

# Eden, Earth, and Temples

# TEMPLE TALK

- Significance of the temple:
  - Rule of God
  - Presence of God
- Uncleanliness caused by:
  - Sin
  - Death (blood)

# A PROMISE TO DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE

- Ez 37:26-28 - I will dwell among them
- Lev 26:12 - I will make my dwelling among you

# EARTH: A COSMIC TEMPLE?

- Revelation 21:1-2 and 21:22-27 a problem? Not at all!
  - John sees the “new heavens and earth” in 21:1-2 and a garden like temple in 21:3, 10-22:3.
  - The best understanding seems to be that the entire earth is now the place where God rules and dwells with his people - note v 27!
  - **The temple is the earth and the earth is the temple**
  - **See GK Beale, *The Temple and the Church's Mission***

# EDEN: A TEMPLE?

- Correspondence b/t Eden and Temple:
  - God's Presence (Gn 3.8; Lev 26.11-13)
  - Tree/Lampstand in Temple (Gn 2.9; Ex 25.31-40)
  - Cherubim guarding (Gn 3:24; Ex 25.10-22)
  - Entered from the East (Gn 3.24; Num 3.38)
  - Priests "works and keeps" (Gn 2.15; Num 3.7-8)
  - Rivers Flowing Out (Gn 2:10-14; Ezek 47.1; Joel 3.18; Zech 14.8)

# INTENTIONAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN CREATION AND TABERNACLE ACCOUNTS

Genesis - Creation	Exodus - Tabernacle
God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good (1:31)	Moses saw the work, and behold, they had done it, as the Lord had commanded it (39:43)
The heavens and earth were finished, and all the host of them (2:1)	All the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished (39:32)
God finished his work which He had done (2:2)	So Moses finished the work (40:33)
So God bless... it (2:3)	And Moses blessed... (39:43)
...and hallowed it (2:3)	You shall... consecrate it (40:9)

# INDICATORS OF THE COSMIC TEMPLE

- Creation account - The 7th day isn't about God "resting" from exhaustion, it is about worship
- Ps 78:69 - He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.
- Is 66.1-2 Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord.

# INDICATORS OF THE COSMIC TEMPLE

- Is 6:3 - the whole earth is full of his glory
- Hab 2:14 - The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea
- Rom 11:36 - For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the Glory forever!