

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;... 2 Peter 1:2

Why Are True Believers Referred to As The Temple of God?

Pastor Anthony Trezza

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and [that] the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Temple- Tabernacle = Dwelling Place

- **God instructed Moses that he was to make sure he made the Tabernacle according to the exact instructions given to him by God...**

To best understand what it means to be the Temple of God we will look at the design of Moses Tabernacle:

1st Entrance: The Courtyard

- **This contained the altar where the animal sacrifice was consumed by fire.**
- **This is the place in our lives where the flesh has to be completely consumed**

Galatians 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;..

Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Romans 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Then We Move on to the Bronze basin:

- **The Laver or Bronze Basin is where the priest would wash themselves before going into the Holy Place which was the next level of the tabernacle.**

Ephesians 5:25 ..., just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, *having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*

The Next Level of Our Temple: We see in Moses' Tabernacle was the Holy Place/ The Redeemed Man

Located in the Holy Place:

1 - The Showbread to the right side. The Bread of His Presence. It was to be replaced regularly with fresh hot bread. **We must continually strive to keep the presence of the Lord fresh in our lives...**

2- The Lampstand beside it on the Left side. Always producing light. **We are the Light of the World.** The light is produced by the Holy Spirit.

3- The Alter of Incense, just before the veil to the Holy of Holies- Our prayers - **the seat of Spiritual hunger**

4- After the Alter of Incense was The Veil - Protecting the Holy of Holies... Where the Holy Spirit dwelt...

- **Moses was instructed to place the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies**
- **The veil kept people and the priests out, and restricted the access to the Holy of Holies only to the High Priest, and that only once a year**

Hebrews 9:1 Now even the first [covenant] had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which [were] the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

Hebrews 9:3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the *Holy of Holies*, 4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant... **(the incense on both sides of the veil represented the power of prayer)**

Hebrews 9:6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,

Hebrews 9:7 but into the second, only the high priest [enters] once a year, not without [taking] blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. ...

The Holy of Holies was the connection between heaven and earth for the Old Covenant believers

In The Tabernacle of Moses- The Veil restricted access to this most holy place:

- **But for us the redeemed, the veil has been removed**
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- **What was for the people of the Old Covenant a place they were forbidden to enter**
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- **In the New Covenant this has become our inner man where the Spirit of God dwells within our hearts**

Paul's great prayer for the believer:

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, **16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

In the Old Covenant the people were shut out from connection between heaven and earth:

- In the New Covenant we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus

And in the Old Covenant it was the Mercy Seat that occupied the Holy of Holies:

- That was the most they could hope for, was the mercy of God
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- But in the New Covenant we go boldly to the throne of grace where we receive mercy and grace...
- Moses Tabernacle, and Davids Tabernacle, as well as Solomons Temple, all of them contained the Ark of the Covenant. Here is where the Holy Spirit dwelt bringing the presence of the Lord to the tabernacles and Solomons Temple.

Herod's Temple, the temple that existed when Jesus was here on His earthly ministry did not contain the Ark of the Covenant!!!

- That is because Jesus was the true temple and He was filled with the Holy Spirit

John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" **21** But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

When Jesus died on the Cross He released the Holy Spirit that was in Him to go back to the Father until the Day of Pentecost:

Matthew 27:50 NLT - Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. **51** At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, **52** and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead.

- This same Holy Spirit returned 50 days later on the Day of Pentecost as a mighty rushing wind
- But in tearing the veil, the Holy Spirit revealed that the Ark of Gods presence, and thereby the Holy Spirit, was not occupying the inner court that was referred to as the Holy of Holies. Not in Herod's temple.
- In other words, this temple was not filled with the Holy Spirit, as Solomons temple was.
- When the Jews returned to Jerusalem after the exile, and rebuilt the temple that had been destroyed, listen to what the prophet Haggai says

Haggai 2:3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?

- Far too many professing Believers are like these temples, temples that are not filled with the Holy Spirit in the inner sanctuary of their heart

Acts 19:1 ..., Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. **2** He said to them, **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"** And they [said] to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they [began] speaking with tongues and prophesying.

John 14:17 [that is] the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, [but] you know Him because **He abides with you and will be in you.**

➤ **Many of you are settling for the Holy Spirit abiding with you when it is the will of God for Him to abide in you.**

Testimony of the Jamaican Church

Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

God is restoring The Tabernacle of David:

Amos 9:11 KJV - In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

And again, James Quotes this very same prophecy in the Book of Acts:

Acts 15:15-16 "With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written, **16 'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT,**

- **The Tabernacle that David made had no curtain separating the Ark of the Presence from the people**
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- **David made the presence of the Lord the center of life for all the people to come and worship God ...**
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- **While the Tabernacle of Moses dwelt on the High place of Gibeon**
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- **David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and set it up in his tabernacle to be a place of unrestricted access to God**
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- **And instead of continual sacrifices as in Moses' Tabernacle**
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➤ Davids tabernacle had continual worship going day and night...

Abinadab...

Uzzah...

Obed Edum...