

The Greatest Desire In God's Heart

I. The Desire In God's Heart To Dwell With Man

- a. A quick look at the age to come will help us understanding what is burning in God's heart to accomplish. God's greatest desire is to have a unified people that would eternally host His presence. Jesus expressed this desire in *John 17*.

(Revelation 21:3 NASB) "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them"

(John 17:21, 24 NASB) "That they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world

- b. After God created mankind, he called creation "very good", and even walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden. The dream in His heart from eternity past had begun to be actualized. Because of sin, face to face connection with God was "cut off" and man was cast out of the Garden (Genesis 3:24).

(Genesis 3:8 NASB) "Now they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."

- c. The entirety of the biblical narrative chronicles God's divine plan to eternally dwell with man. It tells the story of a maturing bride, that is growing in love for God and the desires of His heart. She will become so lovesick, that what He wants most, will become what she wants most; to dwell together in unhindered face-to-face connection.

(Revelation 22:17 NASB) "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'"

II. David, A Man After God's Heart

- a. What characterized David's life was his vow to establish for God a suitable resting place. David, as a young boy playing his harp on the hillside, caught sight of the heart of God and aligned his heart to restlessly pursue seeing the greatest desire in God's heart (to dwell with man) fulfilled in his city.

(Psalm 132:1-5 NASB) "Remember, Lord, in David's behalf, All his affliction; 2 How he swore to the Lord And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, 3 "I certainly will not enter my house, Nor lie on my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes Or slumber to my eyelids, 5 Until I find a place for the Lord, A dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

(1 Samuel 13:14 NASB) "...The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him ruler over His people..."

(Acts 13:22 NASB) "...I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will."

(2 Chronicles 6:7-8 NASB) "Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. 8 But the Lord said to my father David, "Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart."

(Psalm 27:4 NASB) "One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple."

- b. When David became king, his first order of business was to bring the "ark of God (which held the manifest presence of God)" back to Jerusalem and commission over 4,000 singers, musicians, and

gatekeepers to minister before the presence of God night and day (*1 Chronicles 16; 23:27-32; Ezra 3:10*).

(1 Chronicles 13:3 NASB) “...let us bring back the ark of our God to us, since we did not seek it in the days of Saul.”

(1 Chronicles 16:4 NASB) “He appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord...”

- c. The Tabernacle was later developed into the Temple in Jerusalem and there, the “*Davidic order*” of worship continued. Of the dozens of Kings that followed David there were a handful of leaders in Israel’s history that embraced the “*Davidic order*” of worship during their reign. Those that embraced the Tabernacle of David represent some of the most remarkable seasons of revival in Israel’s history. Whenever the Davidic model was in practice under a king a whole generation of people were embracing and sustaining it.
 - i. Solomon (*2 Chronicles 5-7,8:14-15*), Abijah (*2 Chronicles 13:10-15,14:1-3*), Asa (*2 Chronicles 15:12-17*), Jehoshaphat (*2 Chronicles 20*), “Jehoiada and Joash (*2 Chronicles 23-24*), Hezekiah (*2 Chronicles 29-30*), Josiah (*2 Kings 22-23, 2 Chronicles 35*).

III. A New Testament Reality

- a. On two occasions, Jesus walked into the temple and cleansed it because instead of it functioning as a “house of prayer”, they had turned it into a “place of business” and “den of robbers”.

(John 2:14-17 NASB) “And within the temple grounds He found those who were selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15 And He made a whip of cords, and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, “Take these things away from here; stop making My Father’s house a place of business!” 17 His disciples remembered that it was written: “Zeal for Your house will consume me.”

(Matthew 21:12-13 NASB) “And Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all those who were selling and buying on the temple grounds, and He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. 13 And He said to them, “It is written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a den of robbers.”

(Isaiah 56:6-7 NASB) “Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To attend to His service and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, every one who keeps the Sabbath so as not to profane it, And holds firmly to My covenant; 7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

- b. Isaiah spoke of a reality that included Gentile believers, being able to come into the “house of prayer” to worship. The apostles practiced going to the temple daily to pray with other believers. Paul said “it’s God’s will” that the church should “pray without ceasing”. Unceasing prayer is impossible for one person to accomplish, but easily sustained by a unified church.

(Acts 2:42-47 NASB) “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all the believers were together and had all things in common; 45 and they would sell their property and possessions and share them with all, to the extent that anyone had need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NASB) “Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

IV. The Restoration of the Tabernacle of David

- a. At the council of Jerusalem, the apostles recalled Amos 9:11 and called the “rebuilding of the tabernacle of David” the means by which God would “take a people for His name from the Gentiles”.

(Acts 15:14-18 NASB) “Simeon has described how God first concerned Himself about taking a people for His name from among the Gentiles. 15 The words of the Prophets agree with this, just as it is written: 16 ‘After these things I will return, And I will rebuild the fallen tabernacle of David, And I will rebuild its ruins, And I will restore it, 17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’ 18 Says the Lord, who makes these things known from long ago.”

- b. God’s plan to bring about the restoration of all things to gather people from every nation, tongue, and tribe, to be “Restless Ones” like David and rebuild David’s tabernacle (i.e. continual worship and prayer). This global movement of night and day worship and prayer will usher Jesus back to the planet. There are over 50,000 houses of prayer that have sprung up in the nations over the past 3 or 4 decades. God is marking millions of believers unto the rebuilding David’s fallen tent.

(Malachi 1:11 NASB) “For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name shall be great among the nations, and in every place frankincense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name shall be great among the nations,” says the Lord of armies.”

- c. God promised that when he shakes the earth, heavens, & nations (*the end of the age*) the “latter Glory” of His house of prayer would be greater than the former (*Solomon’s Temple*), I believe that the 50,000 houses of prayer that have “sprung up” are the beginning of the glory of this “latter glory”.

(Haggai 2:8-9 NASB) “For this is what the Lord of armies says: ‘Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’...The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’... 9 ‘The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’...‘and in this place I will give peace,’...”

- d. We believe God is doing that right here in our own region. Our vision is to advance up night and day worship and prayer in southern Colorado. Our mission is to facilitate a prayer room where people can encounter God and receive teaching, training, and encouragement, in sustaining a life of prayer.