

## Discussion

1. Introduce yourself. Share one of your favorite ways you've served at Beaver Creek Nazarene.
2. Last week was heavy. Why is it so important to understand the messages being broadcast in our culture?
3. What homework text did you explore? Tell your group about it.
4. Discuss: Jesus' resurrection the essential Christian response to a cultural message of despair.

## Review & Homework: Creation

### Creation as Temple

*This is what the LORD says:*

*"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place?*

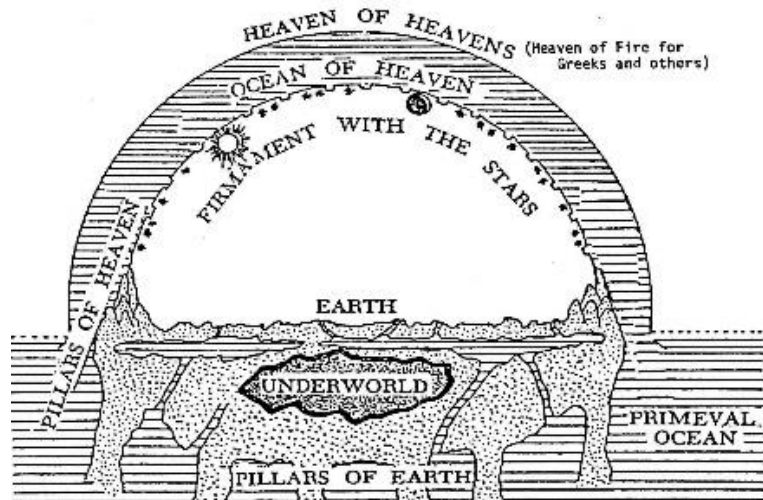
*My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the LORD, have spoken! -- Isaiah 66:1-2*

*Let us go to the sanctuary of the Lord; let us worship at the footstool of his throne. Arise, O Lord, and enter your resting place, along with the Ark, the symbol of your power...*

*For the Lord has chosen Jerusalem; he has desired it for his home.*

*"This is my resting place forever," he said. "I will live here, for this is the home I desired. -- Psalm 132: 7-8, 13-14*

## Making a Temple a Home



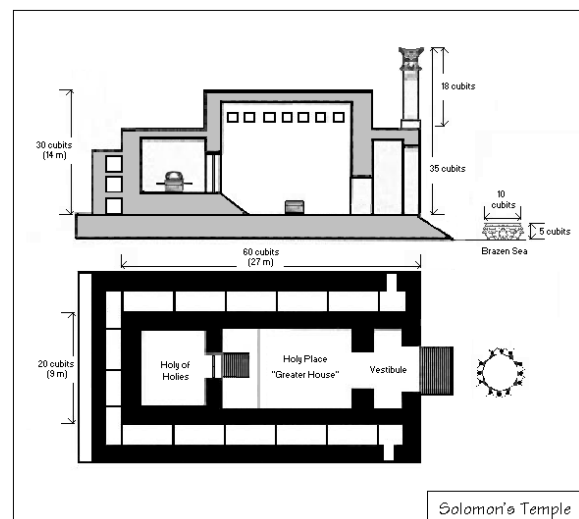
*Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."*

*So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. -- Genesis 1:26-27*

## Temple as House

*Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot... Finally Abram said to Lot, "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate." -- Genesis 13:5-9*

## Temple as Creation



## Worship as World-building

### Unclean: Blood & Blemish

*God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it. -- Genesis 9:1-4*

*"If you present a peace offering to the LORD from the herd or the flock, whether it is to fulfill a vow or is a voluntary offering, you must offer a perfect animal. It may have no defect of any kind. You must not offer an animal that is blind, crippled, or injured, or that has a wart, a skin sore, or scabs. Such animals must never be offered on the altar as special gifts to the LORD. If a bull or lamb has a leg that is too long or too short, it may be offered as a voluntary offering, but it may not be offered to fulfill a vow. If an animal has damaged testicles or is castrated, you may not offer it to the LORD... Such animals will not be accepted on your behalf, for they are mutilated or defective." -- Leviticus 22:21-25*

*“Anyone who injures another person [gives another person a blemish] must be dealt with according to the injury inflicted — a fracture for a fracture, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Whatever anyone does to injure another person must be paid back in kind. -- Leviticus 24:19-20*

*Causing a blemish in a neighbour is doing him a damage according to the elementary principles of justice: taking away something that is his by right, leaving him with too little. Or by oppression, giving him a heavy load to bear. Causing a blemish is giving a labourer excessive burdens. The interesting thing is that the neighbor who has suffered outrage in this case of the blasphemer is the Lord himself... the Lord is included... with the rest of his creation... The forbidden species... either have something lacking or something superfluous and ...their disfigurement has something to do with injustice...*

*Holiness is incompatible with predatory behaviour. The command to be holy is fulfilled by respecting blood, the symbol of violent predation, and respecting the symbolic victims of predation. The forbidden animals in this perspective represent the endangered categories for whom Isaiah spoke, the oppressed, the fatherless, the widow. Respect for them is a way of remembering the difference between the clean and the unclean, the holy and the unholy.  
-- Mary Douglas, “The Forbidden Animals in Leviticus”*

## So What?

### Homework

1. Read Ruth 4:1-12. How does the city gate function in this story? How does this story reflect the Bet-Av social structure?
2. Read Leviticus 16. This is the Day of Atonement ritual Israel did once every year at the Temple. How does this ritual demonstrate concern for cleanliness and holiness? Explain how the Temple represents the world, the nation and the body.
3. Consider the purity laws surrounding the Temple. How would these sound to a person who is disabled? Or to the parent of a disabled child? How does disability affect the wholeness of the home?

### Works Cited

Douglas, Mary. "The Forbidden Animals in Leviticus." *Scribd*. March 23, 1993.  
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/20191989/Mary-Douglas-THE-FORBIDDEN-ANIMALS-IN-LEVITICUS>  
(accessed January 29, 2014).