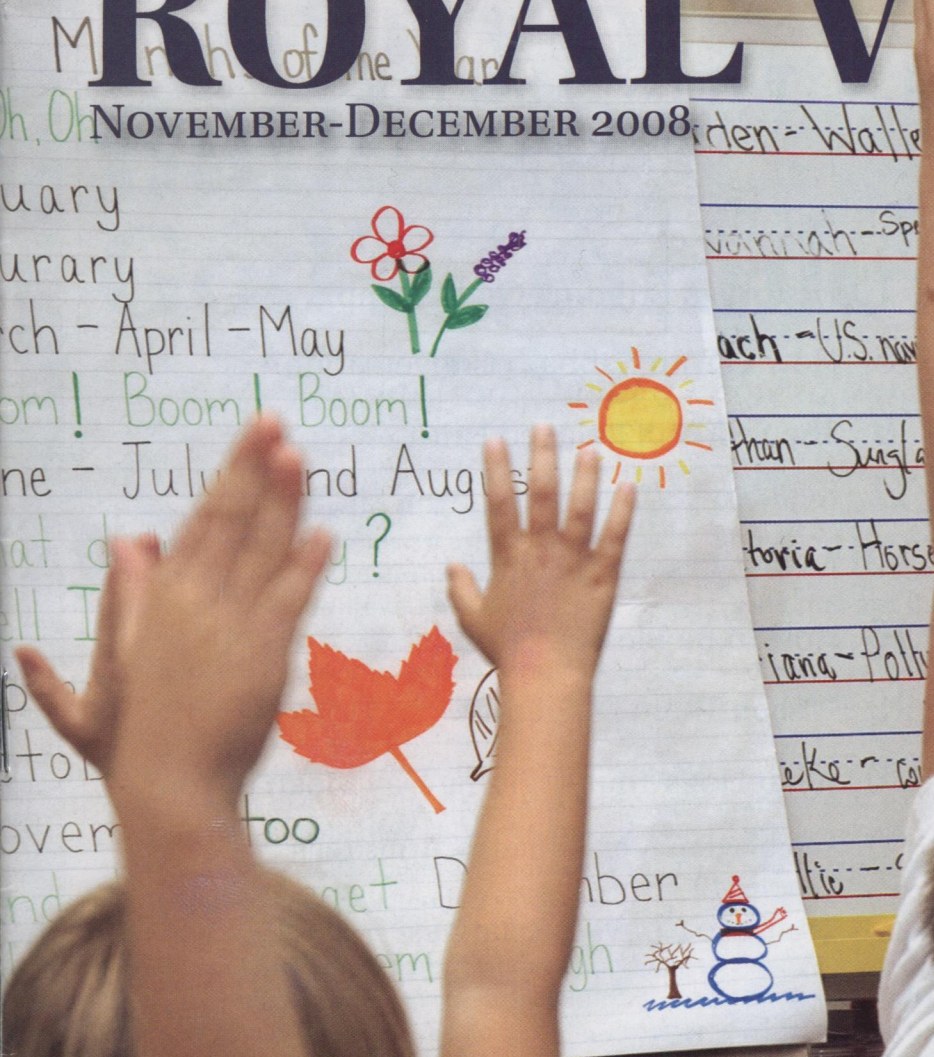


WHAT DOES THANKSGIVING MEAN TO YOU?

ROYAL VISION

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008



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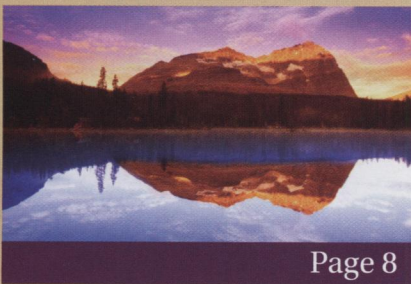
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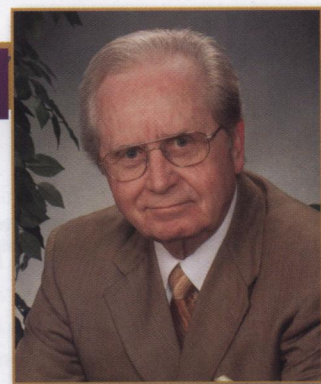
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History of Building God's Temple



Lessons from David on how to build God's house

WE CAN LEARN MANY LESSONS FROM THE history surrounding the first and second temples in Jerusalem. We can also learn from Herbert W. Armstrong, the man God used to lead spiritual Israel and the building of another physical house for God, in Pasadena, California.

These lessons teach us how to build for God and also how to *maintain* what we build, whether physically or spiritually. That is not an easy task. We have seen a grandiose *failure* from the Laodiceans today. They couldn't maintain the spiritual or the physical that God had built through Mr. Armstrong. They ended up selling God's house, and look at the shame that has entered that building ever since.

Let's look particularly at the building of the first temple, and how God prepared DAVID to play a huge part in the building of that magnificent edifice.

When David was inspired to ask the Prophet Nathan if he could build God a house, Nathan told him that God was with him in his thinking. For David to be able to serve in preparing for that house, however, he had to be *sorely* tried. To gain an attitude like David's, we have to be tried and tested. We are flawed and must be corrected to build the character that God so mercifully and lovingly works with us to produce.

CONSULT WITH GOD

"And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader" (1 Chronicles 13:1). When it came to what to do with the ark, King David did not consult with the ministry, or the Levites; he consulted with the *political* leaders.

"And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in

their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul" (verses 2-3). Things didn't go well in the days of Saul, and they lost the ark—the most shameful thing that could happen to the Israelites. It certainly revealed the state of their relationship with God.

All that David did and led the people in seemed so religious. But something was terribly wrong.

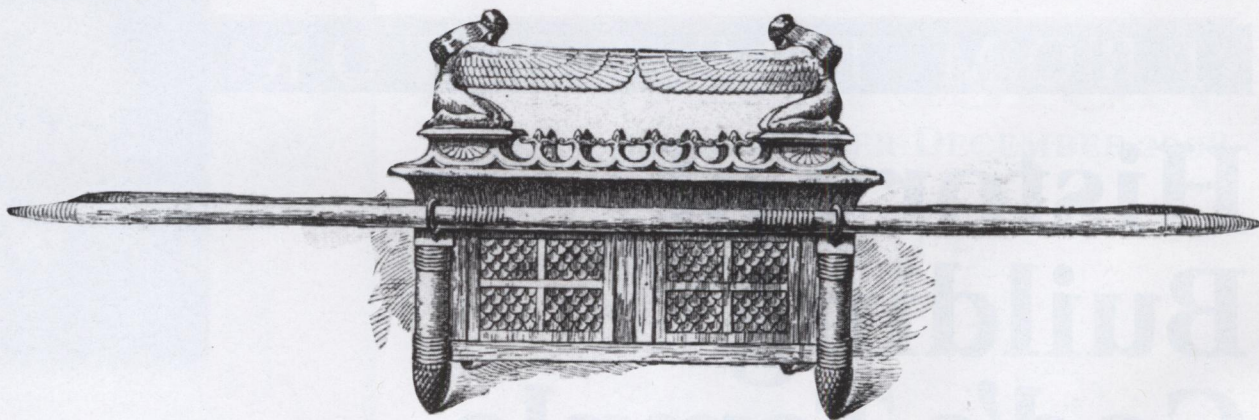
Verse 4 states: "And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was *right in the eyes of all the people*." The people thought it was great, but was it right in the eyes of God?

"And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it" (verse 6). THIS IS THE GREAT GOD WHO SITS ON HIS THRONE BETWEEN THE CHERUBIM—AND THE ARK IS THE *REPLICA* OF THAT THRONE ON THIS EARTH. This was a very important event, to say the least.

"And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets" (verses 7-8).

This was a very festive occasion. The people were enjoying it very much, UNTIL the oxen stumbled. Then something terrible happened.

"And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God" (verses 9-10). That was a terrible event that certainly got Israel's attention. What had the people



Things didn't go well in the days of Saul, and they lost the ark—the most shameful thing that could happen to the Israelites. It certainly revealed the state of their relationship with God.

done wrong? What had *David* done wrong?

"And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perez-uzza to this day" (verse 11). It appears David sulked over this for about three months. Rather than examining himself, he got upset at God.

"And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had" (verses 12-14).

So what was wrong with the way David was doing things?

First, in Number 7:1-9, God commands Israel that the ark be transported on the shoulders—not in a new cart. Numbers 4:15 states that only the *sons of Levi* were to transport it that way. David apparently hadn't even consulted *THEM*—which was a big mistake. Third, Numbers 4:15 instructs that, of the Levites, only the *line of Aaron* could touch the ark or *any* holy thing. The law made it very clear what should be done. Anybody who knew very much about it could have told David. When we obey God, we have to do it *the way He says*—in the *order* He says do it. They didn't do that.

Is God a harsh God for doing something like that? How could God do that just because they made a mistake? Because it was a *terrible* mistake they should not have made! If David was going to build God a house for that ark, he would have to be able to follow

God's instructions *in detail*. God was training David to rule *forever* over *all of Israel*! God is also preparing *you* to rule FOREVER. Perhaps you do not always understand what God is doing in your life, but He is preparing you to rule forever.

WORSHIP GOD IN "DUE ORDER"

By chapter 15 of 1 Chronicles, David is ready to try moving the ark again. "And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever. And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it" (verses 1-3).

Much like today, we have to counsel before doing many things. We have to consult God's Word on every detail of our lives. It's not good enough to just worship God. We have to do it *His way*. Jesus Christ asked, "Why call you me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). These people want to be religious, and they want to talk about the Lord all the time, but they *won't do* what God *says*! And so God deals with them accordingly.

The Laodiceans have their way to worship God, but they're *not* worshiping God in spirit and truth. That's as *easy* to prove as it is to prove that David was wrong.

"For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him *not after the due order*" (1 Chronicles 15:13). Now David

is really learning. It is amazing how he repented. Now David is talking about everything being done in “due order.” Get God’s order right and forget about human reasoning. David truly *feared* God, and wanted to do this exactly the way God designed it to be done.

We’re going to rule the entire universe—which seems endless to people who have studied it. Imagine if God gives you jurisdiction over a part of the universe and you make gross mistakes because you are sloppy with God’s law and instructions. Soon you would wreck things as Lucifer did. This is a *heavy* responsibility God is giving us!

THANK AND PRAISE GOD MORE

“And he appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel” (1 Chronicles 16:4). King David had people there to record and *make sure* everyone was thanking and praising God the way they should—according to God’s Word. It’s serious business when you start obeying God and when you are being created as God.

When I read a passage like this closely, I realize I need to repent and thank and praise God more!

All this fanfare and structure was *before* the temple was built—this was for the ARK. Look at what David was doing: “Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people” (verse 8). We must do the same. Let God’s deeds be known among His Church! Let people know when God heals or performs some other miracle. Make sure they know what God is doing!

“Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually” (verses 9-11). We should do this all the time!

“For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods” (verse 25). Yes—praise Him, and fear Him.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the *beauty of holiness*” (verse 29). What a beautiful expression! How *beautiful* it is to be holy. How beautiful is a holy church, a holy marriage, a holy family or holy unity—and how *ugly* is divorce and division and hatred and *fighting*! We’re here to be born into God’s Family and become holy as God is holy.

READY TO BUILD

Now David was ready to consider building a more permanent structure for the ark.

“Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the

LORD remaineth under curtains. Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee” (1 Chronicles 17:1-2). Nathan told David that he was right on track.

Think about the trials of David. Haven’t we had some serious trials lately—particularly before we decided to build God a house? God does things in “due order.” I believe that is how God was getting us ready to build His house and glorify Him over *all* the Earth!

It is a monumental undertaking to build a house for the living God!

You probably know the rest of the story. God wouldn’t even let David build it because of his bloody history. God did not want the house to be associated with bloodshed.

God told David He would use his son for the actual building of the temple (verses 11-14).

How did David respond? “And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?” (verse 16). David did not sulk about this. He felt honored—of all the millions of people—to have the part he did in building for the great God!

We must have the same attitude today. *Who am I to be here in God’s only Church on all this planet? How can I be so blessed when all these billions—6 billion people—don’t even know anything about God? Who am I to have this honor?*

When was the last time you thanked God for that? When was the last time you thanked God the way David did? To be *here*, knowing *everything* about God we need to know, and to be *honored* to BUILD HIS HOUSE ON EARTH—the *only* one there will be. *Who are we* to be given that opportunity?

GLORIFY GOD ON EARTH TODAY

Discussing the second temple in Jerusalem, Mr. Armstrong wrote this in his Jan. 20, 1964, member letter: “Jeremiah had prophesied the rebuilding of the temple after 70 years. These returned Jews had mis-figured dates. They thought the 70 years had not yet come They were building ELEGANT houses FOR THEMSELVES to live in—but they were neglecting to build the HOUSE for God to dwell in.”

Haggai 1:7-8 read: “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.”

Building something to glorify God like that is a *huge* project. It takes a lot of love toward God. There is no room for selfishness. It requires joy and gratitude.

Verse 14 shows that God stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel and the remnant of the people to do this

massive job. Today God wants us to build a house for Him. Can we be stirred up like Zerubbabel? If so, we're going to build—and build fast—and it will be impressive, and we will *glorify God all over this Earth!* After all, the book of Haggai is a prophecy for us today (request our free booklet on Haggai).

The Revised Standard Version, in verse 8, states, "Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and THAT I MAY APPEAR IN MY GLORY" *God truly wants to appear in His glory.* He wants people to *know Him the way He really IS.* "That I may appear in my glory" is a fascinating expression. We must build that house so that God takes pleasure in it, and then He will "appear in His glory"! In spirit, God will be present and will give us more of His glorified presence! It will be the most beautiful building on the Herbert W. Armstrong College campus by far. And *the more we glorify God in that house, the more He will appear in His glorified presence!*

God wants all His splendor and honor to be manifest to the world.

Isaiah 60:1 states: "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen UPON THEE." We have God's real glory.

"And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (verse 3). The Gentiles and the whole world are all going to come to us and come to that light when we are glorified like God. They will be *eager* to go where God is glorified. WE NEED TO MANIFEST AS MUCH OF THAT GLORY AS WE CAN TODAY AND BRING PEOPLE TO THAT WONDERFUL, PRECIOUS LIGHT.

God's goal is *not* to get your money. His *goal* is to glorify you as *He* is glorified! Isaiah 60:1-3 show that God is going to glorify us the way *He* is glorified IF we glorify Him on this Earth today. That is special. God wants His glory here today; THAT IS WHY YOU ARE HERE!

Mr. Armstrong continued, "[W]hen I read, once again, Haggai's message from God—it came like a bolt of lightning as a message of God TO HIS CHURCH TODAY! It struck me as a loud message straight from God that we have been planning to build, FIRST, buildings for college use. But here we are AT GOD'S HEADQUARTERS ON EARTH. AND WE WERE PLANNING TO DELAY THE BUILDING OF GOD'S HOUSE, FOR HIM (in spirit) TO DWELL IN!"

The house we are building is a place in which God can dwell in spirit. If He has a house, and we build that house, that shows something about us. And it will bring even more blessings!

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Brethren, I went straight to the council of God's ministers, assembled in our out-

grown former assembly hall, and announced to them that GOD'S HOUSE—the new auditorium—the meeting place for the headquarters church—MUST COME NEXT on the priority list" (ibid.).

When Christ says to do it, we must do it! He's the Head. What if we *don't*? What happened to Solomon? What happened to the house in Pasadena? What a wretched, wretched, *miserable* history they have!

Mr. Armstrong got that directive from God! He said in this letter, "This is a commandment direct from GOD! It is not for us to question. The LIVING CHRIST is HEAD of God's Church. He leads—He directs His Church. And, as Zerubbabel was OBEDIENT to the command, and with the enthusiastic and generous help of all the people, started building GOD'S HOUSE, so must we. ...

"It will be plain and simple—just a 1,200-seat auditorium—yet a truly fine one in character and quality and architectural design. ... WE MUST FINANCE MOST OF THIS BUILDING OPERATION BY PAYING CASH AS WE GO! Brethren, THIS MESSAGE FROM GOD TO BUILD THE HOUSE FOR HIM TO DWELL IN is His command to YOU as much as to me!"

If you know God, you're not going to build a little crackerbox. Would that glorify God? It has to be special. This Church does not have the means to build anything

like Mr. Armstrong did, but we can build something simple and beautiful that *will* glorify God!

GOD MULTIPLIES OUR NUMBERS

Satan decided to attack David at this opportune time: before David even got close to finishing everything he wanted to do. The devil and his cohorts *really* didn't want to see that structure go up! Satan was *passionately* against it! And David was human, as we all are.

"And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beer-sheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it. And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they be: but, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?" (1 Chronicles 21:1-3). David wanted a census, and even Joab knew that something was terribly wrong with that.

"Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem" (verse 4).

Joab had given David some wonderful advice:

We must have the attitude that says, I want to show the world the best I possibly can how great God is! I want everybody to know what I know about God!

AMBASSADOR *The
acclaimed Carnegie
Hall of the West Coast*



Look David, what difference does it make about the army or how many people we have in Israel?

Does it make a difference how many are in God's Church? WE DON'T NEED TO LOOK TO HUMAN BEINGS! IF WE LOOK TO GOD, IT WILL BE A HUNDRED TIMES MORE! EVEN JOAB COULD SEE THAT.

WHEN GOD SHOWED US WE WERE TO BUILD HIM A HOUSE, WE DIDN'T FIRST TAKE A CENSUS OF THIS LITTLE CHURCH TO SEE WHETHER IT WAS FEASIBLE. OTHERWISE, WE WOULD HAVE SAID, *THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DO IT*. If we look to God as we build His house, our numbers will be a HUNDREDFOLD more powerful.

PREPARE ABUNDANTLY

"And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (1 Chronicles 21:7-8). God really disciplined David *again*. But David repented *mightily* again.

We must *understand* how displeased God was. Was God cruel to kill 70,000 Israelites—out of about 7 million—because of what David did? God got His message

across. He also has a strong message for the people of Israel today—and they're not going to like that, either.

"Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel" (1 Chronicles 22:1). David turned this into *good* news, even though there had been a lot of suffering.

"And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God" (verse 2). Now he was getting his mind *focused*. Counting the nation was not the way to prepare to build God's house. Here, David realized how to prepare.

"And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight; Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be build for the LORD must be EXCEEDING MAGNIFICENT, of fame and of glory throughout *all* countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death" (verses 3-5).

continued on page 27 ►

Temple *from page 5*

We can call it “Solomon’s temple,” but that magnificent building was mainly the result of what *David* did.

Think of how David had to prepare to make a building so magnificent that it would be famous throughout the **WHOLE WORLD**. That is what happened. *Everybody all over the Earth* was impressed by the greatest structure ever on this planet! King David gave up practically *all* his wealth because he *really wanted* that for God. And He wouldn’t even live to see God glorified by it!

To build something like this, everybody must have a *giving attitude*—not one of, *what am I going to get out of this?* We must do it because we want to *give* and because we *love* God and we want to *glorify* Him. It’s a *towering act* that God’s people have to do! We must have the attitude that says, *I want to show the world the best I possibly can how GREAT God is! I want everybody to know what I know about God! I want EVERYBODY to understand what an incredible potential they have if they stop rebelling!* We must get to know God deeply and want, with all our *might* like David, for *everybody* to know the God who dwells in the northern heavens!

Verse 10, referring to Solomon, states: “He shall build *an house for my name*; and he shall be my son and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.” It’s not a house for a man—it’s God’s house.

Oh, the beauty of holiness! You can know how holy and wonderful and mighty and loving and giving God is. Look what He *gave* to bring us here. Look at the *risk* involved in bringing us here. We couldn’t even *be here* if it weren’t for the sacrifice of Christ. If not for that, we would just die and it would all be over.

God had to try David excruciatingly hard to get him to focus properly on his part in building the temple. What a majestic demonstration of character David was for all of us.

Solomon was charged to add to what David had prepared (verse 14).

But David didn’t just prepare financially. He also set up the course of priests to serve around the ark, as they would once the temple was finished. *Twice a day*, he had the Levites thank and praise God. He institutionalized this to show people how wonderful God is—to help them get to know Him deeply and have Him guide them in knowing Him.

“Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of

Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was” (1 Chronicles 25:1). These men were to prophesy in psalms. David wrote the majority of them, and many of them are prophetic. We, too, will prophesy in God’s house—in the psalms and in other ways.

STIRRING THE NATION TO GIVE

David said, “Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house” (1 Chronicles 29:3). David had planned to give a certain amount, but when he really set his affection on it, he went far above what he had planned to give! God was stirring him up more and more, and he wanted to give more and more with *all* his might. Everybody else caught the same spirit too (verses 4-6).

“And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced *with great joy*” (verses 7-9).

The Israelites probably gave more *here* than they *ever* had in their lives. And they were rejoicing *all the more because of that!* They were *totally* given to God, as much as carnal minds could be, at least. That’s what giving can do to the carnal mind even—it fills people with *joy* and *rejoicing* because they are giving. Isn’t that the law of God? The more you give, the happier you become—whether it’s of yourself or your money, or whatever it is.

“Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But *who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly*

after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee” (verses 10-14).

They were really SACRIFICING. David spoke for all of them when he asked, *God, who are we to be here and to be able to sacrifice for this AWESOME house for you? Who are we to be honored to be given this opportunity?*

We should all be asking ourselves these questions today. What an unparalleled honor God is giving us.

SOLOMON'S FAILURE

2 Chronicles 6 records Solomon's message to Israel at the dedication of this exceedingly grand structure.

“Then what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when every one shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house: Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men)” (2 Chronicles 6:29-30).

Only God knows our heart. We don't. David had sins he had no idea about—and had to repent of—before he was able to build God's house or even prepare for it. We need to go before God like David and say, *God, show me my secret faults. Show me what you see. I want to deal with that.* God will give us the correction we need.

It is awfully dangerous when we begin to think we

know our heart. But that is exactly where Solomon failed. God told him not to multiply his chariots or women, but Solomon did both. Solomon had all that wisdom, and the Bible reveals that God appeared to him *twice!* All those women, though, turned his heart away from God. He thought he could handle that. Would you let a woman or a man turn you away from the living God? Would you let that happen? It can happen to *any one* of us if we don't change our evil heart according to God's standards.

God told Solomon in chapter 7 that if the people would humble themselves before Him, He would heal their land. But if they forsook God, He would turn that house into an astonishment to the world (2 Chronicles 7:22).

Look at what happened to Solomon. The same evil has been brought upon the Laodiceans. Do we see what happened to what used to be God's house? Oh, the disgrace in that! I BELIEVE GOD WANTS US TO BUILD HIM A HOUSE TO BLOT OUT THE UGLINESS THAT PREVAILS IN THE LAODICEAN CHURCH TODAY.

This will be the crowning act of the Philadelphia Church of God raising the ruins—that last *great* piece of the ruins. Are we able to do that? Solomon wasn't, because he *didn't have the attitude of David.*

Looking at these scriptures, it appears to me that David will have one more great trial to face when he's resurrected. *What happened to my son?* That's a tough one.

HOUSE FOR GOD King David set his affection on what was to become Solomon's temple.

ETTY IMAGES



BUILDING FOR HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

Chronicles is the last book of the Old Testament as originally canonized. It was written by Ezra, who came back to Jerusalem several years after Zerubbabel had finished the second temple. And he wanted to keep the people focused on Jerusalem. Some were saying God's presence was on Mount Gerazim, or that the tradition of Moses was in Samaria. Ezra wanted to show them that God was where the temple was IN JERUSALEM.

Today, we have detractors too. The Laodiceans essentially say that God has temples all over the place. But you can prove who is right and who is wrong, and it is really connected to Jerusalem. It's about God's temple. *God says those who build His house have their headquarters in heavenly Jerusalem!*

Galatians 4:25 shows where we get our orders: "For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children."

Jerusalem today is in *terrible* bondage! What is the solution? There is *another* Jerusalem! That is the solution.

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all" (verse 26).

The mother of us all, the Church, is free. The headquarters of the PCG is in Jerusalem *above!* Imagine that! That's where our headquarters is. THE DIRECTIVE TO BUILD GOD'S HOUSE DIDN'T COME FROM THIS EARTH! IT CAME FROM JERUSALEM ABOVE, THE MOTHER OF US ALL! This is the *real* Jerusalem—the one we should be concerned about!

Mr. Armstrong wrote the classic conclusion to *Mystery of the Ages* about the time when God's people will be made spirit beings. He wrote in the last paragraph, "With God's great master plan of 7,000 years finally completed—the mystery of the ages finally revealed, and with the re-creating of the vast universe and eternity lying ahead, we come finally to ... THE BEGINNING!" That is the conclusion of all conclusions: That's the beginning!

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22). That is where we go, and we are free! God is going to let us help Him free the whole Earth and the whole universe that is in BONDAGE!

In a March 26, 1968, co-worker letter, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "You have seen that the U.S. dollar—long thought of as the stablest currency in the world—is in immediate jeopardy of being DEVALUED!

"Those of you who truly BELIEVE the prophecies of your Bible KNOW such economic collapse is prophesied to happen! ...

"It means that AT ANY TIME now, you could suddenly awake to find you have only about HALF the 'money' you thought you possessed—or that your purchasing power has been DRASTICALLY reduced, overnight! ...

"As never before, YOUR MONEY is in danger! So remember—WHILE it is still 'good,' your money represents BUYING POWER. It represents a FORCE in your life with which you can ACCOMPLISH! And what is the most singly IMPORTANT WORK you can accomplish today? IT SHOULD be the very calling of God—the commission of Jesus Christ to His true servants for this time, to PREACH THE GOSPEL to all nations before the climactic END OF THE AGE is upon us!

"So now, THINK about your dollars for a moment. ... Is your money stagnating—is it lying DORMANT—where it may be literally SNATCHED AWAY from you

in a moment? Or is it PRODUCING, WORKING, DOING something constructive? ... [I]s it only a piece of PAPER in which man temporarily retains a certain confidence? [T]hink about WHERE THAT MONEY CAN BE PRODUCING THE GREATEST GOOD! Where can it be buying PAGES OF TRUTH? Buying MOMENTS OF TIME TO PREACH THE

GOSPEL? Buying ink, and paper, and stamps for mailing out the precious truths YOU have been learning to THOUSANDS OF OTHERS?

"Co-workers, right now, dollars are still POWER! Let us SACRIFICE to put them WHERE THE LIVING CHRIST IS USING THEM IN GOD'S WORK ..."

Through Mr. Armstrong, God is saying here, if you really want to make a good investment with your money, you ought to invest in God's Work and God's house.

Abraham had his heart set on this *heavenly* Jerusalem. He had faith in *that*—the city of Jerusalem that was going to come down to this Earth. *That* was his goal.

Revelation 3:12 states that the Philadelphians, whom God is using today, focus on the Jerusalem that will come down from above to this Earth. That is "the beginning" that Mr. Armstrong was talking about. That will be the *real* beginning. That's where our heart has to be! In that Jerusalem! Not the physical Jerusalem, but in *that* Jerusalem.

God's Philadelphians must throw their hearts into building God a house to glorify Him—all the while being focused on heavenly Jerusalem and the great edifice soon to come to this Earth! ■

Jerusalem today is in terrible bondage! What is the solution? There is another Jerusalem! That is the solution.