

Greetings, dear reader, in the Marvellous, Majestic, and Mighty Name of Our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

We look here at the church as **the House of God.**

The church is called the "**house of God**" in 1 Peter 4:17. Over at the end of Ephesians 2 Paul pictures this house as "**built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit**".

From this, notice that the House of God is:

**Built upon the foundation of those gone before;
Christ is the Chief Cornerstone;
In Him the building is fitly framed together;
It is a work in progress (the building is growing);
To create a holy Temple;
For a habitation of God through the Spirit.**

A primary purpose is to offer up spiritual sacrifices within, for in 1 Peter 2:4-6 we read:

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Verses 6 to 7 go on to speak of Christ again as the cornerstone of the building - the first and most important stone laid on which all else rests, a tried stone and a sure foundation for the building (see Psalm 118:27, Matthew 21:42 and Isaiah 28:16 on this).

We see believers in Christ pictured in the tabernacle in the wilderness as the boards that were around it (Exodus 26:15-25), where the bar joining them represented the Holy Spirit, and the sockets of silver in which they rested represented our redemption through Christ.

We also see believers in Christ pictured in Solomon's Temple. King David wanted to build a proper "house" for God (2 Samuel 7:2). In response, God spoke to David through the prophet Nathan (2 Samuel 7:12-16) and told him that his **son** would build God's house. Here God was not only speaking of

Solomon, but more so of Christ, the Greater Son of David. You can see this by comparing Hebrews 1:5 with 2 Samuel 7:14, where the phrase "**I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son**" is quoted as referring to Christ. This was directly after God said "**He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever**".

Jesus, then is the builder of God's House, us, the church, and Solomon's Temple is a type or shadow of the church. Note that:

- It was built at Mount Moriah - the same venue where Abraham offered up his only son, Isaac. Even so we as the house or Temple of God are build on the foundation of the work of Christ at Calvary, where He, God's only Son, was offered up for us.
- The whole house - its beams, posts, walls, and even its doors, was overlaid with gold (2 Chronicles 3:7), symbolic of the glory that covers God's church through the Holy Spirit. We often do not recognise the glory of God which is upon us, but it is there. In this regard I recall listening in to two saints, women, many years ago, speaking of how God had literally opened their eyes and allowed them to see the glory of the Holy Spirit upon them as a flame over their heads. I read also of a meeting where one was allowed to see "tongues" of fire upon believers in a meeting. If we only realised and acknowledged this glory upon us, we would truly treat each other with the utmost love, respect and honour, as God would have us do.
- There were two main pillars (2 Chron 3:17): Jachin, meaning "He shall establish", and "Boaz", meaning "In it is strength", both speaking of Our Lord.
- It reached high into the heavens (2 Chron 3:4) - so high in fact that critics deem the measurement (120 cubits) given in scripture as a copyist's error! However, 2 Chron 7:21 & 1Ki 9:8 confirm that the building was indeed high. To me this height speaks of the access to God in the heavens that we have been given through Christ.
- The stones of the house were hewn and made ready before they were put in place, so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house while it was in building (1 Kings 6:8)! I find this

fascinating. Also of interest was the size of the foundation stones, which remain to this day in Jerusalem. Scripture says they were "great" and "costly" (I Kings 5:17). Critics can't debate this point because one of them which is still intact today is almost 39 feet long! In other words, this Temple, which speaks of us, was no ordinary temple and it was built in no ordinary manner. Even so Our Lord is working on hewing out stones (i.e. us) properly here on earth, costly stones because He shed His precious blood to purchase us, and when we are quietly finally fitted together in heaven, where His Temple will be complete, we will be "fitly framed together".

- As God's dwelling place, it was deemed most holy (2 Chron 3:8), and as the Temple of God both corporately and individually we should be holy also. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul asks them: *"Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"* while in his second letter he asks them: *"what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?"* (2 Cor 6:16).
- God's eyes are ever open and His ears ever attentive to prayer from His House - us! (2 Chron 7:12-16).
- When Solomon had finished building the house and dedicated it with prayer, *"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God."* 2 Chron 5:13-14. Even so, may we as the House of God so dedicate our lives to Him, and so offer up thanksgiving and praise unto Him, that we too may be filled with the cloud of the glory of His presence, to the extent that, like the priests of old, all we can do is fall down before Him in awe and worship. Amen.

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