

The Glory of God (Series 2): 7

The Glory of the Latter House

Isaiah 60.1-7

“All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, **And I will glorify the house of My glory.**” (vs7)

We finished our studies last time looking at the state of the Temple, which had been allowed to become run down and in ruins. We also saw that the attitude of the people was that they considered it ‘as *nothing*’ (**Haggai 2.3**). We likened that to ‘*I can’t be bothered*’ and saw how prevalent it is in the church today - it’s only church!, It’s just the praise time, just another meeting (**2 Chronicles 7.19-22**).

God never considers the Glory of His House as nothing – it is a very big thing with Him.

Haggai 2.9

“The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

The former temple was very glorious –

- it was a house of prayer,
- it was a house of praise,
- it was spectacular in its appearance – gold and silver without and within, costly fabrics and precious stones.
- It was also a place where the Glory of God was manifest, so strong that at times the priests could not continue ministering.

In this verse we read that the glory of the latter temple will be greater than that of the former temple. That temple was glorious but the latter temple will be even more glorious.

How often do you hear people refer to the good old days, ‘*it’s not how it used to be*’, or ‘*I wish I lived back when Jesus walked on the earth*’. The former days were glorious, and thank God for them, but the latter will be more glorious.

We are more blessed today than we have ever been, living in better days than we have ever lived. We are the only generation that has lived this close to the coming of the Lord.

God is building a temple, the glory of which will be greater than what has already been seen. But this temple is not a temple that will be glorious because of its outward appearance. The temple that God is building is His church.

Matthew 16.19

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”

- Jesus said, “I will build My church” – it’s His church, He’s the builder, and He’s the Chief Cornerstone (**Ephesians 2.20**)
“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*”

1 Corinthians 3.16-17; 1 Corinthians 6.19-20

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are. ” (1 Corinthians 3.16-17)

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Corinthians 6.19-20)

- Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. As an individual member of the Church, you are responsible for keeping your body (temple) right before God, individually we come together to form the local Church.

Ephesians 2.19-22

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. ”

- When we come together we grow into a holy temple in the Lord, a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

In Revelation we read of the Bride of Christ – the Bride of Christ is the Church and we see in Revelation that she is clothed and arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright

“And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” Revelation 19.8

Ephesians 5.25-27

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

In these verses Paul writes that Christ will sanctify the Church, cleanse her through the Word of God (just one reason why we should study and hear the Word), and He will present her to Himself (as His bride) a glorious Church, without any defects at all.

The Church that will be 'married' to Christ will be a church full of the Glory – no defects, no issues or problems, a church in victory not defeat.

Peter writes in **1 Peter 4.12-17** that we are not to think it strange when we go through the fiery trial, but rather rejoice because we know that the Glory will be revealed and we will rejoice with exceeding joy.

He also writes in **1 Peter 1.6-9** that our faith, though tried, will be found to give Him praise; and the joy we have at the revelation of Christ, when we are married to him, will be unspeakable and full of glory. Our faith is perfected when we go through various trials.

God is building His Church, sanctifying her, cleansing her, preparing her for that glorious occasion.

The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3. 7-18

["how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?"](#) (v8)

(vs7) Paul calls the former times the 'ministry of death'. He says that this ministry was glorious but would pass away.

(v8) How much more? The ministry of the Spirit will be more glorious.

What was experienced in the days of the former temple was glorious, the glory of the latter temple will be much more glorious.

The work that God does in the church is progressive; He continually changes us, cleansing us, sanctifying us. He is bringing us from one level of glory to another level (v18)

What we have is far better – better covenant, better promises, greater works, greater glory.