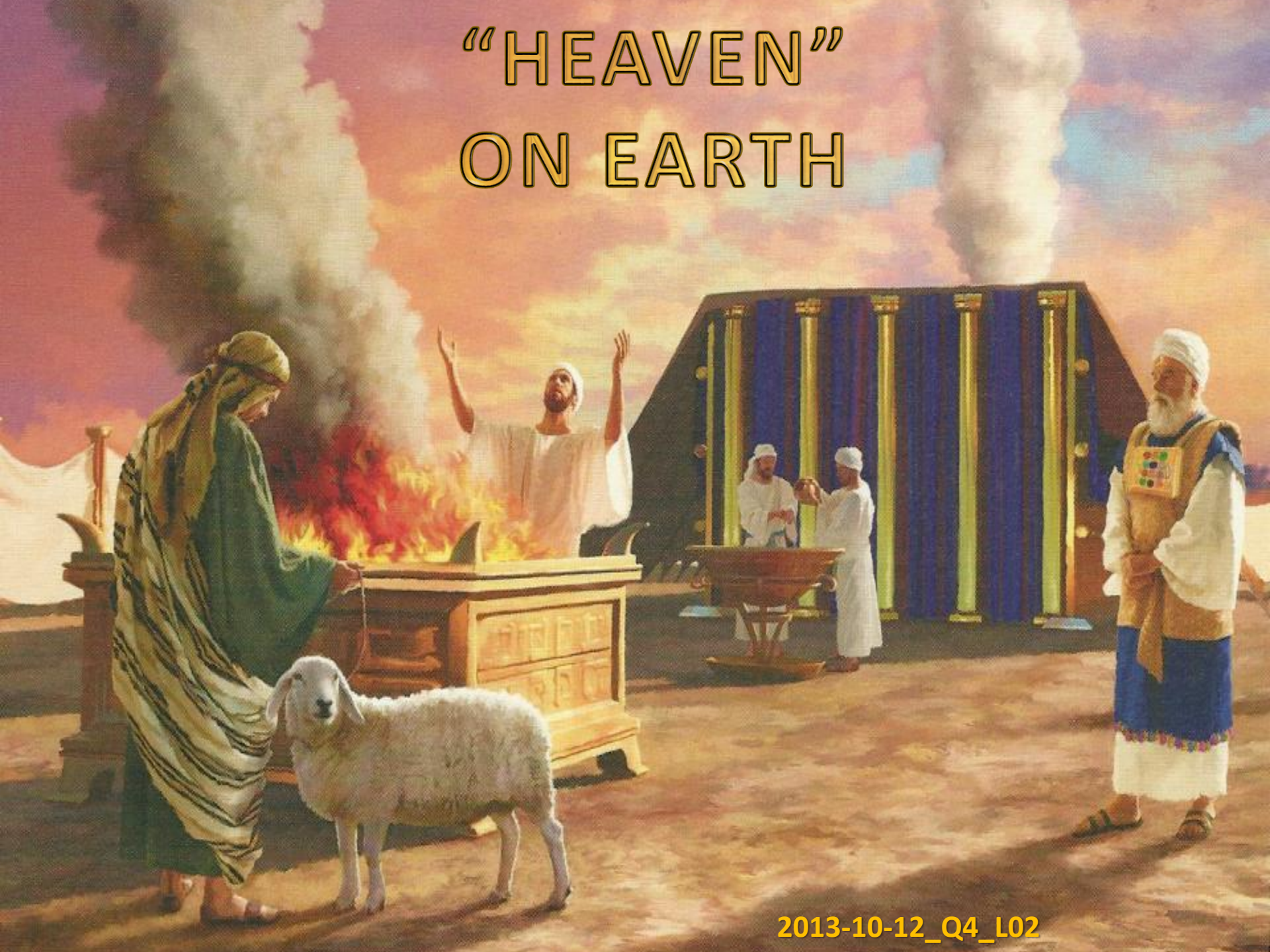


"HEAVEN" ON EARTH



Though the sanctuary in heaven is the original, the one where God Himself is ministering "for us," the Lord has revealed truths about this sanctuary in different ways to us here on earth:

THE EDEN SANCTUARY



THE ISRAEL SANCTUARY



THE JESUS SANCTUARY



THE CHURCH SANCTUARY



THE NEW EARTH SANCTUARY



THE EDEN SANCTUARY

The sanctuary, or temple, is the place where God meets man. The Garden of Eden was that place before sin.

Just like later sanctuaries, its gate was placed at east and man looked after it (Gn. 2:15; 3:24)

But something was different there; God spoke with man face to face at Eden. Adam and Eve “were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between” (EGW, Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 2, pg. 50)

Eden was God’s dwelling place on Earth. It was the place where our first fathers worshipped God and communed with Him.



THE ISRAEL SANCTUARY

“For if He [Jesus] were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”” (Hebrews 8:4-5)



God told Moses to make the tabernacle according to the “pattern” (Hebrew tabnit), that he would be shown in the mountain. Tabnit means “a copy of an original that serves as a [miniature] model for another copy.” Moses was first given a glimpse of the original heavenly sanctuary in all its vastness and glory (Exod. 24:10; see Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 343) and then shown “a miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary” (Ellen G. White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, p. 269) to serve as a pattern for constructing the earthly sanctuary. Thus, the earthly sanctuary was ultimately a copy of the original heavenly sanctuary/temple.

THE JESUS SANCTUARY

"Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."... But He was speaking of the temple of His body"

(John 2:19-21)

According to John, Jesus "became flesh and dwelt among us". The original verb that was translated as "dwelt" should be translated as "tabernacled". That is, He made a tabernacle (sanctuary) to dwell among men. The Sanctuary is made flesh in Jesus:



He is the altar of sacrifice,

sacrifice and offering for our sins
(Jn. 1:29)



He is the brazen laver,

the living water to those who
have been baptized (Jn. 4:14)



He is the seven-lamp lampstand,

the light of the world (Jn. 8:12)



He is the table of showbread,

the bread which came down
from heaven (Jn. 6:41)



He is the altar of incense,

we come to the Father thanks to
His mediation (Heb. 4:14-16)



He is the ark of the covenant,

He has been glorified with the
Father (Jn. 17:5)



THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

When Jesus died, the veil that separated the Holy and the Most Holy Place was ripped. The Temple was not the dwelling place of God anymore.

Now God dwelt in another Temple: His Church.

The Church is the Temple of God in two ways:



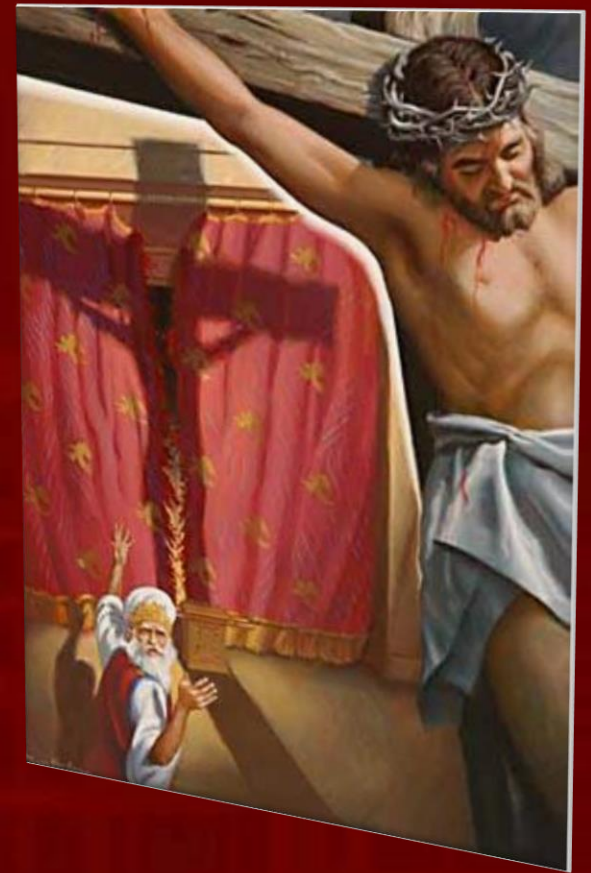
INDIVIDUALLY

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

(1 Corinthians 3:16)

COLLECTIVELY

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:20-21)



“God has given you a habitation to care for and preserve in the best condition for His service and glory. Your bodies are not your own.... “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”... The sacred temple of the body must be kept pure and uncontaminated, that God’s Holy Spirit may dwell therein”

E.G.W. (Our Father cares, February 11)

“The church on earth is God’s temple, and it is to assume divine proportions before the world. This building is to be the light of the world. It is to be composed of living stones laid close together, stone fitting to stone, making a solid building. All these stones are not of the same shape or dimension. Some are large and some are small, but each one has its own place to fill. In the whole building there is not to be one misshapen stone. Each one is perfect. And each stone is a living stone, a stone that emits light. The value of the stones is determined by the light they reflect to the world... This is God’s plan, and He desires all who profess to believe the truth to fill their respective places in the great, grand work for this time”

E.G.W. (In Heavenly Places, October 1)

THE NEW EARTH SANCTUARY

Where will we meet
God in the New Earth?
Where will the
Sanctuary/Temple be?



In the Sanctuary at the desert, the glory of God appeared on a perfect cube in the Most Holy Place. The New Jerusalem will also be a perfect cube, and “the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it” (Rev. 22:3) and “the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple” (Rev. 21:22)

That’s where we will come to Jesus to worship Him (Rev. 21:24) and to serve Him as priests (Rev. 20:6)

“Christ has pledged Himself to help all who join His army, to cooperate with Him in fighting against visible and invisible foes. He has promised that they shall be joint heirs with Him to an immortal inheritance, that they shall reign as kings and priests before God. Those who are willing to share in this life the humiliation of the Saviour will share with Him in His glory. Those who choose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season will be given a place with Christ on His throne”

