the emigration, when Allah directed him to turn towards the Kaaba.

The Kaaba in Mecca holds the Blackstone and the Beast of Revelation dwells in the Kaaba. This is Baal, the demonic prince from Babylon, who has his "fatal wound" healed after he was released from Sheol (the Abyss).



### THE ABOMINATION ON THE WING-THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE

Jesus tells the disciples that in the future an abomination spoken of by the prophet Daniel will stand in the holy place where it does not belong. When the people of Israel see it they should head for the mountains ("wilderness"). Jeremiah 31:2 tells us before the Jews return to Israel for the final time they will wait in the wilderness for God to come to them. Revelation tells us there will be 1260 days (years) of prophecy and waiting in the wilderness. Daniel's final seven stretches from 536 BC to 1948. The two abominations were set up on the Temple Mount in 688 (the Dome of the Rock) and 706 (the Al-Aqsa Mosque). Gentiles will trample the holy city for 42 months or 1278.4 day/years from 688 until Jerusalem liberated in 1967.



**THE MANY DOME OF THE ROCK BLASPHEMOUS INSCRIPTIONS  
THIS IS WHY GOD EXCLUDES THE OUTER COURT**



“In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no God but Allah. He is One. He has no associate. Say: He is God, the One God!, the eternally Besought of all! **He begets not nor was begotten. And there is none comparable unto Him.** Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah, the blessing of Allah be on him.”

“In the name of Allah, the merciful the compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One. **He has no associate.** Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah. Lo! Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet.”

“O ye who believe! Ask blessings on him and salute him with a worthy salutation. In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One.”

**“Praise be to Allah, who hath not taken unto Himself a son, and Who hath no partner in the Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence.** And magnify Him with all magnificence. Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah, the blessing of Allah be on him and the angels and His prophets, and peace be on him, and may Allah have mercy.”

## DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE TEMPLE IN REVELATION 11

The three main views on the meaning of the “temple” in Revelation are the Preterist (everything was fulfilled by 70 AD), the Dispensational (A third physical temple will be built in the future and animal and grain sacrifices will return) and the Spiritual/Literal (the temple is spiritual with God, and the outer court and trampling of Jerusalem is literal by Islam in the earthly realm). This article focuses on the Spiritual/Literal view.

Both the Preterist view as well as the Dispensational view interprets this as a literal, physical temple standing in Jerusalem. The Preterist view is that the temple was the one destroyed in 70 AD, while the Dispensational view is that a third temple will be built. The problem with both these views is that every other reference to the temple by John in the book of Revelation has not been of a literal temple.

There have been some who wished to take this passage (Revelation 11:1) and to interpret it to refer to a literal temple in Jerusalem. But the problem is that it was not only the outer court that was trampled by the Gentiles, but the entire temple was trampled and even destroyed in 70 AD. Others have sought to make this refer to a future temple, but John does not say this is a rebuilt temple. The following chart summarizes the various views of this temple:

<b>Preterist View</b>	<b>Spiritual/Literal View</b>	<b>Dispensational View</b>
It refers to the literal first century temple that was destroyed by Titus.	It uses the symbol of the temple to refer to God's people, the church.	It refers to a literal future temple to be constructed for an earthly kingdom.
The second physical temple (Herod)	A spiritual temple	A third future temple
The 42 months refer to the time of the Roman War to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.	The 42 months are 1278.4 days/years in Jerusalem 688-1967	The 42 months refer to the halfway mark in a future great tribulation.

John saw the lampstand, an article of temple furniture, and was told that it represented the seven churches. Jesus promised in Revelation 3:12 to make the overcomer a pillar in the temple of His God. The ones who come out of great tribulation are described as serving the Lord day and night in His heavenly temple (Revelation 7:15). At the end of chapter 11, the ark of the covenant will be seen in the temple of God which is in heaven (Revelation 11:19). The same language is used in Revelation 14:17 and 15:5.

When we see the vision of the New Jerusalem, we will read that there is no more temple because the Lord God and the Lamb are its temple (Revelation 21:22).

#### 4. REVELATION 11:16-19 BELIEVERS FROM THE TRIBULATION WILL BE BEFORE GOD IN HIS TEMPLE

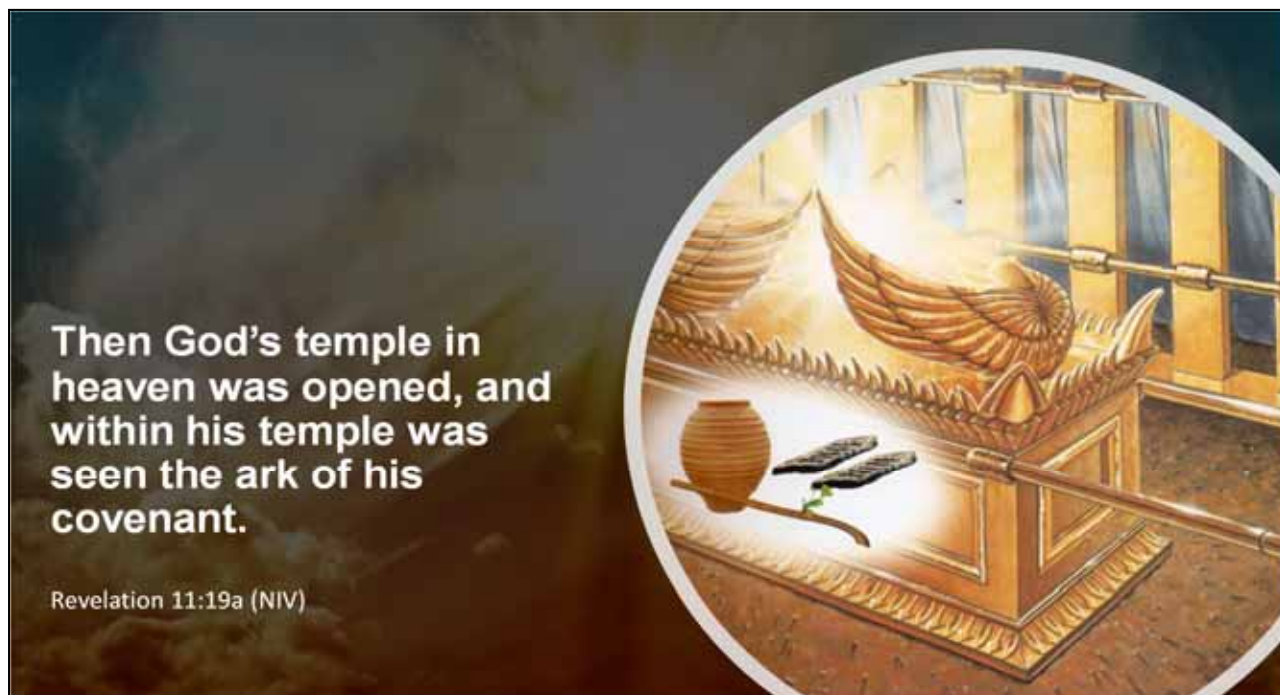
The Greek word in Revelation 11:19a is “naos”, The Greek word in Revelation 11:19b is “nao”

##### Revelation 11:16-19

**16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” 19 Then **God’s temple in heaven** was opened, and **within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.** And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.**

At the beginning of chapter 11 the distinction between the two words (naos and hieron) are applied to the temple; the spiritual temple proper (the “naos”) was measured off. Now in this (naos and nao) temple is opened, yes, to its very inmost recesses; for not the holy place alone is described, but the holiest, of all, the Holy of holies, into which the high priest alone—and he only once a year—entered, is opened, as though again the veil of the temple had been rent in two (as in the crucifixion of Jesus), and there the ark of the covenant of God is seen.

The meaning of this, when read by the light of the measuring of the spiritual temple in 11:1, seems to be that now the secret abode of the true children of God was revealed. Despite the false teaching of Islam (the Dome of the Rock in the outer court), the faithful found their strength and protection in the shadow of the Almighty; they were regarded by God as His true living temple, and in them He dwelt, as they, too, found their complete protection in Him.



Now that the end has come there is no need that these should be hidden any more. The children of God, who are the temple of God, are made manifest; and at the same time the secret spot of their shelter in troublous days is made plain, and in it is seen the token of that everlasting covenant which was the anchor of their hopes in the day of their trouble (Hebrews 6:19). The ark of God's covenant is seen; the ark which contained the tables of the law, the rod of Aaron, and the manna is unveiled; and now is seen again.

## **5. REVELATION 14:14-16 BELIEVERS RAPTURED BY JESUS AND SAVED FROM THE WRATH**

The Greek word in Revelation 14:15 is "naou"

### **Revelation 14:14-16**

**14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.**

Some may ask, "If there are two harvests-what harvest is this?" The first harvest (the rapture of believers) is the gathering of the good seed, the full corn in the ear, into the celestial home (Mark 4:26-29 "As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."). The angel who announces that the harvest is ready comes out from the spiritual temple in heaven, the holy place which was measured off in the sanctuary of the faithful (Revelation 11:1). Note that the angel who calls for second harvest of the wicked on the Day of the Lord comes forth from the altar "who had charge of the fire" (Revelation 14:18).

## **6. REVELATION 14:17-20 NON-BELIEVERS FACE THE WRATH OF GOD**

The Greek word in Revelation 14:17 is "naou"

### **Revelation 14:17-20**

**17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.**

Another angel, likewise coming from the heavenly temple, and therefore from God himself, intrusted with a work symbolizing the fire of the final judgment, has, as one like the Son of man (Revelation 14:14), a sharp sickle, by which the ripened clusters in the vineyard of the earth are to be harvested. Not only does this occur at the command brought again by another angel, but the clusters are also pressed and destroyed.

## 7. REVELATION 15:5-8 THE DAY OF THE LORD IS IN VIEW

The Greek word in Revelation 15:5 is “naos”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:6 is “naou”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:8a is “naos”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:8b is “naon”

### Revelation 15:5-8

5 After this I looked, and **I saw in heaven the temple**—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. 6 **Out of the temple came the seven angels** with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. 8 And **the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God** and from his power, and **no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed**.

In 15:5 this spiritual temple is called the temple of the tabernacle of the covenant law; the expression sounds cumbersome, but it is descriptive. Stephen spoke of the “*tabernacle of the covenant law*” in the wilderness, which he also described Baal and Molek worship—the beast of Revelation and “Mystery Babylon” is Baal released from the Abyss and worshipped in the Kaaba today.

### Acts 7:42-43 (NIV)

“But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: ‘Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’”

### Acts 7:44 (NIV)

“Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.”

The tabernacle was well called the tabernacle of covenant law, for it contained the ark of the testimony with the Law of God, and was a perpetual witness of God’s presence among His people. The temple of the tabernacle then is the shrine, or inner sanctuary, of the heavenly true tabernacle, after the pattern of which the tabernacle of Moses was fashioned, which is now opened.

“*No one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*” As neither Moses could enter into the tabernacle, nor the priests into the physical temple, when the glory of the Lord filled those sacred places; a further proof of the majestic presence and extraordinary interposition of God in the execution of these judgments. The meaning also seems to be, that no one would be permitted to enter to make intercession - to turn away God’s wrath - to divert him from His purpose. That is, the purpose of punishment had been formed, and would certainly be executed.

## 8. REVELATION 16:1 THE TEMPLE VOICE SAYS POUR OUT THE BOWLS OF WRATH

The Greek word in Revelation 16:1 is “naou”

### Revelation 16:1-3

**1** Then I heard a **loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels**, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.” **2** The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. **3** The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

A loud voice is heard out of the heavenly temple; it bids the angels pour out their vials “into the earth;” later on (Revelation 16:17) the voice is heard saying, “It is done.” The voice is then said to come from the throne; it seems likely that the voice of the first verse is the same—the divine voice from the throne of God itself.

## 9. REVELATION 16:17 THE VOICE OUT OF THE TEMPLE THRONE SAYS “IT IS DONE!”

The Greek word in Revelation 16:17 is “naou”

### Revelation 16:17-21

**17** The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and **out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne**, saying, “It is done!” **18** Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. **19** The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. **20** Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. **21** From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

In Revelation 16:17 the scene is the throne of God in heaven. God’s voice is heard! The results of the outpouring of this bowl are described in the following verses; but before these are seen, the voice from the throne—God’s own voice—proclaims, as though rejoicing in the near approach of the happy end, “It is done!” The close of these scenes of sin and suffering is now at hand, for the last of the last plagues has been sent forth.

The seventh and last angel poured forth his bowl, and the downfall of Babylon (Islam) was finished. The church triumphant in heaven saw it and rejoiced; the church in conflict on earth saw it and became triumphant. God remembered the great and wicked city of Mecca; though for some time he seemed to have forgotten her idolatry and cruelty. All that was most secure was carried away by the ruin. Men blasphemed as they prayed in vain to Baal in the Kaaba and to the dragon “Allah” of the Qur’an. Their prayers went unanswered, just as in the days of Baal and Elijah at Mount Carmel.

## 10. REVELATION 21:22 THE TEMPLE IS GOD AND THE LAMB

The Greek word in Revelation 21:22a is “naon”

The Greek word in Revelation 21:22b is “naos”

### Revelation 21:22-27

**22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.** 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

In Ezekiel’s vision the vast and splendid proportions of the vision temple formed a conspicuous part: its gigantic proportions declared it to be figurative (Ezekiel 48:8-20); but the present vision passes on to an even higher state of things. *“I did not see a temple in the city.”* Ezekiel’s vision declared that the literal physical temple would be replaced by a far more glorious spiritual temple.

The Lord is there—the temple, the sanctuary, the dwelling-place of His people. The eternal age of the believers in Christ (Messianic Jews and Gentiles in the Christian Church) succeeds the age of the Jewish temple-worship that ended in 70 AD. The age of the Church triumphing will succeed the age of the Church in the tribulation and toiling; and there the external organizations, helps, and instrumentalities required for the nurturing the body of Christ will no longer be needed.



**I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

Revelation 21:22 (NIV)