



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 33 YEARS"



THE CORNERSTONE

February 2015

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. Philippians 4:8



Ladies' Fellowship Luncheon

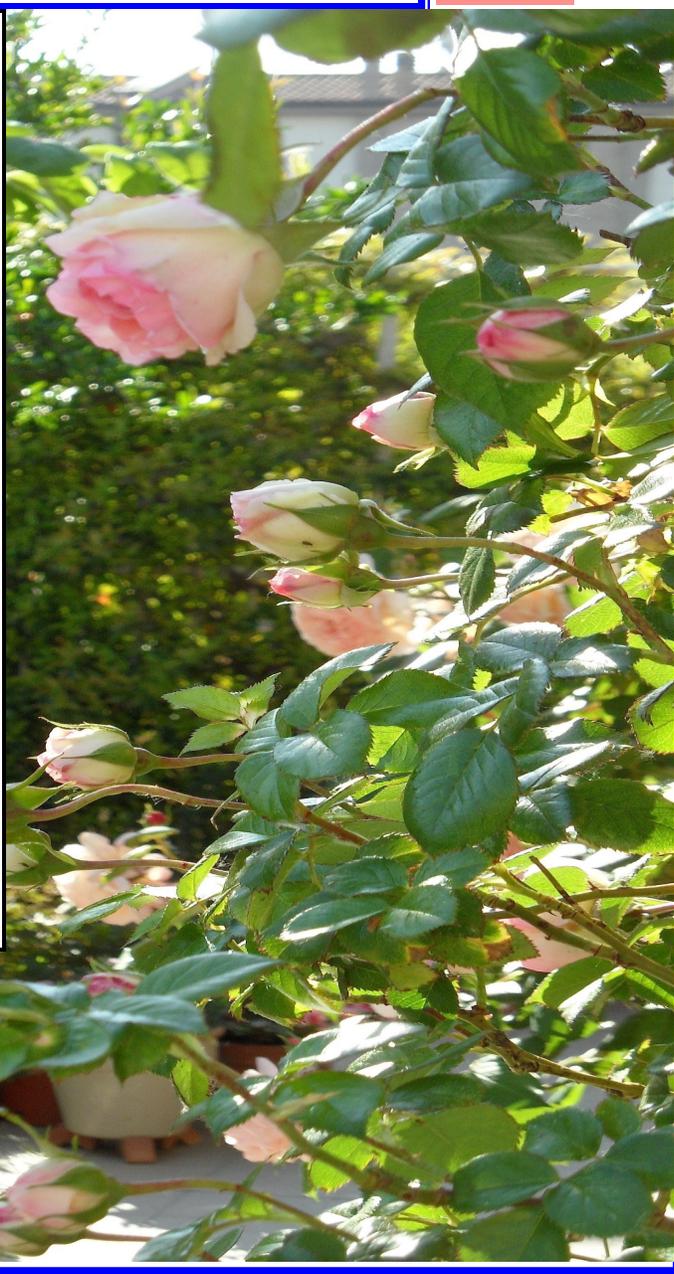
Saturday, February 21, 2015
– 11:00 a.m.

Our speaker this year will be our own

Lynn Munsterman—Speaking on—
 “Prayer ”

Sign up sheets are in the foyer. The cost is
 \$10.00 for SLBC ladies

and is free for your guests.





Andy Woods—Pastor

The Temples of the Bible (Part 4 of 4)

I have just returned from a trip to Israel. While there I enjoyed an extensive tour of the Temple Mount with Dr. Randall Price and *World of the Bible Ministries*. Thus, I have been thinking quite a bit lately about the biblical temples. It seems to me that the various Jerusalem temples described in

the Bible represent one of the great unifying themes of Scripture. They represent God's past, present, and future hand in history. Thus, one way to get a perspective on what God has done, is doing, and will do, is to become familiar with the various temples of Scripture. To this end, I began a survey concerning what the Bible teaches on this important subject. To begin with, it is helpful to understand the *four* Jewish temples. *Two* of these temples existed in past Jewish history. *Two* of these temples will exist in Israel's future.

My previous two articles have discussed the first two historical temples as well as some of the issues surrounding the coming third temple that will exist in the future Tribulation period. This article will conclude our series on the biblical temples by briefly examine the coming fourth temple. We will also briefly discuss the metaphorical temples that God indwells in the present Church Age.

Temple #4

As we study Scripture carefully, we learn that there will actually be a *fourth temple* which will play a major role in Israel's future. This temple is described in Ezekiel 40–48. We know that this passage is not talking about any of the three temples we have already discussed because it mentions that this temple will have features which do not match any of the previous temples. In context, Ezekiel 40–48 is speaking of the millennial reign of Christ, which will be established upon the earth when Christ returns. Thus, this *fourth temple* will exist during the one-thousand year governmental reign of Christ (Rev. 20:1-10). That is why this *fourth temple* is referred to as the *millennial temple*.

Literal or Allegorical?

Tragically, many interpreters fail to take this temple literally and instead opt to allegorize, spiritualize, or symbolize away this temple's details. Yet, why would Ezekiel describe this temple in such mind-numbing detail if it were not literal? Similar detail is used to denote the specifics of Noah's Ark (Gen. 6:15-16), Moses' Tabernacle (Exod. 25–31), and the Solomonic temple (1 Kgs. 5–7). If these three accounts are all literal, then why cannot Ezekiel's temple be literal as well? Interestingly, in the Book of Ezekiel, the millennial temple is juxtaposed with the first temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Ezek. 8–11). The same amount of detail is used to depict both temples. Just as the glory of God



left the first temple prior to its destruction (Ezek. 10:4, 18-19; 11:23), the glory of God will return to the millennial temple (Ezek. 43:1-5). Since most commentators take the first temple literally, it seems odd not take Ezekiel's millennial temple with the same degree of literalness. To do otherwise would be to unnaturally and inconsistently bifurcate the Book of Ezekiel. Revelation 21:22 says, "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." Thus, because there will be no temple in the Eternal State (Rev 21–22) that follows Christ's early reign, Ezekiel's millennial temple will constitute the very last physical temple in the outworking of God's purposes.

Church Age Temples

It is exciting to contemplate the past two historical and the two eschatological Jewish temples. However, the Church Age is an intercalation, or interruption or parenthetical insertion, in between God's past program and future program for the nation of Israel. Thus, these four temples really have no direct relationship to the Church Age. Although the church is not related to Israel's literal temples, there are *two* non-literal or metaphorical temples that are directly related to the church. *First*, all of the physical bodies of Church Age believers are considered the temple of the Holy Spirit. First Corinthians 6:19 says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" Here, temple imagery is used to describe the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the individual believer's body. Christ set the precedent for using the temple as a metaphor for the physical body as He made a reference to His own body. "Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body." (John 2:19-21). Just as the glory of God indwelt the Solomonic temple, the Holy Spirit indwells, lives, or takes residence in the believer's body.

Second, Paul also used the temple metaphor to describe God's presence in the church. First Corinthians 3:16 says, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Interestingly, while the noun "body" is singular in 1 Corinthians 6:19, the second person pronoun "you" is plural in 1 Cor 3:16. In other words, just as God individually indwells the believer (1 Cor. 6:19), He also indwells His church as believers gather corporately (1 Cor. 3:16). While we can remain excited about Israel's past and future temples, let us remain equally interested in and excited over the two great temples of the Church Age that directly affect the believer today. Just as God was at work and will be at work in Israel's temples, He is also at work in our bodies and churches. Our study of the various temples of the Bible has shown us how God has worked in the past, how He is working in the present, and how He will work in the future.

(End of Series)

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:
earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org

Bulletin Board



Home Fellowship Groups

First Colony East—Adults Only: Host: Eric and Veronica Wasek—Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 7 pm—2801 Hidden Knoll Court—281-980-3742— A study in 1 & 2 Timothy -.Leader: Earl Chandler

First Colony West—Children Welcome: Hosts: Keith and Judy Kurrus- 2803 Pineleaf Drive—281-242-3031 Co-Hosts: Brooks and Elizabeth Sellers—281-313-0527 : Meets 2nd & 4th Fridays at 6:30

New— Young Couples Fellowship—Held at SLBC—7 pm. Coordinator: Andrea Merkin, 1-210-367-6452; Meets 2nd & 4th Friday They meet in the fellowship room.



Men's Weekly Bible Study— Tuesday, 8:00 pm David Sandlin—Teacher

Ladies Bible Study—Thursday—9:30 to 11:30

Ladies Bible Class—Hostess and Teacher: Betty Cooke

21926 Rustic Canyon Lane, Richmond, 281-232- 1795 Meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm

News from the SLBC Library



Have you had an "*aha!*" moment lately? – One when you are overcome with joy, reverence and thankfulness for God's presence in your life. I experience this when I read the Word, and also when I am surrounded by books that were written by men and women with wisdom, given them by God as they share their relationship and knowledge of His Word.

When I enter our church Library, I am often humbled by the timeless books these people have written. I hope you will seek out some of these books, and, that it will deepen your appreciation of what God can do in your life.

The books in the Children's section will also give your children a Christian perspective of how God wants to be a part of their lives.



Thank you to the many people who have donated books to the Library this year. We have been blessed with many additional books for children and adults, as well as video tape donations. If you want to look at the selection before you visit the Library, you can go to our church website. The Church Library is listed under **Resources**. It will give you a list of everything that is in our Library and it is there for your use.

Scripture for the Month: Exodus 14:13-14



And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."



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Pastor Andy's Invocation Before Texas House of Representatives



Shall we pray?

Father in heaven we acknowledge that this legislative body and its members and leaders would not exist were it not for your gracious hand. Your Word states, "For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God" (Rom. 13:1) and it is you who "removes kings and establishes kings" (Dan. 2:21).

We also acknowledge that governments are instituted among men to accomplish your purposes upon the earth. "Governors [are] as sent by [God] for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right" (1 Pet. 2:14; Rom. 13:3-4).

We are also mindful of our responsibilities as citizens to pray for those in government who rule over us. "I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Tim. 2:1-2). We further acknowledge that we are to pray for those in government because "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes" (Prov. 21:1).

So today Father we specifically pray for the Texas House of Representatives. We thank you for the gifted men and women that you have called to serve in this body. We specifically pray for their protection and encouragement. We ask that you would be intimately involved in their decision-making. We ask that this body would accomplish your purposes for its existence. We ask that they would seek your will, your Word, and your face as they shape laws and policies for generations to come.

We also ask that these legislators and all who assist them would be ever mindful of the fact that first and foremost that they are your servants. "For rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing" (Rom. 13:4). We also ask that these legislators would be ever that mindful that they are also servants of those that have elected them and have entrusted political power, decision making authority, and influence to them.

And finally Father help us all, as citizens and governors alike, to recognize the futility of governing without you. As Benjamin Franklin said during America's Constitutional Convention, "I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall be become a reproach and a bye word down to future age."

We ask all of these things Father in the name of your precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.