

Psalm 78:69

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever.

Analysis

And he built his sanctuary like high palaces, like the earth which he hath established for ever. God's choosing (v. 68) leads to building. **His sanctuary** (mikdasho, מִקְדָּשׁוֹ) refers to Solomon's temple, but the cosmic similes transcend any physical building. **Like high palaces** (kemo ramim, כִּמוּ רָם) compares the temple to heaven's lofty heights—God's earthly dwelling mirrors His celestial palace.

The second simile, **like the earth which he hath established for ever** (ke'eretz yesadah le'olam, קְאֶרֶץ יִסָּדָה לְעוֹלָם), promises permanence. God founded (yasad, יִסָּד) both earth and temple with enduring stability. Though Solomon's temple was later destroyed, this verse anticipates the eternal temple—Christ Himself (John 2:19-21) and the church as God's dwelling (1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:21-22).

The architectural imagery points to the new Jerusalem descending from heaven (Revelation 21:2-3), where God dwells with humanity forever. What began with the tabernacle, continued in the temple, and was incarnated in Jesus will consummate in eternal divine-human fellowship.

Historical Context

Solomon's temple (built 966-959 BC) was architecturally magnificent, using costly materials and skilled craftsmen (1 Kings 6-7). Its dedication featured God's glory filling the house (1 Kings 8:10-11). Though destroyed by Babylon (586 BC) and

rebuilt under Zerubbabel (520-515 BC), the temple represented God's permanent commitment to dwell among His people.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Christ as God's ultimate temple affect your view of worship and God's presence?
2. What does it mean that the church—believers collectively—is God's temple 'established forever'?
3. In what ways do earthly worship spaces point to heavenly realities without becoming ends in themselves?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	בָּאָתִי	מִקְדָּשׁ	וְ	כְּמַיִם	כְּמוֹ	וְ	בָּאָתִי	וְאֵת
And he built	H3644	like high	his sanctuary	palaces	like the earth			
H1129		H7311	H4720		H776			

וְאֵת	בָּאָתִי	מִקְדָּשׁ	וְ	כְּמַיִם	כְּמוֹ	וְ	בָּאָתִי	וְאֵת
which he hath established	H3245	for ever	H5769					