

THE FINAL TEMPLE



The All Surpassing Power
Rebecca Brogan

***God's love is unconditional.
God's holiness is a consuming fire.***

Jeremiah stood at the entrance to the Temple and shouted,

***“Do not trust in these deceptive words: `This is the temple of the LORD,
the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’”***

Jeremiah 7:4

The people figured everything was just fine. They were attending the Temple and “practicing their religion”. What more could God want?

“The Lord wants more,” said Jeremiah. But no one listened.

Soon the Temple was a pile of rubble. Jerusalem lay in ruins as the people were hauled away as captives to Babylon.

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Centuries later, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, entered the restored Temple, and started overturning the tables of the money-changers. Jesus had a few things to say to the Temple folks.

***“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and
land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte,
you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”***

Matthew 23:15

So the Temple folks arranged to have Jesus executed.

Before long this Temple too was a pile of rubble.

***God's love is unconditional.
God's holiness is a consuming fire.***

Today the Temple of God is the Church, where the love of God is to spring forth as a fountain of Living Water. But what happens when this Temple, like those Temples of old, becomes shallow, when the fountain is dry, when warnings of Jesus are no longer heeded?

But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren.

And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ.

He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 23:8-12

Yes, there are deeply committed followers of Jesus all over the earth. There are gatherings of disciples where the Fountain of Living Water flows freely.

But Christendom as a whole (the Temple) stands today under the same judgment as those Temples of old. This Temple, as we have known it all our lives, is soon to become rubble. The Church in all its forms is being weighed in the balance and found wanting.

***God's love is unconditional.
God's holiness is a consuming fire.***

Consuming Fire is visiting the Church. And out of the ashes will rise two new Temples.

One Temple will be a religious monster, ruled by deceit and driven by malice. This Temple is none other than the Harlot of Revelation 17.



Come out of Her My People

But out of the ashes another Temple will rise. This Temple is that motley multitude from every nation, tribe and tongue that will pass through the Great Tribulation and “wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb”.

This Temple will be focused on simply doing the Master's will.

The members of this Temple will be characterized by 5 things:

They will know what it means to be “crucified with Christ.”

They will live and speak the truth.

They will share the Master’s suffering as well as his power.

Their hearts will be ruled by the Father’s unconditional love.

They will respect God’s holiness as a consuming fire.



The All surpassing Power in Jars of Clay

They will know what it means to be “crucified with Christ.”

I am crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

If I’m crucified with Christ, I am dead to my ego, dead to the need for attention, dead to “hurt feelings”, dead to the compulsion to make things go my way.

I am learning daily to back off and let the Lord Jesus lead the way, always paying attention to what he has to say.

I am living by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

They will live and speak the truth.

In today’s crumbling Temple, Truth has long since been pushed aside in favor of “the end justifies the means”.

But in the Last Temple, Truth will reign supreme.

“You say that I am a king. To this end was I born. For this cause I came into the world: to bear witness to the truth.

Whoever is of the truth hears my voice.”

John 18:37

They will share the Master's suffering as well as his power.

***"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.
If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you
are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world
hates you.***

***Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than
his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you;
if they kept my word, they will keep yours also."***

John 15:18-20

We will not have to look for persecution. It will find us. And the suffering we endure in our obedience to the Master will, in a mystery, be accompanied by his unspeakable power.

"If they kept my word, they will keep yours also."

Their hearts will be ruled by the Father's unconditional love.

Unconditional love is not in our nature. We were born of Adam's race and are prisoners of our egos. But all that changes when our Lord brings us into God's World and enables us to walk by God's Spirit.

Now we can do it. We can walk in love.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

***But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so
that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise
on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.***

***For if you love those who love you, what reward have you?
Do not even the tax collectors do the same?***

***And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others?
Do not even the Gentiles do the same?***

You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Matthew 5:43-48

We can do it. The Lord's Spirit can do it in us.

This love which God puts into us is also a holy fire.

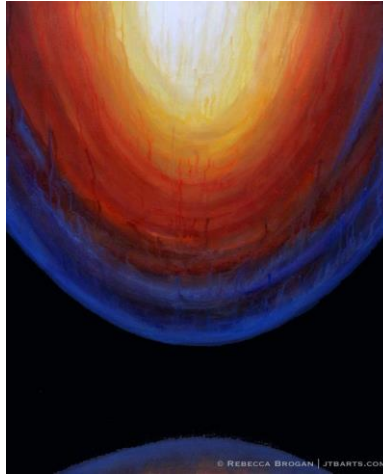
Their hearts will respect God's holiness as a consuming fire.

In this Temple everybody knows the meaning of....

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

In this Temple believers mean what they say, when they pray....

Hallowed be thy Name.



Be Glorified

God grant that we may find ourselves in this Temple.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:3-4

Prayer-

Lord we are awed by your unconditional love and your holiness. You are worthy, so worthy of all we have to offer. Refine us so you are on the throne of our hearts, so you alone are our temple. May we heed your warning, listen to your call to leave Babylon. May we live the truth you speak into our hearts. Oh to be one with you in your suffering, in your offering, in your love, to be consumed by it. Dwell with us, dwell with us Oh Holy One. Amen.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

