

1. Solomon's Temple (Want to take you back to an incredible time in Israel's history—to the majesty and splendor and accomplishment of Solomon's Temple. Finally Israel had a dwelling place for God in their midst. And not just any place—a marvelous place that would become a wonder of the world; a fitting place for Jehovah's presence among his people. The Temple would define Israel and her relationship with God. It would gloriously represent God dwelling among them. Its completion was a historical and spiritual high water mark for Israel. At its dedication wise Solomon would lead his nation in prayer—a prayer for God to bless Israel; for Israel to be faithful to their God; for the Temple to be used in every way for his praise and glory; and surprisingly—a prayer for “the others” as well.)
2. 1 Kings 8:41-43 (ERV)
3. Solomon's Prayer
 - a. Recognizes the others (even in the midst of a national celebration)
 - b. Asks God to hear and answer their prayers (of course the amazing presence of the Temple would be a catalyst for others to sojourn to Jerusalem—to witness this wonder of the world for themselves and seek out the God who indwelt it. This was his residence on earth and it would naturally attract others to it—others who will be influenced to follow Jehovah. Solomon realizes this—that the Temple was more than just about Israel. That one of its purposes was to direct the others to consider Jehovah as the One True God.)
4. (Let's now consider something else—something connected to that Temple and connected to us. Guess where the temple of God resides now?) Ephesians 2:20-22 (We are now the temple of God built upon earlier foundations. We are now the living representatives of the presence and majesty of God—us individually and collectively. We are now God's central place of activity. If folks want to know what God looks like, there is no longer a need for a pilgrimage to Jerusalem—He now lives in us.)
5. (Paul says it best) “For we are the temple of the living God.” –2 Crointhians 6:16 (so when folks see us, they see our God. Adds context to those other texts in 1 Corinthians 3 & 6 about keeping our temple holy and pure—not defiled through immorality. It also offers us a great privilege and responsibility to faithfully demonstrate God in our lives for the same purpose of Solomon's Temple—**so others can clearly see and come to know God.**)
6. (One scripture adds some more perspective here—it is a Messianic text, but it applies directly to this discussion) Zechariah 8:23 (don't get lost in trying to figure out the details—just focus on the last part. Do the others look at us and know that God is with us? From the temple of Solomon to the temple of our body—God made us with others in mind; made us to give witness to his grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness; made us to live triumphant testimonies to who he is and the blessings he offers. Just like with Solomon's temple; his indwelling us is not all about us. This is by God's design and according to his eternal will. So how is this going for us?)