

BE God's holy Living Temple and House of Prayer

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary

Paul told Timothy that the House of God, the Temple, is the church – the called-out ones. In this message learn what responsibilities and opportunities it brings to be the dwelling place of God's presence. Are our lives His House of Prayer? Being dedicated and consecrated for sacrifice, prayer and worship. Temples and threshing floors. When God's temple needs cleansing. All this and more.

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[You'll get the most out of this message if you listen to the audio with these notes in hand.]

Warm greetings from warm and sunny Orlando, Florida to all of you around the world who frequent this free resource on Bible topics.

AS I record this, we're in the final days of the 6th month of the Hebrew calendar of Elul – and it pictures a time to wake up, come to our senses, as we realize we are soon coming before our Maker at the Fall holydays. And for that matter, our lives should constantly be a model of a holy life before God. Frankly we all fall short of that of and by ourselves, even with God's spirit we fall short. The apostle Paul admitted as much in Romans 7 – “That which I hate, I still do” or “I still find myself sometimes doing” as I think he intended to mean.

But we have been given the Holy Spirit of God Most High. There is no physical temple in Jerusalem at present, and even when one is built in the future, there is a more glorious one in the making. I don't mean the Millennial temple. I mean you. All believers in Christ right now who have God's spirit are walking, breathing temples of God's Spirit -- with Yah's *shekinah* glory shining in their lives, even if just a spark of that *shekinah* glory.

My talk today is this:

The temple was also called “the House of God” (2 Chron 7:5, etc.) and “The House of Prayer for all nations”, not just for the Jews or Israel. Paul told Timothy something very profound:

1 Timothy 3:14-15

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in **the house of God, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

So Paul says today the “House of God” is the church, not a physical building but a spiritual building. People with God's spirit make up the living, breathing, actual temple and house of God today wherever they are. That means you. Let that sink in because that carries with it profound responsibilities and opportunities. The Temple of God, the House of God, is the group of believers who have God's spirit – not a physical structure any longer.

Yeshua (Jesus) preached during the “2nd Temple Period”. Though it was expanded greatly by the Idumean Herod the Great, even Yeshua still called that edifice “My Father’s House” and He felt compelled to cleanse it on a couple of occasions. So we’ll also be talking about cleansing the LIVING temple of God today as well.

Mark 11:15-17

“So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple [God’s house] and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ***‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’***? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” (Yeshua is quoting from Isaiah 56:7).

So back to the PREMISE and POINT of this SERMON today: Yeshua cleansed the temple of the “stuff” that distracted from its real purpose of being a house of prayer. ***Since WE are now the House of God, since WE are now the temple of God’s spirit, my question for us today is simple: Would Jesus recognize our lives as HIS House of Prayer – or would Jesus say our lives are more a den of thieves, a den of commotion, of making money, of distractions from prayer?*** Would Jesus recognize us and our lives as a place of constant prayer, always open for the business of prayer – or would Master feel like your life and mine need cleansing and repair!?

Your life, my life, is the walking, living, breathing Holy of Holies, where God and Yeshua (Jesus) dwell.

We can sometimes look at the way the holy House of God was mistreated by the bad kings of Judah and Israel as well and we can shake our heads in disbelief. But are you and I doing any better? If your life could be broadcast on a video screen for all to see, without your knowledge, would your life and mine bring GLORY to the Highest – or snickers and derision? I preach to myself. I need this sermon. In this 6th month of preparing to come before the Highest, I preach to myself too.

When I see what the description of the end time church body is like, I get real sober.

- “Will I find faith when I return?” Jesus asked. Luke 18:8
- The Laodicean church is described as self-content and mouthy in Revelation 3.
- The 10 virgins awaiting the return of the Groom – ALL slept. All ten SLEPT. Matt 25
- We see a group of believers – us – described as growing lukewarm; where the love of many waxes cold.

I for one would like to be among those who heed the admonition to repent, to clear out the rubbish in my life and to get back to being the House of God, the holy living temple, where prayer and sacrifice was wont to be made. ***Will you hear my message and join me?***

In Haggai 1, something profoundly disturbing is said **during the Hebrew 6th month of Elul** – the same month we are in right now. Look at Hag 1:1. They were more involved with paneling their own homes and leaving the new construction on a new temple. “My house is

in RUINS", says YHWH in Haggai 1. **We're in the last half of the Hebrew 6th month.** Is God's House in any better shape today? Let's hear God's word to them – and to US.

Haggai 1:7-15

"Thus says YHWH of hosts: "Consider your ways! 8 Go up to the mountains and bring wood and **build the temple**, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says YHWH. 9 "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says YHWH of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. 10 Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. 11 For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of YHWH their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as YHWH their God had sent him; and the people feared the presence of YHWH. 13 Then Haggai, YHWH's messenger, spoke YHWH's message to the people, saying, **"I am with you, says YHWH."** 14 **So YHWH stirred up the spirit** of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, **and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of YHWH of hosts, their God,** 15 on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius"

It's time for US to work on the House of YHWH and to clean up the Temple of God and prepare it for the glory of meeting with His Majesty, the King of the Universe, in a few short weeks at his appointed times, the feast days, the holy days of God.

So that's what I'm talking about: **BEING the Living Holy Temple of God.** Being the House of God. Being his HOUSE of PRAYER – that we pray so much, so regularly, that anyone who knows you knows YOU ARE God's House of Prayer.

Are you and I LIVING AND ACTING AND BEING like we are fully aware we are the LIVING TEMPLE of the Living God?

- When YHWH looks down at you and me, does he often see us on our knees in bowed worship before him? In the literal temple, that's what was happening: worship and prayer.
- Would Abba in heaven, our dear father, say that you and I are a "living house of PRAYER"? In other words, we pray so regularly, so often, that we ARE living houses of prayer.
- Have we dedicated and prepared ourselves for being such a holy temple – a living temple dedicated to his service?

Right now we're **in the 6th Hebrew month** – a month when people traditionally would repent, turn from their evil ways and prepare to meet their God. This meeting with Yah is represented by the 7th month of the Hebrew calendar, the month coming up, where there are the final four holydays of God.

So our lives are supposed to be the living House of PRAYER of our God FOR ALL NATIONS. Let's read it:, and notice the emphasis on the foreigner since so many of you who come to this website are from China, Japan, Ukraine, Russia, Kenya, Brazil, France – as well as from the USA, England, Israel and others. And to all of you, welcome.

Isaiah 56:6-7

"Also the sons of the foreigner

Who join themselves to YHWH, to serve Him, [not to a man-made organization]

And to love **the name of YHWH**, to be His servants —

Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath,

And holds fast My covenant —

7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain,

And make them joyful in **My house of prayer**.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices

Will be accepted on My altar;

For My house shall be called a house of prayer for ALL nations."

Remember so much of the actual work of building the temple was performed by GENTILES who were sent from Lebanon and other places. In fact, when David started building it, the first thing he did was conscript the aliens in Israel to do most of the hard work (1 Chronicles 22:2). The temple is a house of prayer for all nations. Yeshua (Jesus) quoted this very passage when he cleansed the temple of the thieves and merchandisers. **He called it "My Father's House" – and said they had turned it to a den of thieves** (Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46).

What about you and me? Is our life about focusing on how we're going to pay our bills, or on *making ever more money* and merchandising even the very word of God? I preach to myself as well, always. But you will notice: we don't charge a cent for all the information we have on this website. We have nothing to sell. We all have to earn a living and sometimes we forget our true priorities even once we come home. *But when we spend more time on Facebook than in the living word of God, something is terribly wrong in our priorities.*

So let's read the verses telling us what we are and glean the lessons we're going to review in today's message.

WE are the HOUSE of God, the Temple of His Spirit

Turn to 1 Peter 2 please. The Apostle Peter says you are a living stone and are a part of the spiritual temple of God – meaning the true body of believers. ***The "true church" is not an organization made by men, but the collective assembly of all believers who have God's spirit in them*** – no matter where they live, no matter what language they speak. IF someone has God's spirit, he/she is a living stone in the temple of the living God.

But notice how Peter begins – and it's the same way Paul does, as they both admonish us to clean up the House of God! Our lives, the ways we act and behave, have to change. I preach to myself. Notice Yeshua (Jesus) was rejected by man but accepted by God. He was no leper, but he was treated like an outcast. So he understands when we feel that way.

1 Peter 2:1-5

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, **5 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.

Did you get the sequence? Clean up first, repent. In this 6th month of Elul in the Hebrew calendar, let's be preparing for the Feasts of our God by spending much time on our knees. Now turn to **1 Cor. 3:9-17** and let's see what Paul says. Notice how he admonishes us to think about what our temple – our lives – are turning out like. Are we building with precious stones? Are we taking our calling seriously – or do we all just want to hear easy stuff?

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

“For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. **But let each one take heed how he builds on it.** 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. [So that's the CONTEXT of what we're going to read next.]

16 Do you not know that YOU are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple YOU are.”

YOU are the temple of the living true God. Did you listen to verse 17? If you or I purposely DEFILE our mind, our heart, our body, or our life – which is GOD's property – God will destroy you or me if we don't deeply repent.

Let's get the seriousness of this topic. I preach this strongly to myself too! I needed this too. I am so imperfect and I just share my studies, not to preach at you, but just to share what I'm learning. I'm no better than anyone else. But in Christ, we can be accepted by the Father if we come to him daily for cleansing and ask him to scrub our hearts and minds and make us fit dwelling places for him and our Father and their spirit.

Tell others about this message. There's too much time spent in sermons on just doctrinal things or easy things and not enough on this kind of material.

We do NOT belong to any organization. We belong to Christ. He bought and paid for you. You are now his. We must walk worthy of being IN Him, part of HIS body, part of HIM. We belong to Christ (Mark 9:41).

IN the same book, Paul hits it again in 1 Cor. 6.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." **17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**

18 Flee sexual immorality. [Including internet!] Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Then Paul hits it again in 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 asking us what does the temple of God have to do with pagan ways and priorities (idols)? YOU are the temple of the living God" he says in verse 16. Come out from among them and be separate. Don't be like the world – and God promises HE will be a father to us. And we'll be his sons and daughters, read it.

You not only stand on holy ground, when 3x Holy God is inside you by His spirit, you ARE holy ground. Let that sink in. You ARE holy ground. We must be a fit, cleansed and holy habitation for our awesome Creator.

Let's continue his theme in chapter 7 OF 2 Corinthians, as there were originally no chapter breaks.

2 Corinthians 7:1

"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness** of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

WE'RE BEING MEASURED

The House of God is being measured, or soon will be, according to Revelation 11. Now that verse might be literally referring to a literal future temple, but still, the more important temple is the body of believers.

Revelation 11:1-3

"Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and **MEASURE the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.**"

Almighty God is taking your measure. The only way you and I will measure up is if we daily seek the covering of His Son over us, and ask him to live mightily, obediently, in all of us and to help us represent Him as never before. Yeshua (Jesus) has qualified to be king of kings. If we are "in him", in HIS body, in HIS life, we are part of Him, and therein will be our qualification also.

Do you remember in Revelation 5, when they were looking around in heaven for someone qualified to open the scrolls? And John began to weep (Rev. 5:4), for no one could step up

to the batter's box – until the Lamb of God did. Worthy is HE. Worthy is HE. If you want to be worthy, to be qualified, to be accepted – it must be “in Him”.

If you understand what it means **to be “IN HIM”** – then HE makes you worthy also. That's the only way you will really be worthy, is in HIM who alone was truly worthy.

Ephesians 1:6 says “we have been ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED”. Seek to understand that. Accept that. Let HIM be your covering and be your way in to the life eternal. HE is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Accept that. Receive that.

You are individually “accepted in the Beloved.”

We are to pray that we be accounted worthy – but that worthiness will be by being in Him. Remember Paul said he had kept the Torah perfectly, but he gladly gave that up to have instead the perfect holy righteousness of God given to him by faith. **Read it – Philippians 3:8-11.**

Colossians 1:12-14

“giving thanks **to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers** of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness **and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

The KEY to being measured properly is to be IN CHRIST; to KNOW HIM so intimately and deeply that when Father above sees you, He sees Yeshua the Messiah. You're IN HIM, and BY HIM you are being perfected. DO you want the hope of Glory?

Colossians 1:27-29

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect (how?) IN Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

Now this is a process, for Paul acknowledges in Philippians 3:12 that he hasn't yet been perfected, but the process is moving in that direction.

I've said all this in context of the scripture in Revelation 11 that the temple is being measured. Let's move on.

Let's read another well-known passage from Paul and then get into more about the temple. I want you to notice how Paul especially speaks about how our success is always “IN HIM”, or “in the Lord”. We are a part of HIS BODY, a part of HIM. We are IN Him. So where he is, we are. Where we are, He is.

Turn to Ephesians, another epistle written primarily to Gentiles in what is now Turkey:

Ephesians 2:19-22

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief

cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord**, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

So this temple that we are being built into – is going to be successful only if we have surrendered our own lives and come under the blood of Christ and become a part of HIM, his body, "IN HIM". I have whole sermons about being in him and I should give another one soon.

Let's learn more about the temple now and see what lessons we can glean.

But remember that the temple is but the TYPE. YOU are the reality of what it pictures. Are you GETTING that? So as I go thru all this in the minutes that follow, realize I'm talking about YOU and ME.

A temple SITE is selected

I believe –though I can't absolutely prove it – that God had selected the site for the temple from the beginning. I believe – though I can't prove it – that the tree of Life was placed on what is now the Temple Mount. I know Genesis 2 speaks of the Euphrates and Tigris and all that, but is it possible that before the Flood, the geology as we know it was totally different?

And I believe that the Garden of Eden was where the present Temple Mount site is, but I believe the Garden was set in rolling hills and was simply beautiful.

But beyond that, we know that where they eventually built the first temple was the very spot where Abraham was told to sacrifice his son, his "only son, the son you love" – on Mount Moriah.

2 Chronicles 3:1-2

"Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at **Jerusalem on Mount Moriah**, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Genesis 22:2

Then He [YHWH] said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the **land of Moriah**, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

REMEMBER, what did the story of Abraham being told to sacrifice Isaac picture for us? Surely that pictures the beloved act of our Father in heaven who did go through the sacrifice of his own son – for the sake of all His other future sons and daughters he wanted in His family. He loved all of US so much that he put all the fury, judgment, anger and condemnation that WE accrued due to our sins, on to his own divine SON! And for that matter, like Isaac, Yeshua accepted that willingly.

Remember Isaac was at least 25, and more likely over 30, when that happened. He could have easily overpowered his aging father. But he willingly accepted what God had said –

just as Yeshua did! He said "I LAY down my life for my sheep. I can lay it down or choose not to. That's what my Father said," – John 10:11, 17-18.

YOUR CALLING was also from a long, long time ago as well. I believe your father and mother, your grandparents, your great-grandparents were being put together to bring YOU about. Yes, I believe that. You were called and desired to be one of the first fruits of God from before your birth, I believe. You are unique in the whole universe. God personally made you and designed you for a special purpose. Many of us won't "see" our special purpose until the kingdom is here, but it will be abundantly clear at that time.

Romans 8:28-30

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those **who are the called** according to His purpose. 29 **For whom He foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn *among many brethren*. 30 **Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called**, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

Ephesians 1:3-6

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that WE should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 **having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, **by which He made US accepted in the Beloved**".

Ephesians 1:11-12

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

David said "You knew me while I was still being formed in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139).

Psalms 139:15-16

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Then the word of YHWH came to me, saying:

5 "**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you;** I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

You don't feel qualified to be called to such high glory? Well, *you're* not qualified, on your own merits. But God, for his own reasons, chooses the base of the world, the weak, the despised, the lowly, the poor, the not highly esteemed ones – like you and me – lol – SO NO FLESH could BOAST. *And he takes those people – you and me – and brings us to*

Christ who cleanses us and works with us and in the end brings us to GLORY for the glory and praise of the Father and our Savior.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God **from the beginning chose you for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 9:22-24

What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory **on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand** for glory, [who?] 24 **even us whom He called**, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Because of what it says about US being known and called from so long ago, I believe the location for the physical temple, which was a type of us – was also selected from long ago.

Later on, while King David was enjoying his own beautiful house, he began to feel badly that Yah was dwelling in a tent, a tabernacle. So he told Nathan the Prophet that he wanted to build YHWH a house, a nice house, a temple. Nathan told him YHWH was pleased with that. That touching story can be found in 2 SAMUEL 7. I'll quote parts of it here.

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and YHWH had given him rest from all his enemies all around, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, **"See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."**

3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for YHWH is with you."

The Temple site (our lives) is a PLACE OF SEPARATION

In the meantime, David sinned by numbering Israel for wrong motives. God was going to punish him by hitting him where it hurt most: David was a shepherd and Yah knew David would really feel it when the sheep of Israel, the people of Israel in his care, were the ones being hit. I'll summarize the main points **from 1 Chron 21:13** to the end. Please read it yourself later on.

1 Chronicles 21:13-22:1

13 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of YHWH, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

14 So YHWH sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. 15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, YHWH looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." **And the angel of YHWH stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.**

16 Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of YHWH standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. 17 And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, O Lord my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."

18 Therefore, the angel of YHWH commanded Gad to say to David that David should go **and erect an altar to YHWH on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite**. (2 Samuel 24:16 says by this time the destroying angel was standing beside the threshing floor).

19 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of YHWH. 20 **Now Ornan turned and saw the angel;** and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat. 21 So David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground. 22 Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to YHWH. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

You can read the rest of the story in this chapter. David buys the land and offerings at full price, 600 gold shekels. David offers the burnt sacrifices and YHWH showed his pleasure by consuming the sacrifice on the altar by fire from heaven (verse 26).

MANY big events happened at threshing floors.

- **Gideon** was working in the threshing floors when the Angel of YHWH appeared to him and called him to lead northern Israel to fight against Midian. **Judges 6:11-12, 37**. It was on the threshing floor where the miracles of the fleece happened. God was separating Gideon for His work.
- **Ruth 3** – it was on the threshing floor that Ruth was forever separated from the people of Moab to be the wife of Boaz, and ancestress of the holy Messiah.
- Uzzah was struck down when he touched the ark being carried by oxen, instead of specific priests with staves in the ark, carried on the priests' shoulders. WHERE was Uzzah struck down? At the threshing floor. 2 Samuel 6:6
- And yes, the TEMPLE was to be built on Ornan's THRESHING FLOOR. Back to this in a minute.
- **Luke 3:16-17**
John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, **and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.**"

WHY a threshing floor?

It's the place of SEPARATION between the useful and useless. The wheat and the chaff. It's the place of separation of the holy from the profane.

YOU have been called to live a life that separates the good from the bad, as defined by God. That's the reason for clean and unclean meats and all the laws of God: to make us careful to evaluate what we're doing, where we're going, how we're living, what we're watching on TV. Stop to think about it. We would never allow someone to do certain things or speak a certain way in our home – but we DO allow it when it comes through TV!! How does that make sense!

We've been called to build a WALL against sin and sinful ways from our minds, hearts and homes – even as we are a light to a darkened world when we're among them. Jesus was a friend of sinners. He did not do what they did, but they felt comfortable around him.

So, the Temple was built on a threshing floor – a place of separation. It's time, family of God. It's time we put away all our idols. (Discuss the rich young ruler – hadn't even kept the first command, not to have any idols between God and us. His wealth was his god.). Matthew 19:16-22.

What sins are we still harboring? Where do we have to knuckle down and seek God with all our hearts? Are you SEPARATING OUT the chaff in your life? That's homework for you to think about.

We have a lot to cover...

THE TEMPLE WAS PREPARED – OFF – SITE!

The beautifully polished large stones of the temple were quarried off site. The stones, if they could speak, would wonder how they're ever going to end up as part of a beautiful temple.

1 Kings 6:7

“And the temple, when it was being built, **was built with stone finished at the quarry**, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.”

The quarry site would have been a loud, noisy, dirty, place as big stones were cut out of solid rock, then shaped and chiseled.

That points to our lives today. Remember you are a “living stone” in the spiritual temple. We wonder how what we're going through now has anything to do with a glorious kingdom of God. Trials are sore and painful. We wonder what God is doing sometimes, or even where he is in all our troubles.

Think about what this means. There are living stones of the holy temple of the living God, real people, in KENYA being prepared to be part of the living temple of God's Spirit. There are other living stones in China, in America, in Iraq, in France, in Britain, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and the Philippines... all over the world. The House of Prayer for all nations is coming together from “living stones” that will be assembled from around the world.

Remember when Yeshua returns, the angels gather the elect from the four corners of the world – all over the earth and even to the farthest parts of HEAVEN (Mark 13:27). You got that?

Hallelujah and praise Yah!

When the stones came together to form the temple, there was no noise heard of a hammer or chisel. The stones came together perfectly, harmoniously, happily, without the noise we see among the denominations and splinter groups today.

My brothers and sisters in Messiah: look past the man-made organizational walls and groups that seem designed to DIVIDE the body of Christ more than they bring us together. In fact people get mis-led into thinking that ONLY people in their organization are the true people of God.

THE TEMPLE DEDICATED AND CONSECRATED FOR HOLY USE

When the temple was finished, the grounds and all the instruments, the altar, everything – was purified by the High Priest with the water and hair of the red heifer.

WE also have to be CONSECRATED and set apart of God's holy use. We present ourselves as living sacrifices. Then Solomon offered up his **wonderful prayer of dedication** you can read about in 2 Chronicles 6.

*After King Solomon dedicated the House of God with 285 singers of the likes of the sons of Asaph, and scores of trumpeters, and thousands of people worshipping—what a glorious day. After his prayer, God PERSONALLY came and sanctified His new House they had prepared for him. He came in the bright Shekinah Glory cloud and filled the whole temple and then consumed the burnt offerings on the altar with fire from heaven. **2 Chron 7:1-3.***

What a house warming, eh?

Then God, who can be moved, said this to Solomon – and as I read it, remember YOU are the temple; YOU are the house of God today.

2 Chronicles 7:12-16

"Then YHWH appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have **chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray **and seek My face, and turn** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 **Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place (church).** 16 **For now I have chosen and sanctified this house [church- and your life], that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My HEART will be there [with YOU, personally, and the church] perpetually."****

God Almighty Himself says His eyes and ears are open and attentive to us when we pray. He says He chose and sanctified you – "this house" – and has placed HIS name on *you* forever and He says He places His heart, *God's heart*, with *you forever!* Perpetually!

But when does He assure us His heart and His eyes will be fixed on us? VERSE 14 tells us: “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and PRAY and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, THEN I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.” There you have it.

I urge you to do the same: once in a while during your prayers, offer yourself for holy use. Have you ever done that? Admit your sins and unholy use so far, but that you're asking God to cleanse you, purify you, set you apart for holy use, and let your life start to bring glory to his holy name. I preach to myself. I too, need to be doing this better.

The Temple needed to be USED.

In old days, people went to the temple to worship and pray.

Become a house of prayer. Don't let yourself slide into occasionally praying on your knees. GET BACK into the habit of praying OFTEN on your knees. Start making contact throughout the day to Abba Almighty God in heaven and to Yeshua or Jesus Christ.

Don't let the beautiful temple of God become an empty white elephant – pretty, unusual, but not being used. PRAY FIRST THING when you get up. Get on your knees and pray. Pray last thing at night. Pray at noon day if you can find a private spot. If not, go for a walk during lunch and find a quiet spot and commune with your maker.

BECOME a HOUSE OF PRAYER.

The Temple needs to be CLEANSED AND PURIFIED from time to time

Every house needs to be kept up. Even the House of God. Sometimes Judah would get an evil king and sure enough – the temple went into disrepair. At times it was used as a garbage dump or storage house. Other times it was used for evil idolatrous “worship”.

On your own read of righteous King Josiah's reforms **in 2 Kings 23**. I don't have time to read all of the account, but urge you to, and see for yourself how Josiah cleansed the temple area. He was thorough. Look at your own temple – your own life in other words – and see where the areas of your life are that need to be cleaned up, burned up, given up, changed and cleansed.

In 2 Kings 23:

- All the articles made for Baal and his consort Asherah (Easter) and star worship – removed and burned (v. 4)
- He fired and got rid of the false priests (v. 5)
- V.6- he brought out the wooden image, the phallic symbol of pagan worship
- V.7 there were “booths” for perverts in the House of God. He got rid of those.
- V. 10- he stopped the practice of offering children in fiery sacrifice to Molech
- V. 19-20- he executed false prophets and burned their bones
- V. 25—no king before or after him was so committed to obeying with all his heart.

Hezekiah also made reforms and cleansings. You can read of Hezekiah's cleansing of the temple in 2 Chronicles 29 – cleansing the House of Prayer, the House of God – all picturing you and me! I recommend you read the whole chapter on your knees tonight and ask God

to help you see what rubbish is in your own life. Ask God to open the doors of your heart – just as the doors of the temple had been SHUT and ruined.

2 Chronicles 29:3-5

In the first year of his reign, in the first month, **he opened the doors of the house of YHWH and repaired them.** 4 Then he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square, 5 and said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, **sanctify the house of YHWH God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place.**

All scripture is given for OUR admonition. Imagine us locking the doors of the House of God to the Head of the house. Why is Yeshua outside – knocking on his own door, to his own house? Unimaginable.

(Prayer). Forgive us, dear Master. Help us to hasten to open the door to you again, the door to our hearts and minds. And yes, help us “carry out the rubbish from the holy place.”

If you keep reading, they had also put out the lamps (the Menorah) and had not burned incense for a long time. *Incense pictures our prayers (Psalm 141:2). If you aren't praying fervently and frequently, your incense has stopped too!* Remember – about the lamps – the 10 virgins' lamps were going out (Matthew 25). Our lights aren't shining so brightly when we try to look like, talk like, be like, and live like the world, brethren. Turn the lights back on. Remember the lamps were to be kept shining. Burn the incense again.

2 Chronicles 29:16

“Then the priests went into the inner part of the house of YHWH to cleanse it, and brought **out all the debris** that they found in the temple of YHWH to the court of the house of YHWH. And the Levites took it out and carried it to the Brook Kidron.”

The INNER PART of the house is our hearts. Yeshua said CLEAN THE INSIDE and the outside will be clean as well (Matthew 23:25-26). EVIL ACTIONS proceed from an evil inside, the heart, our thoughts and motivations, Jesus said (Mark 7:21-23).

That points to US needing to be cleansed. Deep repentance. When was your last full day of fasting, other than on the day of Atonement (Day of Coverings – Kippurim)?

OF COURSE REMEMBER YESHUA ALSO CLEANSED THE TEMPLE TWICE, HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.

I'm out of time. The main points of this message today:

- *The temple of God built by Solomon and later the 2nd temple – were pictures of you and me. WE are the true temple of the Holy Spirit. WE have inside us a spark of the holy Shekinah glory of God.*
- *As we get ready for the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), let's use this 6th month of the Hebrew calendar to PREPARE for the 7th month. It's the preparation month! It's a time of renewal, cleansing, a time to fast, pray, repent and draw near to God as never before. Let's be sure the doors are open to Yeshua. Let's be sure our lives are cleansed of the garbage we used to have in our lives. Let's commit to presenting our bodies and lives as clean holy ground, the holy temple of God – for His holy use.*

- *The Temple site was pre-selected long before. You also were specially created and selected. I'm convinced of that. You are unique in all of God's universe and very special to Him.*
- *As a living temple, our lives should be a place of SACRIFICE and WORSHIP. See Romans 12:1-2. Offer yourself to God for His holy use when you pray the next time. Be sure you know that you're offering though.*
- Our temple lamps should be kept burning. Our lives should be shining examples of how God can change anyone. I'll give a sermon sometime about the Menorah and how each lamp was turned toward and pointed to the center shaft picturing Christ – the Servant Lamp. The only one that was straight and true, all others are bent towards him.
- The incense should be burning – picturing us praying often and consistently.

So as we get ready for the coming Feasts days and holydays – remember: you are the temple of the Holy spirit. You are God's house. You are God's House of PRAYER. What an honor – and a responsibility. Use your body and life to bring glory to the Highest.