

WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?

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I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Acts 7:44-50:** ⁴⁴*Our forefathers had the **tabernacle of the Testimony** with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.* ⁴⁵*Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David,* ⁴⁶*who enjoyed God's favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.* ⁴⁷*But it was **Solomon who built the house for Him.*** ⁴⁸*However, the **Most High does not live in houses made by men.*** As the prophet says: ⁴⁹*“Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. **What kind of house will you build for Me?** says the Lord. Or where will My resting place be?”* ⁵⁰*Has not My hand made all these things?”*
- B. Probing questions:
1. Where does God live or want to live?
 2. What kind of house does He want?
 3. What can we build for Him?
- C. In the Old Testament, God took up temporary residence in the Tabernacle and various man-made temples
- D. But the New Testament reveals much more about His eternal dwelling place...

II. THE CHURCH, A LIVING BUILDING

- A. **Mat. 16:15-18:** ¹⁵*“But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I am?”* ¹⁶*Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* ¹⁷*Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by My Father in heaven.* ¹⁸*And I tell you that **you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**”*
1. You are Peter [Gk. *petros* = “a piece of rock”]... on this rock [Gk. *petra* = “a mass of rock”]

2. AMP: *And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, petra—a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church...*
 3. Paraphrase: “Peter, you are a piece of Me, but I will be the Chief Foundation Stone and I will build My Church.”
 4. NOTE: We will see later in 1 Peter where he talks about believers being “living stones!”
- B. God is building His own dwelling place (the Church) and *there* He will reside forever!
- C. We are the building (1 Cor. 3:9-16): ⁹*For we are God's fellow workers; **you are God's field, God's building.*** ¹⁰*By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.* ¹¹*For no one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, **which is Jesus Christ.*** ¹²*If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,* ¹³*his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.* ¹⁴*If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.* ¹⁵*If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.* ¹⁶*Don't you know that **you yourselves are God's temple** and that God's Spirit lives in you?*
- D. Heb. 3:2-6: ²*He [Jesus] was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.* ³*Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as **the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.*** ⁴*For every house is built by someone, but **God is the builder of everything.*** ⁵*Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.* ⁶*But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And **we are His house,** if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.*
- E. Eph. 2:19-22: ¹⁹*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,* ²⁰*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone.* ²¹***In Him the whole building is joined together and rises** [lit. “grows, increases, enlarges”] **to become a holy temple** in the*

Lord. ²²*And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*

1. Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone
 - a) Most significant stone in the whole structure
 - b) It determines the design, pattern and orientation for the rest of the building!
 2. Peter (a small rock!) and the other apostles and prophets formed the foundation of the Early Church
 3. This is a growing temple – it is alive, made out of people!
- F. Made out of living stones (**1 Pet. 2:4-10**): ⁴*As you come to Him, **the living Stone**—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him— ⁵**you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house** to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...* ⁹*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.* ¹⁰*Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*
- G. **Eph. 4:11-16**: ¹¹*It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, **so that the body of Christ may be built up** ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ....* ¹⁵*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things **grow up into Him** who is the Head, that is, Christ.* ¹⁶*From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, **grows and builds itself up in love, AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK.***
- H. **1 Cor. 12:7-11**: ⁷*Now **TO EACH ONE** the manifestation of the Spirit is given **for the common good** [“profit”]... ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to **EACH ONE**, just as He determines.*
- I. Everything should be done to edify (build up) the church (**1 Cor. 14:3,-5, 12, 26**): ³*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their **strengthening** [“edification” – KJV], encouragement and*

comfort. ⁴He who speaks in a tongue **edifies** himself, but he who prophesies **edifies** the church. ⁵...He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the **church may be edified**... ¹²...**excel in gifts that build up the church**... ²⁶What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, **EVERYONE** has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. **All of these must be done for the strengthening [“edification” – KJV] of the church.**

- J. **Rev. 21:2-4:** ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now **the dwelling [“tabernacle”] of God is with men, and He will live with them.** They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

1. We are the tabernacle, we are the city!
2. God wants His people to be His eternal dwelling place!
WOW!

III. SUMMARY

- A. There is NO mention in Acts or the epistles of the early Christians building “temples” and “churches” – their whole emphasis was on *being built* by God into one HOLY TEMPLE
- B. God’s whole emphasis is on building us together to be His Church
- C. We don’t “go to church” or need to “build a church” – WE ARE THE CHURCH!
- D. There are 4 key components to any building:
 1. Need an **architect** to draw up the plans & blueprints (**Heb. 11:10**): *For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose **architect and builder is God.***
 2. Need a **builder** (Heb. 11:10) – God!
 3. Need a **cornerstone & foundation** – Christ, apostles & prophets
 4. Need **building materials** – living stones (believers); gold, silver & costly stones