

# Mark 14:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**We heard him say, I will destroy this temple** (ὅτι Ἐγὼ καταλύσω τὸν ναὸν τοῦτον, hoti Egō katalysō ton naon touton)—The verb καταλύω (katalyō) means to demolish or overthrow. Jesus did say something similar (John 2:19): 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,' but He spoke of His body, not Herod's temple. **Made with hands** (χειροποίητον, cheiropoiēton) versus **made without hands** (ἀχειροποίητον,acheiropoiēton) employs theological categories.

Stephen would later be accused with similar charges (Acts 6:14). The terms evoke Isaiah 66:1-2's contrast between earthly temples and God's true dwelling. The witnesses twisted Jesus's prophetic sign into sedition against the Temple, punishable by death. Their lie contained garbled truth—Jesus would indeed inaugurate a new temple, His resurrection body and the Church (1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:21), replacing the old covenant worship system.

## Historical Context

Herod's Temple renovation (begun 20 BC) was still ongoing during Jesus's ministry, having already consumed 46 years (John 2:20). Any threat against it was both religious blasphemy and political sedition, as Rome sanctioned the Temple and profited from its operation. The distinction between 'made with hands' and 'without hands' may reflect Jewish speculation about the eschatological temple described in Ezekiel 40-48.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How did the witnesses pervert Jesus's true statement about His resurrection body into a false charge?
2. What does the temple 'made without hands' teach about the new covenant and the Church?
3. Why would threatening the physical temple be both religiously and politically dangerous in first-century Judaism?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅτι Ἡμεῖς ἠκούσαμεν αὐτοῦ λέγοντος ὅτι Ἐγὼ

G3754      **We**      G2249      heard      G191      him      G846      say      G3004      I      G1473

καταλύσω τὸν ναὸν τοῦτον τὸν χειροποίητον καὶ

will destroy      G3588      temple      this      G3588      that is made with hands      and

G2647      G3485      G5126      G5499      G2532

διὰ τριῶν ἡμερῶν ἄλλον ἀχειροποίητον οἰκοδομήσω

within      three      days      another      made without hands      I will build

G1223      G5140      G2250      G243      G886      G3618

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 9:11** (Creation): But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

**John 2:19** (Temple): Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

**2 Corinthians 5:1** (Creation): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**Hebrews 9:24** (Creation): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

**Acts 7:48** (Creation): Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

**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,

**Daniel 2:34** (Parallel theme): Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.