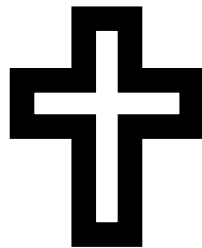


Twelve Lessons
on
The Temple

by
Ronnie Simpson, Ph.D., Th.D., LL.D., D.D.



Macedonia Baptist College
9722 Hwy 601
Midland, N.C. 28107
(704) 784-4200

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THE TEMPLE: IT'S LOCATION – LESSON 1

Introduction: What is so important about the location of the Temple? It is clear from the Bible that the Temple must be built in Jerusalem.

Lesson Goals:

1. To verify the physical location of the Temple.
2. To study the structure of the Temple.
3. To vindicate studying the Temple for prophetic and practical reasons.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Shem – (shem; "name"). One of the three sons of Noah, born when his father was 500 years of age (Gen 5:32), perhaps before 5000 B.C. At the age of 98 years he entered the ark, being married but childless (7:7), and two years after the Flood (i.e., the beginning of the Flood) he became the father of Arpachshad; other children were born still later (11:10-11; 10:22). (The New Unger's Bible Dictionary).
2. Mount of Olives – A north-to-south ridge of hills east of Jerusalem where Jesus was betrayed on the night before His crucifixion. This prominent feature of Jerusalem's landscape is a gently rounded hill, rising to about the height of 830 meters (2,676 feet) and overlooking the TEMPLE. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
3. Temple – Solomon's Temple. Once the land was fully conquered and all the tribes were properly settled, it was important that the worship of God be centralized. Because he was a man of war, David was not allowed to build the temple, but he was allowed to gather the materials for it and to organize the project (1 Chron 22). The actual work began "in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel" (1 Kings 6:1). Solomon began to reign about 971 B.C., so his fourth year would have been about 967 B.C. The temple was completed about 960 B.C., seven years later (1 Kings 6:37-38). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

I. THE POSITION OF THE TEMPLE

A. The Position of Jerusalem is first mentioned in Genesis 11:4.

1. Gen. 11:4 – *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us build us a name (Shem is the Hebrew word translated name)"* The Tower of Babel was built in rebellion.
2. These Rebels at Babel wanted Another city – Shem built Jerusalem – Alfred Edersheim – *"They make it a compound of Jireh and Shalem, and say that Abraham called it "Jehovah-Jireh" while Shem had named it Shalem, but that God combined the two into Jireh-Shalem, Jerushalaim, Jerusalem. These rebels did not want the same Place of Worship.*
3. These Rebels at Babel wanted Another tower – Shem built an altar exactly where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac. These rebels did not want a blood altar but were just like Cain.
4. These Rebels at Babel wanted Another name besides Shem. Shem was Melchizedec (a king-priest) and they wanted to be under No Authority

B. The Purchase of the Temple Mount location.

1. II Sam. 24:18-25 – Gad the prophet tells David to *"rear an altar unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite."* Araunah (Ornan) was willing to give David the threshingfloor but David insisted on buying it. Vs. 25, *"So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver."*
2. David did not only help his generation but he also helped another generation. II Chron. 3:1 – *"Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite."*

C. The Prophecy of the Temple – There have been 3 temples already but a 4th is yet to be constructed.

1. The First Temple was built by Solomon on Mt. Moriah, the site where Abraham was to offer Isaac and God provided a ram and Abraham called the place "Jehovah-jireh."
2. The Second Temple was constructed by Zerubbabal and a remnant of the Jews who returned from the Babylonian exile.
3. The Third Temple, which was in use in Jesus' day was built by Herod the Great.
4. The Fourth Temple, which is not in existence at this present time, must be built to fulfill Scripture. II Thess. 2:4, *"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the TEMPLE OF GOD, shewing himself that he is God."*
5. \$50,000 was left as a legacy by Mrs. Hannah Ravins, wife of a Chicago lawyer, to help build the temple on the ancient site of worship for Jews. The present site of the Mosque of Omar, the headquarters of the Muslim

religion today, is now built over the traditional spot where Solomon erected the first temple, which his father David instructed him to build.

II. THE PICTURE OF THE TEMPLE (Herod's Temple – internet) (Display a drawing of Herod's Temple to explain the arrangement of the Temple. There is a good one in the Thompson Chain Reference Bible, pages 306-307 in the Bible Helps section.)

A. The Direction of the Temple (like the Tabernacle) – It was directed East to West.

1. The Brazen Altar was on the East Side facing the rising sun. The Mercy Seat was on the West (See Dr. Simpson's sermon, *From East to West* for greater details. (Sermon Book #27)
2. Judah's portion was on the East Side.
3. The Valley of Hinnom was on the East Side.
4. The Wise men came from the East.
5. The Garden of Eden was directed Eastward.
6. When the Glory of God departed from the Temple, he went Eastward.
7. Israel crossed the Jordan from East to West.
8. The Mount of Olives is directly Eastward to the Temple

B. The Biblical Significance of the Eastward Direction of the Temple.

1. It was from Bethany to the East, that Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
2. The Mount of Olives where He ascended is only ½ mile from the Eastern Gate.
3. The Mount of Olives is where He will descend and enter the City. (See Matt. 24:27).

C. The Dimensions of the city of Jerusalem: The city was only 4 miles around. At the time of the Passover week in Jesus' time, there would be between two to three million Israelites in the city to offer a sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.

1. There were only two walls in the days of Jesus. The first wall ran north and west and the second wall ran south and east, thus the old city and the Temple were sufficiently protected. (Give a scripture about the wall).
2. There were 100 towers in the walls: sixty in the first and forty in the second. The most notorious of these towers was the Tower of Antonia that was placed between the Castle of Antonia and the Temple. In Jewish history it held:
 - a. The ancient armory of David.
 - b. It was the palace of Hezekiah and Nehemiah.
 - c. In the days of Jesus, it was occupied by a hated Roman garrison, which kept watch over Israel, even in its sanctuary. Acts 21:31 tells of these soldiers rushing down to stop a riot when the Jews were trying to kill Paul.
3. The Streets of Jerusalem were paved with white marble and they derived their names (mostly) from the gates to which they led. "Water-street" led to the Watergate, etc.
4. There were many gates but the most notable one is the "Shushan Gate" or the Eastern Gate that was a gate opened toward the Mount of Olives. From this gate, the priests brought out the "red heifer," and on the Day of Atonement, the "scapegoat."

III. THE PRACTICALITY OF THE TEMPLE (Why study the temple?) Because of the prophetic nature and the practical lesson.

A. The Lesson – A Better Day – II Chron. 5:2 – It was Moving Day in Israel – This is a type of what's going to happen spiritually.

1. Building – Israel moved from the Tabernacle to the Temple
2. Body – The Christian is going to move from the Corruptible to the Incorruptible. II Cor. 5:1 – "*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*"
3. Bride – The Church is going to move from the Earthly to the Heavenly
 - a. I Kings 8:17 – David had desired a better House – Type of Jesus.
 - b. John 14:1 – Three Handkerchiefs to Wipe away the Tears from our eyes – Faith in God, Home in Heaven, The Second Coming.

B. The Lesson – A Better House – The Tabernacle was Temporary, while the Temple was Permanent.

1. Remember – Body is Temporary – Fearfully made – Leave it behind.
2. Remember – Bride is Temporary – You haven't seen the Finished Product yet – Rev. 21:2 – "*New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*"
 - a. I Cor. 2:9 – "*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which*

God hath prepared for them them that love him.” SECRET THINGS – Scenes we’ve never looked at, Sounds we’ve never heard, Sensations we’ve never felt.

- b. Illustrate – A little boy was born blind. Later, they operated on him so he could see. When they pulled off the bandages, he said, “Mama, why didn’t you tell me it was so beautiful?” She said, “I tried to tell you, but you could not understand me”

C. The Lesson – A Bigger House – II Chron. 4 – All the vessels were made new and larger in proportion except the Ark.

1. Sizes – Brazen Altar was 4 Times Bigger, 10 Lavers, 10 Golden Candlesticks, 10 Tables of Shewbread.
2. Significance – Size of the Ark – The Ark, the Mercy Seat and the Cherubim were the same size in the Temple as it was in the Tabernacle. You can improve your Sacrifice, your Cleansing, your Light, and your Contentment – But the Ark represents Christ – But you can’t IMPROVE HIM!

D. The Lesson – A Blessed House – blessed beyond the blessings of the first house

1. The Past is Preserved – Vs. 5 – *“And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation”* This indicates that they stored the Old Tabernacle somewhere in the Temple as monuments of antiquity. Preserved to be shown and to tell their children of the acts of God and His care for them.
 - a. I Cor. 13:12 – *“but then shall I know even as also I am known”*
 - b. I don’t believe we’ll remember the bad things, but I believe that God will let us keep some ANTIQUES as a “CONVERSATION PIECE” to glorify God. I can see some old Saint bring out an Old Bible, Preacher-Old Pulpit, Soulwinner – Tract, Singer – Song Book
2. The People are Promoted – Vs. 4-5 – The Levites carry the ark, the tabernacle, and the vessels to the Temple.
 - a. Num. 4 & 7 – Levi had 3 Sons – Kohath, Merari, Gershon
 - (1) Kohath – carried Precious Vessels – No wagons or oxen
 - (2) Gershon – carried the Curtains & Coverings – 2 wagons, 4 oxen
 - (3) Merari-carried the Boards, Bars, Pillars, Sockets – 4 wagons, 8 oxen
 - b. But when they Moved into the Temple – They lost their Job – Promoted to singers.
 - c. I Cor. 13:28 – Names 8 gifts, Eph. 4:11 – Names 5 offices
 - d. Eph. 4:12 – *“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”*
3. The Poles are Pulled – Vs. 9 – Up to this time, the ark was portable
 - a. They needed the Ark – Cross Jordan, to Defeat Jericho, Fight because they had been in Foreign land, Pilgrims, & Strangers.
 - b. Typically – Home, Battle’s over, Pull out the Staves – Not going to move anymore.
4. The Provision is Parted – Vs. 10 – Read the whole Verse.
 - a. The Manna is Gone – Speaks of the Provision being gone.
 - b. The Rod of Aaron – Speaks of the Power of the Resurrection.
 - c. Nothing in the Ark but the Two Tables *“which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.”*
 - d. Speaks of the Promise of a Sovereign God.
 - e. Someday when God’s Children have eaten the last morsel of manna, when the last miracle has been performed and we stand in the New Jerusalem, we’ll raise our hands in the Celestial City and praise Him for BEING A COVENANT KEEPING GOD. Mark 13:31 – *“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away”*

CONCLUSION:

Think of stepping on shore, and finding it heaven;
Think of breathing new air, And finding it celestial air;
Think of taking hold of a hand, And finding it God’s hand;
Think of feeling invigorated, And finding it immortality;
Think of passing from storm and tempest, To an unknown calm;
Think of waking up, And finding it home!

Illustrate – Sheep being shipped from Scotland to Australia. Aboard the ship was hay for their food. Just before reaching Australia the sheep refused to eat. At the same time a dense fog covered the waters and for two days the ship was obliged to stop. The sheep paid no attention to their food and the owner feared that he was about to lose them. Then the fog lifted and before them were the green fields of Australia. The sheep had smelled the succulent pasture in the land not far away, and it made them lose their appetite for the dried hay.