



"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." **Psalm 118:22-23**

SEE THE HOUSE OF GOD BUILT WITH ONLY ONE STONE

In Genesis 28, After Jacob was blessed by his father he began his journey to live with his uncle. When it says he lighted upon a certain place, his steps were ordered by the Lord. After falling asleep "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. 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; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 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." Awakening, Jacob said, "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How [reverent] is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Jacob 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. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee," Genesis 28:10-22. God dreamed through Jacob, the capacity to see as God saw. That vision is a word picture to realize that we can use our imagination to create the unimaginable. Great things come from small beginnings. If you only have a stone, don't throw it away.

BUILD FROM PEACE'S EXPECTATION, NOT WAR'S EXPERIENCE

In I Chronicles 22:9-11, David conveyed to Solomon that God had chosen him to build his house. "Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever. Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the Lord thy God, as he hath said of thee." David desired to build it but God said he stained the ground with too many wars and bloodshed. I believe that mentality beclouded his imagination to dream in that he would only build from his own experience—always fighting to win, never from a place of rest. With an impenetrable defense, Solomon ruled 40 years without internal rebellion or external conflict, knowing wisdom is better than weapons of warfare. Twenty years of his reign, he built God's house and his own. When we purge ourselves from living by struggle alone, we can also build to the hilt with the peace that passes all understanding. He left his doors open to world's leaders. Remember this picture of heaven—at complete rest—trying to overthrow God's throne, satan and his subjects were thrown out.

SABBATH REST FEELS LIKE HEAVEN

"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God," Hebrews 4:9. From the Strong's Concordance the word "rest" in Greek means *sabbatism*, (fig) the repose of Christianity (as a type of heaven). To experience heaven on earth, we enter into the rest of God after having labored. Jesus asks you, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly," Matthew 11:28-30, The Message. Jesus wants to show you his way.

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Thought for Transformation

In real estate, the foundation is the part that sells the rest of the house. The same is true in Christianity. I Corinthians 3:11 says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." When Jesus is your resting place, you can live without any breach in the "basement."

Holy Spirit, the Divine Cement

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit," Ephesians 2:19-22. The only way we can live together without falling apart is through the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Environmental Shift, for Sure

Jesus never did anything for Holy Spirit to feel unwelcome or uncomfortable. As the world changer, Holy Spirit remained on Jesus his entire earthly assignment. Jesus lived under an open heaven, having cherished God's presence as heaven. Reference: John 1:33.