

John 2:13

God lives in heaven. He is not confined to any place. Long ago Solomon king of Israel built a great house in Jerusalem for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. God chose that place to put his name and to listen from heaven to the prayers of people in that house. God intended this building to be a house of prayer for all peoples. This temple of the LORD was the place where God caused his presence to dwell in a special way.

(1)

Think about [John 2:13-16](#).

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade."

- Jesus said the temple building was whose house?
- By calling God his own Father, who was Jesus claiming to be?
Consider [John 5:18](#). *This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him (Jesus), because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*
- Why was Jesus so angry and fierce in the temple?
Consider [Mark 11:17](#). *And he (Jesus) was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."*

(2)

Note: About 1000 years before Jesus was born, King David, a Jewish prophet, wrote this of the promised Christ: *"Zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you (God) have fallen on me."* [Psalm 69:9](#).

Think about [John 2:17](#).

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

- After watching Jesus overthrow all the businesses in the temple, what did his students recall?

(3)

Think about [John 2:18-21](#).

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

In these events, Jesus called God his father and accomplished a prophecy of King David. The Jews saw this as Jesus claiming to be the promised Christ, so they asked him to show them a sign as proof.

- What sign did Jesus promise the Jews?
- What did the Jews think that Jesus had said?
Consider [Matthew 26:59-63](#), when Jesus was on trial before the Jews.
Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" But Jesus remained silent.
- Why do you think Jesus referred to his body as the temple?
Consider [1Kings 8:13, 27](#). (King Solomon prayed) *"I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever. ... But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!"*

(4)

Think about [John 2:22](#).

When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

After Jesus was killed, he was buried in a grave. His dead body was in that tomb for three days. On the third day Jesus's dead body was raised to life – never to die again.

- When Jesus's students saw him raised alive from being dead, what did they remember?
- What did they believe?