

The Three Temples

A Message to the Church

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”
Revelation 2:7

J. F. Lawson
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CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	3
APPRECIATION.....	3
THE THREE TEMPLES.....	3
CHAPTER I.....	4
CHAPTER II.....	6
CHAPTER III.....	8
CHAPTER IV.....	15

PREFACE

For quite some time this message of prophetic truth has rested heavy on my heart. I have felt God would have me put it in print. I have hesitated and prayed much. After prayerful consideration and feeling I must obey the leading of the Holy Spirit, I have decided to do my best.

I have written this little pamphlet with a heart full of love; first, for God and truth, and second, for my fellow man. At times I have failed to keep tears from my eyes, knowing the severity of the message I was setting forth. I have not intended to personate men, but the things that are wrong. The shoe may fit individuals or groups, this I cannot help and have no apology for God's message of truth. I ask only that the readers of this tract give prayerful, unbiased and unprejudiced, openhearted consideration to the truth contained therein. AMEN.

With a heart full of love for a lost world and every blood-washed saint of God, I beg to remain

Your brother in Christ Jesus, J. F. LAWSON

APPRECIATION

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to **Peloubet's Bible Dictionary** for permission to use several diagrams and much information contained therein.

J. F. L.

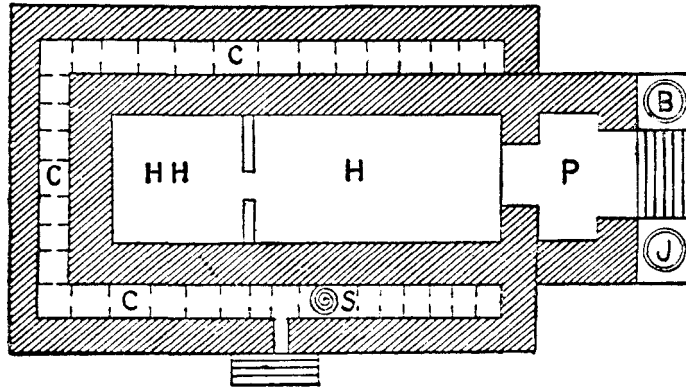
THE THREE TEMPLES

The Bible and history, together, make it clear that there were three Jewish temples. The first one was built by Solomon about 1000 years B. C. The second was built by Zerubbabel and was finished about 516 B. C. The third was the work of King Herod about 20 years B. C.

It is plain that the Jewish nation and its temple worship are full of types and shadows that have their spiritual fulfillment in the Church during the gospel day. Paul makes great use of these types and shadows in the book of Hebrews. First, let us notice the quality of workmanship and wisdom displayed by Solomon's temple which has never been equaled in any age. The other two temples fell far short in beauty and splendor of the first one.

CHAPTER I

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



(Used by permission of Peloubet's Dictionary)

Solomon's Temple

P, Porch; H, Holy Place; H H, Holy of Holies; S, Stairway to Chambers; C C, Chambers; B, J, Pillars Boaz and Jachin.

Solomon's temple was a beautiful type of the Church of God in the morning of the gospel day. The wonderful architectural display of gold and silver, that characterized Solomon's temple, is a beautiful type of the spiritual display of the grace, power, victory and glory of the Church in the first seal age, which ended 270 A.D. It is plain to see that the early Church had more power, with signs following, than she has had in any age since that time. Paganism soon crumbled because God's power was on exhibition in His Church. The people were scattered because of persecution; they went everywhere preaching the gospel with signs following. Notice, there was no individual or group of individuals to finance their going, not even a missionary board.

God said go, and they went. They had a consecration and faith that took hold of the Master's promises, in which He said: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20). "And great grace was upon them." (Acts 4:33). Like Solomon's temple, this grace made them the most beautiful church of all ages. God said that He would beautify the meek with salvation. The more of God's grace our consecration and faith brings us, the more beautiful the Church becomes, and the more perfectly it can fill its mission; more signs will follow and more souls will be born into the kingdom.

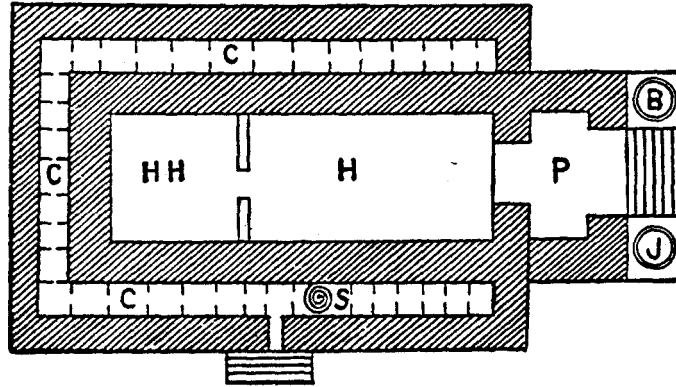
God had Solomon's temple built the finest for a suitable type of the early church, because He knew that it would be ornamented and decorated with more of His power and victory. The Christians looked directly to God for everything. They did not have an ecclesiastical headquarters directing, ruling, and governing the church through boards, committees, and assemblies. The Church went everywhere preaching the gospel, trusting God for physical sustenance and spiritual grace. This gave them a close walk with God. To trust boards and committees brings us closer to man. We only have to look to the

success of the early Church to see that such a plan of trusting God marvelously succeeded. It worked then and it will work now. One thing that gave spiritual freedom and gave great grace in the morning Church was the absence of man-rule in its government. "The government was upon His shoulders." The Holy Spirit was given His place in the body. They did not have to pass examinations and get their degrees to satisfy some ecclesiastical headquarters. But when it pleased God to call, qualify, and send them, they went. They did not wait for money drives to guarantee their support. They went by faith, trusting God, and He did not fail them. This is the reason they were decked and ornamented with the grace of God, of which Solomon's temple was a type. God wants a people today that will have just that kind of a consecration and faith. He wants first place in our hearts and in all things wants preeminence. God will ornament or adorn such a people with a grace, power, victory, and glory that He is not able to place upon those that put their trust in man for support. It certainly is Biblical to support the spread of the gospel message, but God did not say for the Church to get together and set up some kind of a board to govern, set a goal, make a money drive to get money to send missionaries or to support any other phase of His work. The reason is clear; God wants His servants to go out trusting Him. Some say it is all right to co-operate in such an organization, since it is not condemned in so many words in the Bible. The same argument can be used to justify the organization of a sect or church. When God said what to do, it just means all else is wrong.

Jesus wanted to teach His disciples a lesson of trust in Him when He told them to take neither purse nor script. He asked them if they lacked anything? They said, "Nothing, Lord." Then He told them to take a purse if they had one, and go into all the world and preach the gospel. Is that not a plain, simple way? Anyone called of God can respond to His call without being brought under bondage of man rule of boards and creeds. I am sure God started the morning Church out just like He wanted it. Who has any right to criticize or change it?

CHAPTER II

ZERUBBABEL'S TEMPLE



(Used by permission of Peloubet's Dictionary)

Zerubbabel's Temple

P, Porch; H, Holy Place; H H, Holy of Holies; S, Stairway to Chambers; C C, Chambers; B, J, Pillars Boaz and Jachin.

Second, let us notice the temple built by Zerubbabel under the decree of Cyrus, after the return of the Jews from their Babylonian captivity of seventy years, extending from 606 to 536 B. C. At this time Solomon's temple was torn down, stripped of all its valuables, including the golden vessels of the temple. This is a type of the Church going into spiritual Babylon of the dark and cloudy day of the reign of Catholicism and Protestantism, ending 1880, when God's people saw the light of the Church of God, and began to rebuild the temple, the Church, by returning to the Bible standard, as taught by the morning Church.

In 536 B. C. King Cyrus granted the return of over 42,000 Jews, and gave orders for the temple to be rebuilt on exactly the same plan as Solomon's temple was built, only it was to be a little larger. While larger in size, it was greatly inferior in its architectural splendor, in ornamentation and lavish display of gold and silver and other textile fabrics.

This is a type of the rebuilding of the Mount Sion Church of God in the sixth seal age, from 1880 to 1930. At this time D. S. Warner and others began to preach just like the apostles preached to the morning Church. Spiritually, the true Bible Church was torn down and stripped of all its spiritual beauty, while it was scattered in spiritual Babylon and confusion. As soon as the Bible standards of the Bible Church were preached, people began to take their stand for it. This gave God, once more, a chance to rebuild His spiritual temple, which is His Church. Those down in Babylon are disorganized. They are not in the Mount Sion Church. They are dissembled. The two witnesses are killed. When people were down in Babylon they were not in Jerusalem. So when we are in spiritual Babylon we are not in spiritual Jerusalem. The Jews by blood relation were God's chosen people, but could not function as citizens of Jerusalem until they returned. Likewise, God has some saved by the blood of Christ, who are down in spiritual Babylon,

that must return to the Bible standards before they can be in the heavenly Jerusalem, the Mount Sion Church of God.

In the sixth seal from 1880-1930, the Mount Sion Church was rebuilt again on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus himself being the chief corner stone, of which Zerubbabel's temple was a type.

In Revelation 14:1-5, John tells us of this gathering back to Sion in the sixth seal; "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on Mount Sion, and with Him a hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps. And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before, the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and unto the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."

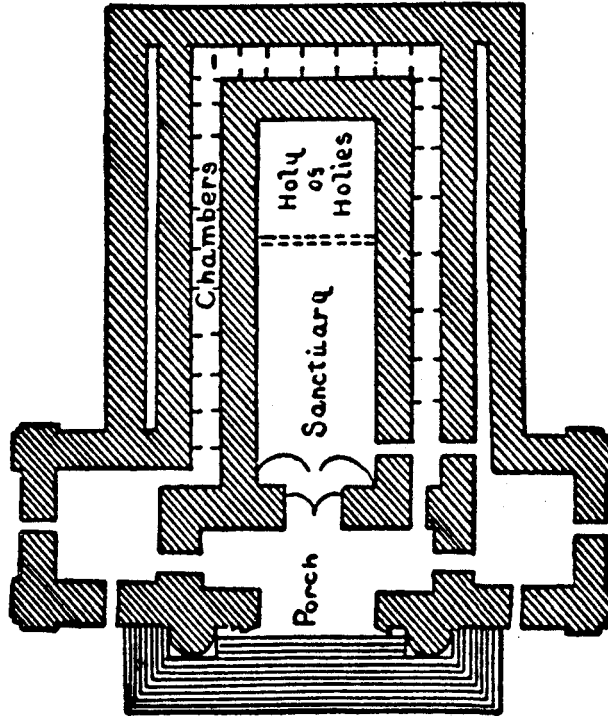
John uses 144,000 as a symbol of a great number of people gathered out on Mount Sion. They were not in Babylon. The ministry preached Revelation 18:4: "Babylon is fallen . . . and come out of her, my people." The message was without compromise, fear, or favor. By obeying the truth a great host came to Mount Sion, with the Lamb standing in their midst. They harped and sang the Church of God message of unity and holiness. No one could learn this song but those that would walk in the light. Notice, he said that they were REDEEMED from the earth. They were not defiled with women, meaning man-made churches. They would not lend their support to false doctrines in any way.

I was there in the last part of the sixth seal age and I know what was preached. Some, today, would tell us they were old fogies and fanatics and we have learned a better way. I will grant the fact that some mistakes were made, but listen to what God said about them, "For they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." If God did not find fault with them, why should we? We had better return to the practice of the truth they had. We are saying, and doing not.

Zerubbabel's temple was a type of this people being rebuilt and re-assembled together in the true Mount Sion Church of God. Just as this temple was lacking in ornamentation of gold, silver, and precious things compared to Solomon's temple, so the Church in the sixth seal age is lacking in spiritual ornamentation and beauty. While they have built on the same foundation truths of the Bible, yet they do not seem to have the depth of consecration and faith that the morning Church had. The Church in the morning of the gospel day had to consecrate to the death at the hand of paganism. Millions died for their religion, shining with grace, power, and victory. This brought a spiritual beauty that the Mount Sion Church of the sixth seal age did not have. Not many faced a death test in that age. There were a great number that took their stand for the truth of the sixth seal age, stood every test, faced every opposition, followed the Lamb whithersoever He went, until God took them home with His sweet approval of finding no fault in them.

CHAPTER III

HEROD'S TEMPLE



(Used by permission of Peloubets Dictionary)
Herod's Temple

Third, let us notice Herod's temple, builded about 20 years B. C. This is the one standing when Jesus spoke of its destruction, that one stone should not be left upon another. There is nothing said in the Bible about King Herod rebuilding the temple. It is quite certain that God did not order it done or place His approval on such changes. You will find a complete summary of the facts, herein given, in Peloubets Bible Dictionary.

Let us notice some of the characteristics of King Herod himself. He was not a Jew, but married into the Jewish family. He was a worldly man, a supporter of the Olympics in his day. He tried to do things to satisfy and please the Jewish people. At first he was a ruler over small provinces, but finally was appointed governor of Judea. In a few years, by the help of the Romans, he captured Jerusalem and soon established his authority throughout his dominions. At first he had some fine traits, but soon he was changed and became very cruel, murdering some of his own family as well as others. Just before his death he ordered the execution of his nobles, the ones he had called to himself last. He also ordered the slaying of the infants in the days of the Christ child. This was the nature of this man and we will notice the antitype fulfillment later.

He wanted to do something great to please the Jews. So about 20 years B. C. he wanted to tear the temple down and build a greater one; to this the Jews would not consent. He suggested that he would take down the temple a little at a time and enlarge it. This he did. It is said that he adorned Jerusalem with many monuments of his taste and

magnificence, but the temple that he built with scrupulous care was the greatest. It is said that he built the temple in eighteen months with many other changes added for many years. He made it about three times as large as the previous one, with rooms and additions that the former did not have. He widened the front of the building and gave it a BIG SHOWY FRONT. The original temple only had one entrance by the altar and laver, which is a type of Christ and the washing of regeneration. The MOST HOLY PLACE had no furniture in it at all. It was an empty room. On the sides of the big entrance to the temple were magnificent cloisters, decorated and ornamented. In the sides of these cloisters were carvings of teachers sitting in front of their classes teaching them. There were nine additional doors through which it was convenient to pass from the classes into the interior of the temple. At convenient places around the temple there were erected money booths for the collecting of the tithes and offerings for temple use.

The original temple had no other building inside the fence or enclosure, but inside the front gate or entrance, Herod built a large women's department. One could go around, but the nearest way to the temple was through it. From the top of a balcony in this building, the women could watch the men officiate in the temple. Men were not allowed in this upper department. In it were thirteen TRUMPET-SHAPED MONEY BOXES. It is further stated that records of much of the money for the temple were kept in this department. Also, there were doorways leading to money vaults below.

Between the women's department and the temple was a men's department, in which no women were allowed. It was much smaller than the building for the women. The altar was built with some conveniences for the priests that the original did not have. It is said that the priests did not use all the sacrifices and offerings as God had ordered, but used part of them making feasts for their friends. The above facts are taken from Peloubet's Bible Dictionary.

Now let us notice these facts in type and shadows. Herod had his day and made these changes in the last part of the days of literal Israel, the Church. Now, looking for the antitype fulfillment of today, let us face facts honestly and fairly. We regret that many things are taking place in the Church today, but to deny facts is folly. The truth is what we need and it will remain the truth whether we accept or reject it. The same spirit that prompted Herod can be seen in the leaders of the Church today, who are trying to enlarge it with their modernistic methods. Like Herod, they are trying to put a BIG FRONT on the Church of God, ease up on its strong points for the purpose of expansion and personal gain. By many it is made a church among churches, no longer a separate, distinct group of "Called out ones." Herod was a worldly man, supporting the Olympics. In like manner, many church leaders are very worldly, attending the movies and wasting much time that they should spend on their knees. Many churches and gatherings have been turned into playhouses and places of entertainment. Many things are being practiced and tolerated that forty years ago would not have been allowed. As a slogan, "Holiness unto the Lord," is getting dim. A headquarters of ministerial power and man authority, with all its state and district tributaries, has once more killed the "Two witnesses," the Word and the Spirit, and has destroyed Holy Ghost government and divine rule in the Church.

Herod had some fine traits, but soon became cruel, murdering some of his nobles and even some of his own family who opposed him. In like manner, many are disfellowshipped, set aside and killed spiritually who oppose this great organization calling itself Church of God.

The people would not consent for Herod to tear the temple down and build a larger and more convenient one, but consented to changing a little at a time until the temple was completely made over. Neither would the saints of God consent for the leaders to make the Church of God anew, but little by little it has been made entirely a different spiritual structure from what it was even forty or fifty years ago. Like Herod, they will tell you a grand improvement has been made. But what does God think?

The carvings of teachers and classes in the walls of the cloisters around the temple reflect the fulfillment in our age today. The Church is STREAMLINING education. It is at the top of the list of requirements. It is placing a premium on DEGREES that God never intended. A Bible school is all right, if it is the right kind. To arrange classes and teach is Biblical, if the right thing is taught. Why place a premium on the study of FAITH KILLING SUBJECTS? Under the existing conditions of today, one must be a graduate of some accredited school to be eligible for an office or an appointment to some place in the great man-made system and practice in the so-called Church of God. Recently I noticed in print that a certain young man and wife had graduated from a certain school and had received an APPOINTMENT as missionaries to a certain country. Nothing at all was said of his call from God. These side doors, in Herod's temple, near the carved teachers and classes, are a symbol of the present day in which graduates can pass into the enlarged temple work made by man. Many denominations will not ordain a man who has not reached a certain rating in his education. Many of them require a four-year course. We are fast coming to that place in this expanded, modernized, enlarged, re-arranged, so-called Church of God. We have preached for years that we do not believe in organizing a church, but we have organized everything in the Church.

We do not have any more Bible for some things that we are doing, calling it Church of God, than the denominations have for some things that they are doing.

These side doors show us the possibility of graduates from these classes entering into the temple without passing by way of the altar and laver, which is a type of an experience of salvation. We know they do not enter into the real temple, the Bible Church. Herod's temple is a type of man's work and not God's. Streamlining education is detracting from the way of the cross. In this enlarged system of man government, in the church today, there are places or offices of honor and salary, as well as pastorates, to which many pass from the classroom.

God's plan is so much different. One must pass through the door by the altar and laver, which means salvation. God calls both educated and uneducated. In the Bible there were more just common folks called to the ministry than there were educated. Since men are taking over, they are doing differently.

God said to go into all the world, and preach and teach the gospel. There would be nothing against arranging classes or a school, if it taught the gospel of the kingdom, placing emphasis where it belongs. The Church today is making the art of teaching, degrees, and a show of human wisdom the first qualification. Many are striving for their degrees, feeling that they cannot succeed in the ministry without them. The morning Church went everywhere preaching the gospel of the kingdom. A full heart is more important than a full head. Both may work together if we do not get top heavy and come with enticing words of men's wisdom.

The morning Church did not take time to get a display of men's wisdom placed upon it. Whom God called He qualified and sent testifying and preaching the gospel of

the kingdom, anointed by the Holy Ghost and power, with signs following. Paul's instruction to Timothy was:

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the WORD OF TRUTH.” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Paul did not mean for him to major in all the FAITH KILLING theories of his day. Many of the subjects taught in our colleges wrest the scriptures, misapply them, and destroy simple faith in the Word of God. No wonder signs are ceasing to follow.

Herod's temple had nine side doors. Solomon's and Zerubbabel's temples each had one door of entrance. The priest that offered the sacrifice and sprinkled the blood was required to wash in the laver before entering the temple. John, in Revelation 1:5-6, makes it clear that we must enter by way of “Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.” This easy, yet deceptive way of entering from the classroom through the side door, directed by the hand of men, is deceiving many who are affiliated with modern systems of church work today, some whose hearts are empty, lukewarm, and spewed out. In reality, such a people do not represent the New Testament CHURCH OF GOD. Any teaching or practice that lets men in through a side door, placing them in church work, is deceptive. Jesus says, “I am the door.” (John 10:9). “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.” (John 10:1).

Herod made changes also in the brazen altar for the convenience of the administering priests, so as to make it easier for them. Some today are trying to make an easier way to enter the kingdom.

Herod erected money booths around the temple for the convenience of the people in bringing in their tithes and offerings. This' seemed to have been going in full swing when Jesus drove the money changers out saying, “Ye have made my house a den of thieves.” The Church today has erected many money booths and places of convenience for collecting the tithes and offerings, with much stress placed upon its importance. “Money, money, reach the budget,” is the great cry. Like the Jews, some are forgetting the weightier matters. What they bid you, do and observe, but do not after their ways. (Matthew 23:3).

Another alarming thing is, Herod's temple had nothing in the Most Holy Place. It was empty. In Hebrews 9:8, Paul says that the “Most Holy Place” signifies the Holy Ghost for us. This would mean the masses today are empty and void of a sanctified experience. To get this experience one must first pass by the altar and laver of regeneration. Too many are entering through side doors without the experience of salvation. Like Herod, the ministry of today is responsible for these conditions in the church. We are in the “lukewarm” age, and many are spewed out of the mouth of God. How could they have anything but an empty room in their hearts and troubles in the Church? There are side doors for many to enter that never saw a college. It is so easy to profess in many congregations.

In many places carnality can be seen in the ministry and laity alike. Such wrangling and jangling as can be found in some churches would certainly mean an empty room. There are still a few that are saved and sanctified, walking in all the light they have, but they are quite in the minority.

It is said that the priests in Herod's day would use some of the money collected to make feasts for their friends. Is it possible today that after the great "money, money" cry, that some of it would be used for entertaining?

Just inside of the front gate of the outside enclosure of Herod's temple, he erected a large Women's Department. One could go around, but the nearest and most convenient way to the temple was through it. This could mean nothing more or less than the great Women's Missionary Society. Now do not misunderstand me; missions are all right if they are carried on right. The gospel of missions is in the commission of "God ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." God never told the good sisters to organize such a great human organization with a dominating headquarters. We can praise God for the missionary spirit of the women, but, like Herod, God never ordered such a structure. I hear some one say, "They have done a lot of good." The sectarian world does some good, but I hear God condemning their great organizations as beasts and harlots.

In this women's department was kept THIRTEEN TRUMPET-SHAPED MONEY BOXES. It is interesting to note the many ways the missionary ladies have been sounding these trumpets for money, some of which are not legitimate. Each state or district is given credit and a record is made and put on exhibition in the parade, so that the right hand can always know what the left one is doing.

God said, "Give," and "Go preach," but He did not order such an organization as a part of the church.

It is further said that in this women's department records were kept of much of the money used in the temple worship. Also, a subway led to the other vaults of the temple.

There was a balcony to this department, where the women could watch the priests administer in front of the temple. No men were allowed. This is clear. Women are the only ones to hold these high offices in the society. No men are allowed in the balcony of the office department.

This great organization in the church has been brought about by some good saved saints of God, having more zeal than real knowledge of the Word of God. Many that really love God and lost souls have been led little by little into this great organization that is unscriptural. This is exactly what the denominational world has done, but God condemns it and says: "Come out of her, my people." I hear some say that the Missionary Society has done so much good. Yes, this we admit, and we admit that denominations have done much good through their organizations, but this does not prove that it is right to organize a church or any part of the Church. If Jesus organized or built the Church, why do we have to work it over and re-organize any part of it? When we organize any part of the Church, we again kill the two witnesses—Word and Spirit.

In the sixth seal age (1880-1930) the Church of God preached against organization of a church or any part of the Church. This kind of preaching gathered a great number out on Mount Sion, "harping with their harps" the message of unity and a divine church; and God said, "I find no fault in them." (Revelation 14). What Biblical grounds do we have for going back into the thing we came out of? Let us notice in full what God said about the people of the sixth seal age: "These are they which were not defiled with women; (Man's organizations—churches) for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no

guile: for they are without fault before God.” (Revelation 14:4-5). “This is the way, walk ye in it.” (Isaiah 30:21). Why change it?

Between the women’s department and the real temple, Herod built a MEN’S department. Why do we have to have a Brotherhood to make men feel their responsibility, get them together, and get them to work for God? The same reasons were given for joining the creeds of Babylon when I was down there yoked up with their organizations. When we take up Babylonian practices, we become a part of it, and we cease to be the real Mount Sion, New Testament Church of God, though we may still carry the name.

On the backside of the temple Herod made two gates and two bridges leading by a near way to the business part of the city. This has its fulfillment today in the enlargement of the Church, in its centralized business headquarters entering the commercial world for the sake of money; thus, a near and convenient way has been made to the business center of the city.

On the outside and near the fence, at the backside of the temple, there was a place for the Sanhedrin to meet and discuss some special things concerning the affairs of the temple. This was the highest court. It is said to have originated after the return of the Jewish captivity—one man said about 107 years B. C.

We must look for its spiritual fulfillment in the last of the gospel day, after we returned from spiritual Babylon. It is the result of man rule in the Church and centralization of power, erecting boards, setting up councils and high offices. Naturally, there would be the arranging and meeting of the high officials to discuss and to pass final decisions, just like the Sanhedrin.

On the backside and near the gates leading to the business center of the city, was another building erected by King Herod, not ordered of the Lord. It was a large building to house the guards that guarded the temple. Such a thing was not known in connection with either of the previous temples. As long as the people stayed with God, He took care of His own house. This is true of the Church. Some who are not so zealous about the standards of the Church being up to the Bible standards are guarding with scrupulous care this man-made headquarters of authority with highly honored and well-paid offices carried on in the name of the Church of God.

Herod’s remodeling and changing certainly did change the Jewish worship. It took on a worldly nature, with unauthorized additions and formality that killed the real spirit of worship. Those that Jesus drove out of the temple were carrying on as usual. At this time there were few Israelites indeed.

Let us, today, honestly look for the fulfillment of the antitype in the Church. We must first get our eyes open to the present conditions before we can see these things. Many people in the Church of God, and others professing to be, are in a critical condition. Some of the most spiritual know something is wrong, but do not know just what it is. Others, like the Herodian Jews, are well satisfied. God is not pleased with what is going on,

In comparison, many are far from the standard of faith and practice of the morning Church. What a change has come about in the past twenty years. O! May God open our eyes and touch our hearts, as He did Lydia’s of old, that we may see and return to the Bible standards of God’s truth. He will do just that, if we will have the willingness to acknowledge the evil and return to the true standards of God’s truth.

These conditions bring us into the greatest conflict the Church has ever faced—Battle of Armageddon. A battle of right against wrong, truth against error, and it is fought in the “Mountain of the Lord’s house.”

Herod was a proud, covetous, boastful, heady, and high-minded man. This spirit can be seen in the leaders of those enlarging and adding to God’s Church today.

Paul says in writing to Timothy: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affections, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

We believe, beyond a doubt, that we are living in the last days of which Paul spoke. The very spirit that Herod had is described in Paul’s admonition to Timothy. It is not hard to look around and see people as described in the above quotation working in the enlarged condition of the Church today. We could wish these things were not so, but it is too bad that we must acknowledge facts with sad and aching hearts. The above-mentioned things have sapped the spiritual power of the Church, bringing in a form of worship without power. God is not pleased with such carrying-on in the name of the Church and says, “From such turn away.” We have just one choice in order to please God and that is to come out of such things and with the spirit of Christ and a love for God and His truth, denounce them.

The devil would tell us that we do not have to quit such groups and practices, but be very tolerant for the sake of unity and harmony and that we should tolerate the BAD for the sake of the GOOD. It is clear: “From such turn away.” “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 2:7).

CHAPTER IV

TYPES AND SYMBOLS

Now let us notice further some types and antitypes that surely will help us today to see some things which are not pleasing to God.

One Cyrus (the Mede) being king of Media and Persia, when they conquered Babylon, granted the return of 42,300 Jews, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem.

First, they erected an altar unto the Lord, and then they proceeded to lay the foundation of the temple. When the foundation was laid, without any justifiable reason, they halted the work and went to building costly homes for themselves. This had its antitype, spiritual fulfillment in the rebuilding of the Church of God in the sixth seal, 1880-1930.

In the year of 1880 A. D., D. S. Warner and others saw the Bible Church, and also saw the saints of God scattered in spiritual Babylon. They decided to return to the standards of the New Testament Church. The first thing they did was to erect an altar unto God. They started with the most sincere worship and devotions, putting their trust in God only. They preached the full gospel, as did the morning Church, making plain its foundations of the apostles and prophets, and setting forth its Bible practices of truth. In type and shadow the foundation of the Church was laid in the sixth seal and is being finished in the seventh seal. The Jews were carried into Babylon and the temple torn down, so in like manner the Church was carried into spiritual Babylon and torn down or disorganized, and it lost its Biblical standards of faith and practice.

Near the closing of the sixth seal age, which ended 1930, the foundation having been well laid, through the preaching of the Word, the Church began to let down. It turned to homes and self interests. The Jews had no reason for stopping the work, neither did the Church. In order to build the Church of God, we must preach and practice all the Bible. To fail to preach and live is to fail to build.

Like Herod, many ministers today are trying to please the people by making things easy and letting in the world for entertainment. With many there is a lightness in preaching, the ordinances are left out or made optional, there is no cleansing in sanctification, and divine healing is omitted. A pull is made to make a centralized headquarters as a clearinghouse for the Church, pulling everything to it through boards, committees and assemblies. This once more is killing the two witnesses, Word and Spirit. These are not CHURCH OF GOD DOCTRINES. They are not Biblical. The Church even taught against such in the sixth seal age.

The carvings in the walls of the cloisters around King Herod's temple of teachers and classes would just mean we have streamlined education today. We have made it the capstone of all qualifications. It has become some people's god. Some think more of the art of teaching and degrees than they do the things taught. It is all right to arrange classes if we teach truth and place the emphasis on truth instead of degrees. In this great, enlarged Herodian church of today, places are made for the man with a handle on his name in order to get the chance to teach others. Such people are given preference. The true Bible Church has no such system delegated to man. The government is still upon

“His shoulders” and all we have to do is to look to the Bible pattern to know if we are IT or something else.

These conditions had their beginning in the last part of the sixth seal age and began to take on power and authority at the beginning of the seventh seal age, 1930. In 522 B. C. Artaxerxes was made king of Medo-Persia. He is said to be Smerdis the Magian Imposter, the pretended brother of Cambyses. He did not legally have a right to the throne. He served only 8 months.

In the fourth chapter of Ezra we are told that the enemies of Benjamin and Judah wanted to help build or finish the temple, but were told they had no part or lot in it. In verses four and five we are told that the enemies, when denied, hired counselors against the Jews and weakened their hands. There are compromisers today who are enemies to the real truth, who want to be tolerated and taken into the number, but will not stand for the straight Word of God. They have slipped from the old paths and will not have new light. They are enemies of the truth, and have no part in it.

Some of these governors of minor provinces wrote Artaxerxes, the king, a letter to get him to stop the work of building. Ezra 4:11-16 gives the reading of the letter. They told the king that the Jews were building this rebellious city: “Be it known unto the king, that, if this city be builded, and the walls set up again, then will they not pay toll, tribute, and custom, so thou shalt endamage the revenue of the kings.” (Ezra 4:13). Verse 14 gives plainly the reason they opposed the work: “Now because we have maintenance from the king’s palace, and it was not meet for us to see the king’s dishonor. . . .”

The Church returned from spiritual Babylon and laid the foundation of the temple, the Church, in the sixth seal age. Now we are finishing the temple, the Church, in the seventh seal age. There are those among us today calling the City of Jerusalem, the Church, a seditious or troublous city, division makers, etc.

Now in Ezra 4:17-24, we find an account of the imposing king’s answer to the letter and false accusation which was made against the builders of the temple. In verse 19 the king says: “I commanded and search hath been made and found this city of old time hath made insurrection against kings and that rebellion and sedition hath been found therein.” Then he gave commandment to cease God’s work of building the temple.

It is plain and easy to understand that they were wrong in their interpretations of what had gone on in Jerusalem. It had rebelled against all that were out of harmony and against God, stood for truth and for this was called trouble and division makers.

Now let us look for the fulfillment in the antitype of today. We are finishing the temple on the foundation Warner and others laid in the sixth seal, and are opposed, called a seditious City (Church), trouble and division makers. These people were commanded of God to finish this temple; so are we, today, commanded to finish the temple, the Church, by preaching the old-fashioned truth. Those that would use anything else in the building are rejected, and told that they have no part or lot in it. Then like Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, many are rejecting the truth that it takes to build or finish the Church and are calling those that are building according to God’s plan trouble and division makers. They are reporting to the kingly authority, typified by Artaxerxes the Magian imposter, and he is finding it so. . . . Their toll, tribute and custom is threatened, as they receive maintenance from the same. Verse 22 says: “Why should damage grow to the hurt of the Kings.”

In verses 23 and 24 of this fourth chapter of Ezra, we see that the work was hindered and even stopped for a while. In like manner the seventh seal message of rebuilding and finishing the temple (Church) was hindered by the imposition of the Magian kingly spirit, dominating the freedom and liberty of those that would walk in the light.

Despite all this opposition, God has prophets today, like Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 5:1-2), who dare, in the name of the God of Israel, to preach God's message and finish His work in the seventh seal age. Others have a mind to work and God's prophets are working with them.

Now get your Bible and read the entire fifth chapter of Ezra. Artaxerxes, the Magian imposter, only lasted eight months and was slain. Then Darius came to the throne. He, like Cyrus, did not oppose God's work of rebuilding the temple, but granted liberty and freedom to those God was leading, granting financial support.

We read in verses 7-10 that they wrote a letter to Darius, giving names of the leaders of the work on the temple. Leaders are picked out today, names mentioned, and we are asked who gave us the authority to preach this seventh seal message of truth. Verse 11 gives the answer to such questions, "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and build the house (Church) that was builded these many years ago, which a great king (Christ) of Israel builded and set up."

The remainder of this chapter gives the history of the destruction and carrying away of the vessels of the temple to Babylon. Under Cyrus they were returned and the foundations were laid. In chapter six we find search was made and the records of Cyrus showed the authority of the Jews to finish this temple. Then Darius gave orders, verse 7: "Let the work of this house alone; let the governors of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place." Darius was different from the Magian imposter that preceded him. He was a man that feared and listened to God. He found the records of authority and ordered it done.

So in antitype fulfillment of today, the kingly authority in the Church, if it will listen to and fear God, will find plenty of records, blueprints, patterns, and authority to substantiate the finishing of the temple, the Church, the foundation of which was laid under Warner and others in the sixth seal age. In Ezra 6:11 and 12, we notice that Darius made a decree against all that would interfere with the work of the temple, stating that their house should be torn down and they should be hanged. "And the God that hath caused His name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem." This seventh seal message is finishing the Church as started and founded in the sixth seal. It reaffirms all its foundations of truth given in the past and is finishing God's temple, the Church, according to the light of this seventh seal age. The Church will be finished at the end of time.

God's judgments are pronounced upon all that will interfere with His work. Like some of old, many spiritual Jews today cannot see that they are against God's work of building and finishing His temple, His Church, His dwelling place.

It was Medo-Persia that conquered Babylon. Cyrus and Darius were its true kings. They granted and supported the return and the building of the temple. Those today who have victory over and have conquered Babylon, remembering its bondage, will see plenty in the records of the Word of God, and will support God's message that finishes

the building. As the Magian imposter, some do not know the victories over conquered Babylon, have become a part of it themselves, and will not grant the finishing of God's work today. God's temple, the Church, is finished by preaching all of God's message of truth. The temple was finished under great difficulties and opposition but when the prophets began to preach, the people were moved and the work went on. So it is today; God has prophets that will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God. There is much opposition today but God's work of building will go on. Men and devils may hinder and oppose, but they can't stop it. The God of all power and authority is behind His people that stand for the truth and walk in the light of this seventh seal age. Yes, His temple, His Church WILL BE FINISHED. It is said, at the end: "The marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." (Revelation 19:7). She is then ready for the return of Christ. AMEN.