



The House of the Lord ❖ the House of Prayer

- **Building/Rebuilding and Dedicating the House of the Lord as a House of Prayer, Worship and Sacrifice unto the Lord, God.**
- **The Lord Promises to Hear and Answer Sincere Prayer and Supplication made in the House of the Lord.**

The House of the Lord - The House of Prayer (1/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:11-13

And I saw a NEW heaven and a NEW earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, NEW Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Revelation 21:1-3

Per the above mentioned Scriptures, the Lord, God has **always** intended to have a place to dwell in and to be with His people. As God is Spirit, the primary place for Him to dwell with man is to dwell **within** man, as Adam was created before the fall, and as our Lord, Jesus Christ made possible through His redemption of man and sending the Holy Ghost for men to receive **within** them, within their hearts. Likewise, there **will always be** a specific place on earth—tabernacle, temple, or house that is designated to be a place of worship, sacrifice, and prayer unto the Lord where He will dwell among His people, and where His people and all nations will gather together unto Him.

The House of the Lord - The House of Prayer (2/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

In the new earth, the new holy city and tabernacle of God will be called **New Jerusalem** (replacing the present Jerusalem). Jerusalem will be called **new**, because it will then be holy unto the Lord, and none of the sin, wickedness, cruelty, oppression, sorrow, punishment, death, etc., of the past will exist in the **new, newness of life** in the **new kingdom of God on earth**.

For now (aside from ourselves), our tabernacle of God is **our local church**, which we should strive each day to refresh and make **new** in righteousness unto the Lord, and in preparation for our new lives to come, with the Lord. This is especially true following the COVID pandemic (which the Bible calls **pestilence**), when all churches and places of worship were **not** deemed as essential, and as a result, were shut down/closed, and some were destroyed altogether. In the Bible, whenever the House of God was destroyed it was because of the on-going, long-term sins of the people and specifically, their leaders who were leading them astray, their refusal to repent, their refusal to turn from their wickedness and sin, and their refusal to sincerely return to the Lord and His righteousness. Yet, **the Lord saved a remnant of the people to serve Him and to rebuild the House of the Lord**. After His anger and judgement had passed, the Lord expected the people to sincerely be sorry for their sins and repent, to long for the Lord and a reconnection with Him, and to strongly desire to rebuild the House of the Lord. Following COVID, all churches should have reopened/rebuilt as **new**.

No matter how grand or humble, we are blessed to have a local church/House of the Lord where the Lord can come and dwell with and within us, according to our submission to Him, His Word, and His Will. So, let us not forget what the Lord, God had to say about the first House (Temple) of the Lord that was built and established unto Him.

And the Lord, appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

Now Mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

2 Chronicles 7:12,15

King David expressed to Nathan the prophet that his heart's desire was to build a house unto the Lord (1 Chronicles 17:1). David didn't feel that (as only a man) it was right for him to have a fine house of cedar to dwell in while the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, God only dwelt under curtains; the Lord was touched and pleased that David had the desire in his heart to build a house for Him, and to His name (2 Chronicles 6:8). However, as David was a man of war, he had shed much blood, the Lord chose Solomon, David's son, to build the house for Him; Solomon would be a man of peace and rest, and not a man of war.

After the Lord's house (the Temple) was completed, and all things were set in proper order, Solomon assembled all of the Lord's people together, they sacrificed unto the Lord, and they praised, worshipped, and thanked the Lord with a loud voice for His goodness and mercy; and as a result, **the Glory of the Lord filled the new House of God.** Afterwards, Solomon and all of the people **dedicated the house unto the Lord.** Then Solomon prayed and asked the Lord to always have His eyes on the House, to hear the prayer that was made in the House, and to forgive His people for their sins when prayer was made for them in the House of the Lord.

The House of the Lord - The House of Prayer (4/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

As Leader, and Shepherd of the people, Solomon prayed to God and humbly poured out his heart to God in prayer and supplication on behalf of the people, and when he prayed, he asked God to always hear the sincere prayer and supplication that would be made in the house for the people's sins. He mentioned to God several instances whereas the people would sin against God, which would result in God punishing them and the land because of their sins. As Leader, Solomon was mindful of sins that would anger the Lord (according to His Word), and bring about judgment and punishment, which would result in great calamities and pestilence among the people because of their sins. When Solomon finished his prayer to God in the new House of God, fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices that were presented, and the glory of the Lord filled the House. This indicated that the Lord had accepted Solomon's prayer, that He accepted the sacrifices made unto Him, and that **He felt invited and welcomed in the new house. (The Lord, God should *always* feel invited and welcomed in the House of God, and the FOCUS should *always* be on HIM.)**

Later, the Lord, appeared to Solomon in a dream, He told Solomon that He heard his prayer, and He told Solomon that He chose the house for Himself—He chose the house for a house of sacrifice, and He chose and sanctified the house that His name may be there forever, and His eyes and His heart would be there perpetually.

NOTE: It is important to note that even as kings, David and Solomon remained humble before God, they were deeply concerned with the people of God, and they offered sincere, earnest prayers and supplications to God continually for the welfare, forgiveness, and blessing of God's people.

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD-THE HOUSE OF PRAYER.

The House of the Lord-the House of Prayer (5/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

In today's time, **the House of the Lord is the local church**, and in the Bible the Lord referred to His house as the **HOUSE OF PRAYER** (Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46). **The HOUSE OF THE LORD/HOUSE OF PRAYER** is a special place and sanctuary that should be **dedicated unto the Lord** (not man) **and His Holy Purposes**, a place where the Lord, God is invited and welcomed, a place for the Lord's Spirit to fill and dwell in, a place for His people to pray to and communicate with Him, and a place for His people to worship and sacrifice unto Him. **The HOUSE OF THE LORD/HOUSE OF PRAYER** is crucial for the spiritual survival of the Body of Christ, especially in today's busy and distracting time. Believing Christians need a place that is **dedicated to the Lord**, where we can dedicate time specifically to Him without distractions and interruptions, where we can praise and worship Him, where we can be still and listen to Him, where we can **pray** and pour out our hearts unto Him, and where we can **confess our sins and repent**, so that **He can hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal us and our land.**

And the Lord, appeared to Solomon by night, and And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

The House of the Lord-the House of Prayer (6/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

2 Chronicles 7:12-16

This message is from God to His people—the people of God who are called by His name, and who have promised to obey His Word and Commandments. The Lord mentions that if His people would humble themselves, pray to Him, seek Him, and **TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS**, then He would hear their prayer, forgive their sin, and heal their land—from plagues and pestilence (e.g., floods, fires, insects, pests, AIDS, COVID, etc.) that He sent among them—because of their disobedience, wickedness, and sin. **As believing Christians, we should want the Lord to choose our church as His own, to fill and to dwell in, forever.**

Just imagine if the church was dedicated to the Lord and His Holy Purposes as outlined in His written Word, and if all Believing Christians—true Believers in the Lord, Jesus Christ, were to put aside all differences, humble ourselves, unite in sincere and earnest prayer unto the Lord, seek Him from the depths of our hearts, acknowledge and confess our sins to Him, sincerely repent of all wrong-doing, determine to change our ways toward what is honest and right, and determine to obey the Lord, and His commandments, according to His Word. If we could unite unto the Lord in honesty, sincerity, and repentant hearts, then the Lord, would hear us, He would forgive us, He would act on our behaves, and He would heal our land of pestilences—diseases and plagues. Then we could draw others unto the Lord by being Christ-like examples (rather than driving people away from church and God by manifesting the hateful character of the devil), we could make a difference in the world, and there would be no limit to what we could accomplish in God, for the Gospel and the kingdom, for the Glory of the Lord, God!

The House of the Lord-the House of Prayer (7/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

Today's local churches should follow Solomon's examples in building THE HOUSE OF THE LORD/HOUSE OF PRAYER:

- Dedicate the House of the Lord/House of Prayer unto to the Lord, God and His Holy Purposes.
- Set order in the House, including the specific God ordained and established offices and personnel for service and ministry unto the Lord in His house, as stated in His Word.
- Gather all the people together together to praise, worship, and sacrifice unto the Lord, and to thank Him for his continued goodness and mercy.
- Offer prayer and supplication unto the Lord, invite and welcome Him into the House of God/House of Prayer (His house), ask Him to fill the house and dwell there continually, ask Him to hear and answer sincere prayer and supplication that is made in the House, and ask Him to forgive sins when sincerely acknowledged, confessed, and repented of.
- Before proceeding, address the sins of the people and the House, acknowledgement, confession, and repentance of sins among the people, and a sincere commitment to obey and follow the Lord according to His Word. Then offer prayer and supplication unto the Lord and ask Him to forgive the sins of the people. Those who refuse to repent and turn away from their sins and errors are excommunicated and left to the judgement of the Lord.

The House of the Lord-the House of Prayer (8/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

It is important to remember that the original House of God (the Temple) that was built by Solomon was destroyed along with many people, because of the sins of the people and their refusal to repent and change, and the leaders of the people were the chief ones involved in sin and led the people away from the Lord and into sin. The leaders and ministers had profaned the House of God and His name among the people with idolatry, wickedness, oppression, cruelty, false prophesy and lies, and overall rebellion against the Lord, His Word, and the people. (See Jeremiah 23:9-32) Yet, **the Lord kept a remnant of the people, who would rebuild the House of the Lord** (See Ezra beginning with Ezra 1:1-5).

According to the Bible, the COVID pandemic (among AIDS and other pandemics/epidemics) represents **pestilence**, which God sends upon His people, lands, and nations because of the sins of the people and their leaders, and many deaths occur with pestilences. It is important to note that during COVID, churches—Houses of God—were shut down as non-essential, when Houses of God should have been the most essential places for mankind. For churches to be shut down, this indicated that the Lord was not pleased with the conduct and operations that were occurring in His house. Therefore, He allowed churches to be shut down and/or destroyed, along with the deaths of many, which also occurred with the destruction of the Temple of Solomon, because of His people profaning His house. COVID was a serious time, and should have been a time of personal reflection, soul searching, repentance, and prayer for each one who claims to be a believing Christian. Pestilence indicates the anger, displeasure, and judgement of God with His people as well as the world, and should be a time of repentance of sins, sincerely returning unto the Lord, and then rebuilding the House of the Lord, in righteousness, according to His Word. That's why **He leaves a remnant of the people, to rebuild the house, to glorify Him.**

Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the Lord's House should be built.

**Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying,
Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?
Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.**

Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat,, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.

Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? Saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

Then Zerubbabel. . . And Joshua. . . With all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the Lord.

Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the Lord.

Haggai 1:2-9, 12-13

The House of the Lord - The House of Prayer (10/10)

FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? And how do ye see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts. **Haggai 2:3,9**

When Ezra began to rebuild the House of the Lord, he followed the same order that Solomon had established (as ordered by God and conveyed to Solomon by David) in building and establishing the House of the Lord, and the people gladly and eagerly followed. Those that did not follow the order that was established, and those who were not willing to cease from their wickedness and sins, were **excluded from among the people and the House of the Lord and were left to God's judgment for their *refusal to repent***.

In addition, prior to rebuilding the House of God, the people of God were reminded that worshipping the Lord, including concern for rebuilding His House, should be a priority in their lives, and they should not only be concerned with maintaining their own houses, while the Lord's House remained in ruins. If they would not consider their ways, they continued to only be concerned with themselves and their own houses, and they continued to neglect rebuilding the House of the Lord, He would also withhold and remove His blessings from them. They were also to not forget the purpose and meaning of worship and prayer unto the Lord in The House of the Lord—The House of Prayer, where the Lord would come to dwell and meet with His people.

Likewise, we, as believing Christians, should not forget the purpose, meaning, and importance of building/rebuilding our local church, which is The House of the Lord—The House of Prayer unto the Lord, our God for His Holy Purposes and Worship, and for our own natural and spiritual well-being.