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Real Temple Building
Series: Divided Heart, Divided Nation
The Village Church at Shell Point
Evening Service
September 1, 2024

I. **Solomon's Remarkable Building Program**

- A. Chapters 5, 6, 7 – detail Solomon's glorious building program
 - 1. Most of which concerns the building of the temple
 - a. Also included the palace complex – 5 buildings
 - 2. Perhaps the major achievement of his reign
 - a. Took 20 years of building
 - b. 7 years – temple
 - c. 13 years – palace complex
 - 3. Common practice for rulers to engage in large building projects – for the glory of their names
 - a. Ex: Nebuchadnezzar
 - (1) Daniel 4:30 (ESV) — 30 and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”
 - b. Solomon – following in footsteps of all the great rulers
 - (1) Buildings become a monument to his greatness
 - 4. Solomon was great!
 - a. Project took extraordinary managerial skill
 - b. Demonstrated excellent gifts of administration
 - (1) Gifts which were given him by God
 - 5. 1 Kings spends much ink on these accomplishments
 - a. Rightly so – they were indeed magnificent

II. **Building of the Temple**

- A. Centerpiece of the project, most important building – temple
- B. **History of the Temple**
 - 1. Prototype of the temple – **Tabernacle**
 - 2. Israel came out of Egypt, God had them build a tabernacle (15th Century)
 - a. Elaborate mobile temple
 - b. Tent-like in it's construction
 - (1) But “tent” doesn't do it justice
 - 3. God had given Moses the plan for the temple
 - a. Apparently the model for it was heaven itself
 - b. Speak of the “third heaven” – tabernacle had three sections
- C. **Structure of the Tabernacle**

1. **Outer Court**
 - a. Altar of burnt offering
 - b. Laver – washing of the priests near the door of the sanctuary proper
 2. **Holy place**
 - a. Lampstand
 - b. Table of Shewbread
 - c. Ark of incense
 3. **Holy of Holies**
 - a. Behind the veil
 - b. Ark of covenant
 - (1) Law, Aaron’s rod that budded, manna
 - (2) Mercy seat – gold
 - (3) Guarded by Golden Cherubim
 - c. Only the High Priest could enter
 - (1) Once a year
 - (2) Day of atonement
 4. Workmanship on the tabernacle was nothing short of extraordinary
 - a. God appointed and gifted artisans to conduct the work on the tabernacle
 - b. **Exodus 31.1-11**
 - (1) First to have been said to be filled with Spirit – those gifted with artistic skill for work on the tabernacle
- D. **Significance of the Tabernacle**
1. **Dwelling place of God**
 - a. God is not finite or material in that He could be contained in a structure like that
 - b. He condescended to dwell with His own people as they made their way in the wilderness
 2. **Guided the people**
 - a. Presence marked by pillar of fire by night, cloud by day
 - b. When shekinah glory lifted and moved, it was time for Israel to follow
 3. **Centralized worship** for this fledgling nation
 - a. Worship of the God who rescued them from their bondage in Egypt
 4. Presence of God was the key feature of the tabernacle’s significance
 - a. So significant that Moses told God, if He didn’t go with them it wasn’t worth the trip
 5. **Exodus 33:12–16** (ESV) —
 - a. 12 Moses said to the LORD, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’”
 - b. 13 Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.”

- c. 14 And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”
- d. 15 And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.
- e. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?”

E. **History of the Tabernacle**

- 1. Tabernacle had a history over a period of about 400-500 years leading up to the time of David
- 2. Ark was lost and found during that time
- 3. Appeared that the tabernacle had been separated from the ark during the time of David
 - a. Seems that ark eventually was returned to Jerusalem
 - b. David had made a tent for it (tent of meeting)
 - c. Tabernacle eventually not far away at Gibeon until Solomon’s temple was built

F. **David’s Plan**

- 1. David’s desire was to build a permanent structure for God’s presence
- 2. Israel had entered the Promised Land
 - a. Weren’t wandering around the wilderness anymore
 - b. Permanently (relatively) situated in Palestine
 - c. Jerusalem would become the center of the worship life of Israel
- 3. David had placed the ark on the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite
 - a. Most likely the same location as Mount Moriah
 - b. Location of Abraham’s aborted sacrifice of Isaac
 - (1) When God provided the sacrifice of His own
- 4. Location had a significance dating back centuries
 - a. Back to the very origins of the Hebrews
- 5. Situated in the land
 - a. David had consolidated his power
 - b. Built himself a palace
 - c. Conscience-stricken – why do I have a palace, and God Almighty only has a tent?
 - d. Desires to build a palace
- 6. God denies David that opportunity
 - a. Appreciates David’s thought
 - b. David, as a warrior, has too much blood on his hands
 - c. God promises that his son Solomon will build the temple during a time of relative peace
- 7. David collects materials for furnishings and makes plans that he will entrust to Solomon so the construction will be done in the next generation
 - a. Certainly Solomon knows how much this means to his father

- b. Prime motivating condition for Solomon to make this his first priority

G. **Solomon's Execution**

1. Summary of Chapters 5-7
2. Gets assistance from **Hiram, King of Tyre**
 - a. Access to resources and skill
 - b. Hiram – key friend of David
 - c. Enacts a covenant relationship
 - (1) Hiram – provides materials
 - (2) Solomon – provides food
3. Conscripts laborers
 - a. Israel – **corvée system**
 - (1) Labor was conscripted from the people for limited periods of time
 - (2) 1/3 of the time – worked for King
 - (3) 2/3 of the time – worked their own land
 - (4) Sounds terrible – king would make you work for him for 4 months a year
 - (a) Actually, you do that now
 - (b) Average American works for the government for more than 4 months a year – nearly 5
 - (c) Taxation
 - (5) Without monetary system in operation – system had similar functions
 - (6) Israel probably didn't like corvée any better than we like taxes
 - b. Non-Israelite labor was also conscripted
4. Solomon builds the **House of the Lord** (temple)
 - a. Twice the size of the tabernacle
 - b. Decorated with all kinds of artistic engravings
 - c. Construction done with view to holiness of the structure
 - (1) Stones were dressed at quarry so there was no noise of hammering at the temple site
 - d. Interior stones overlaid with cypress and cedar
 - e. All of that overlaid with gold
 - f. Huge Cherubim guarded the door of the inner sanctuary (Holy of Holies)
 - (1) Overlaid with gold
5. Solomon builds the temple complex
 - a. **His own house**
 - b. **House of the forest of Lebanon**
 - c. **Hall of Pillars**
 - d. **Hall of the throne**
 - e. **House for Pharaoh's daughter**

- f. All of which seem to have received the same kind of careful skillful and artistic construction using the finest of materials
 - (1) Hiram (King) had sent a skilled artisan to oversee the work (also named Hiram – half Jewish, half Gentile)
- 6. **Solomon furnished the temple**
 - a. Great sea – ceremonial washings of the priests
 - (1) Placed on stand of bulls
 - b. Bronze basins
 - c. Other temple furnishings
 - (1) Materials for which had been provided by David
 - d. Eventually all the treasures that had been accumulated were stored in the side rooms of the magnificent temple structure
- 7. Remarkable feat

III. **The Second Temple**

- A. But only a shadow of another temple
- B. This temple – Solomon’s temple – was destroyed by the Babylonians
 - 1. Another less elaborate structure was built by the returning exiles under **Ezra** – Second Temple
 - 2. Stood for 500 years (longer than Solomon’s temple)
 - a. Desecrated by Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC
 - b. Cleansed by the victorious Maccabees in 164 BC
- C. Eventually, a more elaborate structure was built by **Herod**
 - 1. Large addition to the 2nd Temple
 - 2. Begun in 19 BC
 - a. Largely finished by the time of Jesus’s birth
 - b. Not entirely finished until 64 AD
 - c. This was the temple of Jesus’ day
- D. This temple was also destroyed
 - 1. Jesus Himself predicted its destruction in the Olivet Discourse
 - 2. Destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD
 - a. Destruction so catastrophic that the Jews were scattered, entire city was destroyed
- E. Solomon’s temple – and its successors – no longer exist
- F. Already mentioned that this temple, for which the tabernacle was the prototype, reflected the heavenly temple
 - 1. **Hebrews 9:1–12** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.
 - b. 2 For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place.
 - c. 3 Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place,

- d. 4 having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.
 - e. 5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.
 - f. 6 These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties,
 - g. 7 but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.
 - h. 8 By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing
 - i. 9 (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper,
 - j. 10 but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation.
 - k. 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)
 - l. 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.
- 2. The ministry of the priests was once and for all fulfilled by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
 - a. Our sins have been atoned for
 - 3. Renders Solomon's temple, and every other temple, superfluous and obsolete

IV. The Other True Temple

A. Ephesians 2:11–22 (ESV) —

- 1. 11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—
- 2. 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- 3. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- 4. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility
- 5. 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

6. 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
 7. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.
 8. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
 9. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
 10. 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
 11. 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
 12. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- B. People of God used to be Jews
1. Gentiles were aliens, strangers to covenants
 - a. “Uncircumcised” v. “circumcised”
 2. But in Christ, we Gentiles have been brought near by blood of Christ
- C. Used to be two groups
1. Jews – the people of God
 - a. Gentiles – strangers
 2. Now there is just one group!
 - a. The people of God
 - b. No more dividing wall
 - c. One new man
 - d. One body
- D. In that one group we have access to the Father
1. The very function of the temple!
 2. Now fellow-citizens with saints, God’s household
 - a. A building
 - (1) With foundation (apostles and prophets)
 - (2) And a cornerstone – Christ
 3. A building which is designated as a holy temple
 - a. In which God dwells
 - b. Also the very function of a temple
 4. We call this building the Church
- E. **1 Peter 2:9** (ESV) —
1. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 2. Peter uses the very language of the OT of the Hebrews and applies it to the church!
- F. There is so much speculation about another temple in Jerusalem
1. Unbiblical speculation
 - a. Jesus never mentioned any such reconstruction when He prophesied its destruction in the Olivet discourse

2. No need for another one
 - a. Jesus entered the true temple in heaven to atone for our sins
 - b. New earthly temple by which we experience the dwelling of God is the church!
 3. I don't care about another earthly temple in Jerusalem
- G. Solomon built his temple
1. It was magnificent, glorious
 2. But it ended – destroyed
 3. Only a shadow, a type of the true temple which is the church
- H. Jesus is the true master builder
1. Remember – Caesarea Philippi
 2. **Matthew 16:17–18** (ESV) —
 - a. 17 And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.
 - b. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 3. The one temple would be destroyed, never to be reconstructed
 - a. But He's building another temple – the church
 - b. It is a temple that will last – gates of hell will not overpower it

V. **Lessons from Solomon's Construction**

- A. Solomon's is a type of Christ in his construction of the temple
- B. **The Father's Desires**
1. Solomon was carrying out his father's deepest desires
 2. Jesus likewise was carrying out the Father's will in His construction of the church
 3. **John 5:36** (ESV) —
 - a. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.
 4. **John 8:28–29** (ESV) —
 - a. 28 So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.
 - b. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”
- C. **The Father's Provisions**
1. Preparation that Solomon's father made for him
 2. Our heavenly Father covenanted in eternity past to provide for our redemption and for the establishment of the church
 3. **Isaiah 42:5–9** (ESV) —
 - a. 5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from

it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:

- b. 6 “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,
 - c. 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
 - d. 8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
 - e. 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”
4. **Ephesians 1:3–4** (ESV) —
- a. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
 - b. 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love
5. Parable of the Sheep and Goats
- a. **Matthew 25:34** (ESV) —
 - (1) 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

D. **The Gifted Builders**

- 1. Solomon constructed his temple with people gifted for that purpose (also true for the tabernacle – spiritually gifted)
- 2. **Ephesians 4:7–16** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.
 - b. 8 Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”
 - c. 9 (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?)
 - d. 10 He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)
 - e. 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
 - f. 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
 - g. 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
 - h. 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

- i. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,
- j. 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

E. **The Beauty of the Construction**

- 1. Beauty of the structure that Solomon constructed
- 2. Jesus is also constructing a temple of exceeding beauty
- 3. **Ephesians 5:25–27** (ESV) —
 - a. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
 - b. 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
 - c. 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- 4. **Ephesians 5:32** (ESV) — 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

F. **The Priest-King's Temple**

- 1. Solomon even build the palace complex in the same location as the temple
 - a. Desire (at least at that time in his life) to submit his kingly reign to God
- 2. Eventually, the ministry of king and priest would become one in Christ
 - a. Messiah – the long awaited David's greater son
 - (1) King who would restore God's rule over His people
 - b. Great High Priest
- 3. Solomon, without knowing it, reflected the combination of the two offices into one in Christ
- 4. **"Church"**
 - a. Old English = **kirk**
 - b. German = **kirche**
 - c. **Gk = kurios – Lord**
 - d. People who belong to a Lord, or king
- 5. **Acts 2:34–36** (ESV) —
 - a. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand,
 - b. 35 until I make your enemies your footstool." ' "
 - c. 36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."
- 6. Jesus sits at the Father's right hand
 - a. Heaven is now a throne room with a King
- 7. **Philippians 2:9–11** (ESV) —
 - a. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

- b. 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 - c. 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - 8. The King and Priest are one – prefigured in Solomon’s construction of the palace complex along with the temple
- G. **The Magnificence of the Temple**
 - 1. Solomon’s temple was magnificent
 - a. More magnificent is the church
 - 2. Temple built by One far greater than Solomon
 - 3. Live in an age in which it’s chic to downplay the church
 - a. Calling attention to all its faults
 - b. And its faults are many
 - 4. But God loves the church
 - a. It is the temple being built by His Son
 - 5. In the end it will far surpass in beauty and magnificence at earthly temple
 - 6. **Hebrews 3:4–6** (ESV) —
 - a. 4 (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.)
 - b. 5 Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,
 - c. 6 but Christ is faithful over God’s house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.