

Chapter 10

True Temple Worship

True temple worship is not about a temple of brick and mortar [scripturally that is called “The House of the Lord” (Exodus 23:19; 1 Kings 6:1; D&C 58:9; 84:31; 88:137; 109)] with all its ordinances and ceremonies created for the living and the dead. **True temple worship is about our body temple**, whether in mortality or the world of spirits. If we are spiritually awake then we will see the symbolism found in “The House of the Lord,” [temple of brick and mortar]; which is to remind us where the true temple of God really is, which is you and complete its construction!

A temple of brick and mortar [“The House of the Lord”] is important in a telestial and terrestrial (millennial) era where initiates come to learn and gain a knowledge from the Spirit about true temple worship. The point of a temple of brick and mortar [called “The House of the Lord”] is to help each individual awaken from formalism and idolatry and realize that they “are the temple of the living God” [2 Corinthians 6:16]. The “living temple body” is the true temple we are each responsible to create for ourselves! Our “body temple” is the only one needing a conversion into godliness and holiness and every other divine and holy attribute until all our “dead works” [our fallen and carnal nature] are rooted out and our true temple is then manifest through our thoughts, words and deeds via holiness of character! Do you remember being taught that in the temple via the Spirit?

The Temples of brick and mortar are a beautiful symbol of our **living body temple**. Lets switch gears and go to the “brick and mortar” temple and see if we can learn something spiritual.

One day soon the Jews will build their 3rd Temple of brick and mortar and hopefully will come to understand the symbolism, and where that temple of brick and mortar will be built. Will it be built where the Dome of the Rock is located, I don't know. In the mean time the LDS Church is continuing to build its temples and hopefully make the SLC Temple survive earthquakes. What are the spiritual earthquakes in our lives keeping us from approaching God personally?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2IkxmwkayM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqlvVQ9Wp-k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EICu2C02sKk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvniG1E5AO4>

One website article said, and I agree, that we should: “Pray for those who teach the incorrect location of the temple to repent and study their Bibles – which very clearly identifies the true location. And pray for those who are Jewish or non-believers to abandon tradition and man-made “legend” and trust in the true God of the Bible and His divinely-inspired Word. By God’s grace more people will stop looking to the site of Christ’s temple, but believe the Gospel, receive the Holy Spirit and *let their own bodies be the temple of the Great and Mighty God until His triumphant return to Mount Zion*” [www.beginningandend.com].

There is a phrase on the East side of every LDS Temple, that says: “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” and “THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.” Our own LDS Bible Dictionary defines “HOLINESS” as: [brackets added for clarity]

“According to the Old Testament, things or places were holy that were set apart for a sacred purpose; the opposite of holy is therefore common or profane ([1 Sam. 21:5](#); [Ezek. 22:26](#); [42:20](#); [44:23](#); [48:13–15](#)). Similarly, a holy person meant one who held a sacred office. The Israelites were a holy people because they stood in a special relationship to Jehovah. Under the guidance of the Prophets it was seen that what distinguished Jehovah from the gods of the heathen was His personal character. *The word holy therefore came to refer to moral character* ([Lev. 11:44](#); [19:2](#); [21:8](#); [Isa. 6:3–8](#)). *Israel must be holy in character because the God of Israel was holy* ([Jer. 7:4–7](#); see also [Matt. 5:48](#)). The Law of Holiness ([Lev. 17–26](#)) shows how the **attempt was made by means of ceremonial observances to secure this holiness of character.** The attempt failed [*it will always fail*] because the later Jews observed the letter and neglected the spirit; they attached more importance to the ceremonial than to the moral; and the result was a lapse into formalism [*a type of idolatry; is modern day Israel doing the same?*]. In the writings of the Prophets, it is clearly laid down that **the value of worship in the eyes of God depends upon the personal character of the worshipper.**” [not how many times we go through the temple of brick and mortar].

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bd/holiness?lang=eng>

Character building temples, on both sides of the veil, is what temple work is really all about and this kind of worship will never fail because it is the only true temple defined by God, in the scriptures, **“made without hands”** that can and will **“turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers”** ...to **“turn our hearts”** is to become honest, true, chase, benevolent, virtuous, moral, pure, and holy in our character; this is the true “spirit of Elijah/Elias” (2 King 2: 15; Malachi 4: 5-6; D&C 27: 6-7).

The point of this brief essay about True Temple Worship and “THE HOUSE OF THE LORD,” [the brick-and-mortar temple] with all its symbolic ordinances is to direct our minds and hearts to our own spiritual body temple so that we might become a sanctified people on both sides of the veil. Moses had a moveable temple which is more symbolic of our own moveable body temple and he sought diligently to **“sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God”** and have a personal experience with Him, face to face... “but they hardened their hearts and could not endure his presence” [D&C 84: 23-24].

What happened in Moses’s time could happen today if our hearts become “hardened” by our own fallen and carnal nature and we don’t see the spiritual message being shared in “The House of the Lord;” and we look to that temple “made with hands” for our salvation. The Lord has warned us about this: **“Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands: as saith the prophet”** [Acts 7:48, 17:24; 2 Cor. 5:1; Hebrews 9:24]. Again, the scriptures point out:

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. **Know ye not that ye are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, **which temple ye are**. **Let no man deceive himself**. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**” (1 Corinthians 3:12 - 19). Building a earthquake proof temple of brick and mortar **“is foolishness with God.”**

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in

them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,
and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,
And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith
the Lord Almighty” (New Testament | 2 Corinthians 6:16 - 18).

“What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which
is in you, which ye have of God,” (New Testament | 1 Corinthians 6:19).

“FOR we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved,
we have a building of God, an house **not made with hands**, eternal in the
heavens” (New Testament | 2 Corinthians 5:1).

“Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto
us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them,
Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt
thou rear it up in three days?
But **he spake of the temple of his body.**” (New Testament | John 2:18 - 21)

Those who want a "temple" of brick and mortar [“THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”]
will have it in a Telestial and Terrestrial existence. But to experience true temple
worship and be sealed to the living God we must begin by cleansing our own body
temple mind and heart through holiness of character! Everyone can learn to
transcend the "brick and mortar temple" ... by immersing oneself into the “spirit of
the law” for a much more exceeding weight of glory. [Transcend means to see and
understand the spiritual symbolism of all forms and structures “made with hands,”
without judgement of the form and structure, or judgement of those who believe
the form and structure actually saves them, it does in a Telestial and Terrestrial
realm].

“Wherefore, I now send upon you another Comforter, even upon you my
friends, that it may abide in your hearts, even the Holy Spirit of promise;
which other Comforter is the same that I [Christ] promised unto my
disciples, as is recorded in the testimony of John [John 17].
This Comforter is the promise which I [Christ, face to face] give unto you of
eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom;
Which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of

all, through Jesus Christ his Son—" (Doctrine and Covenants | Section 88:3 - 5).

What is true temple worship really like? John seeing a vision of the Celestial Kingdom said:

“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. [and so it is for any soul who worships the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4: 23)]

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life” (New Testament | Revelation 21:22 - 27).

"Keeping the commandments of God" is not about “keeping” the "letter of the law" ... it's about “keeping” the "spirit of the law" within! **“The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life”** (New Testament | 2 Corinthians 3:6).

True temple worship is about making our hearts pure and holy; which is the meaning of "Zion" where the "pure in heart" dwell. Hence, by understanding the character and attributes of God we learn what is vital to our becoming like Him. It is consoling to know that He, God is "no respecter of persons: but in every nation that...worketh righteousness is accepted with him;" (Acts 10: 34-35) this means taking upon ourselves that same righteous character. "Righteousness" is an act of faith and can only come by becoming holy and virtuous in our character... this is true atonement! It is at-one-ment with godliness in thought, word and deed. Christ fulfilled his own personal at-one-ment as an example to all, that we might fulfil at-one-ment also and be one with Him. It is a spiritually blind people who keep looking for a physical form or structure, ceremony or ordinance to save them... all these forms and structures are purely symbolic, and they have their place in a telestial and terrestrial world, and that is to “awaken” in us our potential to see through the forms and structures, into what is called the “mystery of godliness!”ⁱ

Godliness is the act of becoming "holy." Hence Enoch created a "City of Holiness," of likeminded people who understood, that they, were to "become" that City of Holiness themselves! God himself lives in holiness... His habitation is holiness and virtue, and it is the creation of holiness and virtue within himself that allows Him to see and be a part of all His Creations; whereas those who only accept the wisdom of a telestial world, will only see that glory, and likewise, those who only see terrestrial wisdom will see only that as well. Any temple of brick and mortar *only* has the power to save a person in their dead works [Hebrews 6:1-20; Colossians 2; Moroni 8: 22-26]. To be a "temple of the living God" we must transcend the "letter of the law," and embrace the "spirit of the law."

The "temple of the living God" is where God and those like-minded "live" and dwell; and all this is available to anyone who becomes "holy in character," and spiritually sees through the forms and structures of organized religion with gratitude and rejoicing in the heart, by letting go of false beliefs and carnal natures. Everyone has "*Potential* Holiness" in them, and it cannot ever be destroyed or diluted by the "ego" of disbelief or false doctrines, it can be ignored but never destroyed. That is because the "light" of holiness "shineth in" the darkness but the darkness does not comprehend it [John 1:5] unless repentance and forgiveness is sought for earnestly.

“...Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not *made with hands*, that is to say, not of this building;

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood [“his own blood” symbolizes “life,” the integrity to forgive, repent and cloth oneself in “divine nature,” just as Christ himself did] he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us* [If we repent, see D&C 19]. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: [As Paul says “*if*” the blood of bulls and goats...sanctifieth, which it can’t [it’s symbolism] only the “spirit of the law” can sanctify and give life].

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, *purge your conscience from dead works* [“if” we wake up and repent] to serve the living God?” (New Testament | Hebrews 9:11-14).

If we don't understand symbolism, we won't understand Paul and what he means by "dead works."

"Tithing" is also part of the "form and structure" created here in mortality to help in blessing of the poor who are in need and have not sufficient for their needs. Another word for "tithing" is "alms;" and the point is, anything given gratuitously is following the principles of godliness, the "spirit of the law." If churches misuse these funds, they are accountable. The best way to help the poor is to "bless" the poor, and there are many ways to do that. There are poor all around who have not the ability to pay a temporal "tithing" but they can offer a spiritual "tithing," or "alms" which can be the gift of gratitude, prayer, or giving a kind word to someone in need of divine love; and in the eyes of God these are not condemned or withheld from true temple worship! If a poor person came to the poor who was eating a crust of bread, I am sure the poor could share with the poor and that is the point of tithing/alms... sharing what little or much that you have with those who have not, even if it is just a prayer or blessing you give to another.

Christ turned over the moneychangers at the temple of brick and mortar; to show there is a huge need for repentance and forgiveness and to wake up and put on the "wedding garment" [JST Matthew 22:14] of real honesty, virtue, and holiness of character [Matt 21:12-13; Mark 11: 15-17; Luke 19: 45-48]. God's true temple is you and me and it can always be a house of learning, prayer and becoming like Him if we choose it; and there is no monetary charge to enter that temple "made without hands." No temple tax.

How does a man rob God? Perhaps it is when we choose not to help care for the physically poor or spiritually poor and needy amongst us. Perhaps the concept of robbing "God" is metaphorical, and has a deep spiritual meaning ... What does "God," the exalted person need with money? It's not about money, it's about where our "heart" is! The journey into godliness and holiness can begin by caring for the spiritually poor among us in this temporal world, even if all we can offer is our prayers and love. Who do we really rob when we fail to love our neighbor as ourselves? It is our own potential "god" within ourselves that we rob when we don't act godly with others.

These scriptures (Malachi 3: 8-12, Mark 12: 38-44, Mark 13: 1-2, Luke 20: 45-47, Luke 21: 1-6; Matthew 6:1-4) Are about tithes, alms and offering the widow's

mite. I will put this in perspective, spiritually speaking. We are all connected to the “truth,” to each other through the “spirit of truth.” As beings of light, truth and intelligence (God included) when we "rob God" we are more directly "robbing ourselves" of an opportunity to bless ourselves and others by building a temple to his name, **made without hands**.” It is in this perspective, [our potential] to become as God is, that we "seal" ourselves to God through “holiness of character;” as "one nation under God” ...a people living under the mantle of godliness (god/God). Eventually all the degrees of glory will bow the knee and every tongue confess that the umbrella of godliness and holiness will eradicate "death" in all its forms, for God is a God of “life;” this is turning the hearts [of divine nature] of the Fathers to the children and the hearts [of divine nature] of the children to the Fathers...this is true "temple work!" It is the same yesterday, today and forever. I find joy in this symbolism just as Paul gloried in the symbolism of the cross [Galatians 6: 13-18]. Building a character of godliness, **“made without hands”** is the only true living temple **“made without hands,”** spoken of in the scriptures! [1 Cor. 3:16-18; 2 Cor. 5:1].

The purpose of the temple made of brick and mortar “made with hands” called [THE HOUSE OF THE LORD] is here to awaken our spiritual perception so that we see, hear and understand this symbolism. The veil in the temple symbolizes our spiritual preparation [developing a character and attributes of godliness] which is absolutely necessary for one to see and speak with the Lord “face to face” [as symbolized in parting the veil] beholding Christ “face to face.” So, the deeper question is: How do we prepare ourselves to see God? The Prophet Joseph Smith taught this early on in the *spiritual restoration* process, when he included in the Doctrine and Covenants, Lectures on Faith 1-7 and called it “The Doctrine of the Church of Jesus Christ.” He said we must *first* understand the true nature and character of God! If man does not comprehend his own divine character [the little god inside himself] he will never fully comprehend that being who has become “God,” or “Christ.” This “mystery of godliness” is revealed, inside you! Hence the “mystery” that only you can experience! These are the only ones who will become members of **“the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn”** (Hebrews 12: 23-24; D&C 76: 66-68; D&C 107:19).

If we learn to view the word "God" or “Christ” in the scriptures with the idea of "godliness, virtue and holiness of character," the answer is beautiful and simple for

a child to understand! It boils down to recognizing the little “god” inside ourself and others as Christ taught in [Psalms 82:6; John 10: 34].

"God" has arrived at that place called "godliness, virtue and holiness of character" within Himself! Therefore, it should be obvious that the little "god" within us is seeking that same fulfillment; and that can only take place through experiences here in mortality or the world of spirits that will test our character!

If we choose evil, or to be angry, who are we hurting? Only ourselves...however on a larger plain of reality we can affect others as well, who haven't arrived at the place where "god" is found. We “rob god” by not developing godly attributes. Before “God” became the capital “God” he started out awakening to the little "god" inside himself, who eventually became “God;” he did so by overcoming the "flesh," the "carnal nature" and all false beliefs. It is His work and glory to help us come out of our fallen places by encouraging us to become "holy" as He is "holy." God has not the power to give us "holiness," but He can give us commandments [forms and structures made with hands] that will teach us how to be "holy" *if* we seek to understand where true holiness is found; by becoming one with the “spirit of the law” and desire it more than anything else!

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (New Testament | 1 Timothy 3:16). And all he asks, is that we become a living temple, like Him in character and attribute, “**made without hands;**” and judge not those who do not see, hear or understand their very own divine potential, the only true and living temple on earth or heaven!

This essay is for informational purposes only and is the opinion of the author.

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ⁱ “For, behold, the **mystery of godliness,** how great it is!”
(Doctrine and Covenants | Section 19:10)