

New Years Eve 2023 - Build The Lord's House

• THE LORD IS THE MASTER BUILDER

Psalm 127:1

Except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; except the Lord keeps the city, the watchman wakes but in vain.

- This Psalm was written for Solomon. David writes this Psalm as a reminder to his son.
- A public reminder to be read and sung amongst the people... a truth and a principle!
- A reminder/warning given at the beginning of the venture, before work began. A new start...

"Except the Lord builds the house"

- The house: Literally or figuratively: The temple or the believer or His church/His body.
- The Lord is the strength, the might, the authority, the power... His is the responsibility and His is the glory.
- Not anyone or anything else! Not yourself. No flesh. No being.

He is the Master Builder and He is also the foundation!

• JESUS IS THE ROCK FOUNDATION

Matthew 7:21-27

21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

23 And then I will say to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly, disregarding My commands.

*24 **So everyone who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.***

25 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell-and great and complete was the fall of it.

- Wise man vs foolish man. Not 'saved' and 'unsaved'
- Every man is a builder. Building a life, a reputation, relationships...

Luke 6:47-48

47 For everyone who comes to Me and listens to My words [in order to heed their teaching] and does them, I will show you what he is like:

*48 He is like a man building a house, who dug and went down deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood arose, the torrent broke against that house **and could not** shake or move it, because it had been securely built or founded on a rock.*

Gill:

Every believer is a builder; the house he builds, is his own soul, and the salvation of it; in order to which he digs deep, till he comes to a rock, to a good foundation; he searches diligently into the Scriptures of truth; he constantly attends the ministry of the word; he inquires of Gospel preachers, and other saints, the way of salvation; which having found, he lays the whole stress of his salvation on the rock of ages, which rock is Christ: he makes him the foundation of all his hopes of eternal life and happiness; ... This foundation, the person, blood, and righteousness of Christ, as a rock, firm and strong, will bear the whole weight that is laid upon it; it is sure and certain, it will never give way; it is immovable and everlasting; the house built upon it stands safe and sure.

- Understand that you are a builder! Are you a wise builder or foolish?
- Have you dug deep? Remove the dirt! Find The Rock!

The Lord is The Master Builder. Jesus Christ is that rock!

But it His people who are required to do the building. He commands and longs for us to prepare Him a place where He can come and dwell. He has provided all that is needed... But there is work for His people to do.

● THE LORD DESIRES A HOUSE TO DWELL IN

Haggai 1:3-9

3 Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your panelled houses while this house lies in ruins?

5 Now therefore says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways!

6 You have sown much, but you have reaped little; you eat, but you do not have enough; you drink, but you do not have your fill; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages has earned them to put them in a bag with holes in it.

7 So, says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways!

8 Go up to the mountain and bring wood and rebuild My house, and I will take pleasure in it and I will be glorified, says the Lord.

9 You looked for much, and behold, it came to little; and even when you brought that home, I blew it away. Why? says the Lord of hosts. Because of My house, which lies waste while you yourselves run each man to his own house [eager to build and adorn it].

"Is it time for you...?" / "Consider your ways!"

- What house are you building?
- Consider your life, your relationships, your goals, your walk with The Lord.
- Consider: This year / Next year
- Where are you? Where are you headed? What are you building?
- What is your mind inclined to? Where is your heart/treasure? That is where you are building.

"Go up to the mountain"

- Go up to where the materials are. Leave your house! Leave your comfort, your ease and the things you've put so much effort into for yourself.
- Go up to The Lord. Leave your own ways. His house will not be built from your convenience!

"And bring wood"

- Go up to The Lord for the resources to build. Go up to His word, go up to pray... Seek and find materials suitable to build His house, His dwelling place. Bring them to your own life and others.
- Seek and find His wisdom, His victory, His instruction.

"and rebuild My house... which lies waste"

- Rebuild His dwelling place. Rebuild the place of communion between God and man.
- Rebuild His testimony of Holiness, compassion, patience and faith.
- His house lies waste... and we are comfortable.
- We have put so much effort into our own comfort, protection... But to what reward?
- Today His house lies waste.

Michael Cassidy

"Anti Christian values have steadily been mainstreamed more and more in recent decades and Christians have largely acted like the proverbial frog in the boiling pot of water"

- The Lord is not building the house that many call "Christian" today.

Luke 19:46

It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer...

- His house, His dwelling place... Is a place of communion and conversation.
- He dwells in those who abide in Him.
- Build that communion, that obedience, that dependance, that intercession, that praise and that worship! Build that place where He will dwell.

There is work to be done. We are commanded to build. We have a job to do and a purpose to fulfil. If you are Born Again you have not been delivered merely out of pity! The Lord has a plan and a purpose for your life! That it might be a fruitful, powerful testimony of who He is and what He can do!

You may well feel unable and unworthy. As you should... As you most certainly will find out... But praise The Lord He doesn't leave us to build on our own!!

• THE LORD WILL TEACH US TO BUILD

- Not only does He give us the instruction and commandments that lead to life and blessing... but He also takes the time to individually guide us and teach us how to follow Him.

Psalm 25:4-5

4 Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.

5 Guide me in Your truth and faithfulness and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You [You only and altogether] do I wait [expectantly] all the day long.

Psalm 86:11

Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk and live in Your truth; direct and unite my heart [solely, reverently] to fear and honour Your name.

Psalm 143:8-10

8 Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for on You do I lean and in You do I trust.

Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my inner self to You.

9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; I flee to You to hide me.

10 Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; let Your good Spirit lead me into a level country and into the land of uprightness.

John 14:26

But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to remember everything I have told you.

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received of him abides in you, and you need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, you shall abide in Him.

- These psalms are recorded to encourage us. A heart that cries out like ours...
- You may feel so weak, so frail, so inadequate and faulting... But He longs to teach the seeking heart.
- Lift up your inner self to Him! If you inquire of Him and listen... The Comforter will teach you all things!!

The Lord will show us step by step how to build but we MUST be focused on the work! We MUST be willing and seeking to learn! And what a joyful opportunity it is when we do! Consider the hope that is offered! Consider what we are building... A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD!!!

• ATTITUDE AND APTITUDE TO BUILD WITH

Nehemiah 8:8-10

8 So they read from the Book of the Law of God distinctly, faithfully amplifying and giving the sense so that [the people] understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of them, This day is holy to the Lord your God; mourn not nor weep. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law.

10 Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

- We are to build with joy!! Build with expectation!! Build with the knowledge that victory is coming!!
- Not with sombreness and mourning. Not focused on ourselves and our lack but on faith in Jesus!
- Build with faith! Looking unto Jesus... Believing His promises!!

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- I live, yet not I, but Christ!! His strength, His victory, His power to build!
- So build with joy! Whistle while you work! Praise Him as you build! Build His dwelling place!
- Stop looking at yourself!! It's ugly!
- Dig up all that soggy, depressing, useless dirt and cast it away with joy!!

● THE WORLD DESPERATELY NEEDS HIS HOUSE!

- 2023 is in the past.
- We are about to enter 2024. Just another day... But a marker and appropriate place to "consider your ways"
- What are you building? Are you building on The Rock? Are you building His House?

Luke 21:9-11,20,25,28-31

9 And when you hear of wars and disorder, do not become terrified; for all this must take place first, but the end will not come immediately.

10 Then He told them, Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 There will be mighty and violent earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be sights of terror and great signs from heaven.

...

20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know and understand that its desolation has come near.

...

25 And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth there will be distress (trouble and anguish) of nations in bewilderment and perplexity at the tossing of the sea,

...

28 Now when these things begin to occur, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near.

29 And He told them a parable: Look at the fig tree and all the trees;

30 When they put forth their buds and come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and perceive and know that summer is already near.

31 Even so, when you see these things taking place, understand and know that the kingdom of God is at hand.

- The world desperately needs to see His house! His testimony! His ways! His promises!
- Does His house lie in waste in your life? Rebuild His House! The place of communion!
- Build upon The Rock!
- Pray with intention! Pray in faith! Build a secret place!