

James Rafferty Q2 L6 2025 Wednesday May 7. Jesus at the Temple

There is tension throughout the entire story of salvation. God wishes to restore the communion that we once enjoyed with Him and longs to draw close to us. But bringing sinners into His presence would destroy them. “For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness,” David writes, “nor shall evil dwell with You” (*Ps. 5:4, NKJV*). At the same time, David also writes, “But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple” (*Ps. 5:7, NKJV*).

**Read Haggai 2:7–9:**

**7 And I will shake all nations, and the Desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.**

**8 The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts.**

**9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.**

**As the second temple was being constructed, the prophet Haggai made an astonishing promise: the new temple would be more glorious than the previous one. What was meant by that prophecy?**

What is the desire of nations? You are a member of the nations.  
What do you desire?

**Do you desire light?**

**Jesus is the Light of the nations Jo 1:9**

**Freedom? John 8:36**

**Life? Jesus offers life more abundant John 10:10**

**Truth? Jesus is the truth Jo 14:6**

**Peace? John 14:27**

**AND A WAY HOME TO OUR CREATOR OUR LOVING  
HEAVENLY FATHER REDEEMER AND TRUE FRIEND**

When the first temple was dedicated by Solomon, the Shekinah glory—the presence of God that had accompanied the children of Israel en route to Canaan—filled the temple, and so the priests could not remain to complete their work of ministry (*1 Kings 8:10, 11*). When the second temple was dedicated, the ark of the covenant, representing God’s throne, was missing because Jeremiah had hidden it. The literal presence of God did *not* fill the temple this time. It was heartbreaking. How could Haggai’s promise possibly come true?

It was in the second temple that Jesus, the incarnation of God, appeared in Person, in flesh and blood. God Himself had stepped out from behind the veil to become one of us and to join us in this broken world. Because the Son of God was now the Son of man, we could see His face, hear His voice, and witness, for example, when He touched an unclean leper and made him whole (*Matt. 8:3*). Instead of bringing us closer in *His* direction, God brought us closer to Him by moving in *our* direction. He came down, personally, to us. No wonder the Bible said about Jesus: “ ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son,

and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us' ” (*Matt. 1:23, NKJV*). Think about what this means: the Creator of the cosmos condescended not only to live among us but to die for us.

**The cross is by far the greatest manifestation of God's love. What are other ways we can see and experience the reality of God's love?**

LUKE 24:

**36** And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

**37** But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

**38** And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?

**39** Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

**40** And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them *his* hands and *his* feet.

**41** And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

JOHN 20: for a spirit hath not flesh and blood reference

JESUS WAS RESURRECTED IN HIS EARTHLY BODY. HE IS GOD BOTH DIVINE AND HUMAN. FOREVER TO RETAIN OUR HUMAN FORM. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SECOND ADAM AND NEW HEAD OF THE HUMAN

RACE. JESUS HAS BECOME ONE WITH HUMANITY FOR ALL ETERNITY.

ISAIAH 9:6

**6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son IS GIVEN: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.