

# Building a Holy Temple in the Lord

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SR: Ephesians 2:19-22 / OH #152 "Tell me the Story..." / CH #375 "Work, for the Night is Coming"

**Introduction:** Building is a work that takes planning, action, resources, and dedicated effort over time. It has a goal in mind, and at some point, it will reach that goal only when it is completed! It can go more quickly when many hands and hours are dedicated to it. Or it can creep along and even stop if not well attended to. (ex. Kitchen finished) *Does God have a work of building to be done for Him? What is it, and how can it be done? Let's begin in the book of Haggai...*

## 1. The Work to be done

- a. In the book of Haggai, we find the people in a certain situation, in which they were very busy working, but they were also neglecting the work which was of the utmost importance. Let's see what this story is all about...
  - i. **Haggai 1:1-10** (esp. **vs. 2-4,9**). God chastised the people because they had neglected His special work (the important **work for the time!**), which was in great need to be done!
  - ii. **Ezra 5:1-2**. The work of God had been lying desolate for some time! (It had begun with excitement, but from difficulties had begun to wane, and then it basically ceased to go forward. At that time, God raised up prophets to encourage the people in the work. *They responded by taking it up, to His glory!*)
- b. What is God's work for us at this time? Is there a temple to be built? Yes!
  - i. See **Ephesians 2:19-22**. The believers are a "holy temple" in the Lord. His Spirit will dwell in us (See also 1 Cor. 3:16-17). **Rev. 3:12**, the faithful are to be "pillars" in the spiritual "temple" of the Lord.
  - ii. ***The spiritual temple of the Lord, the people of God's Kingdom, must now be built up at this time!*** (This is the all-important work for us to do!). *Soul-saving builds God's Holy Temple!*

## 2. The Distractions provided by the Devil

- a. Working on the wall
  - i. A letter to come down, and the Response (**Neh. 6:1-4**) "a great work...cannot..."
  - ii. The enemy is persistent and crafty (**Neh. 6:5-9**). Pray for God to strengthen us!
- b. We must be careful of "the cares of this life" which could distract us from the heavenly things (Mark 4:19).
- c. When full of good things, be careful that you don't forget to serve the Lord (**Deut. 6:10-13**).

## 3. Practical working – What does God call us to do?

- a. **Matthew 24:44-51** (v.46 esp.). - The Lord gives us a special work to do. Food in "due season." (Sharing the present truth message). *This is the work which God wants to find us doing when He returns. We are His servants; He has entrusted to us His "goods" – His present truth message, and He wants to find us sharing it when He comes.*
- b. **God has given us the 3AM to proclaim with a "loud voice"** – to prepare all the world for His coming! There is no other work so important as this one! (for this time). (**Rev. 14:6-7,14** – this message ripens the harvest! We must call all to decide for or against Christ and His truth! All must hear it!).
- c. "In every church the members should be so trained that they will devote time to the winning of souls to Christ. How can it be said of the church, "Ye are the light of the world," unless the members of the church are actually imparting light? Let those who have charge of the flock of Christ awake to their duty, and set many souls to work."—Testimonies for the Church 6:436. {**Christian Service, p.61.4**} [just as in the time of Nehemiah, this is needed]

**Appeal:** The work of God is calling out to be done. Millions of souls are perishing for the lack of God's saving truth. To us, God has entrusted the task of sharing that heavenly truth! Will we take up the work in all earnestness and complete it as God has called? Will we be building up the "Holy Temple" in the Lord? Is that your desire and commitment today? (If so, then let's stand) (*We'll sing our closing hymn*).