

Stark Road Gospel Hall Summer Ministry Series

August 16, James K Vallance

Core Concepts of Scripture

The House of God

Hebrew *Bayith* Various significant meanings

- 1, A fixed, established structure. A permanent dwelling place in contrast to a tent. Also distinguished from booths for cattle. (Gen 33:17)
- 2, When combined with 'God' it represents a place of worship or sanctuary. (Ex 23:19)
- 3, Rooms or wings of a house. (Gen 6:14) 'Rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without
- 4, A place for dwelling and resting. Such as Sheol (Job 17:13) or the grave (Eccl 12:5-7)
- 5, A household, or those who live in a house. (Gen 7:1) 'Come thou and all thy house into the ark'

A History of the House of God as revealed to different individuals

Jacob (Gen 28:10-22),

The House of God as the Local Assembly

Jacob's Conversion

Gen 48:3

3 And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me,

Prior to this, Jacob's life was filled with deceit, but God appeared to him in sovereign grace, and gave him a glimpse of His eternal purpose in heading up all things in Christ which are in heaven and on earth. (Eph 1:10). The Lord Jesus identified himself as the ladder, or stairway to bridge heaven and earth. (John 1:51) Perfect communication and execution of God's will upon the earth can only be the result of Christ being glorified as the Son of Man, and assuming all authority in heaven and on earth.

Gen 28:12

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Sonship and promise were the revelations given to Abraham and Isaac, so the stairway was a perfect picture of the incarnation of God's own Son, and what would be accomplished through his sacrifice on Moriah. (Gen 22)

1. The Revelation of His Name, and the Promise of His Presence

a, His Name. God had revealed himself to Isaac as the God of Abraham, and that was the assurance that He is unchangeable in character. Now He reveals His name to Jacob as 'the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac.

Gen 26:24

24 And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

Gen 28:13

13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

b, His Presence.

Gen 28:15

15 And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

2, **Jacob's Response to this Revelation.**

Gen 28:16-19

16 *And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.*

17 *And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*

18 *And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.*

19 *And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.*

He is overwhelmed by the revelation he received while asleep. His mind was instructed in the absence of his will, and his nature as a supplanter had been temporarily set aside in the presence of the Lord Himself. When he awoke to the reality of his experience, he described the presence of God in a threefold way.

- a, A dreadful (awesome) place. The character of the place was affected by the presence of the Lord there. It was the place where God's Holiness was known.
- b, The house of God. The place where God's purposes and will are always observed, and God Himself has pledged to accomplish them according to His promise. It was the place where God's love, care, and provision were known.
- c, The gate of heaven. The place where God's administration, power, and wisdom were known.

3, **Jacob's Education and Discipline under God's Supervision**

The Law of Compensation - whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

His conversion did not cancel this law since it involved his relationship with others. Including his own father and brother.

Gen 29:25

25 *And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?*

Gen 31:7

7 *And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.*

Jacob deceived his father to obtain the blessing, but Laban deceived Jacob by giving him Leah instead of Rachel for his wife, and then later changed his wages 10 times. The discipline in his life caused him to be unsatisfied with his lot there, and created a desire to return to the land of his fathers.

4, **Jacob's Guidance and Conviction to Return to Bethel**

Three things gave Jacob the conviction that he had to return to Bethel.

1, Circumstances changed to turn him in that direction.

Gen 31:2

And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before.

2, Clear direction from the Word of God.

Gen 31:13

13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

3, A consensus from both of his wives that he should obey the Lord in relation to it.

Gen 31:14-16

14 And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?

15 Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money.

*16 For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, **whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do.***

Young people especially are often perplexed as to guidance from God in their lives.

(2) should be sufficient, and (1) and (3) are not sufficient in themselves, but when all three are present, and the advice of godly friends is a consensus, then there is good evidence of the will of God in the decision to be made.

4, **Jacob's Changed Attitude and Walk.** (Genesis chapter 32)

Grateful Humility.

Gen 32:9-10

9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

Personal Experience with God

Gen 32:24-26

24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Separation from evil associations.

Gen 35:1-3

1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

3 *And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.*

Built an altar - Worship

Gen 35:7

7 *And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.*

Set up a pillar - Testimony

Gen 35:13-14

13 *And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.*

14 *And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.*

Moses

- 1, **In the Old Testament**, the Tabernacle was called the House of God. (Ex 23:19), a beautiful picture of the local assembly.

Moses was given the instructions for building it.

Exod 25:8-9

8 *And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.*

9 *According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it.*

Moses completed the work, the glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle, and it was with them throughout all their journeys in the wilderness. (Exod 40:33-38)

Moses spoke of the Lord making the choice of where the Tabernacle would be placed in the Land. (Deut 12:5)

Joshua assembled the Tabernacle and set it up in Shiloh.. (Josh 18:1)

Shiloh was actually located near Bethel

Judg 21:19

19 *Then they said, Behold, there is a feast of the LORD in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah.*

A man of God prophesied to Eli that his priesthood would be terminated. (1 Sam 2::27-36)

Jeremiah tells of the Lord abandoning Shiloh.

Jer 7:12

12 *But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.*

- 2, **In the New Testament**, The Tabernacle is also called the House of God but is presented to us as a picture of the large aspect of the assembly, the body of Christ.

Heb 3:1-6

1 *Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

2 *Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.*

3 *For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.*

4 *For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

5 *And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;*

6 *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

Heb 10:21-22

21 *And having an **high priest over the house of God**;*

22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

The real value of the faithfulness of Moses in communicating, constructing, and recording all the details of the Tabernacle, lay in the fact that it was a figure (Heb 9:9) of the true tabernacle, or, heaven itself (Heb 9:24)

The builder who is a servant, performs his assignment and is no longer involved in the house, but the builder who is the Son, not only builds the house, but maintains it and controls it to assure that it functions according to the purpose for which it was built.

Therefore, the Lord Jesus has an infinitely greater level of glory than Moses.

David

David found the Ark of God in the house of Abinadab in Gibeah (2 Sam 6:2-9), and built a new tabernacle for it in the city of David. The first attempt failed because it was placed in a new cart, contrary to the word of God to Moses, but 3 months later he had it carried from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David. David, in the spirit of the king-priest, blessed the people, and gave them gifts. (2 Sam 6-12-19)

David loved the house of God despite the lowly circumstances in which it was found.

Ps 26:8

8 *LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.*

Ps 27:4

4 *One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.*

Ps 36:8

8 *They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*

Soon after, David wanted to build a house for the Ark. A dwelling place for God.

2 Sam 7:2-5

2 *That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.*

3 *And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.*

4 *And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,*

5 *Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?*

David was not permitted to build a house for God, but God promised David that one of his sons would build a house for Him. Solomon fulfilled this in building the

Temple, but Heb 1:5 tells us that the builder of God's permanent home was the Lord Jesus Christ. also David's son.

Although David could not build the house, he provided all the necessary means for Solomon to build it.

1 Chr 29:2-3

2 Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistering stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

3 Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

The Pattern for the Temple Divinely Given

1 Chr 28:19-20

19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Solomon

The Place where the Temple was built

God was still actively choosing the place where He would place His name

2 Chr 3:1

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

2 Chr 6:6

6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.

The Temple divinely validated

2 Chr 7:1-3

1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Some Carryover Concepts in NT Local Church Scriptures

Matt 18:18-20

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Tim 3:15-16

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 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.

The Ladder to Heaven (Gen 28:12)

1, The incarnation and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Tim 3:16 - God was manifest in flesh...received up into glory.

2, Perfect communication between heaven and earth.

Matt 18:18,19 - Heaven and earth are in harmonious agreement.

The Name of God. (Gen 28:13) 'The God of Abraham.....'

1, It excludes all others.

1 Tim 3:15 - The house of God. The living God

2, It transcends all others.

Matt 18:20 - My name

The Divine Presence (Gen 28:15) 'I am with thee.....'

1, Full assurance.

Matt 18:20 - 'There am I...'

The House of God (Gen 28:17) The circle of relationship

1, Where God's will is sovereign.

1 Tim 3:15 - Behavior in keeping

The Gate of Heaven - (Gen 28:17) The circle of truth and judgment

1, Where the mind of God is final

Matt 18:19 - 'agree (in harmony) ...ask, it shall be done for them of my Father'

The Pillar -(Gen 35:14) Testimony

1, Witness and testimony to God and his incarnate Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Tim 3:15 - the pillar and ground of the truth.

The Pattern - Both the Tabernacle and the Temple were constructed strictly according to the pattern received from God. There was no provision for human ideas to be introduced.

1 Cor 14:37

37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

1, The Apostolic Pattern

Acts 2:42 They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine

