

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 KJV)

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## Under Construction The House of the Lord

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The house of the Lord has always been a desire in the hearts of God's people. However, we tend to mix our desires and understanding with the purposes of God and build something that is not in keeping with the desire of God. The Lord has not hidden what He intends to do. Even from the earliest days He has spoken to us plainly. Look at the prophetic words of Samuel.

### 1 Samuel 2:35 NASB

(35) 'But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always.

God has raised up Jesus, our High Priest, who has done all that was in the heart of the Father. God says that He will build Him an enduring house. This is where we get into trouble. God has to build the house and He builds it for Jesus. Anything that we build falls far short of God's intention.

God speaks prophetically to David and adds more details to His intention.

### 2 Samuel 7:12-13 NASB

(12) "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

(13) "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

While David interpreted this word to mean his son, Solomon, the descendant that God describes is Jesus. He is the only one whose throne and kingdom is established forever.

Chronicles records a few more details of this word to David and makes it clear that it is Jesus of whom the prophet speaks.

#### 1 Chronicles 17:11-14 NASB

- (11) "When your days are fulfilled that you must go *to be* with your fathers, that I will set up *one* of your descendants after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.
- (12) "He shall build for Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.
- (13) "I will be his father and he shall be My son; and I will not take My lovingkindness away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.
- (14) "But I will settle him in My house and in My kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever."

David mixed his own desires concerning the house of the Lord with the word that he had received and passed these to Solomon with the exhortation to build the Lord a house. This was a mis-application of the word to David and resulted in something less than the perfect will of God. [Further discussion of this is available in the teaching "The House of the Lord", which will be available on my web-site shortly]

The bottom line is that it is God's intention to build His house. Anything that we try to do in terms of building for the Lord is vanity.

#### Psalms 127:1 NASB

- (1) Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.

OK. How does this apply to us? It was not by mistake that under the Old Covenant God dwelt in tents. He did not want to confuse us about His purpose for His Temple that He would construct under the New Covenant.

God has His own design and layout for His Temple and we are the building materials. His dwelling place is in the hearts of Men and, as living stones, He is building us together as a spiritual house.

#### 1 Peter 2:4-5 NASB

- (4) And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,
- (5) you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Notice the verb tense, "are being built". This is an ongoing process, which is not completed yet (in time, it is complete in Eternity). Today, the house of God is under construction. Paul also speaks of this in Ephesians.

#### Ephesians 2:19-22 NASB

- (19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,
- (20) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

(21) in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,

(22) in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Paul also identifies the problem that we have today. He describes the foundation of the house of God. Christ Jesus is the cornerstone of the foundation and the apostles and prophets complete it. [Note: “apostles and prophets” is referring to the New Testament apostles and prophets. The Old Covenant is always referred to as the “law and prophets”. In Ephesians 4 the ascended Christ gave gifts to us that included apostles and prophets to continue to equip His people for His work in the earth.]

The Western Church, especially the American version, has neglected to recognize apostles and prophets and their current function in the Lord. Without apostles and prophets, how can the foundation be complete? How can a building be built with an incomplete foundation? In our ignorance of His plan and purpose to build His house are we actually hindering the Holy Spirit from doing His job?

The Lord did use the methodology of building Solomon’s temple as a spiritual lesson for the way He is building His spiritual house.

#### 1 Kings 6:7 NASB

(7) The house, while it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built.

If we consider the quarry as the world and us as living stones being quarried from it then the spiritual application becomes very thought provoking. The ascended Christ has given us Evangelists to dig up the stones and Pastors and Teachers to clean them up and begin shaping them. Then Apostles and Prophets help build them together as they are laid in the proper place in the building of God. At least to me, this appears to be the Lord’s intention.

However, what appears to be happening is something different. The Evangelists are digging up the stones and throwing them onto the bank of the quarry. Then Pastors come along and start piling up the stones and washing the dirt off of them. They become very protective of “their” stones and become concerned that another Pastor will come by and take some of “his” stones. So, they build a shed (church) over the stones to help protect them. Then, the stones are piled up in the shed a few times a week and the Pastor sprays them with the water hose to wash them. Sometimes, a Teacher might polish them a little bit but all in all very little change occurs to the stones.

A pile of stones isn’t worth a whole lot. The stones have to be built together in order to accomplish the purpose of the One who owns the stones. The Pastors and Teachers should be cleaning, shaping, and polishing the stones in preparation for them to be built together. As the verse above says, the stones were prepared before they were built together. A properly prepared stone fits into place without fuss or bother. It has been shaped for its proper place and function.

It is the Apostles and Prophets that bring order and structure to the building. They are part of the foundation upon which the stones are placed. Paul considered himself as a “wise masterbuilder”.

In other words, he had the architect's viewpoint of the building. The Apostles and Prophets are the ones who see the "big picture". They have received the heart of the Father and have adjusted their perspective to His viewpoint. Their function is to build people together so that they are placed and function according to the purpose and calling of God for them.

For centuries now we have built bigger and more elaborate sheds to protect the stones; but the spiritual house has not been built. It is time for the people of God to recognize those called as true Apostles and Prophets, to receive their ministry and yield to the process of being built together.

Help us Lord!

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