



HOMEWORK FOR SEPTEMBER 5

Solomon Builds the Temple

Readings: 1 Kings 6-8; 2 Chronicles 3-7; Jeremiah 7; Ezekiel 10-11; 40-48; John 2:13-22; Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3; 6

Read 1 Kings 6:11-12. What promise does God make to Solomon? How does it compare to His promise to David?

Read 1 Kings 8:1-11 and 2 Chronicles 5. How is God's Presence connected to the Ark of the Covenant? What does it tell us about the Temple that God's Presence filled it? What does that tell us about God?

Read 1 Kings 8 and 2 Chronicles 6 and reflect on Solomon's prayer for the Temple. What does this tell us about Solomon's heart at this point in the story? What does his prayer tell us about God? About Israel's calling and purpose in the world? About the purpose of the Temple?

Read 1 Kings 9:1-9 and 2 Chronicles 7 and reflect on God's response to Solomon. What does God command Solomon to do? What does God tell Solomon will happen if the people turn away from following Him?

What does this type of covenant from God tell us about God's character? About God's relationship with His people? About His expectations of His people?

Read Jeremiah 7. What false teaching or “deceptive words” were the people of Judah believing about God’s Temple? How were they treating God and His Temple? Why did God say He wouldn’t listen to their prayers?

Read Ezekiel 1. What does this vision tell us about God? How could a vision like this reassure God’s people who were in captivity in Babylon?

Read Ezekiel 10-11. How does this vision compare to the vision of heaven in Ezekiel 1? What does this vision tell us about God?

Why did God’s Spirit leave the Temple in Jerusalem? What does this tell us about whether or not His Temple could be destroyed?

Read John 2:13-22. Why did Jesus react the way He did to the moneychangers in the Temple? What does this tell us about how Jesus felt about the Temple?

How does what Jesus said and did connect back to Jeremiah 7?

Reflect on the fact that Jesus was saying that His body was the Temple. What does this tell us about the nature and purpose of the Temple? What does it tell us about Jesus?

Read Matthew 27:51 and Hebrews 10:19-22. Why did the veil in the Temple tear open when Jesus died? What does this tell us about Jesus? What did this accomplish for us?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. What do these passages tell us about the Temple of God in the New Covenant?

APPLICATION: In every phase of the big picture biblical story, the Temple is the dwelling place of God's Holy Spirit among His people. In the Old Covenant, the tabernacle and then Temple was a physical place where God's Spirit dwelled on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, in the Holy of Holies, behind the veil, separating His glory from human beings, so His holy presence could dwell among them. In the Old Covenant, people had to come to the tabernacle/Temple to meet with God.

When Jesus put on flesh and became a human being, He became the living Temple of God. The Holy Spirit dwelled inside of Him. So people could come to Jesus to meet with and experience God, but He could also take God's Holy Spirit out into the world, to the sinners and the lost and the marginalized, bringing His light into the dark places.

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the Temple tore down the middle, symbolically telling the world that the barrier to God's Holy Presence was gone. Through His sacrifice, Jesus opened the door for all of us to experience God's Holy Presence without barriers. Then, after Jesus returned to heaven, God poured out His Spirit on His disciples so that the Holy Spirit dwelled inside of them, too (John 14; Acts 2).

This means that in the New Covenant, we are the Temple of God. God's Holy Spirit dwells in us. That means something for us personally in our relationship with God, but it also means something for our mission in the world.

First, personally, it means that because God's Spirit dwells in us, our lives should be reflecting His holiness, His goodness, and His love. The Gospel teaches us that God made us holy (justified before God) from the very moment we put our faith in Jesus (that's the doctrine of justification). But that the Holy Spirit also continues to make us holy (make us more like Jesus) every day as we walk by the Spirit and abide in Christ (that's the doctrine of sanctification).

- Take some time to reflect on the process of God's sanctification in your life. How has God been working on you, making you more like Jesus over time?
- How have you seen the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life?

4

- In what ways do you still need to grow?
- We know that sanctification is the work of the Spirit, but how can you put yourself in a position where the Holy Spirit can work on you? What would it look like tangibly for you to climb up onto the Potter's Wheel and ask Him to mold you and shape you into who He wants you to be?

Second, being the Temple of God's Holy Spirit means that, like Jesus, we are called to bring God's Holy Spirit out into the world to meet people where they are. Because we are mobile, living Temples, we don't have to wait for people to come to our churches to experience God, we can take the Holy Spirit to them, bringing His light into all the darkest places of the world.

- Take some time to reflect on what it would look like for you to live on mission for the Gospel in your everyday life. In everything you say and do, all of your interactions, all of your relationships, all throughout your day.
- How would your life be different if you thought of everything you do in a day, week, month, or year as bringing the light, love, and truth of the Holy Spirit out into this dark world?

Spend some time in prayer, focusing on three main things:

- Yourself personally as a Temple of the Holy Spirit: Ask God to search your heart and reveal to you any ways that your life is not currently reflecting the character of the Holy Spirit to the world. Ask God to change you and mold you into the likeness of His Son.
- Yourself on mission as a temple of the Holy Spirit: Ask God to give you a fresh vision and passion for living life on mission for bringing the light, love, and truth of His Spirit into a dark and broken world. Pray for wisdom to know how to speak and act in your community, family, and day-to-day life in a way that brings God's Spirit to those who are far from Him.
- Our Church working together to be the temple of the Holy Spirit and reflect God's character to the world. that our church would be a place where people see the light, love, and truth of God and a place where people love one another and work together as His body. That our church would be so different (in light, truth and love) from the world around us that people would take notice and want to be a part of it. Pray also that all of the churches in our city would remember that we are one in Christ and work together as His body.

