

“God not only cares **THAT** he is worshiped; but he cares **HOW** he is to be worshiped.”

- Last time we looked at the 2 Chronicles 3 on the TEMPLE BUILDING/the COMPLEX (holy place/holy of holies/portico). Tonight, in 2 Chronicles 4 we look at the **insides** of the Temple -- the furnishings, the items, the containments.
- God’s Worship must be **PRIORITY** – preeminent, important, weekly, regular!
- God’s Worship must be **LOFTY** – give God our best, focused, prepared, elevated, truthful, w/ Scripture!
- God’s Worship must be in **PURITY** – come in purity, with repentant hearts, cleanness.
- God’s Worship must be **ANTICIPATORY** – hungry to meet with God, ready for heaven!!
- God’s Worship must have a **CHRIST-CENTRALITY** – must be anchored to Christ in Word! Tethered to/fixed upon Jesus!
- Matthew Henry writes: “in all our devotions we must keep the eye of faith fixed upon Christ, the great propitiation.”

Some lessons at the outset to be mindful of:

1. **Be mindful of the importance of your priorities.** (As Soon as Solomon became king he began construction). The work was important, *and* he prioritized it.
2. **Be mindful of the significance of your involvement.** (Remember: every worker was important: every one of the 150,000+ workers was important >> they served. We are a body and we serve God; 1 Cor 12.12-27)
3. **Be mindful of the importance of your gifts.** (Solomon gave to God the BEST that could be obtained. He spared nothing. He didn’t give God the leftovers. God is gracious and He calls us to be generous people & to give the BEST of our gifts to Him! A protection for us & God is worthy!)
4. **Be mindful of the need of your perseverance.** (in hard tasks, it can be easy to give up. When a task seems too big, or too insurmountable, or not achievable, we often give up. It took 4 years even to prepare before the building began, then they actually began it. JUST persevere. Keep going.)
5. **Be mindful of the centrality of your Savior.** (just as in the Temple everything pointed to Christ, so in our lives and in our worship, everything must point to and lead us to the worship of Christ!).

THESIS — In this chap, I wanna show you 4 phases of this chapter as the Chronicler tells us about the TEMPLE & ITS FURNISHINGS. [*what was the place of worship like?*]

I. THE CONTAINMENTS OF THE TEMPLE (1-10) [*The PURITY of God*]

1. bronze altar (1)

2. metal sea/laver (2-5)

3. wash basins (10x) (6)

4. lampstands (10x) (7)

5. Tables (8)

6. the court of the priests (9-10)

Remember! Everything that the priests and other Levites did in carrying out ALL the rituals of the temple related back to this central, foundational, crux truth >> BLOOD-ATONEMENT.

II. THE CRAFTSMAN OF THE TEMPLE (11-18) [*The PROVISION of God*]

Even the SMALL items should be given and prepared with a view to the glory of God. Be faithful in the small things in life! Nothing is insignificant in God's sight! Be faithful in the small things!

Also we learn here that God's work is never a “one-man-show!”

III. THE COSTLINESS OF THE TEMPLE (19-22) [The PRECIOUSNESS/PREEMINENCE of God]

Reminder of the Temple Building & Its Theology...

The Temple is DETAILED >> God is a God of detail
 The Temple is ELABORATE >> God is the God of gods
 The Temple is COSTLY >> God is worthy of the best
 The Temple is BEAUTIFUL >> God is a beautiful God
 The Temple is A HOUSE >> God dwells in this place
 The Temple is HOLY >> God is an unapproachable God

IV. THE COMPLETION OF THE TEMPLE (5:1) [The PERFECTION/PRESENCE of God]

5:1 — “the work...was FINISHED!”

For us as New Testament Christians...

- Something greater than the TEMPLE is here (Matt 12.6)
- And that something is JESUS CHRIST!
 - Revelation 1.5-6 — we are priests, to serve the God and Father!
 - The way to approach God is to be CLEANSED — washed (Titus 3:5; 1 Cor 6.9-11)
 - And, be assured & comforted, iff you are a believer you are clean (John 15.3)
- SO LET US REMEMBER: Redemption is costly. Freedom from sin is blood bought. Your redemption was COSTLY to God, FREE to us!

O perfect redemption the purchase of blood
 To every believer the promise of God
 The vilest offender who truly believes
 That moment from Jesus a pardon receives!

– Fanny Crosby

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God
 In the light of creation's grand design
 In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
 Who walk by faith and not by sight

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
 With the power of His promise in their hearts
 Of a holy city built by God's own hand
 A place where peace and justice reign

*We will stand as children of the promise
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
 Till the race is finished and the work is done
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

By faith the prophets saw a day
 When the longed-for Messiah would appear
 With the power to break the chains of sin and death
 And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go
 In the power of the Spirit to the lost
 To deliver captives and to preach good news
 In every corner of the earth

*We will stand as children of the promise
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
 Till the race is finished and the work is done
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
 And the power of the gospel shall prevail
 For we know in Christ all things are possible
 For all who call upon His name

*We will stand as children of the promise
 We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
 Till the race is finished and the work is done
 We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
 All other ground is sinking sand;
 All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,
 I rest on His unchanging grace.
 In every high and stormy gale,
 My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
 Support me in the whelming flood.
 When all around my soul gives way,
 He then is all my Hope and Stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
 Oh may I then in Him be found.
 Dressed in His righteousness alone,
 Faultless to stand before the throne.

Prayer Meeting Guide:

Psalm 27.4 – “one thing I have desired ... to behold the beauty of the Lord & to inquire in His temple.”

1. Remember God's Character & Attributes
2. Repent of Sin & Remembering His Sovereign Grace
3. Requesting Our God to Hear & Answer Our Prayers – specifically.