

10 Biblical Symbolisms Embedded in the Construction of the Rock Church and Academy Building

1. The Building

God told Noah to make a three-story ark that was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high. At 443 feet long and 45 feet high, the Rock Church's new three-story building is nearly the same size as Noah's Ark.

This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second and third decks. [Genesis 6:15-16](#)

God placed Noah and his family in the Ark to save them, and we believe that He has placed you here at the Rock to save you too.

2. The Entrance



The entrance to the Rock Church is in the shape of the Hebrew letter *tav*. Tav is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and it refers to one of the names of God: “The First and the Last” in English or “Alpha and Omega” in Greek. At the Rock, Pastor Miles teaches God's basic message straight from the Bible: Jesus died for our sins, and we live a changed life because of Him. It is “Old School” gospel, beginning to end.

Thus says the LORD the King of Israel, and his Redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. [Isaiah 44:6](#)

3. The Brazen Altar

Inside the main entrance, there is a bronze altar built into the lobby floor. Like the brazen altar where the Israelites made sacrifices to God, it is five cubits square and surrounded by a foundation of unfinished stones. The Israelites offered animal sacrifices, but each time we walk across the altar to come to church or to go back and apply what we have learned, we think about *Romans 12:1-2*:

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

4. The Cross

The cross in the skylight of the lobby is 29 feet long and 11 feet wide, a total of 40 linear feet. 40 is the number of testing in the Bible, and the cross was Christ's ultimate test. Because he conquered His test, we can trust Him to conquer our tests and trials for us. There are 365 spikes in the cross to symbolize God's forgiveness for our sins every day of the year.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. [Hebrews 12:2](#)

5. The Block Prayer Wall

On Saturday, November 4, 2006, the Rock Church had a Block Party. Members of the Rock Church family met to praise God and pray for the church, the project, and YOU! Before you ever walked through the doors of the Rock Church, people had prayed for you to learn and grow in Christ in this building. Some of those prayers were written on the blocks in this wall. The written prayers that have been left exposed in the new sanctuary have come to symbolize our church's heart for our mission which is to evangelize San Diego and beyond.

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit... [Ephesians 6:18a](#)

6. The Seats

The 3,500 seats in our sanctuary are divided into 66 sections representing the books of the Bible. Each seat is labeled with a different scripture reference. During worship we are not just a group of people, but we each represent a part of the living Word of God. The first floor is numbered with the books and verses of the first part of the Old Testament because that is the basis of the rest of the Bible. God gives us His promises in those books, and He fulfills them throughout the rest of the story. The stadium seats are numbered with the books of the Old Testament prophets, and the balcony seats are the books of the New Testament.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. [2 Timothy 3: 16](#)

7. The Fish

The Fish (ἰχθύς)

45 seats in the middle of main floor of the sanctuary are different from the rest. From above, those seats form the sign of the ichtus (ἰχθύς), the fish symbol that secretly identified Christians during the centuries of Roman persecution. The fish is pointed towards the Altar Call room because that is where people go to make their public statements of faith to other Christians who can pray with them as they continue to learn about Christ.

8. The Holy of Holies

At the front of the Sanctuary there are four squares of uncut stone which mark the corners of a 20 cubit square. This represents the Holy of Holies, the place in the Tabernacle where the presence and the glory of God appeared. The distance from the altar inside the Tabernacle to the center Holy of Holies is 113 cubits, the same distance from the lobby floor Brazen Altar to the Holy of Holies in the front of the Sanctuary. When you walk forward during an Altar Call to receive Christ at the Rock Church, you step symbolically and literally into the presence of God.

9. The Prayer Niches

There are 24 prayer niches around the edges of the sanctuary. The niches are the “new school” version of the old stained glass chapels where people can go to pray and meditate about one particular truth or challenge of God. The colors of light in the niches are the same as the stones on the Ephod (the breastplate of the high priest). The first twelve niches are each about one of the tribes of Israel. The second twelve niches are each about one of the stories of faithful people from the book of Hebrews. They are especially designed to help people worship and pray in the Sanctuary.

10. The Bible Garden

The Bible garden outside the building was designed to encourage people to connect with God and the Bible by using plants as symbols of Bible stories, and also by incorporating many plants which are named in the Bible. God meets with people in gardens, from the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane. European churches and monasteries have tended Bible gardens for centuries as a way to understand God as the Creator in a closer way, and we are borrowing from their experience to make our own Bible garden at the

*I will put in the desert
The cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive.
I will set pines in the wasteland,
The fir and the cypress together,
So that people may see and know,
May consider and understand,
That the hand of the Lord has done this,
that the Holy One of Israel has created it.*
[Isaiah 41:19-20](#)