

GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE --
THE DESTRUCTION
OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.

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Introduction:

A. (Slide #2) Previously We Studied The Building Of The Temple In “Great Events Of The Bible #38 -- The Completion Of Solomon’s Temple.”

1. We saw David’s DESIRE to build It; He was rebuffed by God. I Chr. 28:6
2. God did allow David to make all the preparations for building the Temple. I Chr. 22
3. It took 7 years to build this remarkable building.
4. The Temple was built on Mt. Moriah. II Chr. 3:1
5. The size of the Temple proper was 60 x 20 x 30 cubits (90’ long x 30’ wide x 45’ high).
6. Solomon spared no expense in building the Temple”
 - a. The total amount of gold used in the Temple was 100,000 talents of gold and 1,000,000 talents of silver plus bronze and iron that could not be measured! II Chr. 3:8,9
 - b. The value of the Temple:
 1. (A talent was about 80 pounds; today an ounce of **gold** is worth \$1,321.61. 100,000 talents would be 8,000,000 pounds or 4,000,000 tons. The value today of the gold in the Temple would be **over \$169 billion!!** \$169,166,080,000.)
 2. (A talent was about 80 pounds; today an ounce of **silver** is worth \$17.31. 1,000,000 talents of silver would be 80,000,000 pounds or 40,000,000 tons. The value today of the silver in the Temple would be **over \$22 billion!** \$22,156,800,000.)
 3. Keep in mind **this does not include the bronze and iron!**
7. Solomon dedicated this building to God. I Ki. 8; II Chr. 6
8. And when Solomon finished the dedication God’s glory came upon the Temple! II Chr. 7:1-3 “When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ²And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’S house.

³When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, *saying*: ‘For *He is good*, For His mercy *endures* forever.’”

- B. The Significance Of The Temple -- It Was The Permanent Place Of Worship To God; The Ark Of The Covenant In The Most Holy Place Was The Presence Of God, The Shekinah, In Israel!

I. (Slide #3) The Covenant Made By God And Solomon Concerning The Temple!

- A. As He Was Building The Temple, God Gave A SERIOUS Warning To Solomon! I Ki. 6:11-13

1. “Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: ¹²‘Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. ¹³And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.’”
2. In essence God was saying, “Obey me, I will bless you!”

- B. (▶) As The Temple Was Being Dedicated, Solomon Implored That God Would Hear The Prayers Of His People When They Looked Toward This House! I Ki. 8

- C. (▶) After The Dedication God Gave Serious Warnings To Solomon! I Ki. 9:1-9; II Chr. 7:12-22

1. He had consecrated this House. 3
2. If you and your sons obey me, you kingdom will continue. 4,5
3. If they do not obey, God will cut Israel off from this land and cast the House out of His sight!!! 6,7
4. If they sin, Israel will become a proverb and a byword and the House will become an astonishment! 7,8
5. People will know that it is because Israel has forsaken God! 9

II. (Slide #4) History Of Worship At The Temple.

- A. (▶) The Construction Began About 1012 B.C.[Some Suggest 977, 975, or 967]; It Was Completed About 1004 B.C. [Some Suggest 972, 969, 960]. It Was Completed Between 1004 And 960 B.C.

- B. (▶) It Stood In Jerusalem Until 586 B.C. Thus, It Existed In The Neighborhood Of 400 Years.
- C. (▶) It Began With Great Pomp And Glory To God! I Ki. 8
1. When the Temple was finished, Solomon brought all the items that David had dedicated and placed them in It. I Ki. 7:51
 2. Priests carried the Ark Of The Covenant from the Tabernacle on Mt. Zion to the Temple on Mt. Moriah! I Ki. 8:1-13
 - a. It was placed in the Most Holy Place under the two cherubim! I Ki. 8:4-8
 - b. The only things that were in the Ark of the Covenant were the two Tables of Stone that Moses received at Mt. Sinai! I Ki. 8:9; II Chr. 5:10
 - c. Then the priests exited, a cloud filled the Temple! I Ki. 8:10,11
 3. Solomon blessed God, I Ki. 8:14-21; He prayed to God about the future of the awesome building, I Ki. 8:22-53; II Chr. 6:12-42; He made a strong appeal to the people, I Ki. 8:54-60.
 4. God then spoke to him a second time! I Ki. 9:1-9; II Chr. 7:12-22
 - a. The first time was when God told Solomon to ask for anything he wished. I Ki. 3.
 - b. At the dedication of the Temple, God spoke to Solomon a second time and God gave those serious warnings.
- D. (Slide #5) Titles Show The Grandeur And Elevated Status The Temple Held.
1. "Temple of the LORD." II Ki. 11:10
 2. "Holy Temple." Ps. 79:1
 3. "House Of My God." I Chr. 29:2;
 4. "Temple of God." II Chr. 23:9,12
 5. "House of the LORD." II Chr. 23:5; Jer. 28:5
 6. "The House of the God of Jacob." Is. 2:3
 7. "House of My Glory." Is. 60:7
 8. "House of Prayer." Is. 56:7
 9. "Holy and Beautiful Temple." Is. 64:11

- E. Faithful Jews LOVED To Worship There.
1. Ps. 122:1 “A song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”
 2. All of the Ascent Psalms, Psalms 120-134, declare the joy of going there to worship!
- F. (►) Defamations And Reformations Were Seen Throughout The History Of The Temple.
1. Many kings stripped the Temple of Its wealth, polluted, and corrupted It; others brought about reformations and renovations.
 2. The history:
 - a. Rehoboam 931-913 B.C.
 1. Jeroboam set up rival places of worship in Dan and Bethel -- calves. I Ki. 12:25-33
 2. In his 5th year, Shishak, king of Egypt, carried away the treasures of the Temple (and of the king’s house). I Ki. 14:25-28; II Chr. 12:2-9
 - b. Abijah 913-911 B.C. -- following the idolatrous beliefs of his mother, Maacah, he introduced many abominations into the worship at the Temple. I Ki. 15:2, 12-13
 - c. Asa 911-870 B.C.: I Ki. 15:8,9
 1. He cleared the abominations of Abijah from the Temple.
 2. Sadly, he further depleted the Temple by sending gold and silver to Ben-hadad, king of Syria as he sought Syria’s help against Baasha, king of Israel.
 - d. Jehoshaphat 873-848 B.C.
 - e. Jehoram 853-841. B.C.
 - f. Ahaziah 841 B.C. -- Jehoash, king of Israel carried off the gold and silver from the Temple. II Ki. 14:14
 - g. Athaliah 841 - 835 B.C. -- She desecrated the Temple. II Chr. 24:7
 - h. Joash 835 - 796 B.C. -- he repaired the Temple. II Ki. 12:4-16; II Chr. 24:4-14
 - i. Amaziah 796 - 767 B.C.
 - j. Uzziah (Also called Azariah) 790 - 739 B.C. -- he was stricken with leprosy for entering the Most Holy Place and making a sacrifice. II Chr. 26:6-10
 - k. Jotham 750 B.C. - 731 B.C.
 - l. Ahaz 735 - 715 B.C.:
 1. He gave Assyria the treasures of the Temple and the palace in order to get the assistance of the Assyrians. II Ki. 16:8
 2. He removed the brazen altar from its place in front of the Temple and set up a pagan idol there! II Ki. 16:10-17

- m. Hezekiah 715 - 686 B.C.
 - 1. He tried to reform the religion.
 - 2. However, he took the gold and silver from the Temple and King's palace to pay a tax levied on him by Sennacherib, king of Assyria. II Ki. 18:14-16; II Chr.32:31
 - n. Manasseh 695 - 642 B.C. -- he converted the Temple into an idolatrous shrine; he erected altars to Baal in the Temple courts, made an Asherah, introduced worship of the host of heaven, had horses dedicated to the sun, offered his own son to these heathen gods, and practiced sorcery! II Ki. 21:3-7; 23:7-11
 - o. Amon 642 - 640 B.C.
 - p. Josiah 640 - 609 B.C. -- he cleaned out all the abuses of the Temple and had the people to again renew their covenant with God. II Ki. 22,23; II Chr. 34,35.
 - q. Jehoahaz 609 B.C.
 - r. Jehoiakim 609 - 597 B.C. -- he became a tributary of Nebuchadnezzar.
 - s. Jehoiachin 597 B.C. -- Nebuchadnezzar took all the treasures of the Temple and the palace to Babylon and took Jehoiachin to Babylon.
 - t. Zedekiah 597 - 586 B.C. -- when Zedekiah rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem for 18 months; then he destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and then burned the rubble. II Ki. 25:1-16
3. What a rollercoaster of history -- loyalty and devotion to God followed by sordid idolatry and disrespect for the wealth that God gave Judah.
 4. And WHAT A TRAGIC END TO THIS MAJESTIC BUILDING!

III. (Slide #6) Attacks By The Babylonians.

- A. The Assyrians Had Defeated Israel In 721 B.C.
- B. Babylon Overthrew Assyrian In 606 B.C.
- C. Babylon Overthrew The Egyptians In Western Asia Also In 606 B.C.
- D. Then They Turned Their Attention To The Jews In Jerusalem!
 1. (►) First attack -- 606 B.C. -- The Babylonians took away the elite of the young people -- Daniel and his 3 friends were taken into Babylon.
 - a. During this reign of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar took some of the vessels from the Temple back to Babylon. II Chr. 36:7 "Nebuchadnezzar also carried off *some* of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon."

- b. After the 3 months of Jehoiachin's reign, Nebuchadnezzar took more vessels from the Temple. II Chr. 36:10 "At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned *him* and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah, *Jehoiakim's* brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem."
2. (►) Second attack -- 597 -- Jehoiachin, the king, was carried into Captivity; Zedekiah was put on the throne. During this attack Ezekiel was taken to Babylon.
- a. (Slide #7) II Ki. 24:13,14 "And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. ¹⁴Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land."
 - b. Jehoiachin was taken into captivity. II Ki. 24:15
 - c. Jeremiah's prophecy to Judah when some false prophets told them that the items of the Temple will soon be returned to Jerusalem.
 - 1. Jer. 27:16-22 "Also I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you, saying, 'Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon'; for they prophesy a lie to you. ¹⁷Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon, and live! Why should this city be laid waste? ¹⁸But if they *are* prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, *in* the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, do not go to Babylon.' ¹⁹For thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, concerning the Sea, concerning the carts, and concerning the remainder of the vessels that remain in this city, ²⁰which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem-- ²¹yes, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that remain in the house of the LORD, and in the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem: ²²'They shall be carried to Babylon, and there they shall be until the day that I visit them,' says the LORD. 'Then I will bring them up and restore them to this place.'"
 - 2. Jeremiah was preparing the Jews for life in Captivity in Babylon.

3. **(Slide #8)** Third attack -- 586 B.C. -- Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed and burned; Zedekiah and the Jews were taken into Captivity.
 - a. **(Slide #9)** II Ki. 25:9,10 “He burned the house of the LORD and the king’s house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. ¹⁰And all the army of the Chaldeans who *were with* the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.”
 - b. **(Slide #10)** Zedekiah and the Jews were taken into captivity.
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar took the remaining vessels from the Temple. II Chr. 36:18 “And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all *these* he took to Babylon.”
 1. Jeremiah had prophesied that this would happen. Jer. 20:5 “Moreover I will deliver all the wealth of this city, all its produce, and all its precious things; all the treasures of the kings of Judah I will give into the hand of their enemies, who will plunder them, seize them, and carry them to Babylon.”
 2. About 44 years later, on the night that Babylon fell, Belshazzar brought some of those vessels into a drunken feast and the Babylonians drank wine from them. Dan. 5:2-4 “While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. ³Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.”
 3. This led to God’s destruction of arrogant Belshazzar THAT NIGHT! Dan. 5:22,23 “But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. ²³And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.”
 - d. II Ki. 25:12 “But the captain of the guard left *some* of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.”

- e. Psalm 79 describes this event: 1-4 “A Psalm of Asaph. O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; They have laid Jerusalem in heaps. ²The dead bodies of Your servants They have given *as* food for the birds of the heavens, The flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth. ³Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, And *there was* no one to bury *them*. ⁴We have become a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and derision to those who are around us.” [Remember God’s promise after Solomon dedicated the Temple? I Ki. 9:7,8 If they sin, Israel will become a proverb and a byword and the House will become an astonishment!]
- f. Is. 64:10,11 “Your holy cities are a wilderness, Zion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. ¹¹Our holy and beautiful temple, Where our fathers praised You, Is burned up with fire; And all our pleasant things are laid waste.”

(Slide #11) Conclusion:

- A. What A Glorious Beginning; What A Tragic End For The Temple!

- B. The Message Today: “God Promises To Bless The Faithful And To Punish The Wicked (To Leave Their House) Are Just As Valid About Individuals, Families, Congregations, And Nations Today As They Were About Solomon’s Temple!

- C. Our Challenge -- To Be Determined To Be Faithful To God NO MATTER WHAT!!!