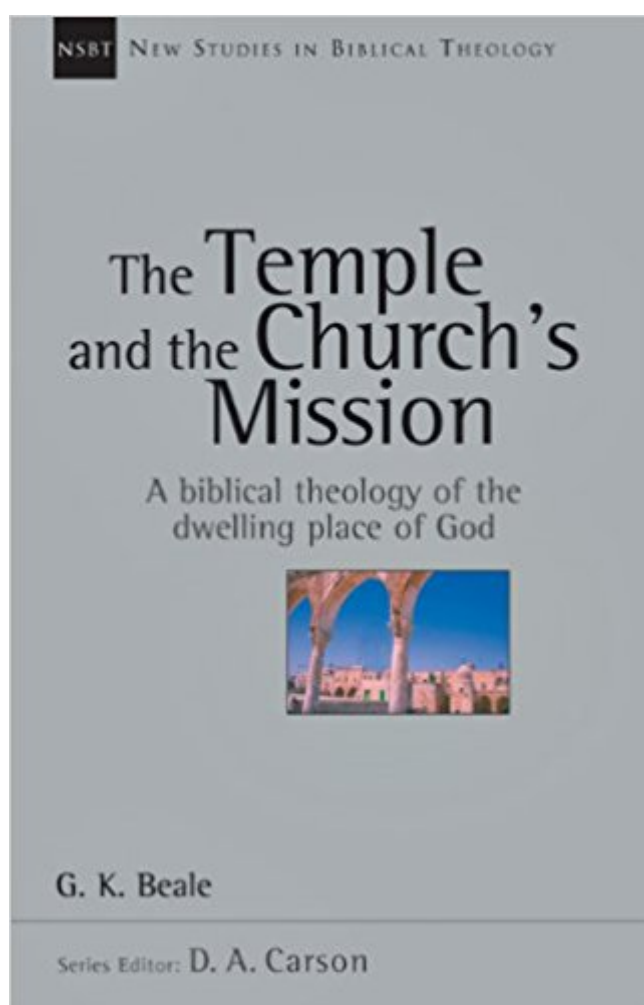


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# The Temple And The Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology Of The Dwelling Place Of God (New Studies In Biblical Theology)



## Synopsis

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . . And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem. . . . And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.'" (Revelation 21:1-3, ESV). In this comprehensive study, a New Studies in Biblical Theology volume, G. K. Beale argues that the Old Testament tabernacle and temples were symbolically designed to point to the end-time reality that God's presence, formerly limited to the Holy of Holies, would be extended throughout the cosmos. Hence, John's vision in Revelation 21 is best understood as picturing the new heavens and earth as the eschatological temple. Beale's stimulating exposition traces the theme of the tabernacle and temple across the Bible's story-line, illuminating many texts and closely-related themes along the way. He shows how the significance and symbolism of the temple can be better understood in the context of ancient Near Eastern assumptions, and offers new insights into the meaning of the temple in both Old and New Testaments. Addressing key issues in biblical theology, the works comprising New Studies in Biblical Theology are creative attempts to help Christians better understand their Bibles. The NSBT series is edited by D. A. Carson, aiming to simultaneously instruct and to edify, to interact with current scholarship and to point the way ahead.

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## Customer Reviews

Beale has written a comprehensive (and to my mind, convincing) biblical theology, centering on the role of the temple both in Scripture and in the Ancient Near East. (David Renwick, Lexington

Theological Quarterly, Spring 2007) I recommend this work for anyone wrestling with eschatological issues of fulfillment or handling temple texts that are dealt with in this book. As for me, I intend to have the book handy anytime I approach biblical theology as a guidebook in methodology. (Tim Barker, Truth on Fire blog, July 12, 2008). . . One of the finest studies in biblical theology available. (Andrews University Seminary Studies, Fall 2007) "[Beale's] exegesis and theological insights will provoke [readers] in their own study of the Temple." (Missiology, January 2006) "The importance of this book lies not only in the competent handling of its chosen theme but in three other things: its evocative unpacking of the theme of the temple and its relations to broader structures of thought, including the kingdom of God; its modeling of the way biblical theology is to be done; and its capacity to cause readers to perceive fresh and wonderful things in the Scriptures, and to bow in worship and gratitude." (D. A. Carson)

G. K. Beale (PhD, University of Cambridge) holds the J. Gresham Machen Chair of New Testament and is professor of New Testament and biblical theology at Westminster Theological Seminary. His books include *The Book of Revelation* (New International Greek Testament Commentary), *1-2 Thessalonians* (The IVP New Testament Commentary Series), *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts? Essays on the Use of the Old Testament in the New*, *John's Use of the Old Testament in Revelation*, *The Temple and the Church's Mission* and *We Become What We Worship*.

400 pages on the Bible's teaching on the Temple and the concept of God dwelling with His people--from Genesis to Revelation! A masterful treatment and a thorough job! I'm a big-picture guy and Beale provides the big-picture in this book of God's overarching purpose in His dealings with mankind from Creation to Fall to Sinai to Calvary to the New Heavens and the New Earth. Beale just earned his very own shelf in my library with this one!

Wow... what a great book! Beale presents fascinating types, symbols and motifs related to Israel's temples and tabernacle, but he does so in a well documented, scholarly, objective manner. If you've studied this topic, you may have read such works as "The Tabernacle, the Priesthood, and the Offerings" by Henry Soltau, "The Temple of Solomon" by Kevin Conner or "The Temple: Its Ministry and Services, Updated Edition" by Alfred Edersheim. These are all great books exposing many of the types and symbols of the Temple and I highly recommend these works; and if you have benefited from these, then you will benefit from Beale. He puts things into perspective and brings the types and symbols to life in the style of Waltke with all of the in-depth cultural background of

Walton (whom Beale cites often when writing about Ancient Near Eastern background issues). Don't study the temple as a Scriptural theme without reading this book! However, if you're not interested in a barrage of citations of various traditions and the work of other recent scholars, but simply want a good book that exposes types and symbols, try "The Temple of Solomon" by Conner.

This is an excellent book because it sets out to prove the relationship between the church and the temple which it does in a superb way. In the process of doing that goes through exegesis of several verses and passages providing insight and deeper understanding of the scripture. Showing the deeper levels of information and relationships between various passages namely OT vs. NT. In essence is a multi level Bible study for the passages and verses discussed.

Good read, but it's not for everyone as it's pretty technical. The author lays out a very thorough case for the temple being the garden of Eden where God walks / dwells with man. Later, the promised land of Caanan is the expanded version all of which culminates in Jesus. He lays out all the furnishings of the temple, shows their "garden" reference, then shows their symbolism and their fulfillment. Frank Viola refers to this work extensively in his writing also.

Beale traces the reoccurring motif of temple. Also showing how the literal temple is not the physical one Solomon built, that was type or figure of the true temple, Jesus Christ and all his own joined to him by faith. I see this in the scriptures much more clearly and more frequently having read this book. Thorough. Recommended.

This is a fascinating read. There are so many books about church mission that emphasize techniques and theories of mission. This book puts a foundation under the whole effort and reveals why God has created the church to fulfill his divine purpose for the cosmos. The book begins in the Garden of Eden and proceeds through history ending in the Paradise of Revelation 22. Rooted in scripture all the way. And by a top scholar. Everything I have seen to date by G. K. Beale is top quality. Comprehensively footnoted to scholarly sources -- the bibliography is 26 pages. Highly recommended.

This book is brilliant. The author clearly shows that the purpose of the temple was to teach us about the presence of God, and that the fulfillment is in Jesus and the Spirit. He writes a detailed analysis of Biblical and Near Middle Eastern sources, and ties it all together with a superb closing chapter. It

is very refreshing to read the work of a dedicated and open-minded scholar like G.K. Beale!

Very complicated for a lay person but wonderful information.

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