

Living Stones

March 31, 2019

Matthew 16:18, *“I...say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church.”*

1 Peter 2:5, *“You, 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.”*

1 Corinthians 3:16, *“Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”*

John 2:16, *“My Father’s house...”*

1 Kings 8:27, *“Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!”*

1 Kings 8:10-11, *“It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.”*

There are four key ways God was present in His house, in His temple:

1. The temple was a house for God’s name.

1 Kings 8:18, *“A house for My name...”* **1 Kings 8:29**, *“My name shall be there.”*

2. The temple was a house for God’s Word.

2 Chronicles 5:7&10, *“Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the holy of holies. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there.”*

3. The temple was a house for God’s very own heart.

2 Chronicles 7:15-16, *“Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place. 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.”*

4. The temple was a house for God's glory.

Exodus 40:34-35, *"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."*

2 Chronicles 7:3, *"...The glory of the Lord upon the house, (and) 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."*

Ephesians 2:19-22, *"You (the church) are of God's household... Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."*

There are four parallels in Scripture between the old temple and the new temple:

1. The church is the house for God's name today.

2. The church is the house for God's Word today.

3. The church is the house for God's heart today.

Ephesians 5:25-27, *"Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless."*

4. The church is the house for God's glory.

Matthew 5:14-16, *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*