

ARE TEMPLES FOR TODAY?

Temples are meticulously described in the Bible, both as to physical detail and purpose (1 Kings 5-8). In light of some current practices, it is highly significant that at any given time there was only one authorized temple and it was located in Jerusalem. There is absolutely no mention of baptism, marriage, sealings, or endowments in any Biblical reference to the temple. God ordained this special place for other reasons.

Comparing life under the Old Testament law of animal sacrifices with the principles of New Testament worship, it is clear that God's program included an abrupt end to temple work. That this is a fact and just what happened to erase the necessity for temples is evident from the following passages:

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord. . ."
(Acts 7:48,49).

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. . . . For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect" (Hebrews 9:28-10:1).

Old Testament animal sacrifices at the temple pictured what would take place when Christ came. Once He DID come, shedding His blood for the remission of sins (Hebrews 9:22), the temple system was rendered meaningless.

The Bible records an interesting discussion about the correct location for a temple. Jesus shocked His partner in conversation by saying the real point is not a place at all but the issue of worshiping in spirit and in truth. He indicated the day was coming when there would be no particularly holy places, whether in Jerusalem or elsewhere (John 4:20-24). Yet, Scripture does teach the existence of latter-day temples of a totally different kind:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

The one who comes to realize and accepts that Jesus Christ paid the price for our eternal life and offers it to the believer as a gift, he it is who becomes the true temple of God.