

# 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

**Psalms 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.