

Solomon Dedicates the Temple

Key Verse: *“The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’S house.”*
—II Chronicles 7:2

Selected Scripture:
II Chronicles 7:1-7,11

THE TEMPLE SOLOMON built was an illustration of a greater, spiritual temple which God is building during the present Gospel Age, made of Jesus and his “little flock.” (Luke 12:32) Paul states, “ye are the temple of God.” (I Cor. 3:16,17; 12:27) Our Lord Jesus is the “foundation” of this heavenly temple.—I Cor. 3:11

Each literal stone selected to be part of Solomon’s Temple was “made ready before it was brought”—cut, shaped, and polished ahead of time in order to fit exactly into its final location in the Temple. Therefore, when the time came to assemble all the stones together to complete the building, there was no need for a hammer or chisel. (I Kings 6:1-7) This foreshadowed how God is preparing, developing, and proving each of his consecrated ones now. The trials and difficulties of life are pictured by the chiseling and polishing which came upon each literal stone, illustrating the preparation of each member of the body of Christ for a future work.

Peter adds, “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (I Pet.

2:5-9) This spiritual temple in heaven will soon be completed at the end of the present Gospel Age, when the last member of the “little flock” is found faithful unto death.—Rev. 2:10

After the Temple was completed, Solomon had the Ark of the Covenant, which pointed forward to Christ Jesus and his faithful followers, brought into the Temple. Then the Levites, musicians, and singers, “praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”—II Chron. 5:1-13

Solomon then kneeled down and offered a prayer of dedication to God. (II Chron. 6:12-42) When he finished praying, “fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices,” indicating God’s acceptance, “and the glory of the LORD filled the house.” When all the children of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord upon the Temple, they “praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”—II Chron. 7:1-3

Solomon’s Temple was to be “a house of prayer for all the nations.” (Mark 11:17, *Revised Version*; Isa. 56:7) This is an illustration of how, during the Messianic Age, after the spiritual temple will have been completed and glorified, all nations will begin to draw near to God. In order to do so, they will need to draw near this spiritual temple, because the glory of God will be revealed in her. Paul, referring to this time which will soon come, writes: “For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the revealing of the sons of God.”—Rom. 8:19, *RV*

All mankind will then be invited to approach the Lord in worship, through the completed spiritual temple—Christ Jesus, “the head of the body, the church,” along with the completed church, the “bride” class. (Rev. 22:17; Col. 1:18) Through “the Christ” class mankind will approach the Father, and all who shall hear their message and obey it will be glad. The “good tidings of great joy” will have then come to all people.—Luke 2:10 ■