

Biblical Notes — Acts 7:48

48 – However, the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says: (48. ἀλλ' οὐχ ὁ ὑψιστος ἐν χειροποιήτοις κατοικεῖ, καθὼς ὁ προφήτης λέγει)

"The quotation of Stephen from Acts 7:48 is used later by Paul in Acts 17:24, However the original source of the quotation is I Kings 8:27, where Solomon prays at the dedication of the temple that he has built. The context of Solomon's prayer at this place is that though the heavens cannot contain Yahweh, much less the temple, yet may His eyes be upon this place where God had promised to set His name. The quotation does not therefore deny a literal temple but establishes the fact of God's omnipresence. The title MOST HIGH is equivalent to the Hebrew word ELYON, signifying "Mighty One", i.e. Lord of heaven and earth (Gen. 24:3, I Kings 8:23). Stephen uses this point to illustrate the futility of trusting in a temple built by Herod and such not "according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount (Acts 7:44| Ex. 25:40). The tabernacle, Solomon's temple and the temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy chapters 40 to 48 are, however, Divine in pattern, "that I may dwell among them" (Ex.25:8). It should be realised however, that on the principle of I Cor. 15:46, "first that which is natural" and afterwards that which is spiritual, there is a spiritual temple of the Israel-ecclesia being developed (Eph. 2:19-22), which is the antitype of the "natural" Israel Temple. This principle will repeat itself in relation to "all peoples". During the millennium there will be a literal "House of Prayer for all nations" (Isa. 56:7) and then at the end of the Kingdom Age the righteous of all the nations will partake of the Spirit community of the saints, described in Rev.21 as a "Bride-Temple", when "God shall be all in all" (I Cor.15:28)."

— Henry Sulley, A Handbook Of Answers To Objections To 'The Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy'. (Alphega Productions, Melbourne, Australia, 1976), 1.