

**Aim:** To understand why we don't have a temple now

**Refer:** Great Controversy chapter 5

During the dark ages Satan tried to destroy the Bible and almost succeeded. The few copies of the Bible that still remained were written in Latin, a language only taught to university students. John Wycliffe was born in the fourteenth century in England and he was a keen student, studying both the laws of the land and religious studies at Oxford University. At the university he had access to a Bible and began a through study of it. In the Bible he found the real Jesus and the truths about God's plan of salvation.

At this time the Pope was to calling people to join monasteries as a sign of their love for God and once they joined, they were not allowed to leave. Some educated people had tried to bring changes to the monasteries, but they had failed. Now John Wycliffe began to write tracts – booklets, showing what was wrong with the monasteries and saying the entire system was false and should be stopped and that the Pope did not have the power to forgive sins, nor the right to demand taxes from the people.

He also wrote about the teachings of Jesus, and people, even some priests began to doubt what was taught by the priests and to believe the truths of the Bible.

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Roughly 500 years before Solomon built the temple, Moses and the Israelites had built the Sanctuary tent in the wilderness. If you were in our Sabbath School 6 months ago, you would know that every single thing in the Sanctuary was designed to teach something about God.

Optional Question: Do you remember some of what these things represented?

- Sacrifices – Sin is not nice; Jesus would die for sin
- The wash basin – cleansing from sin
- The lamp stand – Jesus is the light of the world & Christians should be a light showing others what God is like.
- The bread – Daily Bible study is important just as eating is important
- Altar of incense – God always hears us when we pray
- Ark - We can approach God, only because Jesus has paid for our sins.
- The High Priest – Jesus, working for our salvation

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**Read Exodus 25:8** – This is what God said when He had them make the first Sanctuary

**Was God with people before this?** Yes

Can you think of some people we know had God with them? (Noah, Abraham, Moses...)

Do you know why we don't have the temple anymore?

**Read Matthew 27:50-51** (This is when Jesus died)

The sacrifices and the Sanctuary services all pointed forward to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and once Jesus died, they were no longer needed.

Since we no longer have the Sanctuary or Temple, does God still live with people?

**Read Matthew 28:20** (I am with you always)

**Read 1 Corinthians 3:16** (Your body is the temple of God) (Ephesians 2:19-22 and John 14:16-20 also speak of this)

Other ways to say this are 'Jesus is in my heart', 'Jesus is my best friend', 'I have given my life to Jesus'. The way this all happens is through the work of the Holy Spirit.

When God's spirit lives in us, He influences us to become more and more like God.

**Roman 8:6**

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When Jesus was on earth, His hands brought healing and comfort to people. Now, when His Spirit is in us, He will use our hands to bring help people. Through the Holy Spirit, He helps us to forgive when we are hurt, to be kind and caring to everyone, to have hope, joy and peace even when things have gone wrong, to be patient and have self-control when people are annoying, to be faithful and to do what is right, even when it is hard.