

## Pride is the Key

The temple that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high. [That is, about 90 feet (about 27 meters) long and 30 feet (about 9 meters) wide and 45 feet (about 13.5 meters) high.]<sup>1</sup>

By comparison, the Greek Pantheon is 69 meters by 30 meters, so that the temple of Solomon itself was not impressive in any way by size. Compared to the pyramids, the temple itself was but a garden shed.

However, look at the material David had set apart for the temple: "I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents [That is, about 3,750 tons (about 3,450 metric tons)] of gold, a million talents [That is, about 37,500 tons (about 34,500 metric tons)] of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone."<sup>2</sup> With a floor area of 243 square meters, each square meter of that temple had available for it 15.43 tons of gold and 154.3 tons of silver. The temple of God would be impressive not by size, elect, but by the amount of precious metals including bronze and iron it would be made with... quantities that the time of David, about 1,000 years before Christ, had never seen. Though you can calculate the monetary value of the gold and silver – USD150 x 10<sup>9</sup> and USD22.8 x 10<sup>9</sup> respectively – do not forget you are speaking of the value of these metals in the world three millenniums ago before we had industrialisation. As such, David amassed a treasure unlike anything the world had ever seen, all just to build a building of 243 square meters.

So stop for a moment, elect, and consider why it took seven years to build when the Greek temple in Athens, almost three times its size, only took five years to build. What man, what king, would devote such a treasure to build a temple for his God unless he was proud of his God? What god has ever had a building planned and dedicated to him of such a magnitude in gold and silver alone? And if the tenfold increase of silver from gold were to be extended to the iron and bronze, then you might say there were 375,000 tons of bronze (10,000,000 talents) and 3,750,000 tons of iron (100,000,000 talents). Whatever the amount, it was certainly far more than 37,500 tons, for they measured the silver but could not measure the iron and bronze.

The pyramids may contain gold, but not with 3,750 tons committed. Now you might argue that this was used in wages. Think, elect, how large a work force do you need for a building of 243 square meters, even if you set it in the middle of large grounds?

Solomon may have built the temple, but it was David who prepared the raw materials for it. Whether Solomon used the materials devoted or not, that is not the subject line, elect. Forget Solomon and look at David... for the key that Jesus holds is not called the key of Solomon, but the key of David as Jesus said, "These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open."<sup>3</sup> It is not what Solomon did; it is what David had in mind that matters. It is not what the eleven disciples did; it is what Jesus had in mind that matters. It is not the temple of Solomon that matters; it is the temple of David that matters. It is not the church raised by the eleven that matters; it is the church that Jesus had in mind that matters.

Even if half the gold was used to pay for the workmen, what David had in mind was a building that would hold 2,000 tons of gold, 37,500 tons of silver and many times more bronze and iron in 243 square meters. Consider what David had in mind and let the Holy Spirit show you... He who knows the mind of God.

Now, have any of you such a pride for your God? If you were in the position to build a temple for God, how much would you set aside for it? What treasures would be placed in it so that the world knows that you are proud of your God? Now, forget the materials – gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and stone – and let us look at the spiritual treasures and materials. What sort of church is worthy of your God that shows the world your pride in Him?

How much love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control, patience, truth, righteousness and sacrifice of praise would you accumulate to build it? How much knowledge, wisdom, faith, miraculous power, prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, discernment of spirits, healing, life, grace and glory need be the skills of its builders? Just like David asked Solomon to have skilled craftsmen, how skilled would you want your workers to be? Skilled in the spiritual gifts to display the

<sup>1</sup> 1 Kings 6.2 and footnote

<sup>2</sup> 1 Chronicles 22.14 and footnote

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 3.7

spiritual treasures in such a way it would be like a building unlike any other... that is, a fellowship of people worshipping God in a way unlike any other.

No, not just a group of people attired appropriately, looking pious in a religious ceremony, but a group of people attired with testimonies of miracles that defy the religious and make them irrelevant. **A church where all the people are skilled in the practice of what their God has given them, but more importantly, a people who are images of who their God is – Eternal, Immortal and Invisible – Almighty.**

David was not satisfied that he lived in a palace while God lived in a tent and so David began to plan a palace for his God, far greater than his own. You see, elect, the pride begins in the heart, that is true... and so pride for your God begins there, and from there the thoughts form and the speech overflows. David may not have built the temple, but he certainly prepared for it. And no doubt, in his preparation, spoke of it... spoke of a building that would have 3,750 tons of gold, 37,500 tons of silver, 375,000 tons of bronze and 3,750,000 tons of iron amongst its wood and stones. What a building... what a sight!

Likewise, Jesus spoke of such a building for His God, such a temple... not a temple of wood and stone, but **a temple of trees of righteousness planted by the Lord with living stones as well... that is, a temple made out of people.** However, these people would be filled with such precious treasures just like the wood and stones of David's temple would have been, that **anyone who belonged to this living temple "...will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these..."<sup>4</sup>** and would have on display signs accompanying them so that anyone who saw them would know they are part of the temple Jesus Christ had built for His Father and His God, for in His Name **"...they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."<sup>5</sup>**

**A living temple that was not only mobile, moving, not like a building of wood and stone, but a living being in itself... and not only living, but also immortal as God is Immortal because the ones who would make up this new temple of God "...will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."<sup>6</sup>** And if you were to walk in the midst of this living temple, you would see, hear and experience things that the world cannot offer... just like anyone who lived in David's world would experience something they had never heard or seen or experienced anywhere else in the world as they entered a 9 meter by 27 meter building filled with 3,750 tons of gold and 37,500 tons of silver and bronze and iron beyond weight holding its stones and wood together.

Jesus had in mind that the people of the world would walk into the Kingdom of God that would be amongst His disciples and would hear, see, feel and taste of things they had never found anywhere else – truths that have never been explained before, good news found nowhere else, testimonies and not theories or stories, all backed up with signs, wonders and miracles. Any blind man walking into this temple would see. Any lame man would crawl in and run out. Any deaf would hear. The mute and dumb would sing. The dead would feel. The hungry would be fed the finest of aged meats. The thirsty would drink not just pure clean water, but the finest wine that gladdens their hearts. The poor would have their pockets filled with treasures and never want again. All without cost.

**That is the temple of God that Jesus had in mind for God and so He went through great pains to set aside His words and His actions, His miracles and wonders, without number.** So great were the words and actions that as John wrote: **Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written,<sup>7</sup>** just like David amassed bronze and iron beyond weight. Like David, **Jesus handed the raising up of His temple to His successor – the Holy Spirit** – as Solomon succeeded David. But, elect, Solomon was not faithful and though the building was built, did it really conform to David's plan? We know what a faithless king Solomon was and how he betrayed David... but we also know that the Holy Spirit has not and will never betray Jesus. So if Solomon, the faithless wonder, for it is a wonder to the degree he did stray yet still lived, could raise up a temple that satisfied God enough to fill it with His glory at its dedication, why then has the Holy Spirit not been able to? For no such church exists today, elect.

The fault lays not with the Holy Spirit, but with the workmen who were commissioned – lazy and unskilled in the principals that matter. We have used the way of the world and not the way of the Holy Spirit, and so we have as the temple of God today a building like the temple of Herod in Jesus' day – a shadow of what was but is not. A fellowship, yes, of believers, yes... but not a fellowship where people of the world can walk amongst and be convicted and amazed by the goodness and greatness of God.

<sup>4</sup> John 14.12

<sup>5</sup> Mark 16.17-18

<sup>6</sup> John 11.25-26

<sup>7</sup> John 21.25

Without such a pride, there is no key, elect. So then can you see what the key of David is, elect, that can open the **vault of God**?

NB: Current worth of David's treasure:

USD150 x 10<sup>9</sup> of gold

USD22 x 10<sup>9</sup> of silver

USD62.64 x 10<sup>9</sup> of bronze

USD1.275 x 10<sup>9</sup> of iron

That is about USD236,715,000,000 for a building of 27 meters long by 9 meters wide by 13.5 meters high (which is the exact floor space of 90 George Street, Parramatta, NSW, Australia – 243 square meters).

Mmm... does it make you consider?