

EPHESIANS

# He Built This City

Ephesians 2:17-22



**20** But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud. **21** “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”



# Psalm 2:1-3

## EPHESIANS

**1** Why are the nations in an uproar And  
the peoples devising a vain thing? **2**  
The kings of the earth take their stand  
And the rulers take counsel together  
Against the Lord and against His  
Anointed, saying, **3** “Let us tear their  
fetters apart And cast away their cords  
from us!”



“But Now...”

EPHESIANS

•Jesus Christ:

1. “is our peace” (v. 14)

2. “preached peace” (v. 17)

## Back in Ephesians 2:14 EPHESIANS

**14 For He Himself is  
our peace,** who made  
both groups into one and  
broke down the barrier of  
the dividing wall,

Consider:

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He is not only the  
Peacemaker...

He *is* “our Peace!”



**6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace.**

# Paul is Quoting:

## EPHESIANS

- Isaiah 57:19b –

“Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near,” Says the Lord, “and I will heal him.”

The rabbis spoke of Gentiles who were far from the privileges of the Mosaic Covenant as “brought near” by becoming proselytes.

# Ephesians 2:17

## EPHESIANS

17 And He came and  
**preached peace** to you  
who were far away, and peace  
to those who were near

“preached” – εὐαγγελίζω (*euaggelizō*)



# Jesus IS

## EPHESIANS

- The “Good News” for the Gentile who was once far off, separated from God, and without hope in the world.
- And He is the “Good News” to the Jew who has labored under the Law and has not found the sought-after rest that Israel has always pursued.

And How Has God Done Such A Thing?

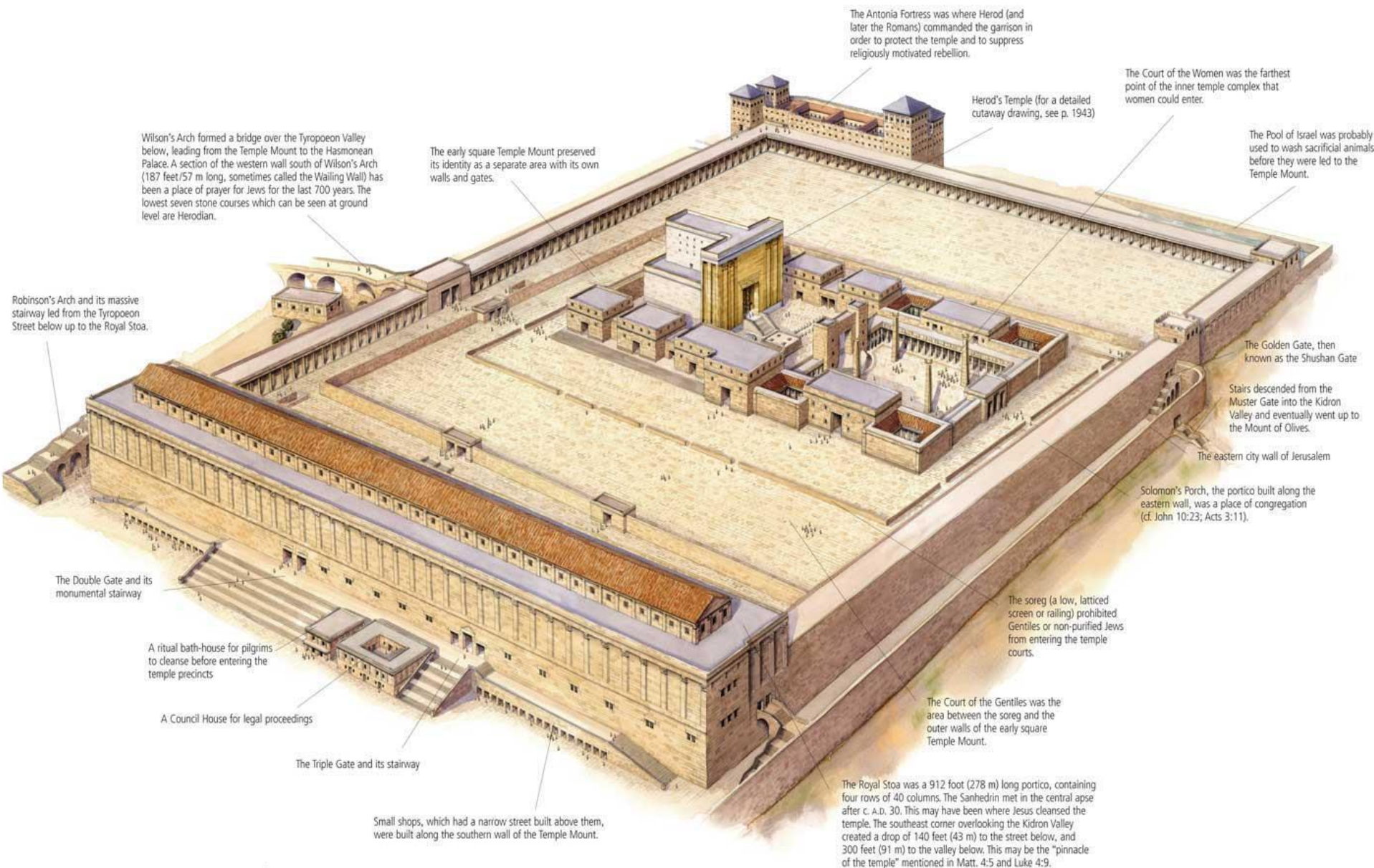
# Ephesians 2:18

## EPHESIANS

**18** for through Him we both  
have our access in one Spirit  
to the Father.

**Notice that all 3 Persons of  
the Trinity Are Involved.**









## 3 Illustrations

## EPHESIANS

1. God's City (v. 19a)
2. God's Family (v. 19b)
3. God's Temple (v. 20-22)

## 1. God's City – 2:19a

EPHESIANS

**19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints,









IN MEMORY OF  
ROBERT  
JOSEPH  
LUCAS  
FLORIDA  
CAPTAIN  
MAY 1915 -  
MAY 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN  
SULLIVAN  
MASSACHUSETTS

IN MEMORY OF  
WILLIAM  
EUGENE  
RUBIN  
LIEUTENANT  
AUGUST

IN MEMORY OF  
ROBERT  
LAURIE  
WILTON  
MARYLAND  
AUGUST 1915 -  
AUGUST 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
FRANCIS  
HAROLD  
STAMER  
NEW YORK  
SGT CO M 1 CAV  
8 CAV REGT  
WORLD WAR II  
KOREA  
JANUARY 3 1915  
NOVEMBER 2 1950  
SS-BSM-PH

IN MEMORY OF  
RALPH  
WALDO  
EMERSON  
PENNSYLVANIA  
CREATED 1915  
24 FEB 1945  
WORLD WAR II  
JULY 4 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
BISHOP  
OLIVER  
LISTER  
PENNSYLVANIA  
LIEUTENANT  
WORLD WAR II  
AUGUST 24 1925  
JANUARY 15 1961

IN MEMORY OF  
GLENN  
HAROLD  
SPRAGUE  
FLORIDA  
LIEUTENANT  
AIR FORCE  
JANUARY 2 1934  
OCTOBER 16 1962

IN MEMORY OF  
LESTER  
ARTHUR  
KITZEROW  
MICHIGAN  
5 SGT  
U.S. AIR FORCES  
WORLD WAR II  
MARCH 19 1920  
MAY 21 1943  
AM 52 OLC-PH

IN MEMORY OF  
DAVID  
ALAN  
WHEELER  
CONNECTICUT

IN MEMORY OF  
RICHARD  
THOMAS  
CAMNEY  
NEW YORK  
25 MAR 1915  
WORLD WAR II  
MARCH 1945  
JUNE 15 1944  
TH

IN MEMORY OF  
RONALD  
SAMUEL  
STARETT  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
LIEUTENANT  
JAN 1915  
JAN 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
DEAN  
LELAN  
OFF  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
THOMAS  
JOHN  
CAMPBELL  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
WILLIAM  
REEVES  
EVIS  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
DONALD  
RALPH  
JOHN  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
HAROLD  
GILSON  
PATRICK J.  
DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
ALFRED  
JOHN  
BENDER  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
RICHARD  
HOWARD  
ROLFE  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
ANDREW  
ALEXANDER  
SHEARD III  
PENNSYLVANIA  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
CLAUDE  
MORRIS  
WICKES  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945

IN MEMORY OF  
JAMES  
WALD  
NEW YORK  
JAN 20 1915  
JAN 22 1945  
JAN 22 1945



# Roman Citizenship

## EPHESIANS

- In the Greco-Roman world, citizenship was highly personal.
- One's city (*polis*) provided one's identity.
- The city's laws were formative; its customs evoked pride and solidarity; its inhabitants were lifelong friends.











What You Were:

EPHESIANS

“strangers and aliens”

ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι

*xenoi kai paroikoi*



# Strangers & Aliens

## EPHESIANS

- In every Greek city there were *xenoi*, and they did not lead an easy life.
  - The stranger (or sojourner) was always regarded with suspicion and dislike.
- Paul uses the word *paroikoi* for aliens.
  - A person described in this way was a resident alien, someone who had taken up residence in a place but who had never become a naturalized citizen; such people paid a tax for the privilege of existing in a land which was not their own.

What You Are:

EPHESIANS

“citizens with the saints”

συμπολῖται τῶν ἁγίων

*sympolitai ton hagion*

# Citizen Implications

## EPHESIANS

- Reconciliation with God
- **A Common People**
- A Common Spiritual Language
- **A Common Spiritual Heritage**
- A Common Goal
- **A Supreme Allegiance**
- A Common Destination



But...

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Who are  
these  
“Saints?”

# John Calvin



**“Those who were formerly profane and unworthy...[have now become] partners with the godly, have now the rights of citizens along with Abraham, with all the holy patriarchs, and prophets, and kings...”**

# Hebrews 11:8-10

## EPHESIANS

**8** By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; **10** for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.



## 2. God's Family – 2:19b EPHESIANS

19b and are of  
God's household

# Citizenship is Great... EPHESIANS

But being part of God's "household" represents a far deeper intimacy.

The Lord is truly "Our Father in Heaven."

- Galatians 4:6 –

"Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"



**29** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

# We Are Family

## EPHESIANS

- 1 Timothy 5:1-2 –

“Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.”



### 3. God's Temple – 2:20-22

EPHESIANS

**20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

# Temple of Artemis









1. The Foundation

2. The Cornerstone

3. Building Blocks



# 1. The Foundation

## EPHESIANS

“having been built on the foundation  
of the apostles and prophets”

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 –

“And God has appointed in the church,  
first apostles, second prophets...”

# Apostles' Doctrine

## EPHESIANS

- **Acts 2:42** – “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”
- **Acts 4:33** – “And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...”
- **2 Peter 3:2** – “that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.”
- **Jude 1:17** – “But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ”



# Why Apostles & Prophets? EPHESIANS

- **Apostles:**

- Were called by Christ
- Were eyewitnesses to His Ministry
- Were eyewitnesses of His Resurrection
- Learned from the Risen Christ
- Wrote the NT Scriptures

- **Prophets:**

- Heard the Truth and Proclaimed the Truth of the Gospel

## 2. The Cornerstone

EPHESIANS

“Christ Jesus Himself being the corner  
stone

On a practical level, the cornerstone is  
the most important piece in  
construction, as the structural integrity  
of the building depends upon it.

But there's more...



# “Cornerstone”

## EPHESIANS

- Isaiah 28:16 –

“Therefore thus says the Lord God,  
‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a  
stone, a tested stone, A costly  
cornerstone for the foundation,  
firmly placed. He who believes in it  
will not be disturbed.’”

\*Quoted in 1 Peter 2:6





# Cornerstone of the Temple Retaining Wall

33 feet long,  
7 feet wide  
and 3 feet  
tall.

It weighs  
about 50  
tons





- Psalm 118:22 –

“The stone which the  
builders rejected Has  
become the chief  
corner *stone*.”







# Put It All Together

## EPHESIANS

- The shape, character, and stability of God's new temple, made up of New Covenant believers, is determined by its cornerstone, Jesus Christ.
- Additionally, this cornerstone was initially rejected, but it has become the "head of the corner" and made the construction of this temple possible.
- This temple is built both "in Christ" and "on Christ."



### 3. Building Blocks

### EPHESIANS

“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.”

Consider that Gentiles were once prohibited from accessing God by a stone wall under the penalty of death, and God has made them living stones in a temple built in Christ.





## 1 Peter 2:4-5

## EPHESIANS

4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Question:

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Does This Mean That  
All Of The Stones In  
This Temple Are  
Exactly The Same And  
Used For The Same  
Purposes?



# Picture It:

## EPHESIANS

- **First:** Jesus Christ, the massive cornerstone
- **Next:** The foundational teaching of the Apostles and the truth of Scripture
- **And Then...**

One by one, living stones are set upon that foundation of truth, reflecting the integrity of their chief cornerstone, Christ Jesus.

# What is This Temple? EPHESIANS

“a dwelling of  
God in the  
Spirit”





## Exodus 40:34-35

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”



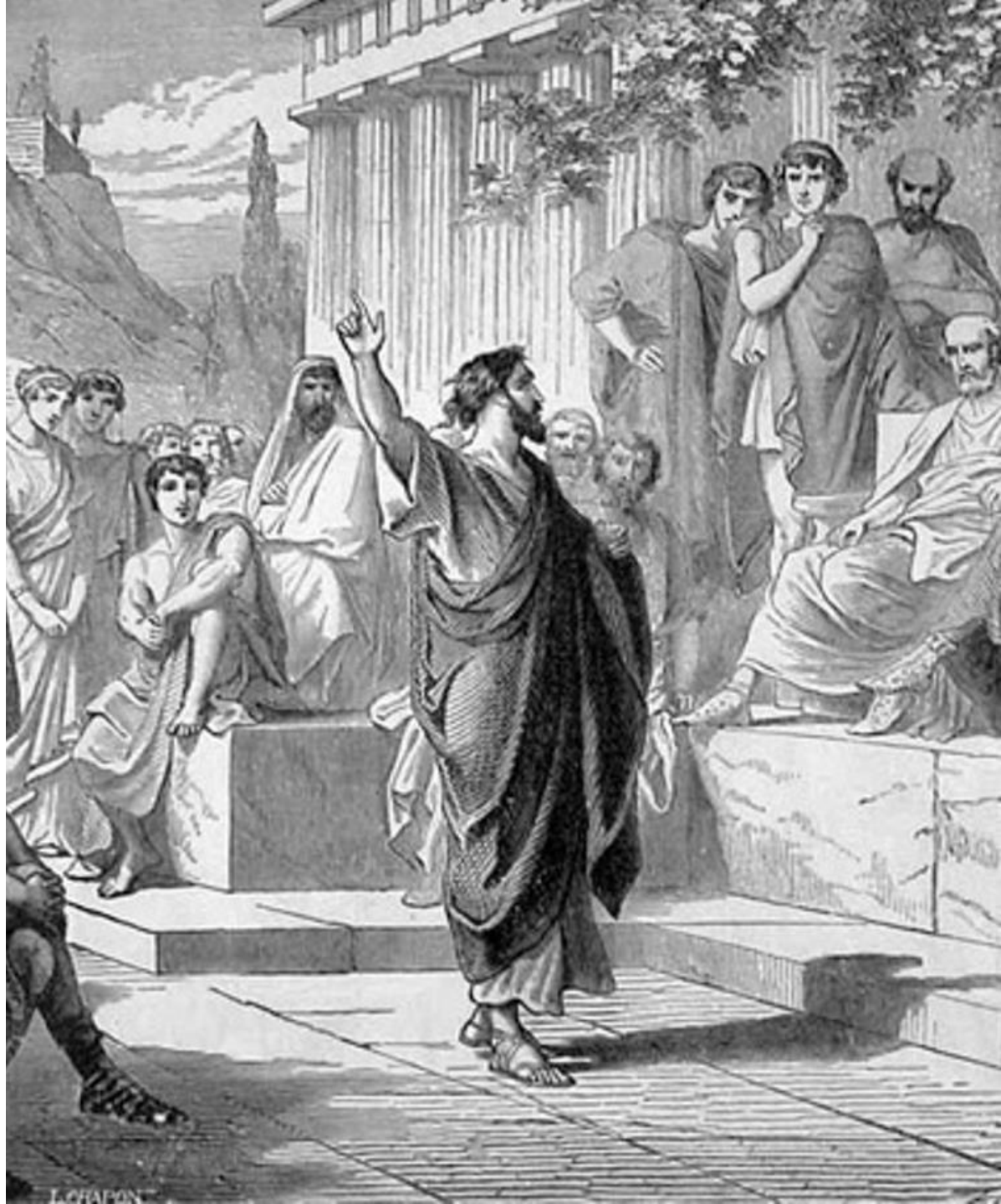
**1 Kings**  
**8:10-11**

“It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”



## Acts 17:24

**“The God who  
made the  
world and all  
things in it,  
since He is  
Lord of  
heaven and  
earth, does not  
dwell in  
temples made  
with hands”**



# John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”





And Yet...

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He Dwells In You

**1 Corinthians 6:19 –**

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

# And Not Only That... EPHESIANS

He Dwells In Us

2 Corinthians 6:16b –

“For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’”



# EPHESIANS