



**The Half Shekel Journals of 2022** by Pastor Ed Rice  
**#02 Tue 1 Nov Jesus Was On This Temple Mount**

Being careful about who was listening in, Pastor Chalie continues. Another page of HisStory was written beneath this Temple Mount we are standing on. Solomon built the first temple on this very spot. Pastor continued to carefully expound God's documentation about Mount Moriah. King David accumulated the resources and designs for his son's miraculous construction of the temple. No chisel or hammer sounded on this site during the whole seven year construction (1Kng.6:7,38). But the Psalmists sure sounded out a lot about Solomon's Temple that stood here.

*Ps 5:7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.*

*Ps 11:4 The LORD<sup>1</sup> is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*

*Ps 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.*

*Ps 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*

*Ps 29:9 The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the*

*forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.*

*Ps 48:9 We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.*

*Ps 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.*

*Ps 68:29 Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee.*

*Ps 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.<sup>2</sup>*

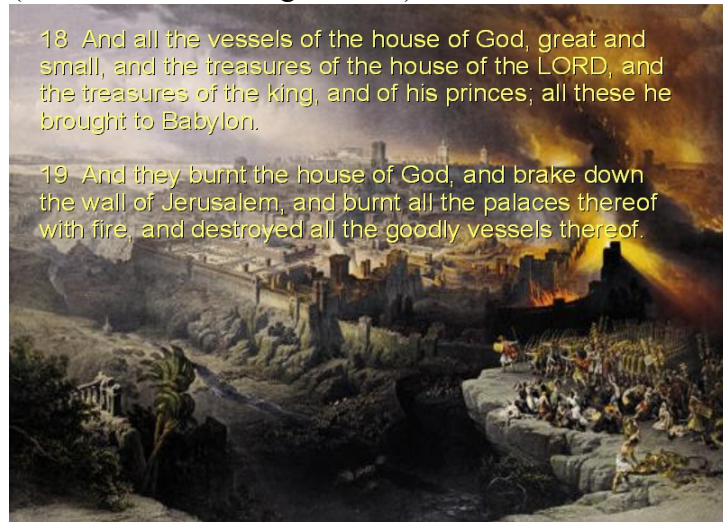


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- 1 LORD, with all caps, is the English rendition of JEHOVAH "The Self-existent One" (Ex.3:14, 6:3). The latter name is so revered in Hebrew Scripture that it was not pronounced out loud, and is thus represented in the KJV. Hebrews might not address God by his first name, as it were, but through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ born again believers can (Isa.12:2, 26:4).
  - 2 Online Bible Verse List: Ps 5:7, 11:4, 18:6, 27:4, 29:9,48:9,65:4, 68:29, 138:2

It is hard to envision Solomon's temple as we stand here on a huge platform built by King Herod. The foot print of Solomon's temple is dwarfed by the platform that Herod built. Solomon's temple was glorious just the same. The Bible gives the dimensions for artist to imagine the pictures shown. There are also the models seen at the Israeli Museum.

Solomon's temple was gutted when Nebuchadnezzar ransacked the city in 606 BC

(2Chr.36:6, 2Kng.24:14) and then completely destroyed when he came back in 595 BC (2Chr.36:13-21, 2Kng.25:1-17). Israel was thrust into the Babylonian captivity for 70 years as God said (2Chr,36:21, Jer.25,27,29), and, consequently, the Jews returned exactly 70 years after 606, in 536 BC (Ezra 1:1-4), and the rebuilt temple was finished twenty years later in 515 BC (Ezra 6:15)<sup>3</sup>. God runs a pretty exacting calendar.

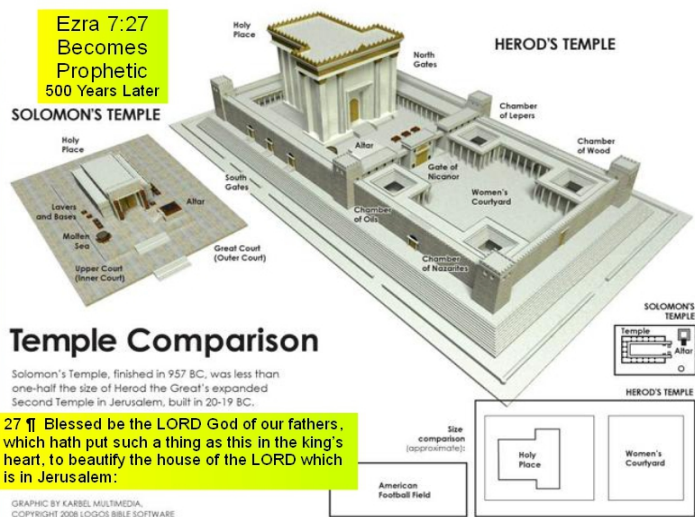
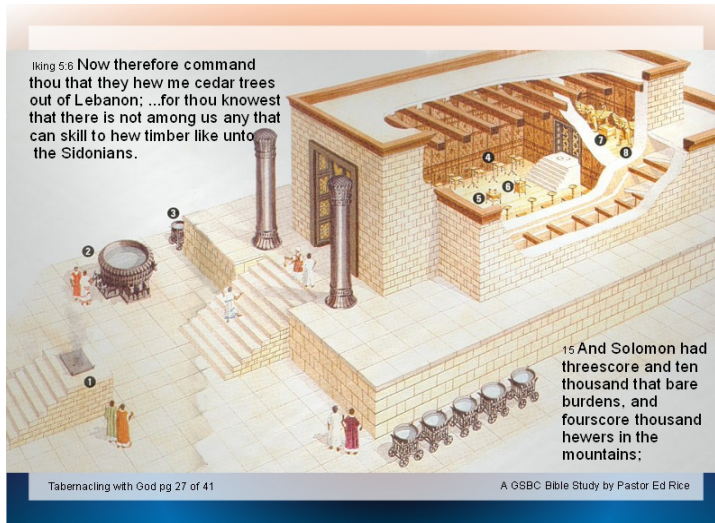


18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

Standing on Mount Moriah and reviewing events the Bible records 2,600 years ago added a depth to our worship here. Noah Webster defines a "pilgrimage" as "a long journey, particularly a journey to someplace deemed

sacred and venerable (worthy of reverence), in order to pay devotion to relics of some deceased saint." We were not here for deceased saints, but for a living Savior. This was a pilgrimage just the same, and God said that this place where we stood was indeed sacred. The slides shown here are from a Temple History presentation assembled by the author in 2015.



3 Dates given are according to Ussher's very Biblical dating calculations which often differ from modernist "scholar" dates. James Ussher (1581-1656), Archbishop of Armagh, but genius believer.



Pastor Charlie pulled us from 600 BC back to the present, Look at this great platform that Herod built, that dome and the mosque are each laden with demonic symbols and represent Satan's presence here, but look back to visualize the temple that stood on this ground. Herod's temple, the temple where Jesus overthrew the tables of the money changers, stood right here. Pastor laid before us the very presence of Jesus in this place; and the authority he always displayed with his presence in this temple. Always? Yes always! It was as if he owned the place.

Jesus's first entry into this temple was with his mother when he was 41 days old (cf Luke 2:21-24). He was brought here with a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtle dove, for a sin offering (Lev.12:1-8). These were not brought for his purification, as written in the apostate NIV bible, but for his mothers purification as it is clearly dictated in the King James Bible. The sacrifices were brought to the door of the temple and offered to “*make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood*” (Luke 2:21 -24, Leviticus 12:1-8).



What authority could a 41 day-old have on his entry into the temple? Well, look to the Scriptures:

*And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto*

*him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ (Messiah). And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,*

*Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed (Luke 2:25-35).*



And again,

*And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem (Luke 2:36-38).*



Consider his second recorded entry into the temple at age 12; it is found in the very familiar Bible verses of Luke 2:41-52. The most delightful verse declaring:

*And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers (Luke 2:46 -47).*

For the next 18 years the Bible is silent concerning any events in Jesus's life. Some have speculated things, but when God is silent, it behooves his servants to be silent as well. So the next time Jesus was in the temple is sometimes overlooked, but he

was there with an unprecedented authority.

*And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Being forty days tempted of the devil. ... And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence (Luke 4:1-2a, 9).*



In the wilderness he was tempted in the world's barrenness, on the mountain top in the world's bountifulness, and here, in the temple, in the world's religiosity. The answer to each temptation was, and still is, "It is written." The devil tempted Jesus here in this temple, and his authority, even against "*principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, ...*" was again displayed here in the temple.

Pastor Charlie had portrayed for our minds eye the overturned tables and the scattering oxen, sheep, and money changers. This happened at the first Passover of his public ministry and is recorded in John chapter 2.

*And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up. Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What*

*sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. (John 2:13-19).*

When Jesus entered the temple he always wielded a profound authority, as was said, he behaved as if he owned the place. In my recollection of Scripture (and in my perusing through Vol 04 Christology, Chapter 11 The Harmony of the Life of Christ<sup>4</sup>) his next entry into the temple was at his Triumphal Entry<sup>5</sup> into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (cf. Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, and John 12). This Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem proceeded right on into the temple, picture the crowds. Jesus here displayed all the authority of his three year previous Passover time entry and more.



*And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased, And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there (Matthew 21:12-17).*

4 Rice, Edward, *A Systematic Theology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vol 4 Christology*, [www.GSBaptistChurch.com/theology](http://www.GSBaptistChurch.com/theology) , pg 147-160

5 Likely titled after Ps.47:1, 106:47, “O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. ... Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.”

That was Sunday. On the morrow, Monday, after cursing a fig tree, it is recorded,

*And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine. And when even was come, he went out of the city.(Mark 11:15-19).*

Next Pastor Charlie focused our minds eye on Jesus' teaching in the temple. Measure it out verse by verse and you find that the majority of his recorded public teachings were done in the temple after his Sunday triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The Bible says:

*And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives. And all the people came early in the morning to him in the temple, for to hear him.(Luke 21:37-38).*



Jesus gave testimony of it in Mark 14:49, “I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.”. The chief priests and the elders hated his authority as recorded in Matthew 21:23-24,

*“And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.”*

Standing here on the temple mount, with minds racing through all the things our Lord Jesus Christ said and did here ... It was over powering!

I put my pencil and notepad in my coat pocket and clasped Beverly's hand. When our eyes met we were each welling back tears. We had talked often of what it was like to be camped right close to the throne. This was all of that and more. We dragged our feet at the rear of the crowd as brother Charlie led us off toward the Eastern Gate.