

# God's House

## Key verses

- “I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” 1 Tim.3:15
- “But Christ is a Son over His own house; whose house we are; if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope unto the end.” Heb.3:6
- “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.” 1 Cor.3:9

## Where is God's House?

- “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him” John 14:23
- “...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” Gen.28:17

Apart from the common usage of “house” referring to a building, the other most common usage applies to the people of a “household”. You will note from the key verses quoted above that “God's House” can refer to the body (church or ecclesia) of true believers here on earth. Jesus refers to God's house as, “My Father's house” in a literal sense, when referring to the temple in Jerusalem (John 2:16), and in the spiritual sense when referring to true believers, “In My Father's House are **many mansions**” (John 14:2). The Greek word in this verse translated “mansion” is also translated “**abode**” (A.V.) or “**home**” (N.K.J.V.) in v23 of the same chapter (See John 14:23 quoted above). Whether referring to a literal temple or a body of believers, **God's house is mostly portrayed in Scripture as being on earth**. In fact the first mention of God's house in the Bible is in Genesis, after Jacob's vision of angels descending and ascending to heaven. Jacob describes the place of his vision as “God's house”, which he named, “Beth-el” (Gen.28:17-19). In the same verse he also describes Bethel as “**the gate of heaven**”, which you must agree is quite different to traditional church belief.

## Temples made with hands

- “**God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.**” Acts 17:28 See also Acts 7:48
- If true believers are God's house, why was there a need in biblical times to have a tabernacle and later a temple for worship? This was to emphasise the **presence of God** to the people, but most importantly to show visually in a figure the lessons of the **coming Saviour** and **forgiveness of sins** in His Name. Once the chief corner stone had arrived, there was then no need for a temple to point forward to Him. The Scripture portrays true believers as the present temple on earth, who show the lessons of past “temples” **by their actions and the message of grace and truth** that they teach.

## The Chief Cornerstone

- “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.” Isa.28:16
- “Jesus said to them, have you never read in the Scriptures; ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief cornerstone. This is the LORD'S doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?’” Matt.21:42
- “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor.3:11

Seeing that believers are the house of God, then it follows that the house must be built in a strait and proper fashion. All the walls of this house have to line up with the **Chief Cornerstone**, who is otherwise styled the “stone for a foundation” or “a sure foundation” (Isa.28:16), who is Jesus Christ (Psa.118:22; Matt.21:42). In fact the Word of Jesus is the basis or foundation for all judgement (John 12:48). **Obedience to the Word of the Chief Cornerstone** is the only avenue to life eternal. This sure foundation though, can become “a stumbling stone and rock of offense”, to those who reject Jesus' Word (Rom.9:33).

## Caring for God's House

- “**Do you not know that you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” 1 Cor.3:16-17

If we are living stones in God's House, we have a responsibility of care to other members both in the physical and spiritual areas. We must never intentionally mistreat ourselves in any way, as this can effect our health and reduce our potential for caring and ministering to others.

## Extra info and Bible References

True believers are God's house on earth. **God's house is mainly portrayed in Scripture as being on earth**. The Scripture portrays Heaven as **God's Throne** (Isa.66:1; Heb.4:16, ch8:1; Rev.3:21).

“oikia”, “oikos”, “oikodome”, and “mone” are words from the Greek language that are used to refer to God's house in the New Testament. These words have been translated “home”, “house”, “building”, “temple”, “household”, “abode” and “mansion” in our English Bibles.

- “**Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**” 1 Pet.2:5

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.