

The Upper Room Pt 1.
“Preparations for the coming of the Holy spirit.”
Acts 1:12-14
Sunday morning, June 21, 2009.

I. “They went up into the upper room.”

A. Most likely the same room where the Lord Jesus had celebrated the Last supper with His disciples. It was the upper story of the home belonging to Mary, the mother of John Mark who would have lived there with his mother downstairs. Acts 12:12. It was a room large enough to hold 120 people. Acts 1:15.

B. This became the meeting place of choice for the disciples of the Lord as they waited for the Holy Spirit.

We should not think that the disciples were here the whole 10 days between the ascension of the Lord and the coming of the Holy spirit. The words translated “where they were staying” do not mean lodging; rather it was their meeting place. This they seem to have done with great frequency and urgency.

II. Why not the temple?

A. Throughout the history of God’s Old Covenant people the godly had gone to the temple and tabernacle to seek God in a special way.

1. So Hannah went to Shiloh to pray for a son, and she received Samuel.
1 Samuel 1:9-11.

2. So Hezekiah went to the temple to read the king of Assyria, Sennacherib’s letter to the lord and pray for deliverance. 2 Kings 19:14-19

3. So David went to the temple to worship following the death of his infant son.
2 Samuel 12:19,20.

B. So why, on this momentous occasion in redemptive history, as the disciples awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit, did they not do so in the temple of God?

1. The Lord God was doing a new thing in redemptive history. He was forming a new temple, made of men, women and children who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Each as living stones contributing to a new dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Eph. 2:20-22 and 1 Peter 2:4,5.

2. The Lord was about to do away with the shadowy forms of the Old Testament as He brought to the foreground New Covenant realities. The old temple and city of Jerusalem, and country of Israel were about to be done away with as a new temple and a heavenly city and country came into view.

3. The 10 days in the upper room, away from the temple, were the preparation time for the inauguration of the new temple. On the day of Pentecost the Lord Himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit would descend upon this temple and fill this new house with His glory.

C. Here is the final mention of Mary, the mother of our Lord, in holy Scripture. She is present in the upper room but no special place of honor or prominence is given her as the new temple is formed.

1. If she were to have such a special place in the New Covenant temple, it would have been given to her here.

2. Her place of honor will for ever be that she brought the Lord Jesus into the

world and for that all generations will call her blessed. Luke 1:48.

3. With the coming of the new temple of God, the church of God, Mary is present with other godly women, and her other sons; with that she fades into obscurity.
- D. Prayer and supplication are the means employed to prepare this new temple.

III. Why Prayer and Supplication?

Supplication is the making of a request marked by humility and earnestness.

- A. Because of the great failures of the past.

The disciples still remembered the way they had all forsaken and denied their Lord. They had not much confidence in themselves left.

- B. Because of great continuing weakness in the present.

They knew deep inside that if this business of being witnesses to the Lord would be left up to them it would all turn into one big mess.

- C. Because of the great promises given with regards to the future.

“You shall receive Power” and “You shall be baptized with the Holy spirit” the Lord had said. Acts 1:5,8. For this they were waiting. Without this they would not venture out.

Applications:

- A. What great wisdom is there in the knowledge of oneself combined with a knowledge of, and a faith in, the promises of God.

- B. Some applications regarding the new covenant temple.

1. All our peace and joy; our hope and quiet confidence as Christians comes from a knowledge of this temple.
2. From heaven’s perspective there is no veil in this temple. The Lord Jesus rent the veil once and for all as he opened up the way to God by His broken body. There is no separation between heaven and earth as the worship in the book of Rev. reveals.
- 3 From earth’s perspective there is a veil in this temple; it is the veil of our flesh. When we die this veil is rent too and we are in the presence of the Lord.
- 4 For now it is only “in the spirit, and by faith” that we enter into the “Presence behind the veil” Hebr 6:19 i.e. the reality of the heavenly beings. Heb. 12:22-24
5. It is from behind the veil that the river of life springs and flows. Ezek. 47:1 and Rev 22:1. This is the life that the Lord Jesus came to give us, and give us more abundantly. John 10:10. It is a life that is hidden with Christ in God. Col. 3:3. That is, it issues from behind the veil.
6. It is a river and a life who’s rest is eternal Hebr. 4:8-11; who’s peace is past all understanding; Phil. 4:7; who’s joy is unspeakable and who’s glory is full. 1 Pet. 1:8.; who’s hope is sure and steadfast Hebr. 6:19 and who’s pleasures are forevermore Psalm 16:11. It springs and flows from behind the veil into this life and into this world through the lives of believers.
7. In justification we rest on Christ alone as our righteousness. In sanctification our souls takes its fullness; its satisfaction, and its life from this river alone; from the Vine alone John 15:1, for this river is the grace of Christ. The soul takes its fullness, and life from Christ alone in opposition to taking it from the world, or from Christ and the world. Both graces require radical abandonment to Christ.