

The Church in New York City

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 108 December 26, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **December 2021 Semi-Annual Training (continued)**

The December 2021 Semi-Annual Training, which will be on The Crystallization-Study of 1 & 2 Samuel, will be held by video training only.

Schedule for Training Session (continued):

LORD'S TABLE, 10:00 AM, Sunday, Dec. 26
Message 6, 11:00 AM, Sunday, Dec. 26
(Open Meeting)

Message 7, 4:00 PM, Friday, Dec. 31
Message 8, 7:00 PM, Friday, Dec. 31
Message 9, 10:00 AM, Saturday, Jan. 1
Message 10, 4:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 1
Message 11, 7:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 1
LORD'S TABLE, 10:00 AM, Sunday, Jan. 2
Message 12, 11:00 AM, Sunday, Jan. 2
(Open Meeting)

Schedule for Review/Study Session:

Messages 1&2, 7:30 PM, Mon., Dec. 27
Messages 3&4, 7:30 PM, Wed., Dec. 29
Messages 5&6, 7:30 PM, Thurs., Dec. 30
Messages 7&8, 7:30 PM, Mon., Jan. 3
Messages 9&10, 7:30 PM, Wed., Jan. 5
Messages 11&12, 7:30 PM, Thurs., Jan. 6

KEY STATEMENTS

I In 1 and 2 Samuel we can see that the Triune God with His embodiment and redemption was fully involved with bringing forth Samuel and David so that the kingdom of God might be brought in; it is crucial for us to see that the Triune God is involved with us today, operating in us to accomplish His will, fulfill His purpose, and satisfy the desire of His heart.

II There is no other way to reach the high peak of God's eternal economy, the reality of the Body of Christ, except by praying; our becoming the overcomers as the reality of the Body of Christ to be the bride of Christ will close this age, the age

of the church, and will bring Christ as the King of glory back to take, possess, and rule over this earth with His overcomers in the kingdom age.

III Through His incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, Christ, who was already the Son of God, became the Son of God in a new way --the firstborn Son-- designated as the Son of God with humanity; in Romans 1:3-4 Christ, the Son of God, is the prototype, whereas in 8:29 the many brothers are those who have been "mass-produced" from the prototype and, by being saved in life, will be conformed to the image of the firstborn Son.

IV God's economy is to work Himself into us so that we may experience a metabolic process of spiritual digestion and assimilation that produces transformation as a gradual and intrinsic metabolic change in our natural life with the divine life; this is for the building up of the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem.

- **Service Office Hours**

Due to the December semi-annual training and review, Service Office Hours will be suspended till January 10, 2022.

PRAYER BURDENS

- The online semiannual training on the books of 1 & 2 Samuel which began on Friday, December 24, in NYC and all the video trainings being held in all the local churches throughout the earth
- The shepherding of all the saints and the recovery of those who have not been attending the meetings for some time
- The strengthening of the children's meeting and young people's services in all nine halls
- The preparation of the newly purchased meeting halls in Brooklyn (Hall 4) and on the Upper West Side (Hall 6) and the preparation of the saints for the use of the new halls
- The strengthening of all the small group meetings and church meetings this week

- The saints in the Philippines who were affected by the super typhoon which struck there a few days ago--In the province of Cebu a total of 5 meeting halls were fully damaged, 15 partially damaged, and more than 630 saints' homes have been severely affected
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

MINISTRY PORTIONS

Bethel—the House of God

What God Noah was commissioned by God to build an ark, and Abraham received a promise from God that the entire earth, all humankind, would be blessed in his seed. But this naughty boy, the grandson of Abraham, had a dream. Waking up from that dream, he said something wonderful, something which composes and directs the entire Bible—the house of God. This is a directing point, running throughout the Bible. Out of this naughty boy who had such a dream came a people, the people of Israel.

The Tabernacle—God’s House

In the second book of the Bible, Exodus, all the children of Israel were gained by God. He not only rescued them but gathered them together at Mount Sinai. There God gave them a vision (ch. 19), not just a dream. There is a connection between the vision that Moses received from God on Mount Sinai and Jacob’s dream. Jacob in his dream saw something related to God’s house, and now his descendants, a people who came out of Jacob, were there at Mount Sinai with the heavens opened to them. One of their representatives, Moses, went up the mountain to stay with God, and God showed him the pattern of His house, a pattern of how to build the tabernacle.

The tabernacle is God’s house. First Samuel 3:3 calls the tabernacle the temple of Jehovah; that is to say, it was God’s house. The tabernacle as the dwelling place of God was also called the temple, the house of God.

On Mount Sinai Moses saw all the designs, and the children of Israel built a tabernacle according to that pattern. In the last chapter of Exodus the tabernacle was erected, and immediately God’s glory descended from the heavens and filled this tabernacle (40:34). This is marvelous! It was even greater than God’s creative acts. To create the universe was something general, but for God to have

a definite spot on this earth that He could descend upon and enter into in the way of glory was truly marvelous. The physical tabernacle was a type of all the children of Israel as God’s dwelling place.

The Tabernacle—Jesus Christ, the God-man

Eventually, that type was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus. When the Lord Jesus came, God came. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” and this Word became flesh (John 1:1, 14). We know that this is Jesus in incarnation. When He came in incarnation, He “tabernacled” (v. 14). This indicates that He Himself as the living tabernacle was the fulfillment of the tabernacle in Exodus 40. Jesus as the tabernacle is not a building but a living, organic person. This One who is the tabernacle is a divine person, a wonderful person, a God-man. The first impression the Bible gives concerning the tabernacle is that it is an organic thing, an organic person. Even more it is an organic human mingled with God. The tabernacle is the God-man, Jesus Christ.

At the end of the Bible is the New Jerusalem, the ultimate consummation of the tabernacle (Rev. 21:3). The tabernacle in the two Testaments, both Old and New, is actually a living person of two natures—the human nature and the divine nature. The Lord Jesus was a man composed of divinity and humanity. The Holy Spirit is the divine element, the divinity, and the human virtue is the human element, humanity. Therefore, Jesus’ conception is of the divine element in the human element. This conception brought forth a child of two natures—divine and human. This child was not only human but also divine. He was a God-man, and this God-man was the tabernacle.

Let me stress strongly that this is a tabernacle in the biblical sense. In the Bible the tabernacle is a living person as a composition of the divine nature and the human nature. Because of this, the New Jerusalem cannot be a literal city, nor can it be a heavenly mansion. According to the biblical sense, tabernacle means a living person as a composition of divinity and humanity.

Excerpts from The Basic Revelation in the Holy Scriptures”, Chapter 10: The New Jerusalem – The Ultimate Consummation (3) (Sections 2&3)