



The TEMPLE Worship

INTRODUCTION

In the Bible we get to see different types of offerings and sacrifices that men render unto God in recognition of who He is to them even as their Creator, Maker and Giver of all things. Some render such to idols and false gods instead. Men generally give back to the source from where they acknowledge those things that they have received emanate from. They do so for various reasons- it can be in appreciation, act of worship, thanksgiving, love, compulsion, in anticipation of more, in submission to the rule of another, subtly for advantage, etc.

Man was created for fellowship with God and from the very beginning this was the case in the garden that God kept Man to keep and tend to on His behalf (**Gen. 2:8,15; Gen. 3:8**). But in this interaction what was man's own part or input? Generally to obey the voice of God in keeping the commandment that God had given him. This basically was entirely what God required of Man to do (**Gen. 2:16-17**). That was before the fall of Man in the Garden of Eden.

THE BEGINNING OF OFFERING AND SACRIFICE

Unfortunately, Man could not keep to this basic divine instruction and was enticed to seek more than was ascribed to him by the all knowing God. Adam found what he was seeking for in Woman and fell into disobedience to the voice of God by hearkening unto the voice of Eve after the serpent had defiled her temple by exposing her nakedness in transgression. Both were punished by being ejected out of the garden of pleasure and enjoyment unto the cursed ground of toil and sorrow in the world outside. **Gen. 3:23-24; 1 Tim. 2:14**

Man fell short of the glory of God, losing his celestial/spiritual nature unto being made terrestrial/earthy and subject to the corruption of sin and death instead. Adam began to produce the image of the earthy as children. Though God punished or chastised Man thus, yet He did not abandon him nor send him out in the cold

naked, rather He clothed them with coats of skins as it were. **Gen. 5:3; I Cor. 15:39-40,47-49; Gen. 3:21**

God furthermore blessed Eve with two sons, Cain and Abel, who labored on the land, Cain as a tiller of the ground and Abel as a keeper of sheep. The Bible makes us to know that in the process of their relationship with God they decided to reciprocate the blessings of God on them. And the means they thought up for doing this was to render an offering unto God from the produce of the works of their hands. This God had neither commanded them to do nor requested it of them, but this they did out of their own heart volition and thinking as it were.

Gen. 4:1-5 (Vr.3 And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. **Vr.4** And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: **Vr.5** But unto Cain and to his offerings he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

This was the introduction of offerings by Man unto God and a demonstration of the fact that not all such offerings and sacrifice was acceptable to God. Why? Because God is a discerner of the heart and He receives from only a humble and a contrite heart that which is offered willingly.

Altar building unto the Lord commences

Subsequently, the wickedness of man grew and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart became evil continually, as it were from the lineage of Cain. And God decided to destroy all flesh from the face of the earth. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Why?

Gen. 6:1-22 (Vr.8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. **Vr.9** These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. **Vr.21** And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be food for thee, and for them. **Vr.22** Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

God revealed his plan to destroy the whole earth with a flood to Noah and therefore gave him instructions on how to preserve his family and various species of living things, animals and plants. And also for food during the deluge as it were. After, God remembered Noah and every living thing with him in the ark and caused the waters to abate and they came forth unto dry ground again. Noah, as did his fathers, on his own took clean animals and offered it unto God this time as a burnt offering on an altar specifically. The Lord smelled a sweet savour, was delighted with it and blessed Noah entering a covenant with him subsequently.

Gen. 8:15-21 (Vr.20 And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. **Vr.21** And the Lord smelled a sweet savour;

Similarly, when God commanded Abram to get out of his father's house and country unto the land that He will shew him, Abram hearkened and obeyed God as he was commanded. Subsequently, when the Lord appeared unto him and restated his promise to bless him and give him the land wherein he was a stranger, Abram built an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord there. **Gen. 12:1-9**

Note that men had begun to call upon the name of the Lord right from the time of Seth, Adam's son, but without mention of any altar being built (**Gen. 4:25-26**). It was in Noah's and Abram's own time that this was mentioned specifically as it were. And from then onwards, Abram continually built open air altars whenever he encountered God in the course of his sojourn in this strange land, wherein he dwelt in tents. This seemed to be his own reciprocal gesture to God for His great promises and love towards him.
Gen. 13:14-18

Abram took this act of gratitude to God a notch higher when he encountered for the first time a physical representative of this invisible God that he has had to do with all this while, Melchizedek king of Salem and priest of the most high God. Melchizedek met Abram on the way from the slaughter of the four kings in which God had given him victory over them, and he blessed Abram. And Abram did a novel thing by giving tithes of all that he had won from the battle to the priest. **Gen. 14:17-20**. So now we have a combination of things mentioned in Abram's walk with God thus far, offering, altar, priest, blessing and tithe but yet no mention of temple nor tabernacle, as it were. So, Melchizedek was able to minister unto God as a king and priest without recourse to a physical temple as a place of worship. A similitude that Christ, the Son of God, was to follow suit in his own time and we his disciples too.

God followed up on this altar sacrifice with Abraham by testing him with the sacrifice of his only son, Isaac in order to see whether his walk with him was from the heart or otherwise. Always keep in mind, God is a Spirit and he is not so much interested in burnt offerings than in your obeying his voice/word (**1 Sam. 15:22-24**).

Gen. 22:1-19 (Vr.1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. **Vr.2** And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. **Vr.16** And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: **Vr.17** That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; **Vr.18** And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; BECAUSE THOU HAST OBEYED MY VOICE.

PROPOSITION OF TEMPLE WORSHIP MUTED

Jacob, a seed of Abraham, followed in the step of his father Abraham. How? Jacob responded to God's promise and confirmation of His covenant with his fathers, Abraham and Isaac, with the vow of erecting God's house (temple) and the tithe to bring into it as it were, thereby establishing the principle of building a house for God to be made with hands. As it were, Jacob's vow fulfillment was passed on to the generations of his twelve sons, the nation of Israel by a law after God's fulfillment of His promise to their father, Israel. How? in giving them the Promised Land to inhabit after bringing them out of Egypt by a mighty hand through his servant, Moses.

Gen. 28:10-22 (Vr.15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. **Vr.17** And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. **Vr.20** And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, **Vr.21** So that I come again

to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: **Vr.22** And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tent unto thee.

Gen. 31:11-16 (Vr.13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred. **Vr.18** And he carried away all his cattle, and all his goods which he had gotten, the cattle of his getting, which he had gotten in Padan-aram, for to go to Isaac his father in the land of Canaan. (God does not forget)

Jacob made a vow of tithe and establishing of God's house, which he could not fulfill in his own lifetime but which God held the generation of his children unto by the Law that came through Moses.

Jesus Christ our Lord and Master, the mediator of the New Testament enjoins us not to vow or swear even as can be seen with Jacob. Why? Because it is not in your own power to control the conditions that might cause you to default or fail in the fulfillment of such a vow as ye ought to, neither can you guarantee its fulfillment in your own lifetime, which otherwise becomes a yoke upon the fruit of your loins, your children yet unborn. It is only God that can swear and guarantee that it shall surely come to pass as he intends it to no matter how long it takes or the mitigating circumstances that are set to hinder it from being. Why? Because He can do all things and liveth forever more. **Mtt 5:33-37; Jam 5:12; Eccl 5:1-7; Ezek. 18:2.** God takes vows very seriously and will hold any man that opens his mouth to do so before His presence accountable for it. **Deu. 23:21-23; Ps 15:1-4; Jam. 4:12-16**

The men of old were given to making vows to God, even the children of Israel, who repeatedly failed in keeping their own part of the vow or covenant with God and suffered the negative consequences therefore, while some on an individual basis kept theirs, for example Hannah. A special case in point of seeming rashness in vowing, apart from that of Jacob, was that which Jephthah similarly made when he was to go into battle. He was unsure of having victory over his enemies, the Ammonites, therefore he entered into a vow with God. It was a seeming rash one, but which he had to fulfill nonetheless thereby setting a precedence of having daughters remain as virgins in Israel being dedicated to the service of God till death without marrying (a fulfillment of a father's vow to God), thereby yoking generations yet unborn to this his singular vow till date. **Jud 11:1-40; Ezek 18:2**

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Jer. 7:21-28 (Vr.21 Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. **Vr.22** For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: **Vr.23** But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. **Vr.24** But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

After the four hundred and thirty years of captivity in Egypt, God brought the children of Israel with a mighty hand and drowned the chariots of Pharaoh in the crossing of the Red sea. God accomplished this through the hand of Moses, whom He made the mediator of the Old Testament as it were. During the journey in the wilderness God called up Moses into the mount for a forty days and forty night duration. And as part of the things that God instructed Moses in receiving the Laws in the mount, God showed him a pattern of the heavenly tabernacle for him to build. Why?

Exo. 25:1-9,40 (Vr.8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. **Vr.9** According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.

God's intention of choosing the children of Israel from amongst all the nations of the world was to raise a peculiar people unto himself, a kingdom of priests and an holy nation, that He might dwell in their midst all their days. Unfortunately, the children of Israel consistently failed to live up to this desire of God till date. **Exo. 19:6; Deu. 14:2; Deu. 26:18-19**

The children of Israel used to worship and sacrifice in various high places all over the land of Israel and the Tabernacle of the congregation used to be moved from one place to the other by the Levites. **2 Chron. 1:3-7** It is worthy to note that it is the Tabernacle that God specifically instructed for Moses to build, as a shadow of the true Tabernacle in heaven, and not the physical Temple that David conceived as it were. The Tabernacle was initiated by God, but the Temple by man.

THE TEMPLE IN THE PROMISED LAND

The children of Israel continued to operate this mobile tent-like Tabernacle throughout their wilderness experience unto their inheriting the Promise Land. But in the time of King David, his heart was moved while in his house made of cedar wood to also build a solid permanent house for God and God accepted. This was not due to God's command for him to do so as Moses was commanded in the mount but because David was a man after God's heart and his heart moved him to conceive such an idea and God said he did well to have conceived it in his heart. **2 Chron. 6:7-9.** God had to choose a place in Israel in order to put His name there and that happened to be the city of David, called Jerusalem (**1 Kings 11:32,36**).

1 Chron. 17:1-15 (Vr.1 Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord remaineth under curtains (the Tabernacle). **Vr.2** Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee. **Vr.4** Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in: **Vr.5** For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up Israel unto this day; **Vr.6** Wheresoever I have walked with all Israel, spake I a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people, saying, Why have ye not built me an house of cedars?

God honoured King David's heartfelt inclination of building a permanent house, a temple for the ark of covenant of the Lord through his son Solomon subsequently. All these were in fulfillment to the vow that their father Jacob made in his time of escape from Esau while they were yet in his loins. God by the Spirit gave David the pattern of the temple to be built which he left for his son, Solomon to follow and implement. Why the temple in David's thinking?

1 Chron. 28:1-21 (Vr.2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: **Vr.9** And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. **Vr.10** Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it. **Vr.11** Then David gave to Solomon his son the

pattern of the porch, and the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, **Vr. 12** And the pattern of all, that he had by the spirit of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things: **Vr. 19** All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

King Solomon built the temple of God in Jerusalem, a magnificent edifice for the sanctuary of the LORD and the Lord put his name there at its dedication. **2 Chron. 5:1-14**;

2 Chron. 6:1-42 (**Vr. 2** But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever. **Vr. 5** Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there; neither chose I any man to be ruler over my people Israel: **Vr. 6** But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel. **Vr. 7** Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the Lord God of Israel.

2 Chron. 7:1-22 (**Vr. 12** And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. **Vr. 14** If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. **Vr. 15** Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attend unto the prayer that is made in this place. **Vr. 16** For now have I chosen and sanctified this house that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE DESTROYED

2 Chron. 7:1-22 (**Vr. 19** But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; **Vr. 20** Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. **Vr. 21** And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the Lord done thus unto this land, and unto this house? **Vr. 22** And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

True to type, the children of Israel turned away from following God unto idol worship and that which was said against them by the Lord came to pass. This Solomon's temple, known as the First Temple, was plundered by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar when the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem during the brief reign of Jehoiakim, Josiah's grandson. **2 Kings 24:1-16**. A decade later, Nebuchadnezzar again besieged Jerusalem and after thirty months finally breached the city walls in 587 BCE, subsequently burnt the Temple, along with most of the city. (reference [Wikipedia](#))

2 Kings 25:1-21 (**Vr. 8** And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzar-adan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem: **Vr. 9** And he burnt the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire. **Vr. 10** And all the army of the Chaldees, that were with the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about. **Vr. 21** So Judah was carried away out of their land.

Rebuilding of the Temple-The Second Temple (Herod's Temple)

The accession of Cyrus the Great of Persia in 538 BCE made the re-establishment of the city of Jerusalem and the rebuilding of the Temple possible. According to the Bible, when the Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem following a decree from King Cyrus (**Ezra 1:1-4; 2 Chron. 36:22-23**), construction started at the original site of Solomon's Temple, which had remained a devastated heap during the approximately 70 years of captivity (**Dan. 9:1-2**). After a relatively brief halt due to opposition from peoples who had filled the vacuum during the Jewish captivity (**Ezra 4**), work resumed under the Persian King Darius the Great (**Ezra 5**) and was completed during the sixth year of his reign (c 516 BCE). The temple dedication took place the following year amid great rejoicings on the part of all the people although it was evident that the Jews were no longer an independent people, but were subject to a foreign power. Flavius Josephus records that Herod the Great completely rebuilt the Temple in 20-18 BCE, even going so far as to replace the foundation stones and to smooth off the surface of the Temple Mount. This Temple became known as Herod's Temple. (reference Wikipedia)

Some of the original artifacts were, according to the biblical account, lost after the destruction of the First Temple, and the Second Temple lacked the following holy articles:

1. The Ark of the Covenant containing the Tablets of Stone, before which were placed the pot of manna and Aaron's rod
2. The Urim and Thummim (divination objects)
3. The Holy oil
4. The sacred fire

In the Second Temple, the Holy of Holies was separated by curtains (veil) rather than a wall as in the First Temple. Still, as in the Tabernacle, the Second Temple included:

1. The Golden lamp
2. The Table of the Shewbread
3. The golden altar of incense, with the golden censers.

The Second Temple also included many of the original vessels of gold that had been taken by the Babylonians but restored by Cyrus the Great. However, the Temple lacked the Shekinah, the dwelling or settling divine presence of God, and the Spirit of Holiness, present in the first.

Herod's Temple Destroyed

It is interesting to note the Herod the Great that rebuilt the Temple was the same one reigning over the Jews at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ. He took upon himself the title King of the Jews at that time and was troubled when the true King of the Jews was born according to scriptural prophesy. Therefore, he sought to eliminate the child Jesus which led to the massacre of the innocents from two years old and under in Bethlehem, and environs **Mtt. 2:1-23**

Jesus during his adult ministerial work prophesied about the destruction of this Temple in

Mtt. 24:1-3 (Vr.1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the building of the temple. **Vr.2** And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

This particular prophesy came to pass years after his ascension during the quelling of the Great Jewish Revolt of 70 CE under Roman army captain Titus. It was the Romans that destroyed Herod's temple. And till this day the Jews have not been able to rebuild the temple again. Rather where it stood the Muslims have built their shrine called the Dome of the Rock and adjacent to it a mosque called Al Aqsa. These serve as the third most holy site in Islam till date. (**reference Wikipedia**)

CHRIST ABOLISHED THE PHYSICAL TEMPLE WORSHIP

Mtt 12:6 But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.

Mk 14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

Hebr. 8:1-13 (Vr.1 We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; **Vr.2** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. **Vr.5** Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Jn. 2:13-22 (Vr.19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. **Vr.20** Then said the Jews, forty and six years was this temple in building and wilt thou rear it up in three days? **Vr.21** But he spake of the temple of his body.

Temple worship was abolished by the final and ultimate sacrifice of the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world, once and for all by his crucifixion on the cross of Calvary. That marked the end and abolition of the physical temple animal sacrifices done by the priests continually on the behalf of themselves and the people for their sins under the Law cum first testament. How?

High priests ordained by men had need to continually go to a physical altar in a physical temple annually (year in year out) to offer sacrifices of goats and bulls first for their own sins, then for the sins of the people. Thereby was remembrance of sins made before God continually. And without these animal sacrifices there was neither forgiveness nor remission of sins for that year, implying that the sins of the people would remain uncovered before God as it were. **Hebr. 5:1-4; Hebr. 7:27-28; Hebr 10:14-21**

The implication of this was that, where there is no temple in Jerusalem, there can be no high priest to render these annual sacrifices to God on behalf of the people, implying that the sins of the people yet remaineth with them until these rituals are done in the temple. Jesus told the Jews as much, who received him not nor believed in him as both the Lamb of atonement for their sins past, once and for all, under the Old Testament (**Rom 3:24-25**) and subsequently as their New Testament high priest in the true temple of God in heaven (**Jn 8:21-28; Heb. 8:1-2**).

The testimony of Jesus against the temple of his time (**Mtt 24:1-3**) came to pass after his ascension during the destruction of Herod's temple by the Romans in the quelling of the Great Jewish Revolt of 70 CE under Titus. And from then till date the temple has not be rebuilt in Israel for the yearly sacrifices to be done for the children of Israel that yet cling unto the Law of Moses, for the forgiveness and remission of their sins having rejected

Christ as their Messiah and the propitiation of their sins. So their sin remaineth with them still and they continue to die therein as it were. **Hebr. 10:1-18; Mtt. 23:37-39**

Jn. 8:21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. **Vr. 24** I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. **Vr. 25** Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning. **Vr. 28** Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he.

Qn: What happened when Christ was lifted up and sacrificed as a Lamb of atonement?

Mtt. 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **Vr. 51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent: **Vr. 52** And the graves were opened;

Mtt 21:13-12 (Vr. 13 It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

Qn: What is God's house on earth today? **I Cor. 3:9, 16-17; I Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:16; Hebr. 10:21; Eph 2:19-22**

Hebr. 3:6 But Christ as a Son over his own house, whose house are we: if we hold fast

As New Testament saints of Christ, true worshippers, we worship God not in the mountains nor in Jerusalem, but in our hearts having our bodies sanctified by the Holy Ghost as the image temple of God. Christ our Messiah have come and told us these things, yet the CAO religious leaders stubbornly refuse to hearken to him. **Hosea 8:14**

Jn. 4:20-26 (Vr. 21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. **Vr. 22** Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. **Vr. 23** 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. **Vr. 24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Acts 7:47-49 (Vr. 47 But Solomon built him an house. **Vr. 48** Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands as saith the prophet. **Vr. 49** Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool; what house will ye build me? Saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? **Vr. 50** hath not my hand made all these things?

Acts 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; **Vr. 25** Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Rom. 8:7-8 (Vr. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Christ abolished the physical temple system of the Law and established the mobile tabernacle system of grace, an image temple of God on the earth, of which are bodies are.

THE ORDER OF PRIESTHOOD HAS CHANGED

Hebr. 8:1-13 (Vr.1 We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; **Vr.3** For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. **Vr.4** For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: **Vr.5** Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things.

The former order of the Levitical priesthood under the Law in the O.T., operated by the tribe of Levi, have been replaced with the similitude of the Melchisedec order of priesthood of which Christ, being from the tribe of Judah, was consecrated under as it were. And with the coming of the Holy Ghost, we Christ's disciples are called unto this priesthood also (**Rev. 1:5-6**).

Hebr. 7:5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren though they come out of the loins of Abraham. **Vr.11** If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec and not be called after the order of Aaron?. **Vr.12 For the priesthood being changed there is made of necessity a change also of the law.** **Vr.13** For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. **Vr.14** For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. **Vr.15** And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, **Vr.16** Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment but after the power of an endless life. **Vr.18** For there is verily a disannulling of commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. **Vr.19** For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Christ was not consecrated/made a high priest by the law, but by the word of oath and does not offer daily sacrifices for the people's sins, for this he did once and for all, unlike men on earth that are made high priest by the law, men which have infirmity and are subject to death. Brethren, the law has changed with the coming of Christ, from the carnal to the spiritual and ye need to run with this law of liberty rather than still remain in the law of condemnation.

Hebr. 10:1-18 (Vr.5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: **Vr.8** Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offerings for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; **Vr.9** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Our Manner of Priesthood as N.T. Saints

I Pet. 2:4-11 (Vr.5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood (to do what?) to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ (our high priest in the heavenly temple of God) **Vr.9** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal (kingly) priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness unto his marvelous light.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **Vr.2** And be not conformed to this world: (as the kings of the Gentiles are)

Hebr. 10:5,10,19-21

Christ is greater than the temple and therefore need no physical block building called temple as a requisite for his office function as our high priest. For he is an high priest of the temple made without hands in heaven before God. We also as his saints require not a physical building called temple (or "church" erroneously called) in order to function as priests unto God, rather our body currently serves the purpose as an image temple, the temple of the living God here on earth presently and the building as our gathering/meeting place instead.

I Cor 14:23

You would note that Melchisedec whose order of priesthood Christ is similarly ordained after, operated no physical temple system and as such it was only once when Abraham encountered him on the way that he gave him a tenth of his spoil from the victory of war and not continually as a temple service thereafter, because there was no such temple building erected by Melchisedec for such. Similarly, our priesthood is not subject to worship in physical temples but bodily temples as it were. Furthermore, Melchisedec was both a king and a priest, of which Christ being the King of kings, makes us kings and priests unto God according to the same order as it were. **Rev. 1:5-6; Gen. 14:18; I Pet. 2:5,9**

We as priests of God minister unto God and render spiritual services on the altar of our heart in the temple of our body unto God by the workings of the indwelling Holy Ghost we receive in baptism. **I Jn.2:26-27; Hebr. 8:10-12; Jn. 6:45; Jn. 14:26; Acts 15:21**

Jesus Christ and his Apostles that followed suit did not waste time and resources building magnificent structures as temple edifices or cathedrals, rather they utilized the buildings and houses that were on ground wherever people congregate, some also owned by brethrens that made them available for use, in order to accomplish the ministry work on earth. Moreover, he said unto them, go into the cities and whichever houses that thou visit enter and say, Peace be unto this house. **Mk 6:6-11; Acts 5:42; Mtt. 26:17-20**

Jn 18:19-21 (Vr.20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

Acts 18:1-6 (Vr.4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

THE MODERN DAY TEMPLE

The CAO still runs and sustains the modern day physical temple system of worship which they call churches erroneously but are rather church buildings instead, contrary to the biblical definition of the Church as the Body of Christ, a spiritual house cum building of God instead. **Eph. 2:19-22; I Cor. 3:9; I Cor. 12:12**

By maintaining the temple system, the CAO continually try to serve two masters, having affirmed that the gospel that they peddle cannot be preached without money (**Mtt. 6:24**). Therefore what we have is a monetized system, where merchandizing of the souls of men is carried out through all manner of seductive

practices (**Rev 18:12-13**). Buying and selling, vigorous marketing, advertising and competition for members by all mean, rather than focusing on making true disciples for Christ through their ministries. We have men exalting themselves as papas, daddies, reverend fathers, high priest etc acquiring earthly possessions above every other consideration as erroneous proof of God's blessing upon them (**Mtt. 23:5-9**). They go about building magnificent cathedrals and business empires all in the name of building the church or the kingdom of God, the spiritual versus the physical at variance. **Mtt. 23:16-33; Lk. 16:13-15; I Tim. 6:4-11; Mk. 13:1-3**

The Master said "I will build my church" and not any man as it were. Christ did not commission Peter or any man for that matter to build his spiritual house, the Church, it is by the Holy Ghost and the word of his grace that it is built rather what he commissioned men to do is to "feed my sheep", make disciples for him. Instead men through the temple worship system are fleecing the sheep and making disciples for themselves, building cathedrals and enriching themselves. **Mtt. 16:6,18; Jn. 21:14-17; Acts 20:27-35; Jer. 3:15; Hosea 8:14**

The temple has truly been turned into a den of thieves/robbers and a house of merchandise according to divine prophesy. Wherein is found hirelings rather than shepherds, goats rather than sheep, wolves in sheep clothing as it were. You find congregations that are stiffnecked, uncircumcised and rebellious at heart, having itching ears, apt to believe a lie than accept the truth. Their women doing that which is uncomely, praying with their hair uncovered dishonouring their head openly, wearing that which is to their shame in the guise of fashion and liberality. Fornication, adultery, divorce, lasciviousness, disobedience, covetousness and every other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine is the order of the day in their midst. They are given to spending resources in beautifying the temple building, which are in actual fact sepulchers overflowing with dead men's bones (the blind and deceived), and outwardly boisterous, appearing righteous before men, but within they are full of hypocrisy, iniquity, uncleanness while the poor in their midst continue to languish. Abominable acts are committed by the ministers at the altars of such temple ranging from fornication to theft, falsehood, and the preaching of the another gospel therein. **I Cor. 11:5-16; I Pet. 3:1-5; Rev. 2:20-23; Rev. 3:1-2; Deu 22:5; Mtt. 23:27-28**

In these CAO temples, we find ministers of the Old Testament and not able ministers of the New Testament. Rather on Sundays in every city in their church buildings, they continually preach the Law and the Prophets and the percepts therein rather than grace, truth and the doctrine of Christ; thereby keeping their congregation under the yoke and the ministration of condemnation, retaining the covering of the veil till date, as it were. They glory in that which has been done away with- circumcision, tithing, Sabbath keeping, altar sacrifices, temple feasts, etc. **Acts 15:21-29; 2 Cor. 3:5-15; Gal. 2:18-21**

THE TRUE TABERNACLE IN HEAVEN

There is the true tabernacle of God in heaven which shall come down even at the establishment of the new heaven and new earth era; the pattern of which Moses was asked to make in the wilderness as instructed by God.

Rev 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament and there were lightening and voices and thundering and an earthquake and great hail.

Hebr. 8:1-13 (Vr.1 We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; **Vr.2** A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.

Rev. 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Vr.3** Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Isa 6:1-4; Rev 7:14-15; Rev 15:5-8

CONCLUSION

It is pertinent to note here for emphasis that running temple building system involve carnal ordinances and practices, things of the shadow that God permissively allowed in the time of old (**Acts 17:24-25**). However, these ordinances were to be set aside with the Law of the first covenant by the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who established a new covenant based on better promises that are spiritual cum everlasting in nature and no longer physical and temporal (**Heb. 9:8-12**). Abraham was told to sacrifice his only begotten son, Isaac, as a shadow of that which was to come, while God sacrificed His only begotten Son as the true sacrifice (**Hebr. 11:17-19**). David sought to build a physical house cum temple for God, which is a shadow, but God built His own image temple, the body of His Son, Jesus Christ for himself on earth- **I Chron. 17:11-12,14; Jn. 2:19-21; Hebr. 10:5-10; Mtt. 16:18; Jn. 12:24**

What God requires of us first and foremost is not mere physical offerings and sacrifices and temples (carnal services), but for us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, even as His temple, holy acceptable unto Him, which is our acceptable spiritual service to Him. For us to glorify Him by bearing much fruit that shall abide and showing mercy to our fellow man. Every other service is secondarily and shall be acceptable to God from us only when we are mindful to fulfill the first things first. **Rom 12:1; I Cor. 6:19; II Cor. 6:16; Jn. 15:7-10; Lk. 10:29-37**

Jer. 7:1-15 (Vr.4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these. **Vr.8** Behold, ye trust in lying words that cannot profit. **Vr.9** Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely... **Vr.10** And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? **Vr.11** Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord. **Vr.12** But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. **Vr.14** Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

Furthermore, in fulfillment of the last days prophesy we yet anticipate that the Jews of Israel today shall in the future embark on building the third temple in the Mount and restore the daily sacrifice therein, which shall see the antichrist committing the abomination of desolation prophesied by Daniel in order to herald the Great Tribulation era proper. **Mtt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:2-4; Dan. 8:9-26; Dan. 11:27-39; Dan. 12:9-12; Micah 4:1-2**

For now the spirit of the anti christ is already at work against the image temple of God causing many to desecrate their bodies through all manner of sexually immoral acts - fornication, lesbianism, homosexuality, bestiality, etc. As the serpent deceived Eve in the garden unto exposing her nakedness in transgression (spiritual fornication) at the very beginning so he is yet doing at the ending in greater measure as it were. **Eph 2:2; I Jn. 2:18-19; I Jn. 4:3; 2 Jn. 1:7**

For those CAOs that yet cling tenaciously to operating the similitude of the physical temple worship system which has been abolished in Christ Jesus under the New Testament (**Jn. 2:19-22**), they are engaged in vain worship still rather than in the true worship of God (**Jn. 4:20-24; Mk 7:6-9**).

They are given to building temples all over the place and erroneously tell men that that is where the presence of God is, a building, and not in their hearts, that is the error of our times. They cause men to revere buildings in order to keep it holy while being negligent of their bodies to keep it holy instead, Satan thereby having a field day in desecrating their bodies (the real image temple) in sexual immorality continually (**Acts 7:47-51**).

They are yet tied to worshipping God with money, altar gifts/sacrifices, tithes, etc according to the Law, which can never justify a man before God rather than in spirit and in truth from the heart.

Wherever the temple of God is found, whether it be the physical and/or bodily, Satan is set against it to desecrate and defile it by all means possible. Beware let no man deceive you. **Mtt. 15:16-20; Mtt. 5:27-28**

Let he that hath ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto all. **I Cor 3:16-17**

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.