

# *The Temple of God*

## Building the Temple [Part Six]

### PROTECT THE TEMPLE

Are you ready today for what the Lord has for us? I pray you will receive revelation from the His Word today.

#### Hebrews 4:12

For the **word** of God *is living* and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Don't forget the Word of God is the whole Bible, not just the bits you like. Clear your mind of everything else and hear, *hear* the Word today.

This series has been all about us, as the Temple of God, and how we need to build it with the Lord. Using the first temple built by King Solomon as our guide, we can learn many valuable lessons. Do you want to protect the temple of God, then listen to this? God has given us keys to show us how to protect His temple.

\*BRIEF SERIES RECAP (main points only from parts 1-5)

#### Key #1

#### PROTECT THE TEMPLE FROM DEFILEMENT

Genesis 2:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Is that clear? Does God make it hard to understand simple commands? Did Adam and Even know what God had said? Yes.

What happened? (Gen 3:1-5)

The cunning snake encouraged Eve to challenge God's authority, His Word. Both Adam and Eve therefore sinned by taking on the role of God. Did they die? Yes, but not immediately, there was a delay because God won't let sin ruin His plans. It does

however sure ruin us. The consequences of this fall are still evident today. Praise God for His plan of redemption in Jesus!

Through DISOBEDIENCE, their hearts were no longer solely dedicated to God. This DEFILED/POISONED/SPOILED/POLLUTED/CORRUPTED creation.

Video – Those were the plans for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem. What does that mean? [There's been two (2) before it and **they're both gone.**]

## **Key #2**

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO SOLOMON'S TEMPLE?**

[<http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>]

The destruction of the first temple occurred around 586-587 BC from a siege beginning in 589 BC (2 Kings 24). We read in 2 Kings 25:8-30 that Jerusalem was destroyed thoroughly:

- The city and temple destroyed, walls torn down
- The people taken captive, leaders killed
- Just a few poor farmers left behind
- Yahweh's house pillaged and burned. This act would have thoroughly demoralized even the godly in Judah, since in the ancient Near East the condition of the house (temple) of a god reflected on that god's reputation

The Temple stood about 470 years (consequences can take time). The sin of Solomon led to the defilement and ultimate destruction of the Temple.

### **WHAT SIN?**

[1 Kings 11:1-13 NKJV] Solomon's Heart Turns from the LORD

**11** But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites— <sup>2</sup>from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. <sup>3</sup>And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. <sup>4</sup>For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of his father David. <sup>5</sup>For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup>Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as *did* his father David. <sup>7</sup>Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. <sup>8</sup>And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

<sup>9</sup> So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, <sup>10</sup> and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. <sup>11</sup> Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. <sup>12</sup> Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. <sup>13</sup> However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

### **Have you ever wondered if it's ok to have more than one wife?**

#### ***An interesting point to note:***

*Some writers argued that because God gave legislation in the Mosaic Law governing the conduct of polygamous Israelite men (Exod. 21:10; Deut. 21:15), He therefore approved of polygamy. Yet God had made His will concerning monogamy clear from the beginning of human history (Gen. 2:24). Both Jesus (Matt. 19:5; Mark 10:7-8) and Paul (1 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 5:31) reaffirmed monogamy. The legislation cited in Deuteronomy is only one example of many laws that regulated the conduct of disobedient Israelites.*

*One of the things that we need to learn to do as we read 1 and 2 Kings is to evaluate what was going on in Israel's history in terms of the Mosaic Covenant. The writer helps us do this at points, but we must do it constantly or we may conclude that things are just fine when they are really contrary to God's will and headed for trouble. This is good training for living and ministering, because we need to develop the habit of evaluating all of life, as we observe it, through the lens of God's will as it is revealed in His Word.*

[\[http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/\]](http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/)

\*Solomon had an Egyptian wife from Egypt! That's the very place the Lord delivered the Israelites from! What a way to fall back into bondage again. When the Lord delivers you from bondage, don't go back to it.

#### **POINTS TO NOTE FROM THAT SCRIPTURE:**

- Like Adam and Eve, Solomon was disobedient which is a sure way to trouble.
- Like Adam and Eve, God was very clear about His command and even explained why He commanded it (see verse 2)
- Although Solomon didn't completely neglect God, he also went after other gods. God is a jealous God. Putting all the Mosaic Law aside, God gave us the (10) Ten Commandments, the basics. **He broke the first two of them!**

- His sin was worse than David's transgressions (verse 6). His was a sin of the heart, he gave it to another.
- God doesn't change. He's slow to anger so Solomon messed up enough to make God angry including allowing abominations!
- Praise God we're under a better covenant, grace through Jesus. When we mess up and repent, His grace abounds. Are you seeing the magnitude of that?

The Lord spoke to Solomon three (3) times (verse 9) and each time this issue was addressed, CLEARLY! The Lord also referred to the heart of David as an example to follow – three (3) times!

1. 1 Kings 3:14 – Where Solomon asked for wisdom which pleased the Lord.
2. 1 Kings 9:1-9 – God's favourable response to Solomon's pleasing prayer of dedication (1 Kings 8:22-53) in which Solomon acknowledged the people would sin. Have you read it yet? Listen to this verse spoken by Solomon himself.  
<sup>23</sup> and he said: "LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.
3. 1 Kings 11:9-13 – God's judgment on Solomon's sin (REBUKE). Remember though the Lord chastens those He loves.

How many times has the Lord spoken to you?

Is there something the Lord is telling you to watch out for?

### **Key #3**

### **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SOLOMON'S STORY?**

#### ***SOLOMON'S LEGACY***

- Reigned from 971-931 BC
- His life story with God was awesome, incomparable to any others until a "BUT" (1 Kings 11). This is a bad "But."
- He started on fire for God and was so blessed (favour, wealth, wisdom & splendour) but he didn't finish well. For us, we want the opposite (see Paul).
- It was all lost due to a failure to uphold the basics of God's commands. He's number one, ALWAYS! His response is appropriate for that truth and proves it to be so.
- Solomon was the last to rule over all of Israel (before it was divided)
- Solomon's response to God's judgment (verse 11) was disappointing. Solomon sought to kill his servant Jeroboam whom the Lord chose to give 10 tribes (1 Kings 11:40).
- From 1 Kings 12 we have a divided kingdom, first up Jeroboam (Solomon's servant) is evil and Rehoboam (Solomon's son) is also evil. As you read right

through to 2 Kings 17 there are 31 kings listed for the kingdoms. *Only 6 were described as having a good reign, only six sought the Lord and pleased Him.* What a mess! It all started from Solomon taking his eyes and therefore his heart away from the Lord. We're still seeing examples of this in the world today.

- Here's a good "But." But Hope remained; a remnant would be kept for Solomon and his son because of God's promise to David (verse 12-13). We know this to be the tribe of Judah. We know who came from that tribe – **Jesus**. He is the hope of the world. God's promises are true, Praise HIM!

#### **Key #4**

#### **PROTECT WHAT YOU LET INTO YOUR HEART**

- *Make sure it belongs ONLY to the Lord.* Don't allow anything else to take the eyes of your heart off Him like Solomon did. This opens the door for the enemy. **It can be so subtle and deceiving.**
- *Jesus clearing out the temple is another example.* The Levites turned a house of prayer & worship into a place of business. It's not to say the business was wrong but it doesn't belong in the Temple of God. That's a distraction that will take the heart away from the Lord. See, this is a BIG deal.
- *Keep cleaning up.* I've touched on this before with the garbage collectors example. Seek the home owner's (Holy Spirit) advice on what needs to go. Think about it. If you didn't clean up or clean anything for 6 months and I came to visit your home, what would I find? A DEFILED/POISONED/SPOILED/POLLUTED/CORRUPTED building. When Hezekiah began his reform, it took 16 days simply to carry the accumulated rubbish out of the temple (2 Chron. 29:17)[Sonic Light].
- *Don't be a Fool.* How did the wisest man who ever lived behave so poorly? Simple, God's Word tells us. Solomon no longer feared (respected/revered) the Lord. That's the beginning of wisdom. The heart matters so much. How often is it mentioned in the Bible?

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.

#### **Key #5**

#### **LIFE APPLICATION. HOW DO WE DO THIS?**

- *We need to see Him, constantly, WE DO THIS BY FAITH.* Who can see Him now? We do this by seeking Him and we'll find Him. Do the simple things, attend church, meditate on Him, talk to Him, and spend time with Him. Be real with Him; make your life with the Lord real because He is real. We need to see Him all the time, everywhere, acknowledge Him in everything, even the mundane things. See Him. The Prophet Isaiah did!

**6** In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple.

How big are your problems? Is your vision of God big enough?

- *Peter tells us what to do to avoid stumbling [2 Peter 1:1-11 NIV].*

**1** *Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the Righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:*  
**2** *Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

**3** *His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. **4**Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

**5** *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6**and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7**and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. **8**For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.*

**10** *Therefore, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, **11**and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

## **IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE**

**MAIN POINT: Don't mess up His grace through disobedience or an indifferent heart. Respect His authority! Protect the Temple with full submission to the Lord. Keep your eyes on Him 24/7!**

- The evidence that the nations failed was that the people lost their spiritual sensitivity.
- Though people fail God, God will not fail people. This is foundational to the doctrine of eternal security, which the New Testament expounds more fully.

The main reason the Israelites failed God was that they lost sight of Him. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision (of God) the people cast off restraint." When people lose sight of God, their ideals deteriorate. They turn to idolatry to fill the vacuum left by God's absence. Also, their purposes suffer defeat; they do not achieve fulfillment or realize their destiny. Furthermore, their consciences become dead; they become unresponsive to the Word of God. Christians have a high calling: to point people to God [<http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>].

## **Call To Action**

Is your life/temple a mess or in ruins? Don't know what to do. Jesus is your answer.

God is a visionary and the best developer. Even if your life is a mess, He can fix it. He sees you for what He calls you to be. He values you so much he paid the highest possible price for you, the life of His son Jesus. Have you tried to contemplate that? The maker of the universe chooses you. Will you choose Him? Can He have your full heart? Will you protect His temple (that's you) from defilement?

Do you need a touch from the ultimate physician, any wounds to be healed? Don't wait any longer. I don't know everything but I know this, God loves you so much. He can and wants to save you. He wants you to have eternity with Him and He has good plans for you now.

"Father in heaven, I need you. I need your love, your forgiveness and grace. I accept there's something wrong and only you can fix it. I don't understand everything but I know I need you. I choose you Jesus this day, come into my life, save me. I give you all my heart, my love. Help me O Lord to see you and to know you. Show me your ways, build up this temple all for your glory. Thank you, I bless your name. Amen."