

Have You Been to a True Sanctuary?

Does your church have a sanctuary? What is a sanctuary?

In the Old Testament, the sanctuary (or *the holy place*) was the first part of the Tabernacle/Temple (Hebrews 9:2).

In the New Testament, there is no earthly sanctuary for Jesus is *Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man* (Heb. 8:2). In the Bible, the place where Christians gathered is not called a *sanctuary*. So why do so many religious groups call the place where they meet to worship *the sanctuary*?

Often this is the result of confusion over the old covenant and new covenant (Heb. 8:7). The sanctuary, altar, incense, priesthood, and priestly robes are part of the Old Testament. Jesus' death ended all that (Heb. 8:1-6; 9:6-10:9; Mt. 26:28).

Some people think that since a building is used as a place to worship, then that is a holy place all the time. Israel's sanctuary was holy all the time because the Temple always represented God's presence (in the most Holy place). God has no building like that today, as Jesus prophesied (Jn. 4:21). If your church has a sanctuary, find out why and then study your Bible. (Send comments/questions: QVCOC.COM)