

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Part 12: The Glory Of God Leaves The Temple

Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:15 - 21

Introduction

- The Tabernacle in the wilderness served as the focal point of Israel's worship for about 487 years.
- Jehovah authorised a temple to supersede the tabernacle.
- King David purchased the plot of land (Mt. Moriah).
- King Solomon oversaw the building of the temple which took about 7 years to complete.
- Everything the Tabernacle had been to Israel, now the Temple became.
- The temple was to stand for about 400 years.
- The Temple is a picture of what the church ought to be today.

1 Stealing The Temple's Treasures

- [1 Kings 14:25 - 26]. Shishak, the king of Egypt raided the temple of some of its treasures.
- Lesson: Today's church has been looted of its treasures by modern day '**Shishak's**' leaving it impoverished.
- Who? The liberals of the 19th and 20th centuries. (Rudolf Bultmann, Adolf Von Harnack & Albert Schweitzer etc.)
- They robbed the Bible of its supernatural element, stole the true Jesus and robbed the church of the blood stained gospel.
- We need to guard the church's treasures of truth.

2 Idols In The House Of God

- The godly king Hezekiah sadly produced the ungodly king Manasseh.
- [2 Kings 21] is Manasseh's crime sheet.
- He put an idol of the Canaanite god Asherah in the temple.
- Here was something brought into the house of God that should never have been allowed.
- Jehovah announced judgement for this folly [vs 13 & 15].
- Today's church is bringing into the house of God things that should not cross the threshold.
- [1 Corinthians 3:16] make sure you host no idol in the temple of your life.

3 The End Of The Temple

- The temple stood for approximately 400 years.
- It had witnessed both highs and lows.
- For the nations sinfulness and disobedience [Ezekiel 10:18 & 11:23] records the glory/presence of God leaving it.
- This is the worst thing that can happen to a person, a church or a nation: losing the presence of God.
- 2 Chronicles 36:15 - 21 records the destruction of the temple by the invading Babylonians.
- Jerusalem with its temple was besieged for 30 months and eventually the city fell.
- Over 900,000 were slaughtered or taken into exile.
- The temple was looted and set on fire. It burned for 24 hours before being raised to the ground as though it had never been there.

4 Application

- Samson lost the presence of God from the temple of his life. [Judges 16:20]
- The church at Laodicea lost the presence of God too. [Revelation 3:20]
- The city of Jerusalem lost the presence of God too.
- Warning: 1 Corinthians 3:16 - 17. Don't defile the temple.

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