

# John 2:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

## Analysis

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Christ's cryptic prophecy 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up' was deliberately ambiguous—speaking of His body's resurrection while using 'temple' metaphorically. The Jews' literal interpretation ('Forty and six years was this temple in building') revealed their spiritual blindness. John clarifies (v. 21-22) that disciples understood only after the resurrection. This claim—to rebuild the temple in three days—became a charge at His trial (Matthew 26:61), showing Christ's control over His own resurrection.

## Historical Context

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Herod's temple renovation began around 20 BC; 'forty-six years' dates this to 27-28 AD, early in Christ's ministry. The temple won't be complete until 63 AD, shortly before Rome destroys it (70 AD). Christ's resurrection body becomes the true temple where God dwells.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's resurrection vindicate His claims about being greater than the temple?
2. In what ways is the church, Christ's body, now the temple of God?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτόν Λύσατε τὸν ναὸν  
answered G3588 Jesus and said it Destroy G3588 temple  
G611 G2424 G2532 G2036 G846 G3089 G3485

τοῦτον καὶ ἐν τρισὶν ἡμέραις ἐγερῶ αὐτόν  
this and in three days I will raise it  
G5126 G2532 G1722 G5140 G2250 G1453 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 14:58** (Temple): We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

**Mark 15:29** (Temple): And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

**Matthew 27:40** (Temple): And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

**Matthew 12:40** (Parallel theme): For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

**Romans 8:11** (Resurrection): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**Acts 3:15** (Resurrection): And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

**Acts 2:24** (Resurrection): Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

**Acts 2:32** (Resurrection): This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

**Mark 8:31** (Resurrection): And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

**Romans 6:4** (Resurrection): Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.