

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT: THE PRESENCE OF GOD
Revelation 21:3-4

We are headed for a Place where there will be no separation from each other. But that is trivial compared to the Hope: No separation from God!

Bible: Presence of God = Life;
 Absence of God = Death.

- I. Garden: the constant immediate Presence of God!
 Imagine! Genesis 3:8a

- II. Fall: banishment from His Presence, Paradise, & Life
 Death IS separation:
 - a) physical: separation of soul from body
 - b) spiritual: separation of soul from God
 Genesis 3:22-24: driven from Garden, Presence, Life
 Promise: Genesis 3:15: One Who will crush the serpent's head

- III. Restoration: OT
 - A. Epiphanies: glimpses of the Presence
 Eg: Genesis 6:13ff; 12:1ff; 15:1ff; 18:1ff;
 28:10-17
 Exodus 3; 12; 19; 24; 33:12ff; 34

 - B. The Covenant Promise: Exodus 6:6-8
 - C. The Ark of the Covenant
 1. Tabernacle: Exodus 35-40
 Note Exodus 25:23-30: Bread of The Presence
 2. Temple
 Priesthood: elaborate rituals to approach a **holy** God & come into His Presence.
 He is holy & just: separation
 Love & mercy: access: Psalm 95:2; 100:2

Therefore ***put on that ARMOR!***

3 Bs you have:

+ **Belt of Truth**

+ **Breastplate of Righteousness**

+ **Boots of the Gospel**

3 Ss you take:

+ **Shield of Faith**

+ **Salvation Helmet**

+ **Sword of Spirit:** Scripture

All surrounded with

+ **Prayer:** all occasions—all kinds—all the saints

So that you will give **Him** the glory for the victory and success.

D. Beyond the Temple: a global God
The Exile: temple destroyed, so where is God??
Book of Daniel: He is everywhere! And rules ALL
Temple rebuilt: hope of Messiah's Kingdom

IV. Restoration: NT

A. The true Temple: Jesus

John 1:14

2:19-21

II Corinthians 12:9

At His death, the veil of the temple torn (Matthew 27:51)

So access to the Presence by His blood:

Hebrews 10:19-22

B. We ARE the Temple

Individually: I Corinthians 6:19-20

Corporately: II Corinthians 6:16;

Ephesians 2:21-22

The Presence of God is IN YOU!

Access & anticipation (II Corinthians 4:14;

I Thessalonians 4:16-18;

contra II Thessalonians 1:9)

V. Final Restoration: Heaven

Revelation 7:13-17: close enough for Him to wipe away your tears

21:3-4: God Himself *with* them

22-3: no temple because immediate Presence!

No created lights because The Shekinah Glory!

22:1-5: Tree of Life in the City because His Presence there

Our reunion at the Wedding....

That is our hope: to live, to share with the hopeless—til He comes

Psalms 16:11