

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 22 November 2020

Sermon Title : Super Stone

Speaker : Rev Eddie Ho

Text : 1 Peter 2:4-10

INTRODUCTION

King Solomon's Temple, built in 957 BC, was a very impressive house located in Jerusalem, constructed with magnificent stones. Designed like a house, it was a place where God dwelt with His people on earth and is frequently described in the Bible as the "House of God". Within it was the main hall called the Holy Place, where the priests partake in the breaking of bread in the presence of God. The inner room, known as the Holy of Holies, was where the Ark of the Covenant was placed. Only the High Priest was allowed to go in there, once a year. It was the only room in the entire house where there is connection with God (akin to the only room with wifi connection in our modern era).

Ezekiel 40:16, 41:18 and 1 Kings 6:29 describe the interior walls of the Temple as being decorated with motifs of palm trees and open flowers. Why is that so? More importantly, why is there only one room in the house with "connection"?

The Temple of God

While the Old Testament Temple was very important to the Jewish people, there were two things the Temple was not:-

1) It was not the original design of the house of God

The trees and flowers in the interior decoration of the Temple might symbolize God's original house – the Garden of Eden; where men and women walk, talk and connect freely with God.

After Adam and Eve rebelled against God due to greed and pride they were exiled from the garden. God put the cherubim and flaming sword guarding the garden, like the curtain covering the Holy of Holies as they were banished from the presence of God. The Temple was built to remind the Israelites of God's original house, but because of the fall of man and the sins of the world, now there is only one inner room, the Holy of Holies, that has connection with God, even though God's original design was for "every room" to have connection with Him. Access to the Holy of Holies was very difficult and there was elaborate procedure of sacrifice and cleansing to be followed before the curtain could be lifted for the High Priest to enter.

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2) It was not the restored version

God wants to renovate and restore the temple to the original version of His house. The temple was just a temporary version of God's house.

The Grand Renovation and Restoration Plan of the House of God

The blueprint of the final restored version of the house can be found in Daniel 2 in King Nebuchadnezzar's strange dream that described a magnificent statue being struck and destroyed by a small stone flying out of nowhere. While the statue totally disintegrated and disappeared, that small stone grew and grew and occupied the entire planet. God's interpretation given to Daniel was:

Nebuchadnezzar's empire will topple and be replaced by another and yet another until a humble stone will knock out all the world's superpowers, and grow to become a mountain that fills and rules the whole earth.

- God's restored house will be made of stone
- The Book of Revelation tells us that in the last day the whole earth will be a new city made of stone
- It will be established beginning with just one humble super stone (1 Peter 2:6)

Zion is another name for the Holy Mountain, Holy City, Holy Temple, Holy House that God is establishing. God is laying this first cornerstone as reference point for which all other stones are aligned to build the city. This cornerstone is the humble yet super stone in the prophecy. Redemption and restoration begins with this stone.

The Super Stone (1 Peter 2:4)

- Jesus was rejected by humans, crucified and killed on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead. He is alive. A dead and rejected stone made alive. Jesus is the Super Stone, the cornerstone that is laid to build the temple for every room in His house to have connection with Him.
- 2000 years ago, Jesus was like God's "router" – everywhere Jesus went, in that place was direct connection with God. Wherever Jesus was, the Shekinah glory of God was. Miracles happened, souls were saved, and people worshipped; praising God for Him, connecting with God through Him. Jesus is that inner room, the cornerstone of the temple. Jesus is the temple, the Super Stone.

God's radical plan to restore and rebuild the temple is by using "mobile routers" (1 Peter 2:4-5)

- We were dead stones since the fall of Man. Yet when we come to Jesus we become alive not dead, mobile not static. We become a mobile spiritual house, a mobile holy priesthood, moving around, bringing the presence and power of

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God, the Shekinah glory of God, wherever we go. God's plan is for us to be the living stones of God's temple, "mobile routers" of God, to restore and rebuild God's house.

- The restored version of the house is going to be like the original house, the Garden of Eden, where there is connection to God everywhere. That is what the Great Commission is about – to bring connection to God wherever we go, even to the ends of the earth.

What does it mean to be a living stone or a "mobile router"?

- a) We are the actual temple. It is neither on the mountains nor in Jerusalem but in us because our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us (1 Co 6:19).
 - When Jesus was hung on the cross, His blood cleansed us as He is the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world.
 - When He died, the curtain that covered the Holy of Holies was torn from top to bottom for He has removed the veil and given us direct access to the inner room.
 - When Jesus was raised from the dead, He gave us the right to be the inner room and the Holy Spirit to empower us to be children of God. We are the actual temple, where heaven and earth meets, where God connects with His people.
- b) Jesus will personally renovate our hearts and make us the inner room of His temple. When we repent of our sins and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and align ourselves with the Super Cornerstone, He makes us the living stones, the house that God dwells in.

So to the people we meet each day, whether in person or during our online meetings, they are actually visiting the house of God and we are the hosts. Let us be warm and kind hosts, connecting God to them and be worthy of our calling to proclaim His excellencies. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

CONCLUSION

Christmas is a good time and perfect opportunity to be a good host and do our part as a temple of God. Let us be aligned to the Super Stone so we may be His "mobile routers" to connect the people we meet to Him whenever they come into contact with us so we may transmit His light wherever we are, so His original temple may be restored.

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As a group, spend some time to share your success and struggle in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do at the previous meeting.

A. Review Sermon Content

Purpose: Reflect on one key takeaway.

Appoint someone to read 1 Peter 2:4-10 twice, slowly.

1. At the end of the reading, the reader will say, 'This is the Word of the Lord.'

All to respond, "Thanks be to God." Our response reminds us that this is the Word of the Lord. Just as God had spoken to His people in the past, He is still speaking to us even today, right now."

- a.
 - (i) As God's word was read, which verse speaks to you the most?
 - (ii) What is the key takeaway for you from the sermon "Super Stone"?

- b. How will you align the way you live to your key takeaway?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

- 2a. What does God's original version of His Temple tell you about God's heart for man?
- 2b. (i) What does God's final restored version of His Temple tell you about God's heart for man despite our sin?
(ii) Since God went through a great cost to restore His Temple through the rejection of the Super Cornerstone so man may connect with Him throughout the earth, what should our response as His chosen people be?
- 2c. Why is it necessary for us to be aligned to the Super Cornerstone before we can be His "living stones"?

- 3a. As God's temple, with the Holy Spirit living in you, are you
 - (i) connecting well with Him?
 - (ii) connecting people you meet to Him?
- 3b. What is one thing that is hindering you from connecting well with God or connecting people you meet to Him?
- 3c. How can your group members encourage or help you to overcome 3b above for the next week(s) until your next meeting?

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C. Testimonies and Prayer

Purpose: Give glory to God and seek Him.

4. Share your testimony on how God used you as His “mobile router” to connect someone to Him?

OR

Give thanks to God for how through the Super Cornerstone you are now able to connect with Him directly, everywhere you go.

5. Commit all that have been shared in 3b and 3c to God by seeking His wisdom on how you can encourage and help one another to better connect to Him in the following week(s), until your next meeting.

Ask also for the Holy Spirit’s leading to identify, pray for, and reach out to someone for the “12-Days to Christmas” outreach so you can be a “living stone” to connect him/her to the Super Stone this Christmas.

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