

Question. The statement of [John 2:19](#) is perplexing to some of us: "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." John says "He spake of the temple of his body;" but other scriptures declare that the Father raised our Lord Jesus from death by his own power. Can you throw any light on the matter?

Answer. The Scriptures repeatedly tell us that the Church is "the *body* of Christ." The Apostle Peter declares that each of the Lord's saints is a living stone prepared for and being placed in the glorious "*temple*" which God is building--whose chief cornerstone and cap stone is Christ Jesus our Lord. While this "temple" is a temple not yet existent in its spiritual condition, it already has an existence in the flesh --even now we are reckoned as the "members in particular of the body of Christ." In harmony with this we understand our Lord's words of **John 2:19**, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" --"he spake of the temple of his body"--the Church, of which he is the Head.

The three days we understand to be the days of the larger week, one thousand years to each day. In this larger week the seventh day will be the seventh-thousand-year period--the Millennium or Sabbath of rest from sin and Satan. Recognizing time from this standpoint and applying to each thousand years the parallel day of the week, we find that, as over four thousand years had passed and the fifth thousand had begun when our Lord made this statement, it was therefore at a time corresponding to the fifth day of the lesser week, namely, Thursday, the first day of the three mentioned; Friday the second day, and Saturday (the seventh-day Sabbath) the third, in which the temple is to be "raised up." It is to be early in the morning of this third day--the Millennium--that the body of Christ, the temple of God, is to be brought together as a spiritual temple and filled with the glory of God, to the end that from it may flow the blessing of reconciliation to all the families of the earth.