

John 2:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he spake of the temple of his body.

Analysis

John clarifies: 'But he spake of the temple of his body.' Jesus' body is the true temple—the meeting place of God and humanity. His resurrection after three days would vindicate His authority and fulfill this sign. The incarnation means God dwells not in buildings but in Christ Himself, and through Him, in believers. This redefines sacred space entirely.

Historical Context

The tabernacle and temple were God's dwelling places in Israel. Jesus claimed to supersede these—He is the reality the building symbolized. After resurrection, believers become temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). The physical temple's destruction in 70 AD confirmed that God's presence had moved to His people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus being the true temple change our understanding of worship and God's presence?

2. What implications does this have for sacred buildings in Christian worship?

Interlinear Text

ἐκεῖνος	δὲ	ἔλεγεν	περὶ	τοῦ	ναοῦ	τοῦ	σώματος
he	But	spake	of	G3588	the temple	G3588	body
G1565	G1161	G3004	G4012		G3485		G4983

αὐτοῦ
G846

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 6:19 (Temple): What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1 Corinthians 3:16 (Temple): Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Hebrews 8:2 (Temple): A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Colossians 2:9 (Parallel theme): For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 1:19 (Parallel theme): For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

John 1:14 (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 6:16 (Temple): And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.