

# The House of God

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## INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS

Many of us grew up with the idea that the church building is the house of God. Louis Malherbe, a South African businessman and presenter of seminars on the essence of humanity, once told of a situation where he was somewhat late for an event. As he was hurrying to the church building, he saw an acquaintance outside the church building taking a last few puffs on a cigarette, grabbed the guy by the arm and pulled him along to the inside. The acquaintance later asked if Louis was crazy, as he caused the man to stand inside the house of God with a cigarette. Louis' answer was that if the person did not take God inside with him, then God would not be there. Some other time again, someone spoke to us about wearing specific clothing if you went to the house of God.

It made me think: would a building in which people came together to seek God's face, still be regarded as His house if it became dilapidated and no longer fit for gatherings? That gives rise to the questions, where then is God's house, and can His house be in all the church building throughout the world at the same time? Bear in mind that there are more than forty thousand denominations. With this essay, which is but a drop in the ocean on this topic, I wish to address a few facts.

## DISCUSSION

There are many Scriptures that refer to the house of God, which is also described as God's house of prayer for the nations, and Jerusalem (new), or also His holy mountain.

He also calls this house the place where His Name lives forever, as well as the last days which would be established on the top of the holy mountain, which refers to the spiritual realm, for the elect generation of Israelites that had been God's people, His elect nation from the beginning.

As I understand the history of the Bible Word, God created the heaven and the earth out of and by

Thus everything was brought forth out of and by water in the beginning.

water in the beginning, as described in Genesis 1&2 and 2 Peter 3:5-7. The descendants of Adam were often filled with cruelty and wickedness and did not please God. He withdrew His Spirit from them and the flood came in which only Noah and his family were saved.

After that the sons of Noah inhabited the “whole earth” according to their descendance. Those lands that were inhabited is similar to the Roman Empire in Jesus’ time on earth.

Abraham descended from Shem’s bloodline and God chose him to become the ancestor of the twelve tribes of Israel, in the flesh. The covenant God made with him was one in the flesh. Thus the male gender had to be circumcised and the covenant was confirmed by God’s life (Christ) through all generations until He came in the flesh. The covenant was the promise of Eternal Life in His Spirit and the restoration of Israel’s kingdom.

And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel *is* my son, *even* my firstborn (Ex 4:22).

King David became king of Israel fourteen generations after Abraham. God promised him with an oath that his kingship would be stable and that his throne would remain into Eternity.

It is important to note that God, in the letter written by John and known as the Revelation of Jesus Christ, instructed John to write the following to the seven assemblies (congregations) of Asia: that which he has seen, that which was, which is, as well as that which was to come for those assemblies (in the time before the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple).

Starting in approximately the fourth chapter to about the twelfth chapter of his revelation, John described what he had seen in heaven, or better understood, the spiritual realm. Christ was seen as a slaughtered Lamb with seven (7) spirits. These were the Spirits sent out over the earth – the earth understood by the Jews of that time.

In Matthew 1:7 it is recorded that the bloodline of the Israelites from Abraham to David comprised fourteen (14) generations (2x7) and from king David to the Babylonian exile another fourteen (14) generations (2x7). From the exile to Christ there were fourteen more generations (2x7), which all in all made up 42 generations of Israelites.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, (...) (Acts 2:5, 9-11).

Therefore, when the fulness of time came for God’s nation, He sent His Son to redeem those born under the law and to reunite all the lost tribes scattered through the earth as they were in His Spirit from the beginning (Gal 4:4-7). God’s promise was to gather them from the various nations and once again make them partakers of His glory and inhabitants of God’s house. God called it the house of prayer for all nations forever.

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings (Hos 6:6).

Jesus of Nazareth confirmed it too in His conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well:

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23-24).

## CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

In closing, I wish to add a few more Scriptures to connect the heavenly Jerusalem with the New Testament meant for Israel, His people.

The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 60:14).

Hebrews 3:14 and 12:22 accentuate that they were partakers of Christ and had by that time already come to mount Zion and city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit (Eph 2:19-22).

This Scripture shows that the Sanctuary had already

been restored forever when the old Jerusalem was destroyed in the year 70 AD. The wrath of God had been poured out on the old and gave us access in the Spirit of Christ to enter into the restored Sanctuary to worship Him and to ask for His help when we are in distress.

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Scripture quotations from *The Bible, King James Version* on e-Sword.

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