

## **April – Iyar the 2<sup>nd</sup> month is Temple Building**

Eph. 5 v 13 — Therefore it says, ‘**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead**, and Messiah will shine on you.’ 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, **because the time is short.**”

There is a war coming. The lion that hunts your soul, he knows his time is short. *Do you know that?* The enemy of the Israel of God has canceled all R+R – and he is running a 24/7 operation. In all marathons you pace yourself because it is a long race – but when you see the finish line, you sprint all out, as you burn your last reserves. By every prophetic sign given man – we have turned the bend and now we must sprint.

### **The Holy Spirit in Temple Building**

The first temple was not the tabernacle of Moses in the desert. It is summed up in the very first word of the bible “**Bereshit**” In the **Beginning**...God created the heavens and earth.

The meaning of the letter “**B**” Beyt is Bayit – house – and that is also its shape. The Capital “**B**” is the letter Beyt — that begins scripture — and that is the the word for house. In scripture the House with the Capital “**B**” always referred to Gods House. That first word Bereshit can be broken down into the two words Bayit – house – and Rosh – head, Creation was a House for the Head.

Gen 1 v 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters**. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse all creation starts with Gods Spirit, especially when the creation is a House for the Head.

### **Gods Timing in Temple Building:**

A quick look at the biblical calendar shows parts of two biblical months, Iyar and Sivan, fall in our current month of May. Let’s look first at the events in **Iyar the second month** of the biblical calendar:

God had **His priesthood** prepare Israel for **warfare in this month**. Every single temple construction was started this month – as the leadership was chosen during that 2<sup>nd</sup> month. This is when the Priests were chosen to build the House. Even Yeshua commissioned His temple builders during this time. God views Temple Building as Warfare, and He numbers His armies in this month.

### **Moses Tabernacle**

Gods action in the First month was Passover and He saved a people to Himself. Passover was celebrated in the first month of Nissan.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> month they counted the Omer. From the Red Sea to the pools of Mara of bitter water to the hunger and the Quail and Manna from heaven. Trial after trial God prepared a people to teach them dependence. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of the new year, He now numbered the armies of Israel.

When God gave Moses the plans for a new house it too was built by His Spirit. Exodus 35:30–33

Then Moses said, “See, the LORD has chosen Bezaleel, of the tribe of Judah, **and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge** in all kinds of crafts– to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. So Bezaleel, and every skilled person **to whom the LORD has given skill** and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the LORD has commanded.”

Only God has the skill to build for God and He will always empower His craftsmen.

Num 1:1–3 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, **on the first day of the second month**, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying, Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their

names, every male by their polls; From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: **thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.**

### **Solomon's Temple**

Solomon also begins the construction of the first temple in this second month. 2Ch 3:1,2 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father. And he began to build in the **second day of the second month**, in the fourth year of his reign.

God does **not anoint** a man or even command this Temple be built. It was David's idea. Forced labor and foreign workers make up the bulk of the workforce. God had no hand in it, for He did not call a Bezalel of the tribe of Judah; and gifted no man for the task. No where is God's Spirit even mentioned and Solomon never hears from a Prophet of God. Every mention of Solomon in later scripture is a put down. Despite this flawed work, the pattern God laid down is still followed.

### **Ezra and Haggai's Temple**

Then God calls a remnant out of Babylon. The temple was to be rebuilt. We find new leaders put in place again in the second month and **a High Priest known as Yeshua** appoints the priests to begin the work on the house of the Lord!

This project was chosen by God. He stirred up Cyrus, He chose the remnant, He raises up Haggai to urge the rebuilding. This was His project.

Ezra 3:8 Now in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, **in the second month**, began Zerubbabel, **and Yeshua, and the remnant of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all they that were come out of the captivity unto Jerusalem; and the appointed Levites**, from twenty years old and upward, to **set forward the work of Gods House.**

In the **second month** — A call to arms goes to all the able bodied men, but instead of war they are to build the Temple. The age for participation is the same as in the desert — all men of military age over the age of 20. There are no foreign workers and even the help of the Samaritans is rejected, leading to opposition. This was a work for the Remnant alone.

### **Yeshua and the Apostles**

Five hundred years later another Yeshua is selecting His Temple builders. As in all the other Temple building projects He is choosing and confirming the task in **the Second month.**

Peter and the other disciples are restored after running away from Messiah. Messiah died in the first month Nissan on Passover. He restored and commissioned **Peter during the 2<sup>nd</sup> month** with **“I will build my Church and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it”** was the mission statement.

In the **Second month** the commission to the 120 was **“go into all the world and make disciples, Build a House, Lively Stones are built into a Spiritual House. He arose to heaven at the end of the 2nd month and left the 12 to wait for the Power to Temple build.**

His disciples were readied to build God's house with God now inhabiting His people. This Temple was to be made up of people. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon them in the **beginning of the 3rd month to equip them to Temple build.**

**Pentecost was in Sivan the beginning of the 3rd month and that was the empowering of the 12. Power was given because the mission was Temple building. God Spirit was always involved in His temple building**

The book of Acts documents the building of that House of Prayer all around the word.

1 Corinthians 3:10, Paul says, According to the grace of God given to me, like a **skilled master builder I**

**laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it.**

As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — you also, **like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house...** (1 Peter 2:4–5).

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.** (Ephesians 2: 19–22)

But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. **And we are His house**, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast. (Heb 3:6)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Cor 3:16)

Note the word *you* is plural and *temple* is singular. This verse does not say that "you (individually) are God's temple." Nor does it say that "you (plural) are God's temples (plural)." It states that "you (collectively, meaning the church) are God's temple (singular).\*\*"

For we are the temple of the living God. (2 Corinthians 6:16) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Cor 3:9)

**\*\* Isn't the body (singular) of a believer also the temple as well? 1 Cor. 6:15–20**

Now we are again hearing from the God of Armies call us like a called out group out of the Babylon of the world. We are the captives set free by the Holy Spirit and the God of Armies says – Hag 1:5 Now therefore this is what the God of Armies says: **Consider your ways.**

**It is time to build His house** – for the Lord of Armies is soon to shake the heavens and return to His House and fill it with His Glory.

I believe that to be a message to a distracted people and the time is now. We built our houses out of wood, and we neglected to build God's House of Gold and Silver.

**The walls protecting the church are torn down and the House of God is in ruins.** Haggai 1 vs. 5 and 7 The God of Armies commanded a called out remnant to build His house. And the LORD **stirred up the spirit** of Zerrubabel, **and the spirit of Yeshua**, the high priest, and the **spirit of all the remnant of the people**; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of armies, their God.

Again Gods Spirit is active when it comes to Temple Building....for it was Gods Spirit that took charge of that project during Haggai's time.

Paul like Ezra and Nehemiah worked with one hand on a trowel and in another he held the Sword of the word.

### **Parallels for us now**

It is in the Post exile prophetic books – Zachariah Haggai and Malachi - we the remnant called out of modern Babylon can find our instructions as we prepare for the Messiah to re-appear. As closes out the Old Testament so closes out the New Testament. A remnant called out of Babylon to temple build, restore Sabbaths and separation from the nations, and then to await Messiah. He will shake the heavens this time and fill His House with His glory.

As a rebuilt Temple awaited his 1<sup>st</sup> coming – so a restored Spiritual Temple will await His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

An Elijah that heralded His first coming is to likewise herald his Second. He will again return to a House built by the remnant called out of Babylon under the leadership of High Priest called Yeshua.

Haggai and Zachariah are calling to us – as the remnant of God in the last days to build His house on the foundation of the Prophets and the Apostles.

The Apostolic Temple that was built in the First Century is still in ruin after a thousand years in Rome. The Restored Temple is not complete yet.

**This House of Prayer is also called a Tent of Meeting** — where man can gather to meet with their God. It is here we can bring the sacrifices of repentance and turn away Gods anger at a world in rebellion. Where do sinners go – and who teaches them – **if we will not build the House of God at this time?**

So the God of Armies says — Eze 22:30 And I looked for a man among them, **that should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land**, that I should not destroy it; but I found *none*.

Will God see that His church (you and I) are serving the world as a priests and are we building His House by prayer?

And God connects the building that we should be doing to Spiritual warfare? Isaiah 59:16 And He saw that there was **no man**, and wondered that there was **no intercessor**: therefore His own arm brought salvation unto him; and His righteousness, it upheld him. 17 And He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon his head; **and He put on garments of vengeance for clothing**, and was clad with zeal as a mantle.

And Paul in writing these same thoughts to the Ephesian church realized the largest church in the first century was built in Ephesus. It was built on the tearing down of all of Satan's commerce and religion – by **builders dressed in the armor of God.**(Eph 6)

### **Challenge to you today**

**Are you serving McNeil in prayer as an intercessor as a priest? Do you stand in the gap for men?** Are you using **your access** to God to be their priest and praying for them – the godless and the wicked and the lost.

I encourage you to pray with the men every Friday night as a corporate group. This House will only be built by the Power of God, and prayer will build it.

The High Priest is putting aside the garments of a Priest and He readies to make war on the earth. He is changing garments of a priest to **become the avenger of blood** - as the blood of the martyrs and the blood of the unborn cry out for justice....

It is now – the end is in sight — We can cast off all other interests and with the Zeal of Phineas take up Gods Glory and His mission. He called you to serve as a Priest and we are to make ourselves and a House ready for Him.

So let us take this seriously and join those that pray every Friday to this end. I have all your names written down and will pray for each of you – and a loving God have mercy on us all.

Jesus promised us that He came to open prisons wide – and **He never once went to a prison** in the Gospel accounts. He is faithful to His word — and therefore **He must do so now ...before He returns. Let us pray for that visitation.**

The Holy Spirit was always active and gifting men to Temple build from the the builder of the Tabernacle in the desert to the 120 in Acts at Pentecost. **The Holy Spirit was given to gift men to Temple build.**

... “See, I have called by name Bezaleel of the tribe of Judah; **And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all kinds of workmanship ...** and in the hearts of all who are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you” (Exodus 31:1–6).

Zach 4 v 6 This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, **but by My Spirit**, saith the Lord of hosts.

So He finished the temple that awaited Yeshua's first coming.....so He will finish the Temple that will await his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.