

God's House, Its Structure And Purpose

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Prepared for Wednesday evening Bible Study

Beginning January 2, 2013

- I. THE ANCIENT FOUNDATIONS – The Family – 1/2/2013
- A. Our Text: 1 Tim. 3:15 *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
 - B. From the beginning of time, God has shown himself to man in one way or another.
 - C. We know that he has shown himself in nature:
 - 1. Romans 1:17-20
 - D. God showed himself through sacrifices:
 - 1. Genesis 4:1-5
 - E. Adam, then, it is implied, taught his sons the things of God, including sacrifices that showed forth the sacrifice of God through his Son, Jesus Christ.
 - F. God preserved this house through the flood
 - 1. Genesis 7:1 *and the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.*
 - G. So the family was the first institution: Its Purpose is Teaching of God
 - 1. Deut 6:7 *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*
 - H. This is the first House of God—the Family.
 - 1. God had a plan for a perpetual revelation of himself to man.
 - 2. God had a plan for a perpetual teaching institution on the earth.
 - 3. The first of these institutions was the family.
 - I. This house was structured according to God's plan.
 - 1. Genesis 2:24 *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*
 - 2. This principle is referenced three times in the New Testament: Matt. 19:5-6; Mark 10:8; and Eph. 5:31.
 - 3. Every house of God in perpetuity has been built according to the directions of God.
 - 4. If the structure is not correct, then the house is not right.
 - J. The family is still a divine institution, but it is no longer God's house in the strictest sense of the word.
 - K. God perpetuated his house in another step, which we will study next time.
- II. THERE IS ANOTHER HOUSE – Babylon
- A. See Genesis 11:1-4.
 - B. We will consider this only briefly at this time.
 - C. God did not like this house. He came down and confused language as a result of his

displeasure for this house.

- D. Israel was sent into captivity to this house in 2 Kings 20:17; 24:15
- E. Israel was sorrowful while they were in Babylon: Psalm 137:1 *By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.*
- F. They wanted to go back to the other house, the house at Jerusalem. We will talk about this house in another lesson.
- G. For this lesson, we want to remember that the first house that God used for his message was the family.
 - 1. The father was the pastor
 - 2. The offerings were the ordinances
 - 3. God was the head of the family, and so the family was his house.
 - 4. Psalm 101:2 *I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.*
 - 5. Psalm 101:7 *He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.*
 - 6. Psalm 132:3 *Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed;*

III. THE TABERNACLE

A. Review

- 1. Cain and Abel gave an offering to the Lord – Family, Genesis 4:3-5 *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 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: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*
- 2. First altar was built by Noah, Family, Gen. 8:20 *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.*
- 3. Abram built an altar – Gen. 12:7 *And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.*
- 4. Isaac built an altar – Gen. 26:25 *And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.*
- 5. Jacob built an altar, Family – Gen. 35:3 *And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I (Jacob) will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.*
 - a. In this place the altar was called the house of God – Gen, 28:17 *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.*
- 6. Moses built an altar, Family – Exodus 17:15 *And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:*

B. From The Family To The Tabernacle

1. The altar now goes into the tabernacle – Exod 40:29 *And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.*
2. Finishing of the tabernacle – Ex 40:32 *When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.*
3. ... *To dwell among them.* – Exod. 25:8
4. “I will meet with thee ...” – Exodus 25:21-22 *And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.*
5. The place to worship – Deut. 12:5 *But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:*
6. A place to put his name – Deut. 16:11 *And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.*
7. Exodus 25-40 deal with the building and setting up of the Tabernacle.
 - a. It is called “the tabernacle of the congregation” Exod. 27:21
 - b. It is called “the tabernacle of testimony” Exod. 28:21; Num. 1:53, 10:11
 - c. It is called “the tabernacle of witness” Num. 17:7
 - d. It is called “the tabernacle of the Lord” Lev. 17:4; Num. 16:9
 - e. It is called “the tabernacle of the house of God” 1 Chron. 6:48
8. Here the tabernacle is called the house of the LORD” 1 Chron. 23:32

C. Meaning of the Tabernacle

1. First, it is the Tabernacle of the Congregation
 - a. The first house of God was the family altar, and there the family physically came around together and worshiped the Lord.
 - b. In the Tabernacle of Israel, the tent was for the worship of a physical nation, the whole of the people whom God had chosen to reveal himself to men.
 - c. So, we could say that the house of God to this point has been a local, physical organization with real people coming together in a congregation.
 - d. The Lord’s church today is a congregation, made up of real, physical people who can come together in an assembly to worship God.
 - e. The Tyndale Bible (a good translation that is not used any more) translates the word EKKLESIA as “congregation.”
2. Second, the Tabernacle was for a Witness
 - a. It is called “the tabernacle of testimony” Exod. 28:21.
 - (1) This Tabernacle was designed to give a testimony of who God is and what he

- has to offer men.
- (2) It is the job of the churches today to be a testimony of the saving grace of God and of his truths as taught in the Bible. ... *pillar and ground of the truth*
1 Tim. 3:15.
- b. This Tabernacle was also called “the tabernacle of witness” Num. 17:7
- (1) So the Tabernacle was for a witness to the people in Israel that Jehovah is the only God and that Israel is not to worship any other gods.
- (2) The Tabernacle was for a witness concerning the righteousness of the people, giving them instructions (laws) as to how they should live in God’s presence.
- (3) The churches today are here for a witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ and an instructor in righteousness.
- (a) To his churches the Lord said in Matt. 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- (b) 2 Tim. 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
3. Third, the Tabernacle had Ordinances
- a. Hebrews 9:1-7 *Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. 2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. 3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; 4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; 5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. 6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:*
- b. The churches of the Lord in our day have ordinances. They are baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
- (1) Just as the ordinances of the first covenant in the first tabernacle showed forth the work of God in salvation, so our churches today show forth the work of God in Jesus Christ that has already been completed.
4. Fourth, the Tabernacle was called “of the Lord,” or “the Lord’s.” 1 Chron. 23:32
- a. Just as the righteous family was the only house of God in the beginning, so the Tabernacle at this time is the only “house of God” on earth at this time.
- b. God had chosen this as his way of revealing himself to man.
- c. The very word “church” that is used in the KJV Bible literally means “the Lord’s.”
- d. Matt. 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
5. Fifth, the Tabernacle was approved or accredited as God’s sanctioned house.
- a. Exodus 40:34-35 *Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory*

of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

- b. This cloud was a constant reminder to Israel that God's glory was present in the Tabernacle, and that glory followed them everywhere they went.
 - c. *Exod 40:38 For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*
6. Sixth, the Tabernacle was only temporarily God's house on earth.
- a. Just as the family was used on a temporary basis (although that was for thousands of years), so the Tabernacle was used on a temporary basis.
 - b. Later God changes his house again, which we will take up in our next lesson.

IV. THE TEMPLE

A. 1 Kings 8

1. Transferring From Tabernacle To Temple, 7:51-8:1-9
 - a. *God would not allow David to build a temple (a house of God), 8:18-20 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. 19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name. 20 And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.*
 - b. But David was faithful in all his house and prepared all the material for the building of a house of God.
 - c. God gave the building job to Solomon, David's son
2. Solomon Was To Build The Temple, 8:10-21
3. God's Name Will Be In The Temple, 8:22-30
4. Men Will Pray Toward This House, 8:31-45
5. God Will Forgive From This Place, 8:46-61
6. God Was Worshiped At The Temple, 8:62-66
7. Solomon knew that God's real dwelling was in heaven: 8:30, 39, 43, 49

B. 1 Kings 9

1. This was to be a perpetual house, 9:3
2. But this perpetuity was on condition (under the law), 9:6-9

C. 1 Kings 10

1. The Queen of Sheba came to his the building and the riches of Solomon, 10:1-7
2. She said, "The half was not told me ..."

D. The Destruction of the Temple

1. *2 Chronicles 34:24-25 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah: 25 Because they have forsaken*

me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

2. Matt. 24:1-2 *And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 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.*
3. Matt 23:38 *Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*
 - a. The Spirit of God had left the temple a long time ago.
 - b. They who worshiped there were not worshipping in spirit and truth but merely with external religious exercises.
4. Acts 8:26-37 – No gospel in Jerusalem, so the Eunuch had to seek the gospel somewhere else. God sent Philip to him to preach the gospel to him. If the Spirit of God had been in the temple, there would be no need for this eunuch to hear the word outside the temple.

E. The Temple Was For Worship Under The Law

1. Jesus threw out the money changers in Matt. 21:12
2. Temple priests and elders did not accept Jesus' true teaching, Matt. 21:23
3. Jesus taught in the temple, John 7:14; 8:2
4. Peter and John went up to the temple in the hour of prayer, Acts 3:1
5. Paul purified himself through the temple, Acts 21:26

F. A New Temple Is Needed

1. The standing temple is corrupt, Matt. 23
2. In Matt. 24 the disciples, in mild rebuke to his message to the Pharisees, show him the beauty of the temple buildings, which had been enlarged and enhanced by Herod.
3. Jesus said that this temple would be destroyed, Matt. 24:1-2
4. What will be the new house of God? Where does God dwell during these days of a desolate house, the temple?
5. Where will we hear the word of God in truth? Where will we understand the real meaning of the law and of grace? We shall see.

V. THE LORD HIMSELF AS THE TEMPLE

A. One Greater Than The Temple

1. Matt 12:6 *But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple.*
2. Solomon was the first builder of the temple – Matt 12:42 *The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*
3. 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;*

B. Jesus Is The New Tabernacle – John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

- C. The Temple Was Jesus' Body – John 2:19 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. ... 21 But he spake of the temple of his body.*
1. We all have bodies, and they are our temples – 1 Cor 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*
 2. We know that he is the temple on earth, because God dwells in him – Col 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*
 - a. This is where God has put his name: in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Phil. 2:9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: This is the name of God.*
 - c. He has power over all flesh – John 17:2 *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*
 3. Jesus has the glory necessary for this new temple – John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*
 4. Jesus is the light of the world as long as he is in the world – John 9:5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
- D. Jesus Gave An Eternal Sacrifice – Function of the Temple
1. Heb 9:14 *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*
 2. This entered within the veil – Heb 6:19 *Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;*
 3. The veil is his body – Heb 10:20 *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;*
- E. Because the temple in Jerusalem was desolate, Jesus saw people as sheep having no shepherd – Matt 9:36 *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*
1. Jesus is the GREAT Shepherd – Heb. 13:20 *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,*
 2. Jesus is the CHIEF Shepherd – 1 Peter 5:4 *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*
 3. Jesus is the GOOD Shepherd – John 10:14 *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*
 4. Jesus is MY Shepherd – Psalm 23:1 *The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*
- F. But Jesus Must Go Away – John 16:7 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*
- G. Jesus' Death Disqualified The Temple For Any Kind Of Redemption
1. Matt 27:51 *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

2. Now we can come boldly unto the throne of grace – Heb 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

H. Jesus Will Leave Another Temple – Acts 1:6-11

1. This temple will be different from all the others
2. This temple will be qualified and accredited.
3. This temple is still functioning on the earth.

VI. GOD’S HOUSE, THE CHURCH (2/6/2013)

A. Creation Of God’s House, The Church

1. Matt 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 - a. This Rock is Jesus.
 - b. We see that here in this verse, because Jesus calls Peter a PETROS, or a little rock; but he calls the Rock upon which the church is built PETRA, which is a foundation rock. Here Jesus is called “this Rock.”
 - c. Jesus is called “that Rock” in 1 Cor. 10:4 *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*
 - d. Jesus is also called “the foundation” in 1 Cor 3:11 *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
 - e. Here Jesus proposes building his church
2. John the Baptist was sent to “prepare a people for the Lord:” Luke 1:17 *And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*
3. Jesus built a KIND of church
 - a. The word translated “church” is the word EKKLESIA in Greek and means “assembly.” This is a physical assembly.
 - b. The Sanhedran Court was an assembly, and it had members in particular. They met together in an assembly, and it was possible for every one of the members to come together in this assembly.
 - c. There were other political and social assemblies in Jerusalem, which met in assemblies locally.
 - d. When Jesus said, “I will build ‘my church,’” he was saying that he was going to build his KIND of assembly. It would not be a political assembly, and it would not be a social assembly. It would be a religious assembly, but it would be different in kind than the other religious assemblies that were in Jerusalem.
 - e. Jesus’ assembly would have “members in particular” – 1 Cor 12:27 *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*
 - f. These particular members could assemble, all of them, when they desired to do so.
 - (1) Acts 15:22 *Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas;*

- namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:*
- (2) Rom. 16:23 *Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.*
 - (3) 1 Cor 14:23 *If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?*
4. Jesus put his apostles in the church in first place, places of leadership.
 - a. 1 Cor 12:28 *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.*
 - b. We see this happening in Luke 6:12-16. There were many other believers, but Jesus was here preparing material for his kind of church, a local church that would have the apostles as the primary workers in that church or assembly.
 - c. When Paul said “I persecuted the church of God” 1 Cor.15:9 and Gal. 1:13, he was speaking of this one local assembly in Jerusalem.
 - d. Three New Testament scriptures refer directly to this local church at Jerusalem: Acts 8:1; 11:22; 15:4.
 - (1) Acts 8:1 *And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.*
 - (2) Ac 11:22 *Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.*
 - (3) Ac 15:4 *And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.*
 - e. The Lord’s churches have officers
 - (1) Two offices: Pastor and Deacons
 - f. The Lord’s churches have ordinances
 - (1) Baptism and Lord’s Supper
 - (2) These are the only two offices and the only two ordinances in the churches.
- B. Accreditation Of The Church
1. John the Baptist predicted this accreditation – Matt 3:11 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:*
 2. Jesus predicted this accreditation – Acts 1:4-5 *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*
 3. The actual accreditation – Acts 2:1-4 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from*

heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Then we continue in verse 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

4. Pentecost was upon the Jews. Later the Lord poured out the Holy Spirit upon Gentiles, who were now also invited to be a part of the local church at Jerusalem with the Jews. This was at the house of Cornelius. – Acts 10:44-46 *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*
5. I might mention that this is not the beginning of the church here at Pentecost. This is the accreditation and empowering the church, not its origin. There were already apostles in the church, a treasurer, and direction to bring to the church those who would not hear rebuke from a brother – Matt 18:17 *And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

C. The Continuation Of The Church, God's Temple

1. The church (in kind) is the temple of the Holy Spirit
 - a. 1 Cor 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*
 - b. 2 Cor 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
 - c. In other words, each true local church, a pillar and ground of the truth, has the Holy Spirit in a special presence.
 - d. That is why the Bible says in Eph 3:21 *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*
2. What makes this church different?
 - a. Jesus says it is “my church.”
 - b. So he gave that kind of church a commission
 - (1) Matt. 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
 - (2) This commission is to each one of the churches, for there are many.
 - c. This church is different because of verse 20 above: “... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

- (1) The lord's kind of church will continue to the end of the world (or the age).
 - (2) There never has been a time since the Lord began to build his church that there has not been true local churches on the earth.
 - (3) This kind of church did not die out, so there was no need for a reformation of these churches.
 - (4) This is the only temple of God that he has used (family, tabernacle, temple, even Jesus Christ) that was promised to continue to the end of the world.
3. The churches of Jesus Christ have been perpetuated from the beginning until now.
- a. Bro. Berlin Hisel said in his notes: "Jerusalem was the 'Eve' of all true churches. Paul said all the Gentile churches were debtor to the Jerusalem church. They sprang from her." See Romans 15:27.
 - b. From Jerusalem to Samaria: Acts 8:4-12
 - c. To Antioch
 - (1) Acts 11:19-20 *Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and **Antioch**, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.*
 - d. From Antioch to the uttermost part of the earth.
 - (1) Acts 13:1-3 *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*
 - e. From there to here:
 - (1) We have a history here at First Baptist Church. Our heritage is one of perpetuity.
 - (2) We believe we are that kind of church that Jesus built in the New Testament, because we believe that the marks of a true New Testament church are manifest in this church.
 - (3) Our heritage is (according to our own church history written by Bro. Berlin Hisel and Bro. Larry Burton):

First Baptist Church, Harrison, Ohio (1948) out of

Grace Baptist Church, Middletown, Ohio (1945) out of

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio (1912)

-Formerly Haynes Street Baptist Church out of

Linden Avenue Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio (1872) out of

First Baptist Church of Dayton, Ohio (1824) out of

The Baptist Church of Lebanon, Ohio (1802)
-Formerly Turtle Creek Baptist Church out of

Clear Creek Baptist Church, Ridgeville, Ohio (1797) out of

Columbia Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio (1790)
first Baptist church in Ohio out of

Baptist Church of New York City (1762) out of

Scotch Plains Baptist Church, New Jersey (1747) out of

Piscataway Baptist Church, Shelton, New Jersey (1689) out of

Lower Dublin (Pennepeck) Baptist Church, Pennepeck, Pennsylvania
(1688) out of

Cold Spring Baptist Church, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (1684)
out of

First Baptist Church of Rhode Island (1638), first Baptist church in
America.¹

VII. GOD'S HOUSE IN HEAVEN (2-13-2013)

A. Heaven Is Called The House Of The Lord And A Tabernacle

1. The eternal house of God

- a. Psalm 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*
- b. Psalm 15:1 *Psalm of David. LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?*
- c. Isaiah 33:19-20 *Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stammering tongue, that thou canst not understand. 20 Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. 21 But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. 22*

¹Hisel, Berlin & Burton, Larry, *History of First Baptist Church Harrison, Ohio*, First Baptist Church, Harrison, Ohio, 1970's

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

- d. *2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*
 - e. *Rev 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:*
- B. Mention of this temple in Revelation (a few references)
1. *Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*
 2. *Rev 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.*
 3. *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 lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*
 4. *Rev 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:*
- C. The accreditation of the temple in Heaven
1. *Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.*
- D. The Lord is the temple in Heaven
1. *Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*
 2. *Psalm 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*
 3. *Heb. 10:19-23 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*
 4. *Rev. 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, 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.*

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. People have served the Lord through God's institution of the family. God in his Providence planned and had constructed a tabernacle for the traveling people of Israel to use as their place of worship, their house of God, in the wilderness. Then he settled his people, Israel, in Palestine, and had his king, Solomon, to build a permanent tabernacle which was called

- the temple.
- B. In the New Testament, Jesus became the temple as he walked the earth. He was the light of the world – John 9:5 *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*
 - C. Before Jesus left the earth to go back to heaven, he began building his church, which is now the house of God. He accredited that institution by way of the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost for Israel and later to the Gentiles, especially in the house of Cornelius in Acts Chapter 10.
 - D. This house of God had a promise that none of the other temples had. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 “... *and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” This is a promise of perpetuity. He also said in Matthew 28:20 “... *I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*” This is another promise of perpetuity.
 - E. This house has been here ever since Jesus gave this promise, and it will survive the troubles and persecutions of the world and exist until Jesus comes again.
 - F. But then, when we leave this life through death or by way of the Rapture of God’s people from the earth, we shall again be worshiping God in his Temple. The temple in heaven is, has always been, and always will be according to Rev. 21:22 *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.*
 - G. Psalm 11:4 *The LORD [is] in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*
 - H. But until the Lord comes we must be in God’s house (the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ) being busy about our Father’s business just as Jesus was when he went to the temple in Jerusalem and was with the doctors and lawyers discussing the scriptures.

The End