

INTRO:

I am so grateful for the way the Father has gripped my heart for the House of Prayer. Coming into the awareness of His desire for us to partner with Him in this way has truly changed me and ruined me for anything else. Pursing His presence is vital, building His Kingdom is necessary and all of this occurs when prayer is the foundation of all things.

Tonight I want to walk us through a few passages of scripture that highlight the Father's heart for His House of Prayer.

There are certain key things I want to highlight -

- The Lord's House will be a House of Prayer for ALL NATIONS. Therefore we can realize that ALL are called to enter in to the House of Prayer.
- The Father's Heart and Jesus' heart are zealous for the House of Prayer. Therefore He will get exactly what He desires.
- Finally He will have His house become a house of prayer and we must join!

GOD BROUGHT BACK FIRST THE PRIESTS, LEVITES, AND TEMPLE SERVANTS - THIS REVEALS HIS HEART FOR RESTORING THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

1 CHRONICLES 9:2

"No the first [of the returned exiles] to dwell again in their possessions in the cities of Israel were the priests, Levites and the Nethinim [the temple servants]." (AMP)

"And the first inhabitants who *dwelt* in their possessions in their cities *were* Israelites, priests, Levites, and the Nethinim." (NKJV)

DAVID TAKES BACK JERUSALEM FOR THE LORD - THIS REVEALS THE FATHER'S HEART TO HAVE HIS CITY AND TO ESTABLISH HIS WORSHIP THERE - TO ESTABLISH HIS HOUS OF PRAYER (1 CHRONICLES 15 & 16)

1 CHRONICLES 11:1-8

"Then all Israel came together to David at **Hebron**, saying, 'Indeed we *are* your bone and your flesh. Also, in time past, even when Saul was king, you *were* the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord your God said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel.' ' Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord by Samuel.

And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites *were*, the inhabitants of the land. But the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You shall not come in here!" Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). Now David said, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain." And Joab the son of Zeruah went up first, and became chief. Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David. And he built the city around it, from the Millo to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city." (NKJV)

**CALLED BACK TO JERUSALEM TO REBUILD THE HOUSE OF THE LORD -
RESTORATION OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID - THE LORD GRIPS THE HEART
OF A PAGAN KING TO USE TO ESTABLISH THE REBUILDING OF HIS HOUSE
EZRA 1:1-3 & 5**

“Now in the first year of Cyrus King of Persia [almost seventy years after the first Jewish captives were taken to Babylon], that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might begin to be accomplished, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus King of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and put it also in writing, (Jeremiah 29:10-14) Thus says Cyrus King of Persia: ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. Whoever is among you of all His people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel, in Jerusalem; He is God.’

Then rose up the heads of fathers’ houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites, with all those whose spirits God had stirred up, to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.” (AMP)

“Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: ‘All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which *is* in Judah. Who *is* among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which *is* in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel (He *is* God), which *is* in Jerusalem.

Then the heads of the fathers’ *houses* of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the Lord which *is* in Jerusalem.” (NKJV)

**THIS IS WHAT OCCURS WHEN THE LAW IS READ AND THE PEOPLE’S HEARTS
ARE CUT - WHEN WE ENTER IN TO THE HOUSE OF PRAYER A SENSE OF LACK
AND GRIEVING OVER WHAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN IS OFTEN EXPERIENCED.
NEHEMIAH 8:1-13**

“Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday (**SIX HOURS**), before the men and women and those who could understand (**INCLUDED YOUTH, SERVANTS, ETC**); and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and

Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. Then all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen!' while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with *their* faces to the ground.

Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. **(READ NOTE FROM JACK HAYFORD)** So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day *is* holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.' For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, 'Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

Now on the second day the heads of the fathers' *houses* of all the people, with the priests and Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law." (NKJV)

THESE THREE VERSES REVEAL THAT THE FATHER INTENDS FOR THIS TO BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL TO ENTER.

ISAIAH 56:4-7

For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant, Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

'Also the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and holds fast My covenant—

Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *will be* accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." (NKJV)

- everything we have has come first to the jews and then to the gentiles. We know this to be true because of how Paul outlines this in the book of Romans. But here, we see God's heart on display through the prophet Isaiah when He reveals that the Eunuch and the Foreigner will be brought in to the House of Prayer and that they will have a name greater than that of son or daughter.

- Verse 5 states that the Lord will give them an **everlasting name** or an **enduring** name that will not be cutoff. EUNUCHS were temple servants - heathen temple servants. They were employed by those who worshipped idols and were used for idol service. They would have had their genitalia crushed or entirely removed.
Deuteronomy 23:1
- FOREIGNERS in some translations these are called proselytes - or those who are not Israelites - so US!
- All these will be brought in to the House of Prayer.

- Verse 6 describes that these are ones who will join themselves to the name of the Lord. FOREIGNERS again are mentioned here as well the eunuchs are eluded to. These are the only requirements.
 - That they join themselves - this is literally covenanting
 - Minister to the Lord
 - Love the name of the Lord
 - Serve the Lord
 - Keep His Sabbath
 - Hold fast to the covenant
- these are simple requirements of the christian life. Here the Lord is saying "I will welcome you! I want you to be a part of me!"

Verse 7 - they will be accepted and they will find joy!

Philippians 2:10 "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (NKJV)

REMEMBER: FIRST POINT: THESE THREE VERSES REVEAL THAT THE FATHER INTENDS FOR THIS TO BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL TO ENTER.

- It is the Father's heart, plainly revealed here, that all are welcome and invited to enter in to the House of Prayer.

Now that we've established this truth - let's talk about the zeal of the Lord for His house.

SECOND POINT: THE FATHER IS COMMITTED AND WILL HAVE HIS HOUSE BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER. We know this to be true because of the account of Jesus turning over the tables in the temple. Lets look at that.

- Matthew 21:12-13

"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, **"It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'**" (NKJV)

- This passage is rich RICH and points to/cross references not only Isaiah 56:7 but also Malachi 3:1-3 where the Lord comes and prunes/refines/purges His temple! He begins with the Levites/priests. Do we not see this in our modern context! We must be pure hearted! The Lord detests mixture of ANY kind! He detests defilement of ANY kind!

- Mark 11:15-19

“So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. **Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’**”

And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. When evening had come, He went out of the city.” (NKJV)

- Luke 19:41 - 48

“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.’”

Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” And He was teaching daily in the temple. But the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people sought to destroy Him, and were unable to do anything; for all the people were very attentive to hear Him.” (NKJV)

- John 2:13 - 17

“Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, **“Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!”** Then His disciples remembered that it was written, **“Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”** (NKJV)