

# The Temple of God

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## I. Intro

- a. One of the great themes in the Old Testament is the Temple. It is very important to understanding the New Testament and Jesus.
- b. Our understanding of the Temple has a significant impact on how we live our lives as Christians today.
- c. As we review OT Scriptures and stories surrounding the temple, remember the three levels of OT reading: 1) the facts of the stories themselves, 2) lessons from the text for us, 3) any foreshadowing of Jesus
- d. All Scriptures read today are from the Orthodox Study Bible, the Old Testament Scriptures are taken from a translation based on the Septuagint.

## II. David Wants God to Have a House

- a. **2 Samuel 7:1-29**
- b. Summary:
  - i. God, you should have a house!
  - ii. God: thanks, I don't really need one. I never asked for one. I was fine with that portable tent! (Read about the tabernacle in **Exodus 25-27, 35-40**)
  - iii. But okay David. I will appoint a place for you to worship and for my presence to be:
    - 1. To plant my people so they have a place (no longer wandering around)
    - 2. So you do not need to be anxious
    - 3. Where your enemies won't oppress you
    - 4. Where you will have rest.
  - iv. But (the promise/prophecy in **2 Samuel 7:120-17**),
    - 1. I'll tell you when you should build it
    - 2. I will build it after you (David) die
    - 3. The builder of this house / temple will be from your seed (descendant) from your body.

4. I will be a Father to him and he will be my son.
5. He will have a kingdom and his throne established forever.
- v. David's response:
  1. Humility: who are we, who am I?
  2. Thank you! May this be!
  3. Magnify your name!
  4. Establish this house and bless us forever

### **III. David sins, punished and an heir is born**

- a. Fast forward:
  - i. David wins many battles and victories, kingdom becomes strong, but then he sins.
  - ii. Falls into lust, then adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of one of his mighty men.
  - iii. Ends up sleeping with her, she becomes pregnant, David murders her husband, God exposes the sin and confronts David's sin through Nathan.
  - iv. **2 Samuel 12:13-16**
    1. David repents. But the child dies.
  - v. **2 Samuel 12:24-25**
    1. David comforts Bathsheba, who has suffered this terrible tragedy. She conceives and gives birth to Solomon ("beloved by Yahweh").

### **IV. Solomon grows up, David nears death, and trouble in the home.**

- a. One of David's sons wants to be the king and crowns himself.
- b. Bathsheba is afraid for her and Solomon's lives, as they are a threat to the new king. Go to David and explain what is happening.
- c. **1 Kings 1:11-14**
  - i. Nathan and Bathsheba concoct a plan to have Solomon made king.
  - ii. "Did you not say Solomon should reign after me?"

1. Is this what David said? Perhaps. But nowhere in Scripture. We don't know if David said this somewhere else.
2. Is this what God said in **1 Samuel 7**? No.
- d. David sends Solomon out on his royal mule, has him crowned king, puts him on the throne, and Solomon ends up king.

## **V. Solomon appointed to construct the Temple**

- a. **1 Chronicles 28:1-10**
- b. We learn that David couldn't build the temple because he had blood on his hands. Whoever builds the temple must be holy, pure, a man of peace.
- c. "“And He said to me, “It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts, for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father.”” (1 **Chronicles 28:6**)
  - i. Is this what God said? (No, unless God told David this some other time that is not recorded.)
- d. Solomon is charged to obey all that God commands, reminded that God will establish Solomon's kingdom forever, and that Solomon should “be strong and do it!”

## **VI. God provides what is needed and Solomon anointed King!**

- a. **1 Chronicles 29:1-25**
- b. God provides all the supplies that are needed.
- c. God provides people with willing hearts to work hard to build the temple.
  - i. “Then the people rejoiced as a result of their willingness, for they offered willingly to the Lord with their whole heart. King David rejoiced greatly.” (1 **Chronicles 29:9**)
- d. David rejoices in prayer!
  - i. Who are we?
  - ii. You are King over the earth!
  - iii. The nations kings are thrown into confusion before you! (Egypt)
  - iv. Everything is yours.
  - v. We are strangers and sojourners here. Our days are numbered, we only live here a short time.

- vi. You love righteousness and sincerity of heart.
- vii. “O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep under guard these things in the thoughts of the heart of Your people forever, and lead their heart toward You.” (1 Chronicles 29:18)
- viii. David offers great sacrifices at the alter for the people, makes Solomon King, and God blesses Solomon like no other king before him.

## **VII. Solomon Builds the Temple!**

- a. **1 Kings 6-7** and **2 Chronicles 2-5**; where we can read about building the temple.
- b. Huge amount of labor to get this done.
  - i. “Solomon selected 70,000 men to bear burdens, 80,000 to quarry stone in the mountains, 3600 to oversee them.” (**2 Chronicles 2:1**)
- c. Requires precious and costly materials to build
  - i. Precious stones, gold, finest wood.
  - ii. Carved cherubim (angels), covered with gold.
  - iii. Ceilings were made of Gold.
  - iv. Veils with blue, purple, crimson of fine linen with cherubim’s woven into them.
  - v. 100 pomegranates.
  - vi. A great bronze sea.
  - vii. 10 basins for washing the animals that would be sacrificed.
  - viii. 10 gold lampstands.
- d. The ark of the covenant brought in to a place called the Holy of Holies.
- e. Here was God’s word.
- f. The priests would teach the Law here to others so all would know God’s word.
- g. Here there would be sacrifices and offerings for the people.

## **VIII. God’s Presence Fills the Temple.**

- a. **2 Chronicles 5:11-14**

- i. Wow! The priests could not even minister due to the glory of God that filled the temple. The awe, glory, fear, joy, power, etc.
- b. Summary so far (things are looking pretty good!):
  - i. David's seed on the throne
  - ii. Solomon's rule is firmly in place
  - iii. Solomon builds the temple, a house for God
  - iv. God's presence is there.
  - v. Prophecy of **1 Sam. 6** seems to be fulfilled!
  - vi. But, things take a terrible turn...

## **IX. The Temple is Destroyed**

### **a. 1 Kings 11:1-12**

- i. "For when Solomon was old and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David, his foreign wives turned his heart after their gods." (**vs. 3**)
- ii. Solomon turns away from God and leads the people to worship false Gods.
- iii. Warning to me: it does not matter all I have done since I become a Christian at age 18 (32 years ago!). Will I remain faithful to God till the end of my life? Or will I turn away from God?

### **b. 2 Kings 25:8-15**

- i. God hands over Israel to Babylonians.
- ii. Babylonians destroy the temple.
- iii. Solomon's reign/kingdom comes to an abrupt end.

### **c. This was supposed to last forever! Did God lie?**

- i. No. Solomon, Israel sinned. God promised that He would leave them and let the temple be destroyed if they stopped obeying his commands.
- ii. No. David, Solomon, Israel were confused.
  - 1. Solomon was not the fulfillment of the **2 Samuel 7** prophecy.
  - 2. "Also in the second book of Kings, the prophet Nathan was sent to David, who wished to build a temple for God; and this was

the word of the Lord to Nathan, saying: 'Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord Almighty, Though shall not build me a house for me to dwell in; but when the days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will raise up thy seed after thee, and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build me a house for my name, and I will set up His throne for ever; and I will be to Him for a father, and He shall be to me for a son; and His house shall be established, and His kingdom for ever.'

3. But the reason why the Jews did not understand these things was this, because Solomon the son of David built a temple for God, and the city which he called from his own name, Jerusalem. Therefore they referred the predictions of the prophets to him. Now Solomon received the government of the kingdom from his father himself. But the prophets spoke of Him who was then born after that David had slept with his fathers.
4. Besides, the reign of Solomon was not everlasting; for the reigned forty years. IN the next place, Solomon was never called the son of God, but the son of David; and the house which he built was not firmly established, as the Church, which is the true temple of God, which does not consist of walls, but of the heart and faith of the men who believe on Him, and are called faithful. But that temple of Solomon, inasmuch as it was built by the hand, fell by the hand.
5. Lastly, his father, in the 127<sup>th</sup> Psalm, prophesied on this manner respecting the works of his son: "Except the Lord build the house, they have labored in vain that built it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman hat waked but in vain." (Lactantius, The Divine Institutes, ANF, Book 7, Ch. XIII, p. 113)
6. Key points:
  - a. There would be a different King who would come from David's line: Jesus
  - b. Jesus, not Solomon, came to reign after David died.
  - c. Jesus, not Solomon, became an everlasting king, with a kingdom firmly established.
  - d. Jesus, not Solomon, was called God's Son.
  - e. The true Temple prophesied about was not Solomon's beautiful building, but instead it was Christ's body, the church!

## X. Jesus' Body is the Temple of God

- a. Background of the temple.
  - i. Solomon's temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (King Nebuchadnezzar II) around 587 BC.
  - ii. A much less glorious temple was rebuilt in 516 BC (discussed in the books of **Nehemiah** and **Ezra**).
  - iii. This temple was then added on to and made much more beautiful and magnificent under the rule of Herod the Great between 40 and 4 BC.
  - iv. This second temple was eventually destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.
- b. In **John 2**, Jesus has cleared out the money changers and merchants from Herod's temple in Jerusalem.
  - i. "What sign will you show us that you have authority to do this?"
- c. Read **John 2:18-22**
  - i. Jesus body = the temple of God.
  - ii. His body would be destroyed and resurrected in 3 days
  - iii. Disciples didn't get it at the time (nor the Jews), but they understood it later.
- d. How is Jesus' body the temple?
  - i. God's presence is there
  - ii. Jesus built his life as a man of peace, not as a man of war and blood like David
  - iii. The Word of God is taught from the temple/Jesus
  - iv. Jesus is the priest who offers sacrifice for the people
  - v. Jesus offered his own body as the sacrifice
- e. But Jesus (and his body) returned to Heaven. (See **Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1**)
  - i. What about the temple?
  - ii. Do Christians have a temple today if Jesus (and his body is no longer with us)?

**XI. We are God's Temple – the Church, the Christians.****a. 1 Peter 2:4-10**

- i. "... you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (**1 Peter 2:5**)
- ii. We are the "living stones" that make up the house of God
- iii. Jesus is the chief cornerstone.
- iv. We are where God's presence is
- v. We offer up spiritual sacrifices as God's priests, living holy lives pleasing to God.

**b. 1 Cor. 6:19**

- i. Paul is addressing sexual immorality. **Question:** What image / truth does Paul draw upon to help the Christians understand how important it is to deal with sin in the lives of the Christians? **Answer:** the Temple.
- ii. Lessons for Us:
  - 1. We must understand we, the Church, are God's holy temple, where God's presence is.
  - 2. We cannot unite our temple (our bodies, the church) with sin. This is why we stay far from sin.
    - a. We cannot give in to sins of the flesh: lust, anger, hatred, envy. We must throw these out! Keep them far away from the Temple of God!
  - 3. We cannot give in to sins of worry, anxiety, fear of not having what we need. God provided for the building of Solomon's temple, all they needed. How much more will God provide for us today, who are His living temples?
  - 4. When we sin, we come to God and ask forgiveness, which He freely gives. (7 x 70 times!) Jesus himself is the sacrificial Lamb, that died once to save our sins and ransom us from death.
  - 5. As God's temple, His desire is that we are filled with joy; rejoicing! As we willingly offer ourselves. Being a Christian is not about being forced to obey Jesus begrudgingly. We offer ourselves willingly, and joyfully, like Jesus did.



6. David charged his son Solomon to “be strong and do it!” Build the temple. How much more should we be strong and build the Church today, giving ourselves fully to the work – all our time, treasure, and energy. The work is difficult and exhausting. This is the work God wants us to do.
7. Solomon was a mighty and glorious King. The people obeyed him whole-heartedly. They ate a meal together as Solomon was made king. (**1 Chronicles 29:21-25**).
8. We have a much more glorious King than Solomon:
  - a. Of the seed of David
  - b. Placed on the throne after David’s death
  - c. God’s very Son
  - d. Whose reign is forever, will be everlasting.