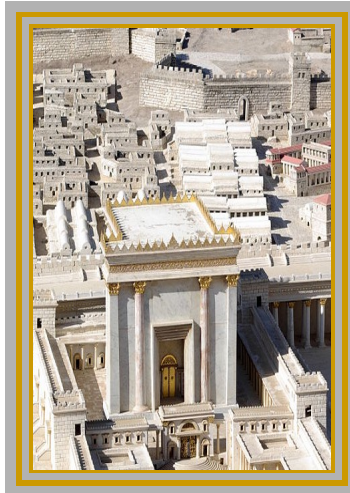


*Caveat emptor!*¹



Bible Words: *templum*²

Templum is a second declension neuter noun that follows the same pattern of endings as *bellum*. God's ancient people, the children of Israel, had no temple at first. Then when they came out of Egypt God instructed Moses to make a tabernacle. This was a movable building like a tent that accompanied the Children of Israel in their wanderings in the desert. When David became king he collected material together to build a permanent structure or temple in Jerusalem.

However, the temple was to be God's house of prayer for all people (Isaiah 56:7). Sacrifices were to be offered in the temple. These sacrifices were pictures of the great sacrifice that would one day be offered for the sins of people of every nation – the Lord Jesus Christ. The temple was therefore a symbol of the peace between man and God that would come through that sacrifice. David had been a man of war. His reign was marked by continual warfare. God therefore told him that he was not a suitable person to build the temple. His son Solomon would have a peaceful reign and the temple would be built by him. Solomon was so determined that the symbolism of peace would not be spoiled that even while the construction was going on nothing noisy happened on the site.

When Israel turned away from God and was conquered by the Babylonians the temple was destroyed along with the city. The people were taken captive to Babylon. When the captivity ended and the children of Israel were allowed to return under Ezra's leadership, a new temple was built. It was not as magnificent as the old temple and Herod the Great began a reconstruction and “upgrading” process that was still going on in the days that Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem. This was the temple in which he taught and from which he chased the buyers and sellers and the money changers, referring as he did so to the text from Isaiah quoted above. When Jerusalem was destroyed in AD70 the temple was razed to the ground.

Bible example:

*et intravit Iesus in **templum** Dei et eiciebat omnes vendentes et ementes in **templo** et mensas nummulariorum et cathedras vendentium columbas evertit* Matthew 21:12

This is the passage mentioned above. Before looking it up see if you can answer these questions. Whose *templum* is it according to the text? What English words are related to *vendentes* (and *vendentium*), *nummulariorum*, *cathedras* and *evertit*? Can you guess *intravit*? Answers on last page.

¹ Common phrase meaning “let the buyer beware.”

² The picture above is of a modern model of Herod's temple.

Answers:

vendentes (and *vendentium*) is related to “vendor” and “vending” (as in vending machine).

nummulariorum is related to “numismatics” (the study of coins).

cathedras is related to “cathedral” (the **seat** of a bishop).

evertit is related to “reverse” and “obverse”

Intravit means “he entered.”