

The Temple of God

(Part 1)

“Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 4:16-17)

Do you remember the myth that tells about the genie (spirit) that lived in the magic lamp? That genie was described to be with power and capability to do magic. Everyone wanted to get that jar or the lamp because the strong spirit of the genie that lived inside would be subdued by anyone who could own the lamp. And the owner asks whatever he wishes from the genie. Just by rubbing the magic lamp, the genie will come out and say, “Your servant is between your hands.” So, in the myth all people wished to gain the lamp. But only a boy named Aladiin got it and won all the privileges that the genie can do.

“What do you want?” Power? Man wants power because he is weak. Once he is convinced that he is weak he will search for the power from outside. But actually human knows very well that the real power only comes from God; and genie is a myth that describes the evil power in this world.

After the fall of man, after Adam and Eve were sent out from the Garden of Eden, God’s presence has been pursued by men. The building of the Tower of Babel demonstrated the desire of man to reach heaven or God. Whenever God appeared to man in the Old Testament, that man would build an altar to God, or a place where God can dwell, or a memorial place where God can be found. ***“The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offering I will give this land” “So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.” (Genesis 12:7-8)*** When God appeared to Jacob in a dream, Jacob did the same. ***“When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father’s house, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.” (Genesis 28:16,18-22)***

Consequently, the altars, the tabernacle, the temple or any place where the spirit of God dwells becomes a place of refuge where the people can go and ask their needs, or to give back to Him their offering and sacrifices. But God is not limited to the ideas of men. People often go to Holy places in order to meet God, but in fact He can meet us everywhere. In the example mentioned, God chose to go and meet Jacob and give His blessing while Jacob was

fleeing for his life. Jacob was running away from the Promised Land but he discovered that God has been with him all along.

In the time of Moses, God oftentimes met him on the mountain. Moreover, In the same occasion God gave to Moses the design of how to make the tabernacle, with its tent and the ark and all other components that constitutes the place for God’s Spirit to dwell in.

After the people of God made all the above designated configuration of the tabernacle, ***The Lord said to Moses; “Set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the first month. Place the ark of the Testimony in it and shield the ark with the curtain.” (Exodus 40:1-3)*** And when Moses finished the work, ***“Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” (Exodus 40:34)*** The cloud that covered the tent of meeting represented the Spirit of God or more precisely the presence of God among His people while they were in the desert of Sinai. ***“In all their travels, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out until the day it lifted.” (Exodus 40:36-37)***

That was the situation when the people of God were in the desert. They were led by the Spirit of God represented by the cloud and fire. But before they entered the Promised Land, God instructed them with laws and decrees to follow so that they could totally possess the land promised to them and their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. ***“These are the decrees and laws you must be careful to follow in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess as long as you live in the land.” (Deuteronomy 12:1)***

- 1. Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.” (Deuteronomy 12:2-3)** God wanted His people not to be contaminated with the false gods that were present in the land so He ordered to destroy all their altars.
- 2. You must not worship the Lord your God in their way.” (Deuteronomy 12:4)** The Lord clearly commanded them to avoid mixing wrong ways or practices in worshipping Him who is the true God.
- 3. But you are to seek the place that the Lord your God will choose from among all your tribes to put His name there for His dwelling. To that place you must go;” (Deuteronomy 12:5)** To a certain place God asked His prophets to offer burnt offerings and sacrifices to Him.

My Dear and Beloved: More things that God has spoken about His temple are yet to come in the next part. And we will continue to learn more about that through God’s word as you agree to pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord teaches me your ways and reveal to me more through your word and The Holy Spirit. Lord let your presence go before me and lead me where you wants me to go this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.