

Associates for Scriptural Knowledge • P.O. Box 25000, Portland, OR 97298-0990, USA

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Webpage on the Internet: <http://www.askelm.com> • E-Mail address: askoffice@askelm.com

Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is "[Israel and Judah: 18. Temple Interior and Dedication.](#)" YHWH allowed the Temple to be built by King Solomon of Israel. His father, King David, received specific instructions from YHWH (in God's own handwriting!) as to the Temple's specifications and what adornments to put inside and out.¹ This month's article shows that Solomon fulfilled God's orders given through David.

Solomon then dedicates the Temple and God responds by bringing down fire from heaven (2 Chronicles 7:1–2). This was a sign that God accepted what Solomon and all the people of Israel had done, as was the fire at the sacrifices of Abraham (Genesis 15:17), the dedication of the Tabernacle of God built by the Israelites after the Covenant was made between YHWH and Israel (Leviticus 9:24), as were other special covenantal occasions recognized by momentous signs (Judges 6:21; 1 Kings 18:38; 1 Chronicles 21:26).

Details Are Important

God takes time to have His servants give details to be recorded for us about the Temple because they will have relevance to future events. The details given about the construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus chapters 25 through 27, 35 through 40) relate directly to the details of the Temple and its construction. Old information is updated to new circumstances, particularly the change from a mobile to a stationary center for Mosaic practice as presented in the books of First Kings and Second Chronicles. The Temple area is larger than the Tabernacle to serve the expanded population of Israel.

The details of the Temple activities are also relevant with regard to Christ's sacrifice and His actions after His resurrection. Christ's acts go far beyond and fulfill all requirements for righteousness, impossible of being fulfilled by any conceivable actions in Mosaic Law.

"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; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean,² sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: 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?"

• *Hebrews 9:11–14*

You can go on reading later in chapter 9 and on to chapter 10 of Hebrews and point by point note how the rituals of the Law of Moses are compared to and made irrelevant by the truly salvific acts of Christ.³

¹ This is discussed in "[Israel and Judah: 15. David Organizes for Solomon.](#)"

² The author of Hebrews is referring to the ashes of the red heifer. See "[Updated Information on the Crucifixion of Jesus](#)" which discusses the red heifer and its significance.

³ Dr. Martin's great article "[The Book of Hebrews.](#)" Keep in mind that the audience of Hebrews is troubled and in danger of losing their faith. Paul, the author of Hebrews, demonstrates how infinitely greater Christ's sacrifice is than any sacrifice of bulls and goats.

“Above when he said, ‘Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin you would not, neither had pleasure therein’ [paraphrasing Psalm 40:6]; which are offered by the law; Then said he, ‘Lo, I come to do your will, O God’ [paraphrasing Psalm 40:8]. He takes away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

But this man [Jesus Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever [to completion], sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth EXPECTING till his enemies be made his footstool [citing Psalm 110:1]. For by one offering he has perfected for ever [to completion] them that are sanctified.”

• **Hebrews 10:8–14**

Note that Christ still has an expectation in the future (to Him and us) when His enemies will be **“made his footstool.”** Even Christ is waiting for His Second Coming when he returns to earth! Doesn’t that make you feel better about your own anxious expectation in life, and forthcoming death? We are not alone in our expectation. Christ has already done the hardest work of all. One of Dr. Ernest Martin’s earlier articles on the ASK website is [“The Temple Symbolism in Genesis”](#) which shows the continuity of the Garden of Eden/Tabernacle/Temple imagery that goes from Genesis to Revelation, and from Genesis through the consummation of God’s plan for mankind (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Thank You

God acknowledges each believer, not by bringing fire down from heaven like at Solomon’s dedication of the Temple, but by giving a gift to us infinitely more important than fire from heaven. He has given His Holy Spirit to dwell within us, to merge with our God-given and individualized spirit of man as a sign to us of our salvation, His faithfulness, and our hope of salvation. His Spirit within us designates and seals us to be children of God (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30):

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

• **Romans 8:14–16**

“Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

• **1 Corinthians 3:16**

We at ASK present to you the full counsel of God as best we can. At present, our focus is on background information of the Old Testament histories so we can better understand the circumstances of events when those prophecies were given. You help us continue that work for your benefit but also for those new readers as they encounter ASK. Your support will help us all learn the proper sequence and order of prophesied events as they occur in the future. Right now we all can see events moving toward dramatic changes in the Middle East that will eventually lead to a geographical arrangement of peoples prophesied in Psalm 83. Read my May 15, 2016 Commentary, [“Bible Prophecy, Time, and Chronology.”](#) Thank you and may God bless you all.

David W. Sielaff
david@askelm.com

