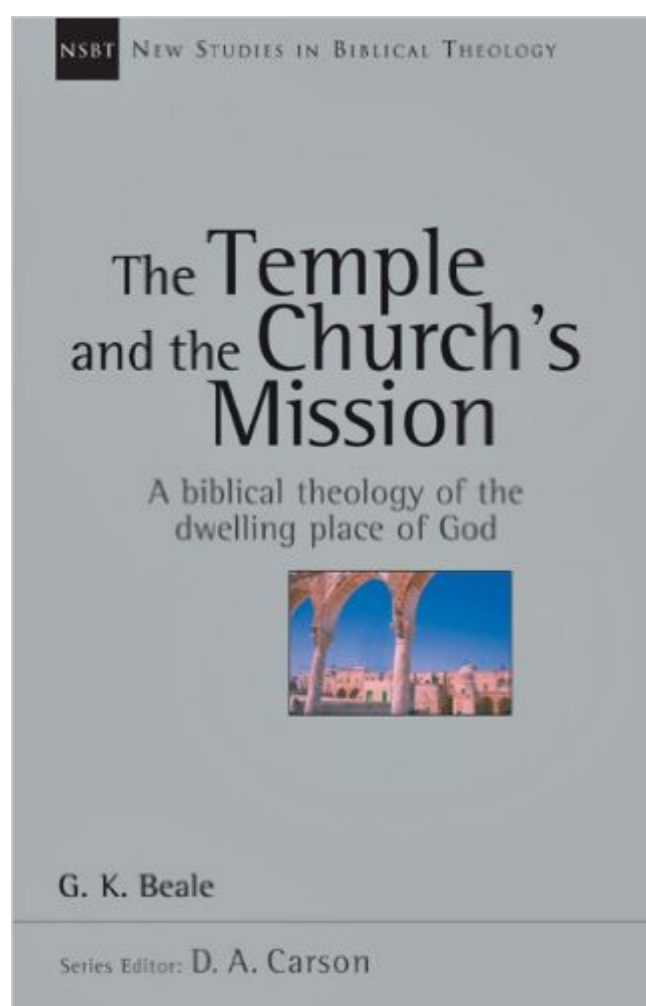


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The Temple And The Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology Of The Dwelling Place Of God (New Studies In Biblical Theology)



Synopsis

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . . And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem. . . . And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.'" (Revelation 21:1-3, ESV). In this comprehensive study, a New Studies in Biblical Theology volume, G. K. Beale argues that the Old Testament tabernacle and temples were symbolically designed to point to the end-time reality that God's presence, formerly limited to the Holy of Holies, would be extended throughout the cosmos. Hence, John's vision in Revelation 21 is best understood as picturing the new heavens and earth as the eschatological temple. Beale's stimulating exposition traces the theme of the tabernacle and temple across the Bible's story-line, illuminating many texts and closely-related themes along the way. He shows how the significance and symbolism of the temple can be better understood in the context of ancient Near Eastern assumptions, and offers new insights into the meaning of the temple in both Old and New Testaments. Addressing key issues in biblical theology, the works comprising New Studies in Biblical Theology are creative attempts to help Christians better understand their Bibles. The NSBT series is edited by D. A. Carson, aiming to simultaneously instruct and to edify, to interact with current scholarship and to point the way ahead.

Book Information

Paperback: 458 pages

Publisher: IVP Academic (October 17, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830826181

ISBN-13: 978-0830826186

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #330,274 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #183 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Ecclesiology](#) #456 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Missions & Missionary Work](#) #1455 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Criticism & Interpretation](#)

Customer Reviews

Days before I graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Dr. Greg Beale, my student advisor and my professor of New Testament said, "Chip, you have a good grasp of theological and

hermeneutical frameworks for understanding Scripture, I encourage you, now, to read authors who do the work of exegesis. Read, not how to do exegesis, but authors that do exegesis of texts." I have sought to do that for the last twenty-two years, whether I was in fulltime vocational ministry or in secular employment for personal study. Beale's book, *The Temple and the Church's Mission*, is an expert and great example of the work of exegesis, and as well, how such exegesis works into a Biblical Theology. This book is worth the read simply for the methodology it presents. *The Temple and the Church's Mission* is also a needed work on the nature of the Church, indeed a Biblical Theology of "Church" as well. Beale is a master exegete and harnesses that process to develop a Biblical Theology of God's ultimate plan in creating the Garden of Eden, the Temple, Jerusalem, and the Church. He makes the difficult exegetical process readable so the average pastor can wade through the material. His method should be imitated. As a Biblical Theology, *The Temple and the Church's Mission* utilizes the exegetical method to trace the progressive revelation from the Old Testament to the New and shows the implications on the nature of the Christian life and of the Church. Beale's conclusions should inform us regarding God's ultimate purpose, role, and mission of His Church. This book has an impact on the Christian community's view of its mission and purpose, and will lead to a wide range of practical considerations for the wise pastor and wise church leader.

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