

God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 6: A Humanitarian at the Temple

For many people church is a place you go. It is not necessarily the most important place, but important enough that you want to go there at least twice a year.

For the Old Testament Jews, the Temple was the center of religion and life. There were many things that God commanded about the Temple that made it special a destination that was worth going to.

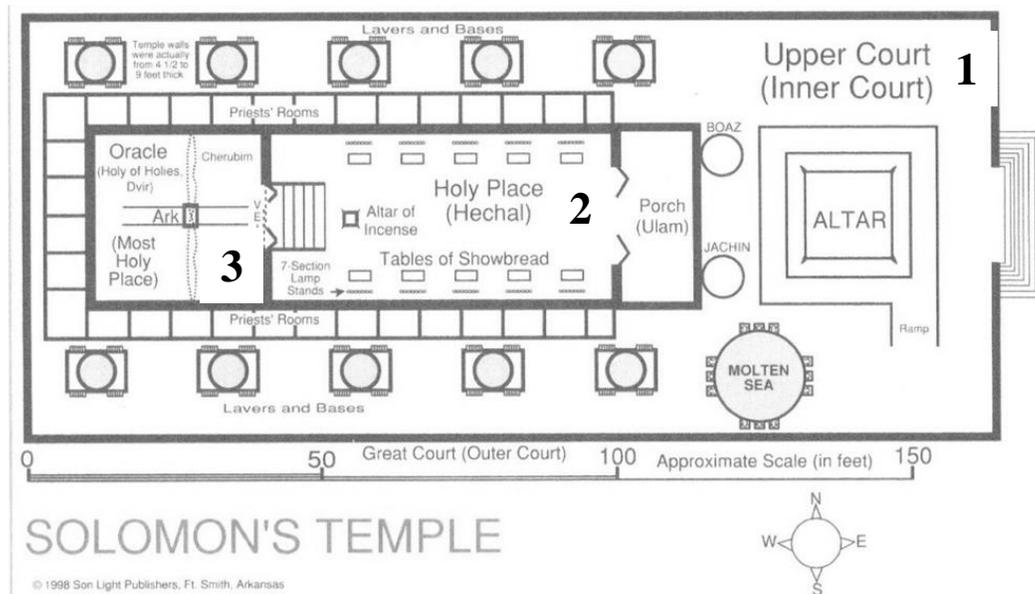
If we continue to compare and contrast church and Temple we see would see vast differences between the two. From the construction to the seating, the Temple was different from any church we have today.

God did this for a reason. There were no books or Bibles people could carry with them. In his love God gave living Bibles all around them. In the Temple, God gave them a living lesson of his love.

As we look at this lesson, we will see God's love for his people by using the temple as a living teaching tool.

❖ What did you learn from chapter 6?

1. The Temple was an exclusive place. Even by its construction it taught lessons. The Temple was set up to allow certain people access to certain places.



What was each place named? Who was allowed into each of these places?

1. Courtyard --- Anyone could enter and bring their sacrifices
2. Holy Place --- Priests entered to offer on the altar of incense
3. Most Holy Place --- God's Place --- Priest comes 1 time a year to atone for himself and the people

2. God himself designed the house of worship that the people of the Old Testament were to use. He also prescribed what was to take place in that temple. What was God teaching about himself and his attitude toward sin from the design and activities of the temple? **He hated sin. Sin causes a separation between him and his people. Shedding of the blood was a reminder of the payment that the Messiah would need to be made some day.**

3. What caused this problem?
Sin

4. In our last lesson we were reminded that *"through the Law [of God] we become conscious of sin"* (Romans 3:20). But people need to know more than the fact that sin exists in their lives. They also need to know that there are consequences to sin. According to the following passages, what consequences does sin bring into our lives?

✦ Isaiah 59:2. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.
Separation from God ---- we are not in God's good graces, face away from us

✦ Romans 6:23. For the wages of sin is death. **We deserve death, eternal death**

5. Why were the Old Testament sacrifices a never-ending activity?

✦ Hebrews 10:1-4. The law is only **a shadow** of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual **reminder** of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

They were not a true answer to sin. There is only 1 answer to sin: a Messiah. No amount could take away the sins of the people. They were just a reminder to the people.

6. One of the messages the Temple sent was separation because of sins. The sacrifice of animals and other offerings brings us the other message the Temple was to teach. This was a message of love, a message that revealed God's humanitarian heart. What was the loving message that the sacrifices sent to the people for the solution to their sins?

There is an answer, but it is not in us, it wasn't in the animals, not in the blood. It was in THE LAMB—the Messiah. It was in the substitutional payment for sins that the Messiah would be. These sacrifices could not save them, but God could and would through his sacrifice

7. What did John the Baptist mean when he pointed to Jesus and said, *"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29)?

Jesus was the sacrifice that was pictured by all the sacrifices. He is the payment, the Lamb, sacrificed to save all people

8. Matthew 27:51. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

The ripping of the curtain in the temple is one of the most vivid parts of the passion for me. A 9 foot tall 1 foot thick curtain tearing (rending) from top to bottom is not an ordinary task.

➤ In the Old Testament, what did this curtain symbolize? **Separation--- People could not come to God**

➤ What was God saying about Jesus death and us when that curtain was torn in two? **Jesus had fixed it. Jesus has paid the price to remove the separation. He has made peace with God on our behalf. He is the bridge which makes it possible for us to approach God**

9. How does the Old Testament scapegoat help us understand what Jesus did for us? **The sins of the whole nation were symbolically placed on the goat and it was sent out in the wilderness to die**

All the sins of the world were placed on Jesus, he died to save us.

10. 1 Corinthians 3:16. "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

➤ Where did God dwell in the Old Testament?
Temple --- in a place among his people

➤ Where does he dwell now?
In our hearts through the Holy Spirit, by faith

11. What is similar for a church today and the Old Testament Temple?

It is a place of worship where we meet God face to face

We hear the Word , we get the reminder and promise of his love

There was Law and Gospel --- Sin and Grace

12. What is different for a church today and the Old Testament Temple?

No Separation, pastors rather than priests, no longer a symbol. God lives in us all.

We see the fulfillment not just the symbol

Assignment: Please read Chapter 7 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*