

REVIVAL NEWS
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**** JUNE 2023 **** JUNE 2023 **** JUNE 2023 **** JUNE2023 ****

THE HOUSE OF GOD

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WHAT IS GOD BUILDING?

God wants us to receive the *“Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him [Christ]”* in these days (Ephesians 1:17). One of the important areas of revelation we need is the revelation and understanding of the *house of God*. God told Moses to *“make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them”* Exodus 25:8. God wants to dwell with, and in, His people. Throughout the Scriptures there are many descriptions of this house. It is time to explore the house of God and understand what Jesus is building in the earth!

1. THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

The apostle writes to Timothy, *“but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God...”* 1 Timothy 3:15. What is the *house of God*? It is the *church of the living God!* The *church* is the Greek word *ekklesia* and historically means *a popular assembly of citizens* referring to those *called out* to exercise governing powers in a region or city. The *house of God* is the citizens of the kingdom of God called out to exercise His governing power in the earth. For *“where two of you agree on earth concerning anything they ask it will be done by My Father in heaven”* Matthew 18:19. It is the *church of the living God*. This *house* is alive! The Living God is in the midst of this *church*.

2. THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH

The apostle Paul goes on to say, *“the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”* 1 Timothy 3:15. The *house of God* is the *pillar and ground of the truth!* Where can truth be found in the earth? In politics? In the news? No! The truth has a home. It is the *house of God!* Anyone who is seeking the truth of God should be able to find it in His *house*. It is the responsibility of the *church* to guard and keep the truth so that the world can find it! What is the truth to be found in the *house of God*? The next verse tells us, *“For without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifested in the flesh”* 1 Timothy 3:16. The truth is concerning who Jesus is! Jesus is *God manifested in the flesh!* This truth is to be upheld, kept, guarded and manifested in the *house of God!* His *“word is truth”* John 17:17. May the world find the truth in His *house!*

3. RIGHT CONDUCT IS LEARNT IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

When we come out of the world and into Christ, we need to learn a whole new way of life and behavior. The world does not know how to behave in God’s house. Paul was writing

to Timothy so that he would “*know how he ought to conduct himself in the house of God*” **1 Timothy 3:15**. There is a conduct to learn in *the house of God*. In the house of God, we are:

- to remain true to the apostolic doctrine and not get carried away with fables and other stories of men (**1 Timothy 1:3-4; 2 Peter 1:16**).
- to learn how to pray and present ourselves modestly (**1 Timothy 2:1-10**).
- to understand the behavior necessary to be placed as an overseer of God’s people (**1 Tim.3:1-7**).
- to know the behavior necessary to be appointed as a deacon in the house of God (**1 Tim.3:8-13**).
- to understand the *mystery of godliness* (**1 Timothy 3:14-16**).
- To be warned of false doctrines and learn to be a *good minister of Jesus Christ* (**1 Tim.4:1-11**).
- to *give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine* (**1 Timothy 4:12-16**).
- to learn how to relate properly to *old men and old women, young men and young women* and make sure we *honor widows who are really widows* (**1 Timothy 5:1-16**).
- to honor *elders* and especially those who *labor in the word* (**1 Timothy 5:17-22**).
- to *honor masters [employers]* so as to uphold *the name of God and His doctrine* (**1 Tim.6:1-2**).
- to stay in the doctrine and be careful of our desire for and use of money (**1 Tim.6:3-10, 17-19**).
- Finally, to *witness the good confession* living in view of the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ (**1 Timothy 6:11-16**).

These are a summary of the instructions for “*how we ought to conduct ourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*”. If we do this, the world will see a picture of heaven on earth.

4. THE GATE OF HEAVEN

Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, had a revelation of the *house of God* when he was fleeing to Syria from Esau his brother. When he awoke from the amazing dream recorded in **Genesis 28:10-15** he exclaimed, “*How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven*” **Genesis 28:17**. The *house of God* is the place in the earth where *heaven* can be experienced. The will of God in heaven is to be done on the earth through the *house of God*. It is the place where “*angels of God ascend and descend*” **Genesis 28:12**. There is activity between *heaven and earth* in the *house of God*. Prayers go up and answers come down. There is a direct link between God in heaven and His house on earth! *How awesome is this place!*

5. YAHWEH IS IN THIS PLACE

After Jacob’s dream the first thing he acknowledged was “*Surely Yahweh is in this place*” **Genesis 28:16**. The *house of God* is the place where *Yahweh is*. Jesus said, “*where two or three gather together in My name, there I AM in the midst of them*” **Matthew 18:20**. The I AM, Jesus, is in the midst of His house. You will find the eternal God, Yahweh, in the *house of God*.

6. A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

God spoke through Isaiah the prophet that, “*My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations*” **Isaiah 56:7**. The *house of God* is the place where all nations can come and seek God, pray to Him and communicate with Him. God has always desired for all nations to be in His house. Jesus chastised the Jews, driving moneychangers out of the temple in Jerusalem saying, “*It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have*

made it a ‘den of thieves’” **Matthew 21:13**. When the house was cleansed it became a house of healing and the *“blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them”* **Matthew 21:14**. Nations are healed in the *house of God!*

7. THE PLACE WHERE TITHES ARE BROUGHT – FOOD IN MY HOUSE

When Jacob got the revelation of the *house of God*, he became a tithing man, *“and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to you”* **Genesis 28:22**. Did he do this out of obligation? Was it a law? No, Moses did not come for another 400 years. Jacob tithed as a response of faith to the revelation of God in the *house of God*. God spoke through Malachi, *“bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house”* **Malachi 3:10**. When the tithes are brought into the house then there is *food in My house*. There will be abundance of spiritual food for God’s people as the tithe comes in. The tithe will provide for ministers of the gospel to *“give ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the word”* **Acts 6:4**. The result will be, *“the word of God spread, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly”* **Acts 6:7**.

8. A HOUSE OF SACRIFICE

God appeared to Solomon at the dedication of the house of God and said, *“I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice”* **2 Chronicles 7:12**. The *house of God* is a *house of sacrifice*. Under the Old Covenant there were sacrifices happening at the *house of God* every day. There were *sin offerings, trespass offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, freewill offerings* and the *daily offerings* of the lambs in the morning and evening (**Leviticus 1-6; Exodus 29:38-26**). It truly was a *house of sacrifice!*

9. A HOUSE FOR SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE

In the New Testament it is still a *house of sacrifice*, but the sacrifices are spiritual, *“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”* **1 Peter 2:5**. In the *house of God* we are a *holy priesthood*, and we offer *spiritual sacrifices*. What are these *spiritual sacrifices*? We offer the *sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of our lips* (**Hebrews 13:15**). We *“do good and share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased”* (**Hebrews 13:16**). Probably all the *spiritual sacrifices* could be summed up in this, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, your reasonable service”* **Romans 12:1**.

10. A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

The apostle Peter wrote, *“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house...”* **1 Peter 2:5**. The *house of God* is a *spiritual house*. It is built upon the revelation of the *Living Stone* Himself, Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 2:4**). He is *the Rock* (**Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 10:4**). He is the *Chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* **Ephesians 2:20-22**. The *house of God* is a *dwelling place of God in the Spirit!* God dwells in His house by the *Spirit!* Allow Him to build His way and not try to change the building pattern in any way. It is His house! We are *living stones!* We are a *spiritual house!*

11. THE FATHER'S HOUSE

In **John 2:16**, Jesus called the temple in Jerusalem, "**My Father's house**", saying, "**Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise**". The Jews wanted a sign to show He had authority to command the moneychangers out of the temple, so Jesus said, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up**" **John 2:19**. Jesus was transitioning from the Old Testament *house of God* to the New Testament *house*. The Jews thought this was literally speaking of the building in Jerusalem, "**But He was speaking of the temple of His body**" **John 2:21**. The new *house/temple* was **His body!** Jesus is the **Father's house**. While on the earth Jesus said, "**I am in the Father and the Father in Me**" **John 14:11**. Jesus' body was the house of the Father individually. Now that Jesus died and rose again, there are many members that have joined that body through baptism, becoming *one body* (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). The *body of Christ* is the **Father's house**.

Jesus said to Peter, "**In My Father's house are many mansions [literally 'dwellings']**" **John 14:2**. Individually we are *dwellings* of the Father. Jesus said, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come and make Our home [literally 'dwelling' – same Greek word translated 'mansion' in Jn.14:2] with him**" **John 14:23**. When we love and obey Jesus, He and the Father make their dwelling in us. The "dwellings" all together are the **Father's house!** There is "**One God and Father of all, who is above all, through all and in you all**" **Ephesians 4:6**.

12. WE ARE THE HOUSE

It is written in **Hebrews 3:6** that, "**Christ, as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end**" **Hebrews 3:6**. Jesus Christ the "**Apostle and High Priest of our confession**" is the one who "**built the house**" **Hebrews 3:1,3**. Jesus said, "**on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it**" **Matthew 16:18**. We are the house that Jesus is building! **We are the house of God!**

"May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened to know" what it means to be the house of God! (Eph.1:17-18)

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