

The last time we were together we were discussing the temple that God had allowed Solomon to build according to the plans his father David was given by the Holy Spirit.

**And just by way of reminder, what are the implications of plans given to David by the Holy Spirit, as it relates to the temple Solomon was building, as far as a preexisting temple after which the plans were made for David?**

**Hebrews 9:19-24** <sup>19</sup> For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup> saying, "THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU." <sup>21</sup> And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood. <sup>22</sup> And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. <sup>23</sup> Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

**Hebrews 8:3-5** <sup>3</sup> For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer. <sup>4</sup> Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; <sup>5</sup> who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

So, the rest of chapter 4 of 2Chronicles deals with the furnishings of the temple that address every detail down to the type of ornamental and practical utensil to be used.

**2 Chronicles 4:19-22** <sup>19</sup> Solomon also made all the things that *were* in the house of God: even the golden altar, the tables with the bread of the Presence on them, <sup>20</sup> the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in front of the inner sanctuary in the way prescribed; <sup>21</sup> the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs of gold, of

purest gold; <sup>22</sup> and the snuffers, the bowls, the spoons and the firepans of pure gold; and the entrance of the house, its inner doors for the holy of holies and the doors of the house, *that is*, of the nave, of gold.

**By the way, what does this suggest of our God as to accounting for the minutest details of our lives in general?**

Chapter 5 is going to deal with the completed Temple and the bringing up of the ark of covenant to Jerusalem.

**And again, what does the ark of the covenant represent before the people of Israel?**

The place at which the Lord meets with His people in a covenantal way.

**When we speak of a covenantal relationship with God what are we talking about?**

All that God does for mankind, both believing and unbelieving, stems from Him dealing with all of us in a covenantal way. In other words, God enters into a relationship with mankind through Him creating the first man and woman, expecting from all men, allegiance, worship and love.

All men everywhere, and in every time, are in this covenantal relationship to God. And interestingly enough all men are inherently aware of this covenantal relationship that they have with God their creator.

**Romans 1:18-20** <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Paul could not say that they are without excuse, (and by that he implies that they are without the excuse of saying that they didn't know about the one true God or that they were not responsible to the covenantal relationship they have with the one true God), if in fact they weren't.

This is the reason that you and I can boldly and yet with reverence and patience, share with the unbelieving world in such a way as to declare the truth of who God is according to His word. And we can do it knowing that they are aware of whom we speak because God has made it evident to them by the very fact that every person in the world has been made in the image of God.

Mankind simply cannot escape that fact. The problem however arises from the fact that even though every man, including every atheist, suppresses this truth in unrighteousness, which is to say, that despite every fiber of the human psyche knowing that there is one true God who is creator of heaven and earth, their sin purposefully and intentionally pushes that truth away because they do not want to come under His Lordship in that covenantal relationship.

Our job as believers in Jesus Christ is not to convince people into the kingdom of God with flattery of speech or our own wisdom, but to bear witness to the one thing that has already been placed upon the hearts of all people, and that is their own God imprint, if you will, that acknowledges the truth of who God is.

**And what is that one truth that we can give them that they can deny but can't escape from because their own make up includes their Creator's imprint?**

God's written word and His Son Jesus Christ who is the Word become flesh. That very word from God reminds the world of this one true God.

Now, this is different from saying that every person is given a spark of life from God and that they only need to figure this out by looking at the word of God and His creation and logically conclude that they must repent and turn to Christ for salvation.

**The problem with that is that we are all dead in our trespasses and sins and though we know that the God of the Bible is Creator what do we do with that truth according to Paul in Romans 1:18?**

We suppress that truth in unrighteousness, which is to say our unrighteousness or our deadness trumps our desire to love the truth and love God.

**John 3:19-20** <sup>19</sup> "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light,

for their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

People are without excuse, not because they don't know the truth but because they hate the truth because of what it does. It exposes their deeds. And to ignore the implications of the truth is an escape from that truth as they simply deny it.

That's like saying if I just bury my head in the sand no one will see me. It's foolish, which is why David says, the fool says in his heart that there is no God. (Psalm 14:1)

### **Where does that statement originate in the person saying it?**

In his heart. And yet, Paul implies that in that same heart God has implanted a knowledge of Himself that cannot be avoided, thus making that person without excuse. Unfortunately, that heart has locked up that truth in a block of stone. And it's not until God unlocks that heart that the truth can take root.

**Ezekiel 11:19** <sup>19</sup> "And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

**Ezekiel 36:26-28** <sup>26</sup> "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. <sup>28</sup> "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

So, Solomon has the Ark of the Covenant brought into the temple as God is now seen to dwell among His people in this context.

**By the way, do you think Solomon understood that the magnificent edifice that he had made for the Lord and the ark of covenant that was placed in the holy of holies is where God actually dwells on earth?**

**2 Chronicles 6:18** <sup>18</sup> "But will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built.

**So, Solomon understood the relationship of God to His people and that for God to dwell in a house made with hands was impossible. Then why build one at all?**

Number one, God said to and number two it is not without significance that God demonstrate His closeness to His people through something that they can sense and see. And the final reason is to show how there will be a day in which Christ will literally dwell with His people on the new earth in the new Jerusalem on the throne of His father David.

That was the hope of Solomon and should be the hope of all of God's people.

The rest of chapter six is the prayer of dedication from Solomon.

**2 Chronicles 6:41-42** <sup>41</sup> "Now therefore arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might; let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation and let Your godly ones rejoice in what is good. <sup>42</sup> "O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your anointed; remember *Your* lovingkindness to Your servant David."

**By invoking his father David to the last part of his prayer what is Solomon acknowledging as to the type of relationship Israel has with God?**

A covenantal relationship based on the faithfulness of God and His promises and not based on the fickle unfaithfulness of people.

The Lord points this out in chapter 7.

2 Chronicles 7:17-18 <sup>17</sup> "As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, even to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, <sup>18</sup> then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man *to be* ruler in Israel.'

This is why you and I have hope in the promises of God because He has covenanted with us through His Son Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:13 <sup>13</sup> If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

So, Solomon closes his prayer and as with any prayer our desire is that God hears us and answers our prayer. Notice how God answers the prayer of Solomon.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 <sup>NAU</sup> Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house. <sup>2</sup> The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S house. <sup>3</sup> All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, *saying*, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."

The entire nation of Israel witnesses the presence of the Lord and their response is one of worship. And we can say with certainty that because of this one incident that all of Israel served and the loved the Lord God all their days forever and ever amen, right?

Not so much. But God will still be glorified no matter how unfaithful Israel is. His promises will go forth and His name will be lifted up on high.

Chapter 7 continues with the dedication of the temple but now we see God speaking to this whole issue of the temple.

2 Chronicles 7:15-16 <sup>5</sup> "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer *offered* in this place. <sup>16</sup> "For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

**Does this temple built by Solomon exist today?**

**In what ways, then can God say that His name will be in His temple forever and His eyes and heart will be there perpetually?**

In at least a couple of ways.

1 Corinthians 3:16 <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19 -20 <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

But there is the physical temple that will in fact be perpetual or eternal and that God's name will be there forever.

**Revelation 3:12** <sup>12</sup> He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Referring to the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21 we read this.

**Revelation 21:21-24** <sup>21</sup> And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. <sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

**If Jesus Christ is the true temple does this mean that there is no physical location for the Lord on the new earth?**

What the temple represented in the time of Israel in Jerusalem is that God would dwell, that is His presence would be acknowledged among His people through the means that He had established, and that was the physical temple in Jerusalem.

And so, in one sense the temple and the very presence of God are synonymous as far as Solomon was concerned. Well, if God is physically on the throne of David in the New Jerusalem as Christ rules and reigns from there, is there a need for a temple in the same sense there was a need for the temple in Solomon's day?

This doesn't mean that there is not a physical city on a physical earth with Christ's physical presence. But it does mean that God's presence is no longer being represented through shadows and symbols but is now reality among His people forever.

Next week we'll continue with Solomon's exploits and what he did with the surrounding people's who were not of the household of Israel.