



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 81

## **Doors of the Temple**

2 Chronicles 29:7 (ESV),

*They also shut the doors of the vestibule*

In this chapter, we are going to look at the first part of 2 Chronicles 29:7 which speaks of the doors of the vestibule to the Temple. There is a spiritual parallel with them and we will see what they can mean for us today and also why I believe that in terms of areas of reformation why they are so important for us to understand.

As mentioned earlier, this was one area of neglect that started with King Ahaz in 2 Chronicles 28:24 (ESV),

*And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and he shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.*

The main part here was that Ahaz shut the doors of the Temple or the house of the Lord and Hezekiah decided to, in the first month of his first year as reign open them (2 Chronicles 29:3). When Ahaz closed these doors he turned the people toward false gods and false worship of other things throughout Jerusalem in the high places that he set up. So the importance of the doors being open is serious as it shows where the direction of the worshippers should be.

As a spiritual parallel, I find what 2 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV) has to say rather important.

*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."*

Another passage of Scripture for this found in the New Testament is Ephesians

2:22 (KJV),

*In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

In short, the Old Testament Temple as the dwelling place of the glory of God is likened to the children of God being the same dwelling place in the New Testament. Furthermore, this dwelling place known today as our human bodies (Temples) is the place God chose to inhabit by His Spirit. So, the importance of the doors open can bring great revelation and application to our Christian walks today as we draw from the concealment of the Temple.

To be more exact, when we look at a Temple there has to be an entrance into the glory and Presence of God. Our entrance is through faith in His Son as found in Ephesians 3:12 (ESV),

*in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.*

Now, in relating this Scripture, I would like to preface the idea that we are again dwelling places (Temples) for God to abide in through His Spirit. Access to this amazing grace afforded to us by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is by and through faith. However, we have to realize that only as many as are called and drawn will come to Him and that it is by hearing the word preached (Romans 10:17) and receiving within us the conviction of the Holy Spirit that enables us to realize our need for the Savior to come in.

In short, it would be likened to what Jesus revealed to John in Revelation 3:20 (ESV),

*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

The context of this passage is referring to those who are already believers, so we have a sort of two-fold expression of this passage. It is true then to say that initial belief in Christ as Savior is first recognized when He stands at the door and knocks. Notice, if we are the New Testament Temple then the door is directly related to our heart as the entrance into this dwelling. I find this interesting to say the least because it describes the Lord's desire to inhabit these Temples but also how it really depends on the Temple to open the door to Him. So, then it is really by grace through faith that we open at the Saviors beck and call (Ephesians 2:8).

Now, I had mentioned two-fold. The previous was mentioned about the first part being initial salvation. The next part, as it pertains directly to the context of Revelation 3:20 is that there was a church in Laodicea that was once on fire for

the Lord who at some point became complacent and thought that their lives in Christ were all well and good. The idea in the context of the passage was that Jesus Himself was standing at the doors of their hearts and knocking to gain entrance to sup with them. Or in other words, Jesus wanted to come in and eat with them. Eating with Jesus is referred to as not a physical meal but that which is brought about by His Word spoken to us. In this case, we can realize that, '*man does not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*' (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).

Therefore, in this context, Jesus was trying to gain entrance into the hearts of His worshippers so that He may give them some life-giving reproof so that they might live and abundantly at that. The opposite of this was that Jesus was going to take the cold or luke-warm worshippers and spew them out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16).

This is pertinent to the understanding of the Old Testament Temple because it was as if God already concealed all spiritual truths in the cover of the Tabernacle or Temple and revealed it to us through Christ. In short, the Old Testament was a physical example of spiritual truth.

This spiritual truth was that of the need to keep our hearts open and ready to hear what Jesus has to say. About the Old Testament Temple, notice that Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28) had closed the doors of the Temple and by this turned the faces of the worshippers in another direction. In short, as Christians, if we are not willing to heed the good from the Lord as well as those life-giving reproofs where we need to repent and turn to Him then we have closed the doors and eventually will turn aside to some other form of worship that is not of God.

I want to pose this, if the glory of God was found in His Temple, then what would happen if we all of the sudden closed the doors? I can only imagine...

It is of a grave consequence to the one that shuts the doors to Jesus as He stands at them and knocks. If the glory of God dwells in His Temple and we close the doors, then what happens to the glory of God?

I have both seen and experienced in many churches a lack of the glory of God and thereby a missing Presence. But, wherever I found the lack of the glory of God, I also found a lack of truly repentant worshippers. In saying this, what I mean is that the people of God in these places have closed their hearts and ears to the true Word of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit. It saddens me to have to share this because I know that the glory of God and His Presence manifest in His church is what sets us apart from the world and other religions. I would like to pose this. If we have no glory or Presence than what are we doing? Can we imagine that God is somehow pleased with a disregard for His life-giving

reproofs? Of course not.

We must come back to the idea that God loves those whom He chastises and disciplines. We must know this today because if we do, we will hear His voice and follow Him and encounter Him in meaningful ways that will show the world just who He is.

As we close this chapter, take a moment to let it all sink in really deep and meditate on this principle and ask the Lord to come again and knock on the door of your heart. Remember, we are to be like David who sought how to bring the glory back to Israel in the correct manner.

Here are some more Scriptures that speak of the discipline of the Lord and how beautiful and blessed is the one who receives it. Psalm 94:12; 119:67. Proverbs 3:11-12. Hebrews 12:3-7

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