

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

You Must be Born Again!

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com

www.lightfordarktimes.com

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel

Called to Speak for the Lord – the Book of Jeremiah

The True Temple is Under
Construction

May 23, 2021

Sermon Text: Jeremiah 32-33

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

You will remember that last time in our study of Jeremiah 32-33, we particularly noted this passage:

Jer 33:17-18 “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, (18) and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

And we said that verses like this in the Old Testament are regularly misunderstood, misinterpreted, and misapplied – with no little harm being

done in the process. Right now, for instance, Israel has once again been in the news due to the conflict raging there with Hamas. And you can be certain that many professing Christians right now are watching it all very carefully through the lens of what they have been wrongly taught in their churches.

This does not mean that we do not conclude that the Lord is totally finished with the Jews. On the contrary –

Rom 11:11-15 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. (12) Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! (13) Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry (14) in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. (15) For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what

will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

However, when the Lord effects a revival one day among the Jews, *it will not be to make the nation Israel the temple of the Lord – no, it will be to graft them into the true Israel which is the church. The same gospel by which we are saved is the gospel they must accept as well.*

In order to rightly interpret the types and symbols of the Old Testament, we must be certain that we look to Scripture itself as our teacher. So, as we do this, what do we find out about *priesthood, sacrifices, and the temple?* Let's take a look.

Priesthood

Therefore, understanding this, we realize that when the Bible says that things like this: *the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever* – we realize that a wooden, literal interpretation and application is going to lead us into an earthly, Pharisaical doctrine of Israel. We saw it last time in Hebrews. Christ is the end of the Law. He is the once-for-all sacrifice for our sin.

Exo 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; (6) and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

We do not want to be like these people:

A kingdom of priests. A holy nation. But Israel never arrived at those purposes. Why? Because of their sin which we have seen over and over and over here in Jeremiah. God's purposes will stand, but they will be realized in the true Israel, the church. And we know this because the New Testament tells us so –

1Ti 1:6-7 Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, (7) desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are

1Pe 2:4-5 As you come to him, a living

stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, (5) you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (10) Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Rev 1:4-6 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, (5) and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood (6) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

So there it is. There is NO literal Levitical, earthly priesthood presented in the New Testament. It is in the

church, the true Israel of God, that God's purpose of making a holy nation, a royal priesthood, is accomplished in Christ. THIS is the priesthood that Jer 33:18 is pointing to. Every real Christian is a priest – an eternal priest. Our sacrifices are ourselves. We are the holy nation.

The Temple

Now, a priesthood and sacrifices require a temple. So, what do we find in the New Testament about the Temple? First of all we see this:

Mar 13:1-2 And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" (2) And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

As the old era came to a close and the New Covenant was effected in Christ, the purpose of the Old Testament temple was finished. From the beginning, it was an earthly picture of the TRUE temple:

Heb 8:4-5 Now if he were on earth, he

would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. (5) They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”

See it? A copy of the heavenly things. A shadow. That is what OT Israel, the Exodus, the Promised Land, the Levitical priesthood and high priesthood, the tabernacle, the sacrifices, the manna – ALL of it was an earthly shadow and picture of the REAL which is here called the “heavenly.” Even Jerusalem was such a picture –

Heb 12:18-24 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest (19) and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. (20) For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” (21) Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” (22) But you have come to

Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (23) and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

What then does the NT teach about the Temple? Here it is:

Eph 2:11-22 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— (12) remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, **alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise**, having no hope and without God in the world.

NOTE: Notice that *it is in what is called here “Israel” and the “covenants of promise” that we are brought into by Christ. Everyone in Christ IS an Israelite.* Read on

(13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility (15) by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, (16) and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

NOTE: How many people of God are there? Israel and the Church? NO. Jew and Gentile? No. Christ has made BOTH into *one new man, one new people*.

(17) And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. (18) For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

(19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (21) in whom the whole

structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (22) In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

What then is the Temple? The answer is obvious here. It is the Church. The Body of Christ. God dwells in us, He dwells in this Temple by His Spirit in us. This is the ONLY Temple to be found in the New Testament. Whatever eternal priesthood there is, whatever eternal sacrifices there are, necessarily must be connected with THIS eternal and true Temple, the church.

1Co 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (17) If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

2Co 6:16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

But there is more. The Temple is Eden restored, the new creation. Check this out:

Rev 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.** (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Understand? THIS is the goal toward which all of history from Genesis to Revelation has been and is moving. The dwelling place of God with man. What is the dwelling place of God? It is the Temple. Read on-

Rev 21:9-27 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke

to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

(10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, (11) having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (12) It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— (13) on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. (14) And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

(15) And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. (16) The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. (17) He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. (18) The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. (19)

The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. (21) And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

(22) And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

(23) And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. (24) By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, (25) and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. (26) They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. (27) But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Interesting isn't it? *I saw no temple in the city.* Why? Because the full presence of God and Christ fill the new creation. That is to say, the temple is everywhere there.

Now, let's look back at one more Old Testament section that speaks of the temple. I won't read the entire passage because it extends from chapters 40-47. But let's just begin at chapter 40 and as I read, please think of what we just read about the temple in Revelation – note the similarities.

Eze 40:1-49 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was struck down, on that very day, the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me to the city. (2) In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure like a city to the south. (3) When he brought me there, behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring reed in his hand. And he was standing in the gateway. (4) And the man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes, and hear with your ears, and set your heart upon all that I shall show you, for you

were brought here in order that I might show it to you. Declare all that you see to the house of Israel.”

(5) And behold, there was a wall all around the outside of the temple area, and **the length of the measuring reed in the man's hand was six long cubits**, each being a cubit and a handbreadth in length. So he measured the thickness of the wall, one reed; and the height, one reed. (6) Then he went into the gateway facing east, going up its steps, and measured the threshold of the gate, one reed deep. (7) And the side rooms, one reed long and one reed broad; and the space between the side rooms, five cubits; and the threshold of the gate by the vestibule of the gate at the inner end, one reed. (8) Then he measured the vestibule of the gateway, on the inside, one reed. (9) Then he measured the vestibule of the gateway, eight cubits; and its jambs, two cubits; and the vestibule of the gate was at the inner end.

(10) And there were three side rooms on either side of the east gate. The three were of the same size, and the jambs on either side were of the same size. (11) Then he measured the width of the opening of the gateway, ten cubits; and the length of the gateway, thirteen

cubits. (12) There was a barrier before the side rooms, one cubit on either side. And the side rooms were six cubits on either side.

The measuring goes on, describing the temple, and on into chapters 41-42, and then notice in particular chapter 43:

Eze 43:1-27 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. (2) And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. (3) And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face.

(4) As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, (5) the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and **behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.** (6) While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, (7) and he said to me, “**Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever.** And the

house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places, (8) by setting their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger.

(9) Now let them put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and I will dwell in their midst forever. (10) “As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and they shall measure the plan. (11) And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, its whole design; and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out.

(12) This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy.

Behold, this is the law of the temple.

(13) **“These are the measurements of the altar by cubits** (the cubit being a cubit and a handbreadth): its base shall be one cubit high and one cubit broad, with a rim of one span around its edge. And this shall be the height of the altar: (14) from the base on the ground to the lower ledge, two cubits, with a breadth of one cubit; and from the smaller ledge to the larger ledge, four cubits, with a breadth of one cubit; (15) and the altar hearth, four cubits; and from the altar hearth projecting upward, four horns. (16) The altar hearth shall be square, twelve cubits long by twelve broad. (17) The ledge also shall be square, fourteen cubits long by fourteen broad, with a rim around it half a cubit broad, and its base one cubit all around. The steps of the altar shall face east.”

(18) **And he said to me, “Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: These are the ordinances for the altar: On the day when it is erected for offering burnt offerings upon it and for throwing blood against it, (19) you shall give to the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok, who draw near to me to minister to me, declares the Lord GOD, a bull from the herd for a sin offering. (20) And you shall take**

some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar and on the four corners of the ledge and upon the rim all around. Thus you shall purify the altar and make atonement for it. (21) You shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and it shall be burned in the appointed place belonging to the temple, outside the sacred area.

(22) And on the second day you shall offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering; and the altar shall be purified, as it was purified with the bull. (23) When you have finished purifying it, you shall offer a bull from the herd without blemish and a ram from the flock without blemish. (24) You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall sprinkle salt on them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. (25) For seven days you shall provide daily a male goat for a sin offering; also, a bull from the herd and a ram from the flock, without blemish, shall be provided. (26) Seven days shall they make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, and so consecrate it. (27) **And when they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer on the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, and I will accept you,**

declares the Lord GOD.”

How then are we to interpret this temple? Think on this again:

(6) While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, (7) and he said to me, **“Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever.**

This is an ETERNAL temple. Its sacrifices actually effect everlasting salvation for the Israel of God. It is the New Testament where these shadows are brought into clear focus – the temple Ezekiel saw is the New Creation. And the Israel there is the church. There is no other eternal temple or Israel presented to us in the New Testament besides these.

I hope that this helps you to be better enabled to understand and interpret and apply your Bible. And to help us all keep our eyes upon Christ and His true people and the glorious destination He is bringing us to.

Eph 2:17-22 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off

and peace to those who were near. (18) For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (21) in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (22) In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.