

ANSWERS TO BASIC QUESTIONS: WHY THE HOUSE OF PRAYER?

Houses of Light Church • September 25-26, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Each week that we meet as a church we affirm that our mission of purpose is: **Cultivate passion for God** (First Commandment **Matt. 22:38**) and **Compassion for others** (Second Commandment **Matt. 22:38**) **from the place of intimacy with God** (The House of Prayer **Matt. 21:13a**). We also just had our Passion for Jesus event in which God marked us deeply specifically on the theme of the House of Prayer.
- B. Although for many of us this term is already familiar to others it may seem unknown or difficult to understand so today we are going to see where this biblical model began, what it consists of and what significance it has in our time.

II. THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Psal. 132:1-5 *"Lord, remember David And all his afflictions; 2 How he swore to the Lord, And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: 3 "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, Or go up to the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, 5 Until I find a place for the Lord, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."*

- A. The "ark-sanctuary" surrounded by live music worship on Mount Zion throughout David's reign in Jerusalem is known biblically as the **Tabernacle of David**. In this Psalm, Solomon recorded the vow that governed the life of his father and defined the fullness of his calling. The establishment of day and night worship before the ark of the covenant that took place during David's reign is one of the most often overlooked events in the biblical narrative.
- B. **Day after day, singers and musicians took turns ministering to the Lord. 1 Chron. 25** details 24 families, made up of 12 singers and musicians who were to **"prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals."** They **"were instructed in the songs of the Lord"** and operated under the direction of the parents of their families, **"for music in the house of the Lord with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps."** In its beginning, the Tabernacle was administered by 288 singers and musicians (**1 Chron 25:7**). At the end of David's reign, there were 4,000 singers and musicians worshiping day and night before the ark (**1 Chron 23:5**).
- C. Until that time, the only record of musical instrumentation included in the worship of the Lord was the blowing of the shofar [trumpet] each day during the morning and evening offerings (Num. 10: 9-10) **and feasts**. One question that arises is where did David get the idea of a tabernacle like this if there was no command in the law regarding this kind of activity? **David embraced the vision of seeing the presence and power of God manifest and reside on earth as it is in heaven..**

1 Chro. 28:19 *"All this," said David, "the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."*

- D. When we consider the details related to the Tabernacle of David, it is clear how a replica of the pattern of the heavenly throne is modeled:

Rev. 4:4 y 8 *"Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads... 8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"*

- E. In the Tabernacle of David there was **unceasing worship** as seen before the throne of God. Music (**Rev 5: 8-9**) the singers and musicians of the Tabernacle of David reflect the song and musicality of the heavenly throne. **24 leaders (1 Chron. 25:9-31)**: David appointed 24 elders, family leaders to oversee the activity of unceasing worship; which reflect the 24 elders

sitting on thrones around the throne of God. **4 main gatekeepers (1 Chron. 9:26)** which are a reflection of the four living beings before the throne.

- F. In addition to their attachment to the heavenly pattern, consider the incredible commitment of King David and the nation to ensure that the singers and musicians were **"free from other duties; because they were engaged in that work, day and night "(1 Chron. 9:33)**. This commitment to financially provide the singers and musicians as a pillar of the kingdom of Israel speaks volumes regarding God's priority in the occupation of these offices that they worshiped in the Tabernacle day and night.
- G. David ordered the kings of Israel after him to establish full-time musicians and singers. This command was not just an idea of David, but rather it came as God had spoken it through His prophets.:

2 Chron. 29:25-26 "And he [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the Lord by His prophets. ²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets."

- H. With the glory of the Lord dwelling in the ark, Scripture describes how David **"entered and stood before the Lord" (2 Sam 7:18)**; This allowed him to experience an unusual level of spiritual activity: The glory of God resided in plain sight on the mercy seat at the top of the ark of the covenant. and there the Holy Spirit gave him revelation of the incarnation, the crucifixion, the resurrection, the end of the age, the second coming and the age to come as we see it in his Psalms (Ps. 2; 16:10; 22; 45 ; 66:4).
- I. The Tabernacle of David instituted an entirely new order of worship on earth by changing the global worship gathering of God's people in all ages, forever establishing a physical and prophetic emblem for the centerpiece of the heavenly governmental structure in heaven and on earth. The Tabernacle of David was an earthly extension of the Father's heavenly court that continues forever amid endless worship.
- J. The priority that David gave to the presence of God dwelling in the midst of the people and the nation is an example to the people of God in all ages of how the Lord wants to rule and manifest himself to his people. God never wanted to lead his people from afar, but always wanted to dwell with his people, in their midst and lead from that place (Matt. 1:23).

III. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 Sam. 7:1-16)

- A. When David considered that the ark of the covenant, the very throne of God on earth, dwelt in a tent made of animal skins while he himself relaxed in a beautiful cedar palace his heart ached. He immediately obtained an audience with the prophet Nathan and shared his vision to finalize his vow to the Lord by building a permanent abode for the Lord.
- B. The result of David's desire to build a house to host the presence of the Lord was that the Lord made David one of the most powerful and impacting promises in all of biblical narrative. **This promise is known as the Davidic Covenant.** This desire of David to build a permanent resting place for God touched the heart of the Lord because that is precisely what He has always wanted. **David made a vow to the Lord and the Lord made a vow to David.** God's response to David's plan is incredibly tender:

2 Sam. 7:8-16 "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: ¹⁰ ...I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more... ¹² I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, 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... ¹⁶ And your house and

your kingdom shall be established forever before [e]you. Your throne shall be established forever."

- C. **God promised David at least three things: A place**, that is, a land in which they would be permanently established. **A house**, God was going to establish the line of David to reign in Israel forever. **A kingdom** that would rule not only Israel but the entire land. Which was partially fulfilled at the first coming of Jesus and will be fully fulfilled at His second coming.
- Lk. 1:31-33 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**
- D. The force of the Davidic Covenant is seen throughout the rest of the biblical narrative even up to **Rev. 5:5** where Jesus is identified as the **"Root of David"**, the only One worthy of being able to reign over the nations by initiating the Father's plan to bring the nations to fullness the blessings of the Kingdom of God.
- E. **Since the terms of the covenant came with the establishment of the Tabernacle, the fulfillment of the covenant will come with the reestablishment of the Tabernacle.** To put it simply, the Tabernacle of David and the Davidic Covenant always go together, historically and also in the future.

IV. THE RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

Acts. 15:16-17 "After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; ¹⁷ So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"

- A. The prophecy of **Amos 9:11** confirmed in the New Testament by James in **Acts. 15: 16-17** highlights the statement that the Lord Himself will restore the Tabernacle of David. It is also clear that it will be rebuilt **"as in the days of old"**. The implications for this are vast. **It includes all the promises of the Davidic Covenant but specifically, it refers to the worship that took place inside the tabernacle of David in front of the Ark of the Covenant.**
- B. When we compare the verses that describe the proliferation of prayer and worship that will cover the earth before the Lord's return (**Ps. 33: 3; 40: 3; 97: 6-8; 98: 1-4; 117: 1-2 Isa 44:23; 49:13; Mal. 1:11**) including the House of Prayer for all nations it becomes apparent **that the re-establishment of the Tabernacle of David is in sight in all these passages.** This restoration will occur first to God's people throughout the nations worshiping and praying in the likeness of the Tabernacle of David and also when the Lord returns and establishes the actual physical Tabernacle in Jerusalem with Jesus Christ as King.
- Psal. 96:1-3 "Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. ² Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. ³ Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples."**
- Mal. 1:11 "For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the Lord of hosts."**

V. THE CHURCH BUILT AS THE TABERNACLE

Eph. 2:21-22 "in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

- A. **The church is called to operate as God's dwelling place**, a living and breathing tabernacle of God's glory, where each of us is inhabited by His Spirit, but we are also built as a place

where His Spirit dwells and is manifested. **Our priesthood has been restored through the gospel.** This is our first identity and calling in Christ, to be a kingdom of priests for God.

1 Pet. 2:5 "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

- B. **This means that our first ministry is ministering to the Lord.** He wants to hear our voices and receive our love. God's greatest desire for humanity is that we flow in love for Him. For this reason, He has given us access to His presence, and even more so, He has given us access to His own heart.

Rev. 1:6 "and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

- C. Not only are we called to be a people with full access to minister to His heart, but we are also called to be a sanctuary where His glory dwells and is manifested.
- D. **As we see it in the New Testament narrative, the Father wants His people to live as a community around His presence and that is what distinguishes and what allows the manifestation of His power, His plan and His salvation awaiting the Jesus' return to earth.** The idea of church as a weekend-only gathering where there is a little praise and preaching is not entirely biblical. The Early Church Model Must Remain Our Model:

Acts. 2:46-47 "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [q]to the church daily those who were being saved.

Lk. 1:37 "and this woman [Anna] was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day"

- E. As we participate on earth with the assembly that is taking place right now in heaven, we begin to find the glory of that place in our meetings. **Not that we get to deserve any of this but that we tune in to what is happening in heaven right now so that it floods the earth.**
- F. When we align the worship that sits around the throne of God, the veil between heaven and earth thins to the point that we literally come before the throne of grace to receive mercy and grace to receive help in time of need (Heb 4:16).

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think God is restoring the Tabernacle of David and how does it look in the church life in our time?
2. Explain how you and your family can be part of the restoration of the Tabernacle of David.
3. What do you think will be the impact on our community of reestablishing the Tabernacle of David?