

ARE YOU A PILLAR IN GOD'S TEMPLE?

Roger Walkwitz, Director, The Olive Tree Message
(See Messianic Directory at Morrison, FL)

Take a look at Revelation 3:12, where an exciting Truth is concealed by translations. "Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out no more." Do you and I have a place in God's Temple? No, for God does not have a Temple! **God has a Tabernacle!** There is a difference!

In my understanding, a temple is a religious shrine for all kinds of gods and exalted humans (e.g. the Bahai temple in Haifa). There are many, many temples in the world. There is only one Tabernacle. When God married Israel at Mt. Sinai, He told them to build a specific Tabernacle so He could co-habit with them. When Israel camped, the tribes of Israel surrounded the Tabernacle. God was in the center of their lives, physically and spiritually. He gave a further symbol of His presence in the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire at night. This nighttime "security light" was free of charge.

There are two words in Greek that are almost always translated as "temple." These must be distinguished from each other. *Hieron* means the whole temple complex, courtyards and all. *Naos* means the actual sanctuary (the inner sanctum?), the building or enclosure where the deity lives. Therefore, *hieron* should be translated "temple," but *naos* should be "sanctuary."

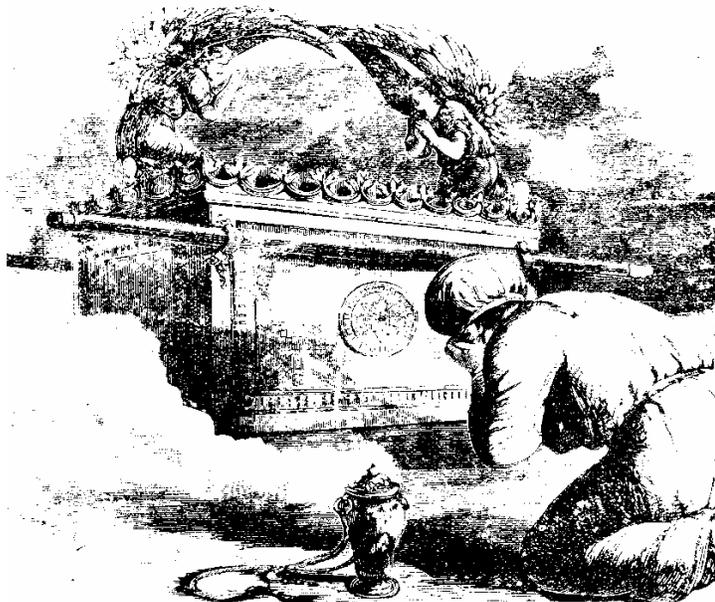
Tabernacle is from the Greek word *skeenee* or *skaynay* (the way I pronounce it.) In Hebrew it is *mishkan*, the Tabernacle designed by God as His dwelling place with His people Israel and built by Moses & Co. Since we are dealing with Rev 3:12, we will stick with NT usage. *Hieron* is found only in the Gospels and Acts (except 1 Cor 9:13 where it refers to those who serve the temple), while *naos* and *skeenee* are found from Matthew to Revelation. God's dwelling is The Tabernacle in heaven, or The Sanctuary in The Tabernacle in heaven, not a temple.

Now to ask again, **Do you and I have a place in God's Tabernacle?** Yes. In a previous *Petah Tikvah* article we saw that we have "fled for refuge" inside the veil, into the

Holy of Holies where Yeshua is, and where every Believer is anchored! Read again Hebrews 6:18-20.

Now let's add another gem, this one specified for overcomers. "Temple" in Rev 3:12 is *naos*, and therefore should be "sanctuary." "Pillar" is the other significant word in this passage that will help us see overcomers in a very nice place. There were many pillars in the whole Tabernacle area. Since the Tabernacle in the Wilderness was strictly copied from the permanent one in heaven, the information given in Exodus must apply to God's Tabernacle in heaven. The courtyard was enclosed by a white curtain held up by 56 pillars, and the gate by 4 more pillars. Is the overcomer symbolized by one of these pillars? No. By clarifying that "temple" should be "sanctuary," we have eliminated the courtyard pillars.

To enter the sanctuary of the Tabernacle, one passes under the screen made of blue, purple, scarlet, and white cloth held up by 5 pillars. Further, the inner veil was held up by 4 pillars. Is the overcomer one of these 9 pillars? No, for in no passage of the Bible that I know



The Ark of the Covenant in the Mishkan

of are people symbolically related to any of these pillars, whether inside the sanctuary or around the courtyard.

The blue, purple, scarlet, and white cloth should be displayed as distinct colors, NOT woven together into a blur or a pattern that means nothing! These colors symbolize Yeshua, the Royal Son of God (purple) who left

heaven (blue) to come to earth as the spotless Lamb of God (white) to shed His blood (scarlet) for the sins of the world!

There is one more possibility, the 48 boards that make up the three sides of the Sanctuary. The 48 boards symbolize the thousands of Levites who were allotted 48 cities to live in throughout the Land of Israel. Six of these are the Cities of Refuge, 3 east of the Jordan River and 3 west of the Jordan, that we looked at in a previous PT article. The Tanakh uses a different Hebrew word for these 48 boards than for the pillars, so there must be a difference, even though all are made from the same kind of wood.

Also in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 & 6:19, 2 Corinthians 6:16, and Ephesians 2:21-22, Believers are characterized as related to the *naos* of God, the Sanctuary, not the *hieron*. Since these passages include both Jewish and Gentile Believers in the *naos* of God, or being the *naos*, the Sanctuary of God, we can conclude that Revelation 3:12 could and should be translated as, "Him that overcomes will I make a board in the sanctuary of my God, and he shall go out no more." That means that the thousands, probably millions throughout the ages, of overcomer Believers are very close to God, symbolized as permanently part of the structure of His Tabernacle in heaven, not just standing around inside. All Believers are married to Yeshua, but the overcomers seem to have a special place as part of the "inner sanctum." As such they should be able to observe all the action going on at the throne of God! Are you an overcomer?

What wonderful Truth is recorded in His Word, especially for those blessed enough to be able to read and understand both Hebrew and Greek! I am not in that category, but appreciate tips here and there to motivate me to dig deeper, as I feed upon the meat of His Word.