

The Temple

We have looked at the Tabernacle in our study of Christ in the OT. Once the Kingdom of Israel was established and during the reign of their second king, King David says that it was on his heart to build the Lord a Temple. Let us look at the reply the Lord gave him in 1Chron 17:3-14 . You are not the one David. David had a heart for God and was on the right trail. 2Chron 6:8 It is a good thing for all God's children to want to see the Temple built. But he didn't see fully what it meant to build Him a house. Who is the one to do it? Mt 16:18, 1Pt 2:5 JESUS!

Now God tells David how the house will be built in verse 10 and says it is a house for David. Read on to verse 14. Now you and I know that Solomon was a type and shadow, and what he did building the Temple was a shadow of what the ultimate Son of David is doing right now.

I have two questions for you. What is the true Temple? Who is it for? Do you want to stick your neck out? The church – yes on both counts – Jesus – yes on both counts. Isn't it wonderful how the Word clears up preconceived ideas and connects us to reality? First the true Temple is all those who have died in faith believing and presently living believers. 2 Cor 6:16 Eph 2:20-22 Heb 11 But it also includes Christ Jesus the chief cornerstone, as we just read. It is also Jesus' body. John 2:19-21 We are a part of that too in a spiritual sense but here Jesus is speaking just as any Spirit filled believer can when he claims his body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 6:19 But in New Jerusalem the Father and Son are the Temple. (Rev 21:22) Remember, we are the body of Christ. The Bride and Groom become one. So Who is the true Temple? If you say We are – including your brother Jesus and the Father you have the most complete picture. Perhaps we are the walls and the outer court and the Holy Place while the Father and Son make up the Holy of Holies.?

Who is it for? Well, John 14 Jesus says He is going to prepare a place for you. Look again at 1Chron 17:10. Jesus tells David, "No, I am going to make a house for you." And then in verse 12 – for me. Are you starting to see that what is for us and for the LORD are inseparable?

Let me ask you, if you grow in your spiritual life and become more Christ like is it for you or for God? BOTH! When we pray "help me be a living sacrifice" is it for the Lord or us? BOTH! God has interwoven your future and your destiny with his very being through the death of Christ. We have forever become a part of the body of Christ, a Temple with Him and for Him. But before our minds melt down with the incredible wonder of it all let us go back and look at pictures in the Temple that Solomon built.

God wants an eternal temple. The foundation was laid with huge stones upon solid bedrock. The cornerstone has been discovered and is 14' long and 3'8"

high. It rests in the Rock of Ages – solid bedrock. It is almost a hundred feet below the present ground level. Under Jerusalem are quarries that create vast caverns. Here the rock for the walls and foundation was hewn. First a place in the structure was chosen and that determined the size and shape of the stone needed. Then a section of rock was chosen to be cut into that particular stone. God searched you out and chose you. You have not chosen me but I have chosen you. Then He began to shape you for this particular place in the wall or foundation with powerful blows. All this goes on in the quarry as no sound of tools is made in the Temple area – the heavenlies. But here below you can hear and feel the blows of the Sculptor's hands. You hear it in testimonies of difficulty and growth in Christ. "Pound on Lord Jesus! Only You can make me fit."

Today you can look at these foundational stones and be amazed for there is no mortar. A pen knife will not fit between them. How well do you fit with your brother and sister? Pound on Lord Jesus! Only You can make us fit.

But in the Temple you will not see any stones. All the walls are covered with cedar. You are hidden by the fragrant cedar that reminds us of the fragrance of Christ and the cross that was the altar of our redemption. The altar is also overlaid with cedar. 2Kings 6:18, 2 Chron 3:5-7 But He also adorns the walls with jewels and gold. Just as man of wealth would lavish on the one he loves jewels and gold, so the Lord adorns us with his graces. No wonder women enjoy jewelry! Someday the Lord will adorn his bride, the walls of the Temple.

Once project was completed and the ark was brought into the Most Holy Place the priest and singers get out of the way. 2Chron 5:12-14 They put the altar between them and the Holy Place and they praised God! A one line chorus, "He is good and His love endures forever" or the NLT "He is so good! His faithful love endures forever!" It had to be a song of joy. The kingdom had come to a place of peace and rest. This magnificent Temple for the worship of God had been completed. At this one moment Israel was where it was intended to be by God. Read the end of 13 and 14 again. Just a shadow – a shadow of Pentecost which is the appetizer for the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

Pound on Lord Jesus! Pound on! Get us ready, hide us in cedar, and adorn us with your graces. The priests could not minister because the glory of the presence was so great. God was the minister by-passing the human conduits. Some day we will sit at the table and He will gird himself and serve us. I don't understand that much love. We have talked about the goodness of God and overflowing thankfulness but I don't think we have scratched the surface. Let's go deeper in our private time with Him. Let's yield our rough surfaces to His polishing hand and with a vision of the joy set before us say, "Pound on Lord Jesus. Do finish the work you have started when you marked out this chunk of rock. It is your promise Lord, and your hands will complete the work!"