

Primacy of Prayer

Herod's Temple – Rebuilt Temple (516 BC)

Place of the **Presence of God**

Principle: **Return to Me (Repent), and I'll Dwell with you** (Acts 3:19, Jam 4:8)

(Zec 1:3) ³“Therefore say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the LORD of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts.

(Zec 1:16) ¹⁶“Therefore thus says the LORD: “I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it,” says the LORD of hosts, (When did He leave Jerusalem?)

(Zec 2:10) ¹⁰“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD.

(Zec 8:21-22) ²¹The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, “let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.” ²²Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.’ (Israel's *Calling* - Gen 26:4)

Place of **Prayer** (Moses), **Worship** (David), **Instruction** (Solomon)

Principle: **Protect the Place of Prayer**

Nehemiah's Wall – Why did the enemy so resist the building of a wall?

It wasn't to protect the people; they weren't even living in the City.

Compromise, Complacency: no tithes, Levites/singers out working the fields

read law (took oath), restored tithes, Priests/singers, care of Temple

Jesus the Meek (Mat 12:18-21/Isa 42:1-4) Twice Physically Expresses His Zeal

Beginning of His ministry: just after His first miracle at the wedding in Cana

(Jn 2:13-22) ¹³Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. ¹⁵When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. ¹⁶And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!” ¹⁷Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” (Psa 69:9) ¹⁸So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?”

¹⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” ²¹But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²²Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Clues: Passover, 3 days/Resurrection, He is the Temple (Presence of God)

What was He Zealous about regarding God's house?

Court of the Gentiles: **Place of Prayer (Nations) usurped for Religious Activity**

End of His ministry: Triumphal Entry/Passover

enters lowly, riding a donkey (Mt 21:5/Zech 9:9)

acknowledged as Messiah (Anointed One), the Presence of God

(Mt 21:9) ⁹Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!”

(Ps 118:22-26) ²²The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³This was the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. ²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

His Presence must be Invited into His House (His Position, His Ways)

(Mt 21:12-14) ¹²Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³And He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ (Isa 56:7) but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” (Jer 7:11) ¹⁴Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. (Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-46)

Demonstrates He is the Presence of God (Healings)

Two Specific Statements – Prophetic References

(Isa 56:6-7) ⁶“Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants— everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant— ⁷even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Reminders: their Calling, **Primary Purpose of His House is Prayer**

(Je 7:1-14) ¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, ²“Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!’” ³Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. ⁴“Do not trust in these lying words, saying, ‘The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD,...’⁸“Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹“Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, ¹⁰“and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered to do all these abominations?’ ¹¹“Has this house, which is called by My name, become a **den of thieves** in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” says the LORD. ¹²“But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel. ¹³“And now, because you have done all these works,” says the LORD, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, ¹⁴“therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

Relying on Religious Standing without Repentance (lying words)
Ark at Shiloh (Joshua to Eli), removed, returned to Jerusalem (David)
Jeremiah's warning: Babylonian Captivity, removal of God's Presence

Jesus is Warning Jerusalem again through this reference.

(Lk 19:41-46, context Triumphal Entry) ⁴¹Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴²saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³"For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴"and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." ⁴⁵Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, ⁴⁶saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" (Mt 24:1-2)

When He was ready to Bless, they weren't willing to receive Him/His Ways

Temple Destroyed 70 AD – Where did the Presence move to?

He will return once more to the Last Days Temple only when Jerusalem is willing.

(Lk 13:34-35) ³⁴"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁵"See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"

They will acknowledge both His position and the wisdom of His ways.

(Zec 12:8-10) ⁸"In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. ⁹"It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

They will embrace a Spirit of Prayer.

Where is the Presence now? (2 Cor 3:16)

If we want the Presence...

We can't let religious activity usurp the place of prayer.

We can't let the enemy keep us from building a wall to protect the place of prayer.

We have to return to His ways (repent) so He can dwell with us.

We have to invite His rule and His ways...

including the Primacy of Prayer.