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THE COCOON

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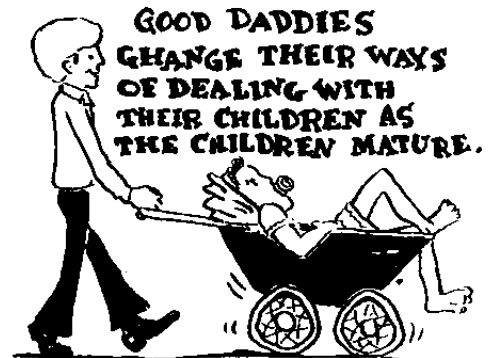
SEVEN TEMPLES of GOD

(OR GOOD DADDIES DON'T CHANGE BUT
THEIR METHODS DO.)



God has not always dealt in the same way with man. That is He has dealt with us in different ways according to His wisdom and our maturity. This is true both historically and personally. This truth can be seen very graphically in the seven temples in which God has, does and will dwell in. Beginning with the tabernacle of Moses through to the New Jerusalem we find seven distinctly different ways in which God has revealed Himself to man.

God does not change but like a good father He adjusts His rules and expectations according to the maturity of His children. A good father does not give the same rules to a one year old child as he does to a sixteen year old; nor does he expect the same performance from the one year old and the sixteen year old. He would never put a healthy teenager in diapers and carry him over his shoulder nor would he give a toddler ten dollars and tell him to take the family car and go to the store for some groceries. Anybody



can see and understand this in the natural but when it comes to the spiritual parallel or talking about God we somehow get confused.

That daddy is a little mixed up.

SEVEN TEMPLES OF GOD

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God is our Father and we are His children. A normal adult does not usually look at his early childhood years and wish to return to them. He doesn't want to throw off all of his responsibilities and let his parents do everything for him as they did then. Now there may be times of reminiscing and longing for the security and comfort of the past but a mature adult enjoys shouldering and meeting responsibilities and even being responsible for others. If you are an adult and doing even reasonably well in meeting the challenge of life this should be self evident to you.

A NORMAL ADULT DOES NOT LONG TO RETURN TO HIS CHILDHOOD.



Of course in times of trouble or defeat we may long for some of that security of early years. The only way we can gain it though is by giving up many things we hold dear. We would have to give up many of our rights, possessions and even our sanity in order to go back to that state of innocence and carefree independence. In the natural realm this is easy to see.

A father cannot simply quit working and become dependent again on his parents without suffering great loss materially and mentally. He has acquired responsibilities that he cannot just toss off. Although if he suffers financial failure through some uncontrollable circumstances it is nice to have loving and understanding parents to fall back on.

MANY CHRISTIANS LOOK BACK WITH LONGING FOR A RETURN TO EARLIER TIMES

OOH! IF GOD WOULD ONLY SPEAK TO US LIKE HE DID TO THE EARLY CHURCH



In the spiritual realm this is not quite as easy to see. We tend to look back with longing for God to deal with us as he did with Moses, David and all the great men of faith. We hold these men far above ourselves.

When we study the times of Moses we see that God dealt marvelously with His children. He did things that were so fantastic that few people (even believers) look upon them as being anything but fantasy. He parted the Red Sea for His children. He gave them food and water and clothes that didn't wear out while they were in the wilderness. He sustained them for forty years. The miracles were tremendous but remember, the punishments were also terrible and swift.

Now in the natural realm I look back at my childhood and I see that my earthly father did fantastic things for me. He carried me in his arms when I couldn't walk. He provided food, clothes and shelter for me and never expected a lick of work out of me. But when I didn't obey him or started to do something that could have brought harm to me he didn't hesitate to warm my backside. Sometimes he had to shout or slap with deft swiftness to keep me from doing something really dumb like sticking my hand in a fire which I had no idea could burn me.

I've grown up now and I don't want to go back to those days. They were great. I love my Dad for what he did but I have no need for him to watch over me every minute now. He taught me well.

LET'S NOT GO BACK!!



We look upon Moses as a great man, and rightly so. But I hope you are now beginning to see the great miracles wrought through and around Moses were in a very real sense due to the immaturity of the people of that time.

Now I can see this may be very offensive to some but I would remind you that Jesus said of John the Baptist that he (John) was the greatest of all Old Testament saints (Matt. 11:11; Luke 7:28).

That includes Moses, Elijah and all the others. Jesus then went on to say the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John. Can you see it? Can you grasp it? We're in the Kingdom! Each one of us who has entered in through Jesus Christ is greater even than Moses. Unbelievable? You bet! But Jesus said it.

JESUS SAID THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS GREATER THAN MOSES.



If nothing else, this thought should make you stand in awe of the esteem for which God has for you. Your potential is unlimited! God has shared wisdom with you that angels and prophets of old have longed to look into. (1 Peter 1:12)

As far as the Israelites of Moses time knew, God lived in a tabernacle, a tent built with men's hands. That was their vision of God. Now we know that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. We know that God dwells in us. **WHAT A REVELATION!** No way do I want to go back! not to



SEVEN TEMPLES OF GOD

LET'S GO FORWARD INTO THE UNKNOWN.



Moses' time, not to David's, not to Ezra's, not to Paul's, not even to yesterday! I want to go forward to the NEW JERUSALEM. I want to enjoy and understand my position now and look to the future with hope and expectation of things beyond what I can presently even imagine.

In studying the Bible Dave has found seven temples of God. God is presently dwelling in the sixth temple which is the body of man. Interestingly, in the Bible, the number six is the number of man. The first temple was the tabernacle of Moses in the wilderness. The second was the tabernacle of David. The third was the temple built by Solomon. The fourth was a temple seen in a vision by Ezekiel (actually an upside down pyramid). The fifth was the reconstructed temple built by Ezra. The sixth, as we know, is the body of man. And the seventh will be the New Jerusalem.

THE SEVEN TEMPLES SHOW US:

1. WHERE WE'VE BEEN
2. WHERE WE ARE
3. WHERE WE'RE GOING

Each of these temples is unique and quite different from any preceding it, yet they are all related to each other. When studied they reveal the historical maturing of the children of God. They show an exciting development of understanding and comprehension of what or who God is on the part of those who have loved Him and sought to know Him.

They also reveal a pattern of development that many Christians go through in their walk with Christ. God is bringing us into maturity. Don't look back, look forward! As you go on with God you will take on more responsibility and authority. God's method of dealing with you will change even though He never does.

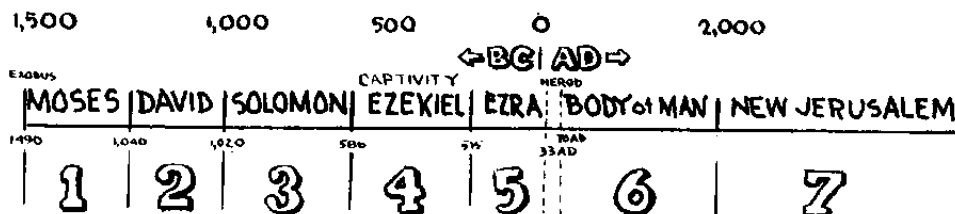
GOD WANTS US TO GROW UP IN SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

If at one time there were great miracles and movings of God in your life and now things seem to have slowed down; don't despair, rejoice! God is a good Father. He knows what He is doing. He may have given you power

without understanding now He may be teaching you His ways and imparting His nature of love to you. The signs and wonders may be vastly more subtle. They may be internal; changing your mind, your attitudes and your emotions, turning you into an entirely new creation.

You are an heir to a kingdom. God has great plans for you. Hang in there, keep doin' good, what we have to look forward to is worth all the patience, growing pains and whatever else it takes to attain it.

SEVEN TEMPLES



1. EXODUS 25-31; 35-40 INSTRUCTIONS FOR AND ASSEMBLY OF TABERNACLE
EXODUS 40:17... MOSES ERECTS TABERNACLE
2. 2 SAMUEL 6 (6:17) DAVID SETS THE ARK IN HIS TABERNACLE
I CHRONICLES 15:16 (15:1) (I Chron. 16:37-39 & 21:29 - David leaves ark at Gibeon)
3. I KINGS 6:1; II CHRONICLES 3:2 SOLOMON BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
I KINGS 25:8,9; II CHRONICLES 36:17-19 SOLOMON'S TEMPLE DESTROYED
4. EZEKIEL 40-48 EZEKIEL'S VISION OF A SPIRITUAL TEMPLE.
5. EZRA 1:1,2 CYRUS DECREES THAT A TEMPLE BE BUILT IN JERUSALEM
EZRA 5:1,2 ZERUBABEL BEGINS BUILDING
6. JOHN 2:19-21 DESTROY THIS TEMPLE... IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT (JESUS)
I COR. 6:19 KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE
7. HEBREWS 12:22 BUT YE ARE COME UNTO... THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM
REVELATION 21:2 THE HOLY CITY, NEW JERUSALEM, COMING DOWN FROM GOD

With the help of the above chart and accompanying scriptures you can begin your own study of the seven temples of God. You will see an amazing and exciting development of the way in which God is dealing with us.

Right now our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. In the near future the GLORY OF THE FATHER will inhabit our physical bodies. To help you further understand the maturing process we are going through we recommend the following tapes.