

Life Week 2022 Devotion – Day 2

God Chose YOU to be His Temple

Solomon's temple was a very big deal! Solomon's temple was the dwelling place of the ark of the covenant and the focal point of the worship of Yahweh by His people for more than 350 years. God was physically present in this temple (1 Kings 8:11): "a cloud filled the house of Yahweh ... for the glory of Yahweh filled the house of Yahweh." Its walls were overlaid with gold! Unfortunately, throughout the years, many of God's people, including their leaders, fell away from trusting in Yahweh and fell into sin. In 586 B.C. the Babylonians utterly destroyed Jerusalem and the temple and took God's people into captivity.

Zerubbabel's temple was a big deal! It was built on the site of Solomon's temple 70 years later, after God's people in captivity were allowed to return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel's temple was not as glorious as Solomon's, but it signaled the real return of the faithful worship of Yahweh in Israel.

Herod's temple was a big deal! Built on the site of Zerubbabel's temple, it stood from 20 B.C. to 70 A.D., and Herod had spared no expense to make this temple a grand and glorious one. Josephus reported that it also had gold overlaid on its walls and shone brilliantly in the sun.

But an even greater Temple visited Herod's temple—our Lord Jesus! In John 2:19-21, Jesus told the Jewish leaders of Herod's temple, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up ... He was speaking about the temple of his body." He was speaking about His own body, God's Temple. The Son of God appeared in human flesh. The Temple that housed the glory of Yahweh had appeared in an even more wondrous and tangible way than in Solomon's temple! This Temple showed God's love by allowing His body to be destroyed through a cross. This Temple then conquered even death itself through His resurrection.

The temple of the Lord still exists on earth today and is a very big deal to God!

1 Corinthians 3:16: "Do you not know that you are God's temple, and that God's spirit dwells in you?"

1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

In the Old Covenant, the glory of the Lord dwelt in a temple made of stone. But now, in the New Covenant of Jesus, the Holy Spirit dwells in you, in the temple of your body and the bodies of other Christian brothers and sisters! Your body is a very big deal to God because his Holy Spirit dwells within you! Paul encourages the Corinthians, and us, to flee from all forms of sexual immorality and other sin and to live as the glorious temples He has created us to be in Christ Jesus!