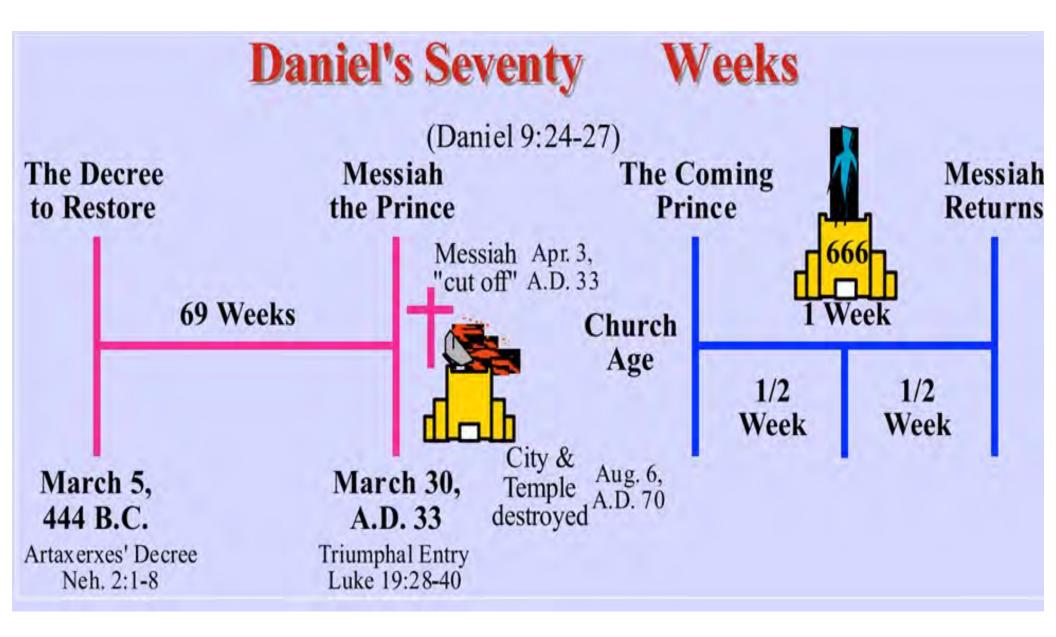
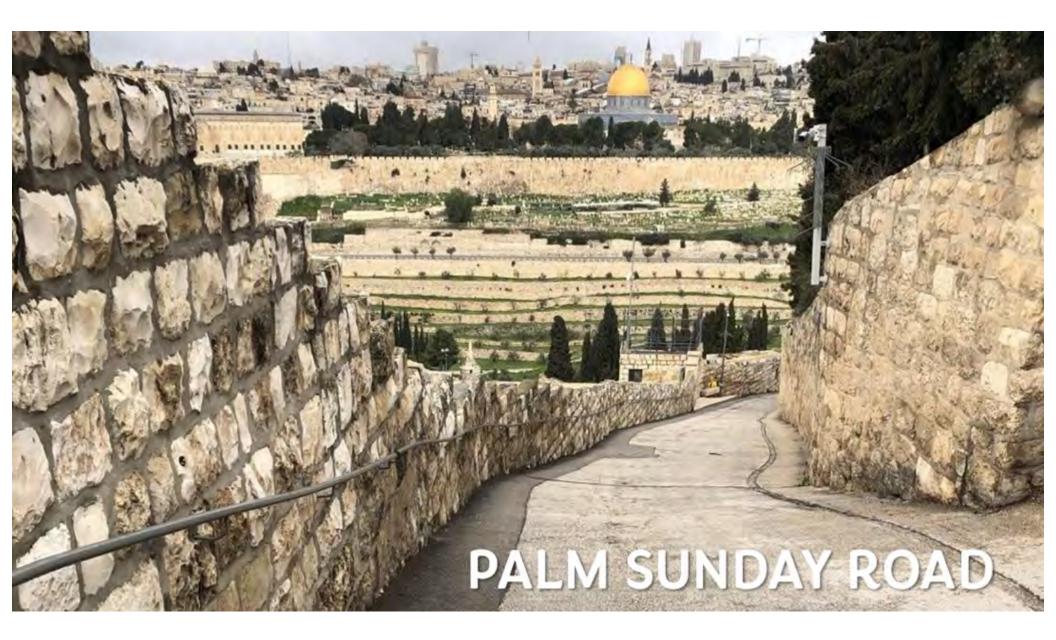
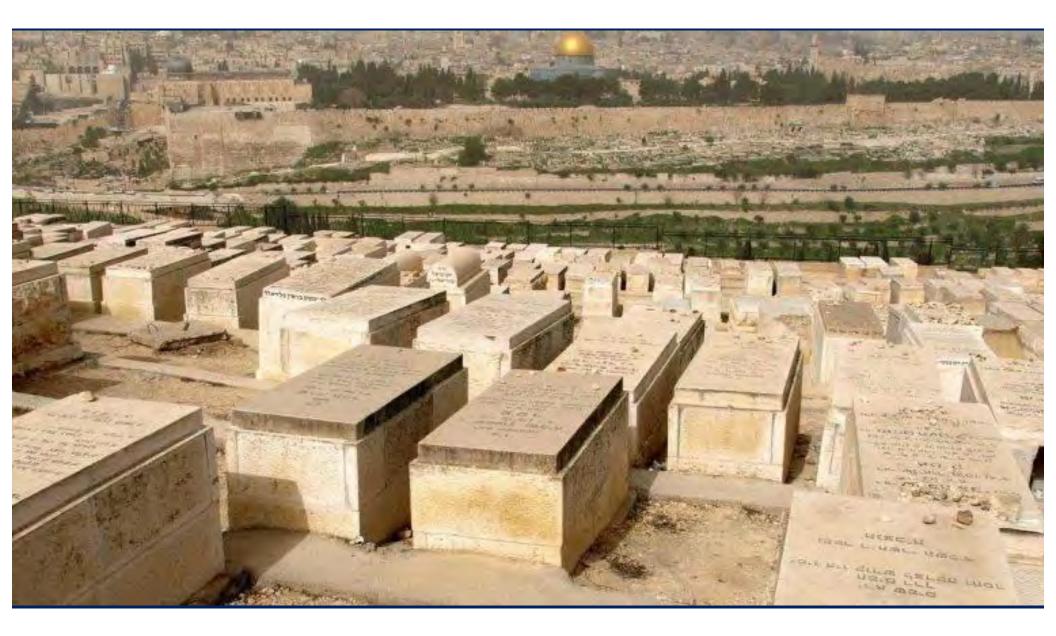
My House Shall Be Called A House of Prayer <u>Matthew 21: 12-17</u>







He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? Luke 12:54-56

<u>Verse 12 - 13</u>

My house has become a den of thieves

What Jesus sees in the temple is appalling to Him, *blatant sin!*

The nation is far from God, there was blatant sin in Father's house

Sin must be dealt with, not ignored, not swept under the rug, not downplayed!

There is a day of reckoning, an appointed time when God says no more = **JUDGMENT!**

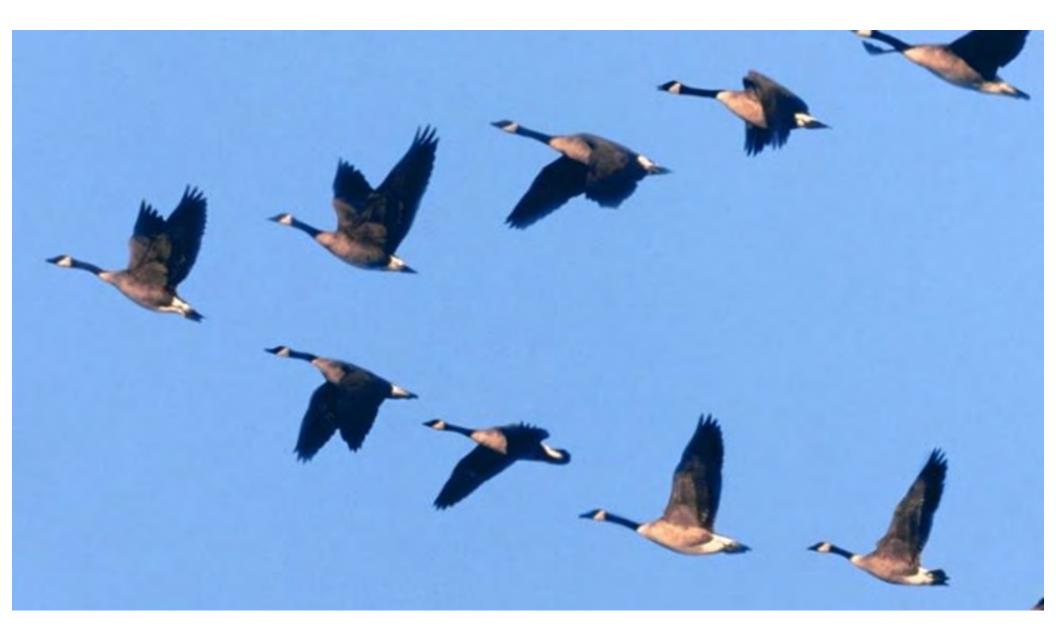
"My house shall be called a house of prayer"

Prayer focus, not program focus!

The Church's focus is well described in <u>Acts 2: 40-42</u>:

The Apostles doctrine – teaching

2) Fellowship – encourage one another to keep going



3) Breaking of bread - Communion; remembering what Christ has done for us

4) Prayer - God wants us to talk with Him

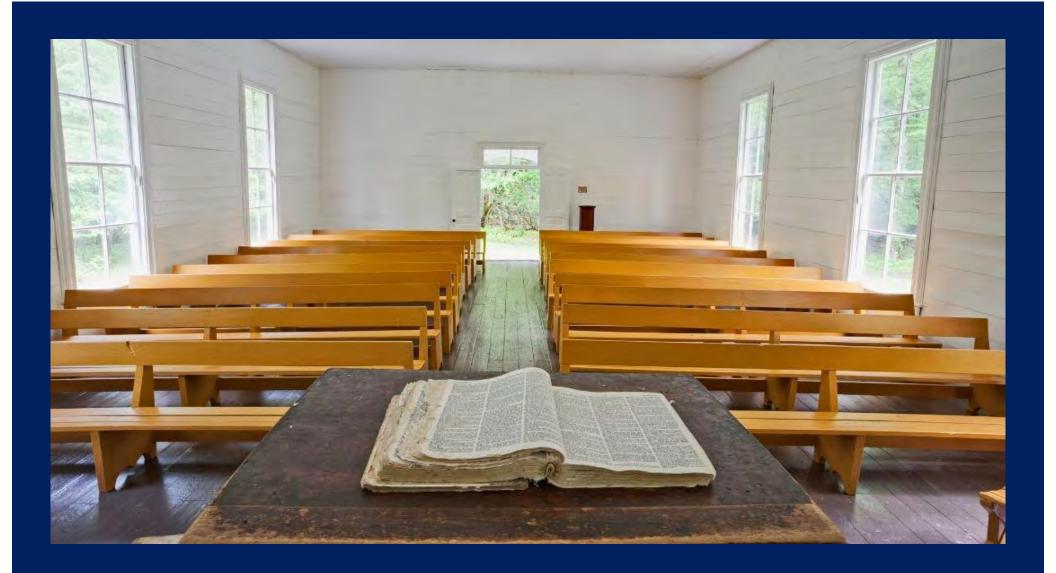
What many churches have become:



Where is the fear of God?

<u>fear</u> = "yare" = awesome respect for GOD

Many "Christians" treat God with casualness; they are almost dismissive of Him

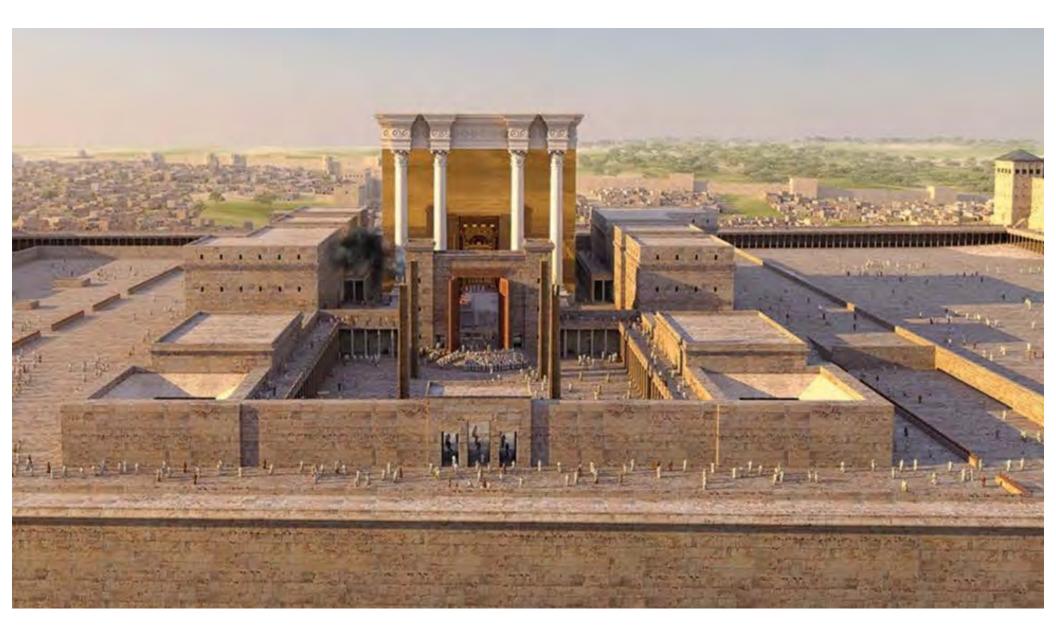


The purpose of the Church:

- 1) Glorify God
- 2) Edify the saints
- 3) Evangelize the world

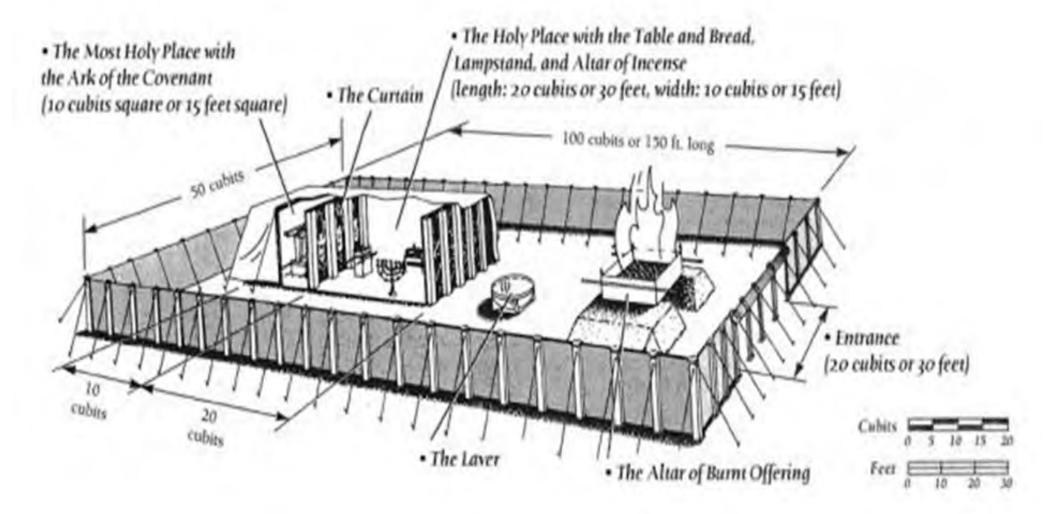
Do you see any place for foolishness in the presence of God?

NO!!



The Tabernacle shows us a prescribed way to approach God

NEVER "Wing It"



The Tabernacle and the Temple show us the One Way to God

JESUS ONLY!!

<u>Verse 14 - 15</u>

The Temple is cleansed – now used properly

Jesus is preparing His people for His reign, His Kingdom

A time when all will be whole, complete and lacking nothing!!

Verse 16a

The religious phonies' response to Jesus

The hyper-religious phonies' cry: "Did You hear what these are saying?"

Loud and clear – may our world <u>hear</u> where we stand - no cowering, no falling back! Scripture calls us the *RESTRAINER* – the Holy Spirit filled Church

Scripture calls us *Salt and Light* – impacting our culture with the *TRUTH*!

Scripture tells us to WATCH and be READY!

Scripture tells us to *encourage one another* to keep going and not to fall back <u>Hebrews 10: 35-39</u> The Church was originally called *"The Way"*, responding to John 14: 6: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"*

Follow God's way, not the phony world way!

<u>Verse 16b - 17</u>

Jesus' response to the religious phonies

Allow these words to permeate your soul: "Have you never read"

Jesus expects His people to know what God has said in His Word

Bereans *"searched the Scriptures <u>daily</u> to see* if these things were so" - <u>Acts 17: 11</u>

The normal Christian life is to be in God's Word <u>daily</u> - your <u>daily</u> bread!

Jesus left them

No more debating, no more revealing truth to the blind

<u>Lesson</u>:

"A time to be silent and a time to speak" <u>Ecclesiastes 3: 7</u>

You gotta know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, know when to run.

Kenny Rogers

(quotefancy

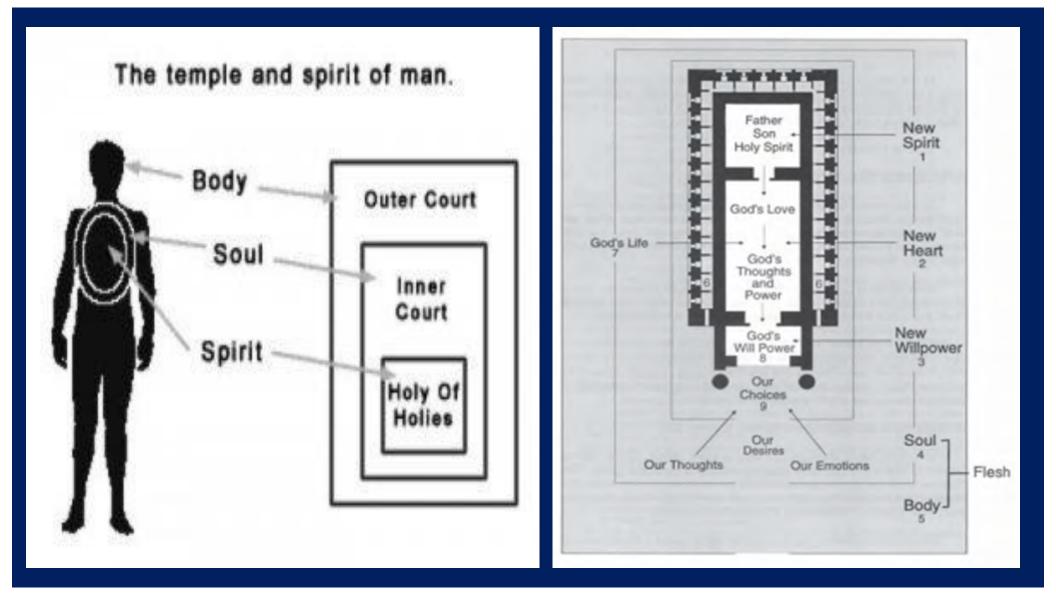
Be discerning with whom you speak

If people will not hear, hold your peace <u>Matthew 7:6</u>

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Believers, you are the *temple of the Holy Spirit*!

God dwells in you! Corinthians 6: 19



The Holy Spirit power allows you to live <u>FREE</u>! Free to act different, Free to give up your will and way, Free to live as God made you FREE!

It really is a daily, *moment by moment,* choice to live *Free* or live in bondage

Many believers live in bondage, never experiencing <u>FREEDOM</u> in Christ!!

You are <u>FREE</u>!

So live as a free person, not controlled by your feelings

Not controlled by your runaway thoughts!

<u>**Remember</u>: A thought is just a thought!</u></u>**

"We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" – 2 Corinthians 10: 5b

If a thought is not in line with the Word of God, <u>throw it out</u>!!

KNOW WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST!!

Get the leaven out of your temple (your house) and live FREE!

No one can do this for you! It's God and you in steps to freedom!

Then, you can say with Jesus and live FREE:

"MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER"

You have been set free so LIVE FREE!!