



January 25, 2015

1 Kings 6

*"You Are God's Temple"*

Pastor Gary Hamrick

The building of the first Temple is one of the most important events in the history of the nation of Israel. For the first 1,000 years of Israel's existence (from the time of Abraham to the time of Solomon) the people never had a permanent place of worship. For 400 of the first 1,000 years of their history, they lived in slavery in Egypt, and after God miraculously led them out of Egypt to the Promised Land of Israel, God gave Moses instructions for making a large Tent, called the Tabernacle, which was a temporary place of worship.

The Tabernacle was a mobile sanctuary that the Israelites transported throughout their 40-year journey in the wilderness. Moses was also instructed by God to make a few articles out of bronze or gold to be used in worship in the Tabernacle. A list of some of the articles includes: the golden lampstand (Menorah), the Altar of Incense, and the Ark of the Covenant. At this point in Israel's history, the Tabernacle was in Gibeon, about 4 miles northeast of Jerusalem, and the Ark of the Covenant was in Jerusalem. Now, everything is about to come together at one permanent location.

The idea to build the Temple was David's, and the Bible tells us that before he died, he gathered the leaders of Israel to express his heart's desire to build a Temple for the Lord in Jerusalem.<sup>1</sup> David gave the plans, an enormous amount of gold (his personal wealth), and the money that was donated by the people to Solomon so a Temple could be built.

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<sup>1</sup> **1 Chronicles 28:2-3, 5-6, 10** – *"King David rose to his feet and said: 'Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. But God said to me, "You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood." 'Of all my sons – and the Lord has given me many – he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. He said to me: "Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father." [David to Solomon]: 'Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.'"*

Solomon was about four years into his reign at this time, which means he was about 21 years old. He spent the next 20 years in a building program: seven years to build the Temple of the Lord, followed by 13 years building his palace.

In this study, we'll look at the description of the Temple, the destruction of the Temple, and the depiction of the Temple, and how the Temple depicts something far more than just a building.

### The Description Of The Temple

1. No one knows what Solomon's Temple looked like because it's no longer standing.
2. The measurements of the Temple were 90 x 30 x 45.<sup>2</sup>
3. 180,000 workers were involved in the construction of the Temple, and it took seven years to complete.
4. It was made of white limestone or what is called Jerusalem stone, cedar from Lebanon, as well as olive wood and pine, plus lots and lots of gold!
  - a. [1 Chronicles 22:14a](#) - *"I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, and quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone."*
  - b. The gold David provided would have been approximately 3,750 tons, which at the conservative price of \$1,200.00 an ounce, would be equal to about **\$144 billion** dollars today!
5. The Holy of Holies<sup>3</sup> was very ornately decorated, and all of the wood was overlaid with gold, including the floor!
6. The Temple was central to Jewish life and worship, because that was where sacrifices were made, sins were atoned for, offerings were brought, prayers were offered, and God was worshiped.
7. The Temple was a holy place, set apart for God.
  - a. The English word profane, is related to the Temple.
    - i. The Latin word pro, means before or in front of, and the word fanum, means temple.

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<sup>2</sup> 60 cubits long (90ft.) x 20 cubits wide (30ft.) x 30 cubits high (45ft.)

<sup>3</sup> The Hebrew for the Holy of Holies is Kodesh Kodashim.

- ii. The Temple was a holy place and anything outside the Temple was profane (profanum).
- 8. In addition to the Temple, within each town where there were at least 10 Jewish men, a synagogue was built, not for sacrifices, but for the reading of Scripture and prayer.
  - a. The word synagogue is from the Greek word meaning, assembly.
- 9. Solomon's Temple was destroyed in 586BC when the Babylonians besieged and sacked Jerusalem.
- 10. Solomon's Temple was built circa 967BC, and it stood for almost 400 years.
- 11. After 70 years of captivity in Babylon, the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple.
- 12. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple was built circa 516BC, and King Herod initiated renovations circa 19BC.
- 13. The Romans destroyed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in 70AD, which means this Temple stood for almost 600 years.
- 14. In [Matthew 24:1-2](#), Jesus predicted the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple: *"Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 'Do you see all these things?' he asked. 'I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.' "*
  - a. [Luke 19:44b](#) - *"They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."*
- 15. The Jews have not rebuilt the Temple, but they want to!
  - a. From 70AD, when the Romans put down a Jewish revolt and the Jews were dispersed from the land, until 1948 when God miraculously gathered the Jews back to the land and Israel was officially granted "Nation Status" by the League of Nations,<sup>4</sup> the Jews had no control over the land.
  - b. At the end of the War of Independence in 1948, Jerusalem was under the control of Jordan.
  - c. After the 1967 Six-day War, Israel regained control over Jerusalem, however, in an effort to keep peace, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan made a deal with the Muslims, which allowed them to retain administrative control of the Temple Mount.

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<sup>4</sup> The League of Nations was the forerunner of the United Nations.

- d. The Bible predicts that the Temple will be rebuilt under the leadership of the Antichrist, who the prophet Zechariah said the Jews would consider being the Messiah.

#### The Depiction Of The Temple – Jesus’ Physical Body

- 16. The Temple depicts something more than a building.
- 17. **John 2:18-21** – *“Then the Jews demanded of him, ‘What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.’ The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?’ But the temple he had spoken of was his body.”*
- 18. The proof of Jesus’ authority would be seen in his resurrection, so what he was saying was, “Crucify my body, and watch me rise from the dead in three days!”

#### The Depiction Of The Temple – The Church Body

- 19. **Ephesians 2:19-22** – *“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”*
- 20. The foundation is the Word (the apostles, plus Old and New Testament truth).
- 21. The cornerstone is Jesus, because everything is centered on him.
  - a. The cornerstone stone or foundation stone is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, and it’s placed at the corner.
  - b. It’s usually the largest and most solid stone, by which all other stones are set in place.
  - c. This stone is the reference stone that determines the position of the entire structure.
- 22. Pastor Gary said, that because Jesus is the cornerstone of our church, we must to examine what we do and why we do it, and regularly consider how much the Word of God needs to be the foundation for faith and practice.
  - a. Do we believe what the Bible says?
  - b. Do we value Scripture as the revelation of God?
  - c. Do we teach it, hear it, and live it?

- d. Do we embrace it as the source of absolute truth?
  - e. Do we trust that lives will be changed through the power and simplicity of God's Word?
23. Jesus must be the cornerstone of the church, and not just in our namesake.
- a. Is Jesus central to all we do?
  - b. Is everything built off of Jesus as our point of reference?
  - c. Do all of our ministries, outreaches, and worship services bring glory and honor to the Lord?
  - d. Is Jesus taught and sought after?
  - e. Is Jesus believed and received?
24. Pastor Gary expressed his concerns about churches, which in an effort to be relevant, creative, and modern, have moved away from Jesus Christ and the Word being central.
- a. He warned that when any church stops teaching the Bible or waters down or denies the veracity of the Bible (from cover to cover), and when Jesus is no longer central, then God is not glorified and all of their efforts to be relevant, creative, and modern are worthless!
  - b. "I think the greatest threat to the local church is not from without (erosion of religious freedoms, etc.); it's from within, because the Bible is no longer the foundation and Jesus is no longer central.

### The Depiction Of The Temple – Your Physical Body

25. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** – *"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."*
26. When Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthian Church, there were two predominant views regarding pleasure and sensuality.
- a. Pleasure is wrong.
    - i. The body is sinful, and a person shouldn't even enjoy sex in the context of marriage.
    - ii. Paul addressed this viewpoint in **1 Corinthians 7**, when he wrote that they were not to consider their body their own, but their body belonged to their spouse, and that they shouldn't deny each other, except when they mutually agreed for the purpose of prayer.
  - b. The Christian life is only spiritual, not physical.

- i. From this perspective, it makes no difference what you do with your body, so go for it!
- ii. The truth is that what you do with your body does make a difference, so we are instructed to glorify God with our body because it's like a temple in which God's Spirit dwells.
- iii. When we live a holy life with our body, we honor the Holy Spirit.

- 27. **1 Corinthians 3:16, 17b** - *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? [F]or God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."*
- 28. **1 Peter 1:18-19** - *"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."*
- 29. Since we belong to Christ, we must honor him with our body: sexually; in what we eat; getting proper exercise and sleep; and refraining from abusing our body with drugs and/or alcohol.
- 30. **Romans 12:1** - *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."*

#### Discussion Questions

- 1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
- 2. Read **1 Kings 6:1-13, 37-38** to provide the foundation for this study.
- 3. Read and discuss **Ephesians 2:19-22**.
- 4. When you think of the Church (big "C"), do you think of denominations, non-denominational churches, the Catholic Church, etc.?
- 5. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about their church background regarding the centrality of Jesus and the Scriptures.
- 6. How is the Bible the foundation of your Christian faith?
- 7. How has the Lord used Pastor Gary's teaching ministry in your life?

8. What are some examples you can share that demonstrate that Jesus is the center of your life?
9. Spend time talking about the questions Pastor Gary asked in #22 and #23 above.
10. Have you been a part of a church or do you know of any churches that have moved away from Jesus and the Bible.
11. Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 6:18–20](#) and [1 Corinthians 3:16, 17b](#).
12. How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest score, when it comes to honoring the Holy Spirit with your body?
13. Read and discuss [Romans 12:1](#).
14. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: remember the importance of knowing, believing, and applying the Scriptures; make Jesus the center of their life; and honor the Holy Spirit with their body.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).