

DESERT SPRINGS CHURCH -MEN'S MINISTRY

DUST OF THE RABBI

THURSDAY -2/016,2023

SESSION FOUR (4), LIVING STONES"

LIVING STONES -is A PERFECT TITLE TO explain =The places that Jesus and His disciples traveled in Israel and throughout the Christian world of -Aisa Minor. Their Mission- to spread the Gospel during days of Jesus Christs and Apostle Paul.

Why do I say that = LIVING STONES -is A PERFECT TITLE. My Wife & I had the pleasure of traveling in the Holy land. You feel that the "Stones, Rocks, Buildings & Statues – ARE all Talking to You.

Whether the building has been restored to almost new or looks like it may fall on You any minute.

You have a feeling that it is speaking to you telling you the stories of what took place there. It is as if- it all comes alive.

These Stones were carved or chiseled to build the civilization during the periods as written in the Old & New Testament. They were chiseled to a" finite fit" that Current day Engineers marvel at the methods that the Craftsmen used to accomplish this. The size of the stones & how they moved them from the stone quarries and into their building place is a total marvel.

When you are there, you See it, Feel it & Breath it - there is a Magic that I believe comes from the Holy Spirit and that improves your understanding of it all.

"As we will see in the video God did not abandon his people after the destruction of His temple in Jerusalem, AD70.

Repeated after me Please - Ephesians 2:19-22

“The Very Words of God”

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you to are being built together a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

The Point is, every place my wife and I were in the Holy Land, We experienced it just as if it was part of the “Living Stones of Israel & the Holy Land”. It was Just as if you were following Rabbi Jesus Christ, His disciples, and the “Dust of their sandals.”

We are going to see the Video in a minute & I would like you to look at the following for discussion points for later:

1. The Athenians built a Temple to the Greatness of Athena.
What Gods were in it.
2. Where is God’s Temple?
3. What lives in God’s Temple? What makes it Sacred?
4. What is the “Living Stones” of God’s First Ordained Temple?
5. The power of God’s Love – Are You a Living Stones?

Now, Let’s watch the video together!

God had a plan that was already set in motion to make His Presence known in the world in an even more personal and dramatic way. God's plan for revealing His presence would not only meet the deepest needs of Jesus and the disciples but would communicate to all the Pagan worshiping people -that their Gods were just man-made figures and temples of stone. A review of The following will make it clearer.

Come -Let us read together God's Word to find the Answers to some of the Questions

Possible Answers to #1: - Jim

The statue of the Goddess of Athena, which was about twenty-one (21) feet tall. Probably covered with gold, ivory & marble. The statue was placed so that when the twenty -two (22) foot front doors were open, the Sun would reflect off the Statue over the entire city & looking out to toward the Ships at Sea.

OK – SO We learned that there were several Temples & were the center of the Athenian world. A focal point for Community gathering outside the temple. The selling of all types of items by Trades men with a Guilds (Like a Trade Unions). Possible Healing, Food Distribution, requesting prayer - asking for Rain for their crops, various other services, a Center for festivals & much more.

Possible Answer to #2 = Where is God's Temple?

Paul said in Acts 17:22-31 (NIV)

²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious.

²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself

gives all men life and breath and everything else.

²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone--an image made by man's design and skill.

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Scripture also tells us of other images in the temple: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Meaning =(Mind & Physical Body)

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Possible Answers to #3 - What lives in God's Temple? What makes it Sacred?

Hebrews 3:3-8 (NIV)

³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

⁵ Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

⁶ But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert,

Possible Answers to # 4. What is the "Living Stones" of God's First Ordained Temple. What was it's purpose?

The Lord Appears to Solomon in the New Temple of Stone. =2 Chronicles 7:11 -22(NIV)

¹¹ When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace,

¹² the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

¹³ "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people,

¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

¹⁶ I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

¹⁷ "As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws,

¹⁸ I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.'

¹⁹ "But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and

go off to serve other gods and worship them,

²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

²¹ And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?'

²² People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them--that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'

Possible Answers to #5 The power of God's Love -Are You A Living Stones?

Jim T

"A -ROCK, a common sight in the Middle East, is often used as a metaphor in Hebrew & Christian Scriptures. Jesus the Messiah, for example, is portrayed as the Rock. Rock is also a symbol for God & his faithfulness, so God's people used stones as monuments to God's faithfulness. The idea that God would refer to his people as 'Living Stones' that he was building into a temple to display his faithfulness would not have seemed at all unusual to Jesus' disciples & early Believers" {see Pages135-136 "In the DUST OF THE RABBI" book Session 4 -Day Three/ You Are a Living Stone}.

1 Peter 2:4- 10 (NIV)

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--

⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,

⁸ and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Jesus Prays for All Believers-John 17:20 – 26 (NIV)

John 17:20-26 (NIV)

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:

²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Jim T

I now ask each of you to take a walk into the Desert. Look for a stone that suits you. One that you believe the Lord speaks to you to have for yourself. One you can keep, put on your desk, a shelf or wherever you Pray each day. Remembering this, Lesson.

Remembering the sone & that God, Our Lord Jesus Christ -Loves you enough to die for your Sin, Mine & for all those who chose Him As Our Lord & Savior.

Bless you & THANK YOU for the Opportunity to present this Session & Lesson.

Jim Taylor