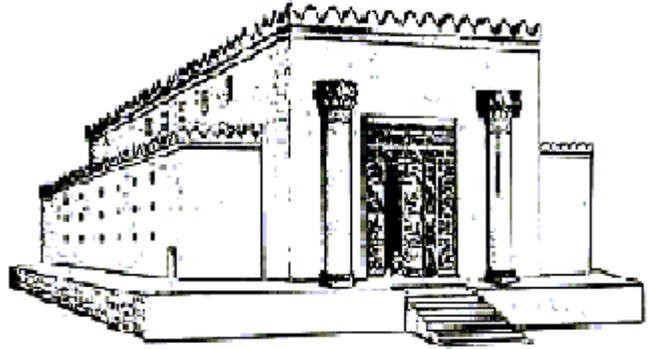




The Temple of God

Where in the Temple of God are you serving?

Are you on schedule with what God is doing through His Church today? God reveals Himself to us when we are on schedule with Him! If you are on schedule with God then you realize that you are part of the Spiritual Temple building process! Success in the LORD is receiving internal approval from Him!



We can learn lessons concerning our spiritual temple building endeavor by carefully observing the remnant of Israel who came out of Babylon. They were commissioned to rebuild the second Temple! Notice God's remnant, "Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and *all they that were come out of the captivity* unto Jerusalem; and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, **to set forward the work of the house of the LORD**" (Ezra 3:8). These returning remnant were "to set forward the work of the house of the LORD!"

We are part of the remnant *who has come out of Spiritual Babylon*. Those of the remnant realize what is going on in this world. Through Jesus Christ, we are establishing a new government in the earth! In actuality fact, we are soldiers in a hostile take-over in the spiritual realm! We are learning that one person with God is a majority. **Key Point: Christian maturity is not determined by years in the church but by our relationship with God!**

God's word teaches us that we are building blocks in the temple of God, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up **a spiritual house (temple)**, an holy priesthood (*We are priests serving in the temple of God*), to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5). Collectively





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and individually the Church is the temple of God Almighty, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you . . . for

the temple of God is holy, **which temple ye are**” (1 Cor 3:16-17). The prophets instruct and encourage us concerning our building process, “Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built**” (Zech 8:9)!

Nehemiah wrote of Israel’s remnant experiences, “And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are **in great affliction and reproach**: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and **the gates thereof are burned** with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that **I sat down and wept** (*Nehemiah actually wept because of the dreadful surroundings that Jerusalem and the temple had fallen into*) . . . For I was the king's cupbearer” (Neh 1:3-11). Nevertheless God commissioned that the destroyed temple that Nehemiah wept over was to be rebuilt. Moreover, the glory of the latter temple was destined to eclipse Solomon’s temple, “And I will shake all nations, and **the desire of all nations shall come**: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts . . . **The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former**, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts” (Hag 2:7-9). In human form Jesus Christ came into that latter temple; that is what made it more glorious than Solomon’s temple! What about our spiritual temple today? Jesus Christ has come **to dwell in us**, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**” (Gal 2:20). John adds regarding the indwelling of Jesus, “every spirit that confesseth that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is of God” (1 John 4:2)!

Years before Nehemiah’s time when Solomon completed the original temple the manifest Glory of God filled the temple. Solomon commissioned that the Ark of the Covenant would be taken from the City of David and brought into the Temple and placed in the Most Holy Place, “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD” (1 Kings 8:10-11). In the Old Testament as an example for us, God showed that He was obviously delighted about dwelling in His Temple! God’s Temple was one of the passions of Jesus Christ; we read in John’s Gospel, “Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; **make not my Father's house an house of merchandise**. And his disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up**” (John 2:13-17). Jesus called the temple His Father’s house!

We can learn from the Prophet Zechariah who ministered to Zerubbabel who was commissioned to rebuild the temple. Let’s study Zechariah’s prophecy regarding the building of the temple in Zech 6:10. There is appropriate revelation available for the Church today that we may glean from that prophecy! We need to realize that Christians



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have also come out of (*Spiritual*) Babylon, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people” (Rev 18:4).

We will start by observing the significance in the names of several of the of the leaders of the remnant who returned from captivity to rebuilt the temple, “Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah” (Zech 6:10). This seems like one of those nondescript Old Testament passages full of difficult names to pronounce that we simply try to read quickly and hope that no one hears us stumble over the strange names. However, if we were to just read quickly over this specific verse and overlook the names we would miss a great deal of the meaning of Zechariah’s prophecy! Let’s take a closer, more insightful look at that tenth verse of Zechariah’s sixth chapter. Strangely enough, the names of the individuals identified in that passage help us to understand the makeup of the various broad groups of Christians that compose the Church of today. The passage actually teaches us that there are three different groups of Christians identifiable in the Church today. The passage says:

“Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai (*worldliness*), of Tobijah (*the Lord is Good*), and of Jedaiah (*God knows*), which are come from Babylon (*confusion*), and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah (*God has founded*) the son of Zephaniah (*God has concealed*)”

This passage could be interpreted as follows:

“Take those Christians which came out of the confusion of the world; whose characteristics include those that are:

- worldly and there are; *(these represent Outer Court)*
- those **who know that the Lord is Good** and there are; *(these represent Inner Court – Holy Place)*
- those who **God knows** *(these represent Most Holy Place)*

Bring these Christians with you on the same day you go in to the House founded by God which He has hidden.” (Zech 6:10 *somewhat amplified*)

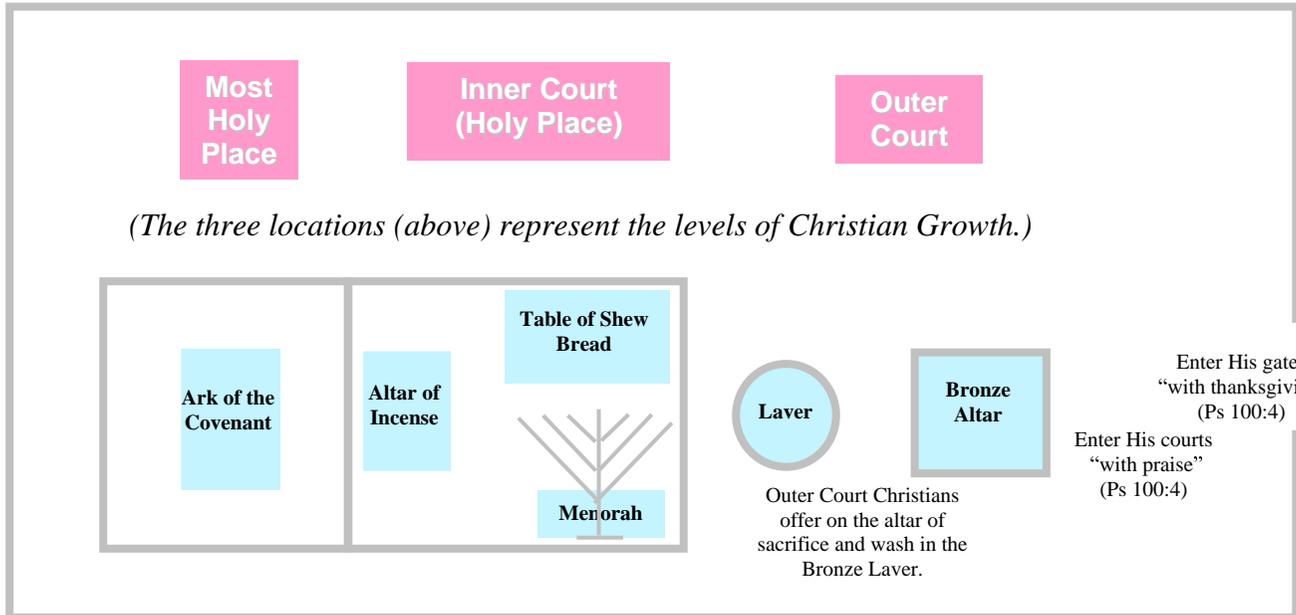
You may have noticed a very amazing correlation. The three groups of Christians identified in the prophecy of Zech 6:10 correspond to the three specific partitions of the Temple of God. The temple plan below portrays the three levels of worship within the Temple of God:

- worldly and there are; *(these represent Outer Court)*
- those **who know that the Lord is Good** and there are; *(these represent Inner Court – Holy Place)*
- those who **God knows.** *(these represent Most Holy Place)*

In like fashion, the temple of God was made up of three distinct regions: **The Outer Court**; the Inner Court *known as the Holy Place*; and thirdly the location of the Ark of God was in the **Most Holy Place**.

The Temple of God

Where in the Temple of God are you serving?



Where specifically in the Temple of God are you serving? Do you know? This Bible Study is intended to help all of us understand the three groups of Christians serving in the Temple. Once we know the major characteristics of three groups of Christians, we can begin to identify where exactly we are in our Temple Service! We will recall that Peter said that we are priests offering up spiritual sacrifices in the Temple of God, "an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

As we have observed from Zechariah's prophecy there are essentially three groups of Christians: (1) those who are "**worldly**" the babes in Christ; (*these represent those who worship in Outer Court*); (2) And there are those "**who know that the Lord is Good**" these are the more mature Christians (*these represent Christians worshipping in the Inner Court – Holy Place*); and finally (3) there are those who **God knows** (*these represent Christians who worship in Most Holy Place*).

Can you identify Biblically which area of the temple that you serve in and why? After you have been through this study you should be able to accomplish that very task!

Let us remember that man is a trinity! (*If you are not aware of the Rivkah Ministries Bible Study entitled "Spirit, Soul and Body" you can obtain a written copy and or sound file from <http://Rivkah.org> on the World Wide Web.*) We remember Paul's clear, concise and foundational statement concerning the human makeup, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess 5:23). Paul clearly states that we are made-up of three differing aspects or components:

1. Spirit;
2. Soul;
3. and Body.



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Where in the Temple of God are you serving?

We will study this table by rows. Through the process we will work from the Outer Court into the Most Holy Place.

Parts of all Mankind	What food do they eat?	Spiritual Condition?	Where in the temple are these Located?	What activities are these involved?	What issues are involved here?
<p>Body</p> <p><i>This is the Baby Level!</i></p> <p>Prophecy level is Worldly</p>	<p>Milk</p> <p>— “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe” (Heb 5:12-13)</p>	<p>Conversion –</p> <p>Yes Saved – but not walking in Illumination these are still walking in the flesh. They continually need the milk of the word.</p>	<p>Outer Court –</p> <p>These are always at <u>Brazen</u> Altar or at the <u>Bronze</u> Laver of Washing. Brass implies Trials!</p> <p>Bronze=Fire</p> <p>They want the flesh to be pacified and honored. Their vision includes only their own position not the more broad revelation!</p>	<p>Seeking Help</p> <p>Always seeking help from man! Please pray for me; please help me; I need a pastor, a preacher, a teacher to show me how and what to do.</p> <p>“Please give me a three step plan for Spiritual Success”</p> <p>In the Outer Court the <u>physical sun is their light</u>: they have limited vision.</p>	<p>They often say, “I am offended! If that person is really a Christian, they’re supposed to love me; how could they have treated me in that fashion or spoken to me like that? I deserve an apology. I just might not show up for three weeks that will teach them.”</p>
<p>Soul</p> <p><i>This is the keep on going level!</i></p> <p><i>Purge me with Hissop!</i></p> <p>Prophecy level – these know that God is Good!</p>	<p>Bread –</p> <p>“Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and <u>go on to maturity</u>, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God” (Heb 6:1) (RSV)</p> <p>This level is only in part! (Read 1Cor 3:4-5) – Personality Based! “But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away” (1 Cor 13:10)</p>	<p>Changing</p> <p>“And be not conformed to this world: <u>but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind</u>, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (Rom 12:2-3)</p>	<p>Inner Court – (The Holy Place)</p> <p>–These must realize that they still need to advance to the next level! (See “<u>go on</u>”)</p> <p>These know that they are hungry. They have advanced beyond milk and they are always eating shew bread but they are not yet ready for spiritual meat!</p> <p>“If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons” (Heb 12:7)</p>	<p>Moving</p> <p>These must learn to move from the Holy to the Divine! They light the Menorah. Oil and fire corresponds to humanity filled with the Holy Spirit! However, in the Holy Place, it takes both flesh and spirit to produce light! When light comes, flesh gets confused about <u>who</u> produced the light!</p> <p>These most often pray for themselves, seldom for others.</p>	<p>At times these can become self-righteous! “Don’t others see all that I have done for this church?” “I have revelation from God.” While these are taking the glory they will not make it into the (Most Holy Place). “Glory” is the meaning of Hebrew word Chabod! see – (1 Sam 4:21) “Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place” (Ezek 3:12)</p>
<p>Spirit</p> <p><i>This is the knowing God level!</i></p> <p>Prophecy level – Those who God Knows</p>	<p>Spiritual Meat</p> <p>– “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work” (John 4:34)</p> <p>“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb 5:14)</p>	<p>Mature</p> <p>“our <u>fellowship</u> is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3)</p> <p>These Christians have reached the level where angels carefully listen to their words. They often use the “Word of God” in their requests, “ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word” (Ps 103:20)</p>	<p>(Most Holy Place)</p> <p>These have penetrated beyond the veil! They have arrived at the very Mercy Seat – Ark of God!</p> <p>These regularly pray and intercede for others and live in the Love of God, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 21)</p>	<p>Godly Direction</p> <p>These get their light from God. From the Most Holy Place, these Christians “call things which be not as though they were!”</p> <p>– There is no physical light in this section of the Temple. All light in the Most Holy Place comes directly from God! “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5)</p> <p>See also (Rev 22:5)</p>	<p>These have fully crucified their flesh! They follow the instructions, which come directly from the voice of God! They realize that the (Most Holy Place) is not a location but a presence! Instead of problems, there are answers in His presence!</p>



The Temple of God

Where in the Temple of God are you serving?

Did you identify yourself? Are you satisfied with the location in the temple from which you serve? We should be able to recognize our location. **A major key to growth**

comes through understanding that in moving to the next level we always pass through the fire, “think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you” (1 Peter 4:12). Satan tries to keep us imprisoned through fiery trials! However, a fiery trial does not have to burn us up! In fact we don’t even need to smell like smoke, “nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them” (Dan 3:27).

Whenever we make an advance in the spiritual realm, Satan will definitely send fiery trials! The safest way to past through fire is by getting down on our face. When going through any fire the safest location is always flat on the floor. We should not be surprised by any of Satan’s trials, “**think it not strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you!” Only when we are caught by surprise we are in trouble! (*Japan’s Attack Hawaii – Twin Towers*) We need to realize that once we go on the offensive we kick the tail of the enemy! Since we have the shield of faith we should take away the element of surprise form the enemy, “**Think it not strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, **as though some strange thing happened unto you**” (1 Peter 4:12), this verse teaches us quite a bit of information. However notice the very next verse, “**But rejoice** (*The “but” cancels out the previous verse! “But” always cancels out the thing that was previously mentioned. That word “but” has a canceling power over whatever was earlier spoken. Consider a woman expecting a proposal for marriage. The man might say, “We have become so close and I certainly love you, but...!*), inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, **ye may be glad also with exceeding joy**” (1 Peter 4:13). “Shall be revealed” is future tense; “rejoice” is a present tense action. Did you notice that rejoicing **cancels out the power of the trial** noted in verse 12 “Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you!” Rejoicing cancels out the power of the fire! Once the power of the trial has been cancelled the enemy no longer has advantage through his threats over our lives! The net effect is that the enemy may have a gun on us but we have removed his bullets!

We must also be sure to establish our minds on the Faith of Christ and not fear Satan’s threats, “Then was Nebuchadnezzar **full of fury**, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and **commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more** than it was wont to be heated” (Dan 3:19). Satan will lie to us and warn that if we think that it was bad before then just wait until the fire is heated seven times more. However, just like the Jewish heroes who went through the fires ordered by the harsh king, our attitude should be, “**our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **But if not**, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods**, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (Dan 3:17-18).

We may be bound by our problems when we go into the fiery trial, “And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down **bound** into the midst of the burning fiery furnace” (Dan 3:23). However, the king was amazed at what he saw when he looked into the furnace, “the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men **bound** into the midst of the fire? They answered and



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Where in the Temple of God are you serving?

said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, ***I see four men loose***, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God” (Dan 3:24-25). Jesus always joins us in our trials!

Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten, and cast into a prison. We pick up the story, “And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks” (Acts 16:22-24). However, the prison could not hold them, “**at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God**: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's **bands were loosed**” (Acts 16:25-26). Through praying and singing praises Paul and Silas effectively broke the power of the enemies trial. Notice however, out of their inspiration all the bonds of the prison were broken, “**and every one's bands were loosed**” (Acts 16:26). Our spiritual power strengthens others!

If you remember reading this story you might have noticed something interesting. Once they were set free from the prison (*or their problems*), they did not have to leave, “and the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: **for we are all here**” (Acts 16:27-28). Once they overcame their problem, they didn't have to flee because nothing could harm them! **They had broken the power of their problem!** Our job is to **break the power of the problems that try to hold us!** Rejoicing nullifies the power of the trial!

“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but **be of good cheer**; I have overcome the world!” (John 16:33) James teaches us, “My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations” (James 1:2)! You simply cannot get away from the fact that we are to experience joy in tribulations. We can learn a lot when we realize that the Negro slaves of a little over a century ago sang joyful spiritual songs of freedom while they were yet in the midst of their bonds! Many of the “Negro spiritual” songs are still sung in the culture today! We always find freedom when we sing while under bonds of oppression! **We need to make the choice to rejoice!**

Is their biblical proof to the hypothesis that we actually advance through our trials? Notice James' answer, “Let the brother of low degree (*The one who is in the midst of the trial!*) rejoice (*Rejoicing over the trial needs to come while he is in low degree or in the trial!*) in that he is exalted (*being lifted up*)” (James 1:9).

Notice that it is “followers of them who **through faith and patience inherit the promises**” (Heb 6:12). Notice carefully that when faith and patience work together we inherit the promises! Satan is too blinded by his own evil ways that he does not realize that he is actually empowering us through our trials! When we get a trial we are being lifted up.

Have you ever gotten tired of going through trials? “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

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