

# THE PRACTICE AND PLACE OF TRUE WORSHIP

**BIBLE TEXT** : Deuteronomy 12:1-32; John 4:19-24

LESSON 137 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **Deuteronomy 12:1-32**

<sup>1</sup> These *are* the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:

<sup>3</sup> And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

<sup>4</sup> Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

<sup>5</sup> But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:

<sup>6</sup> And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:

<sup>7</sup> And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

<sup>8</sup> Ye shall not do after all *the things* that we do here this day, every man whatsoever *is* right in his own eyes.

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I Specific Duties Enjoined**

- 1 Every place where the heathen had worshiped — their groves, altars, pillars — and their idols, were all to be destroyed, Deuteronomy 12:1-3;

#### **Deuteronomy 7:5**

<sup>5</sup> But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

#### **Exodus 34:13**

<sup>13</sup> But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

- 2 The Lord would choose the place where His people, Israel, were to worship, Deuteronomy 12:4, 5

#### **1 Kings 8:29**

<sup>29</sup> That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even* toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

#### **2 Chronicles 7:12**

<sup>12</sup> And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

#### **Psalms 78:68**

<sup>68</sup> But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved.

- 3 They were to bring all their tithes and offerings to that place which the Lord would choose, and they and their families were to eat and rejoice before the Lord, Deuteronomy 12:6-14;

#### **Deuteronomy 16:2**

<sup>2</sup> Thou shalt therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there.

- 4 Unless it was an offering unto the Lord, they could kill and eat within their gates all the Lord had blessed them with, but they must not eat the blood, Deuteronomy 12:15-27;

#### **Leviticus 17:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood.

<sup>13</sup> And whatsoever man *there be* of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten; he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust.

<sup>14</sup> For *it is* the life of all flesh; the blood of it *is* for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh *is* the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

#### **Acts 21:25**

<sup>25</sup> As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written *and* concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from *things* offered

<sup>9</sup> For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

<sup>10</sup> But *when* ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and *when* he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

<sup>11</sup> Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

<sup>12</sup> And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that *is* within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.

<sup>13</sup> Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:

<sup>14</sup> But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

<sup>15</sup> Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart.

<sup>16</sup> Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

<sup>17</sup> Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which

to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

5 The Levite must not be forsaken, Deuteronomy 12:19;

**Deuteronomy 14:27**

<sup>27</sup> And the Levite that *is* within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

**Numbers 18:20**

<sup>20</sup> And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I *am* thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

**Psalms 16:5**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD *is* the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot.

**Ezekiel 45:4**

<sup>4</sup> The holy *portion* of the land shall be for the priests the ministers of the sanctuary, which shall come near to minister unto the LORD: and it shall be a place for their houses, and an holy place for the sanctuary.

**Luke 10:7**

<sup>7</sup> And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

**1 Corinthians 9:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of *the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

<sup>14</sup> Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

## II Warnings

1 They should take heed lest they be ensnared and want to follow the abominations of the heathen, Deuteronomy 12:28-31;

**Exodus 23:2**

<sup>2</sup> Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to *wrest judgment*:

**1 Samuel 8:20**

<sup>20</sup> That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

**1 Kings 16:31-33**

<sup>31</sup> And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

<sup>32</sup> And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

<sup>33</sup> And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

2 Nothing was to be added to or taken from the Word of God, Deuteronomy 12:32;

**Deuteronomy 4:2**

<sup>2</sup> Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

**Proverbs 30:6**

<sup>6</sup> Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

**Revelation 22:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:

<sup>18</sup> But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

<sup>19</sup> Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.

<sup>20</sup> When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

<sup>21</sup> If the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.

<sup>22</sup> Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat *of* them alike.

<sup>23</sup> Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood *is* the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh.

<sup>24</sup> Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.

<sup>25</sup> Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do *that which is* right in the sight of the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose:

<sup>19</sup> And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

### III Spiritual Worship

1 The woman of Samaria asked Jesus which was the right place to worship, the mountain of Samaria or Jerusalem, John 4:19, 20

2 *Jesus* told her that God is a Spirit, and the true worshiper worships Him in spirit and in truth, John 4:23, 24

#### NOTES:

##### **False Worship Destroyed**

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me," was the first commandment written on the tables of stone. The Lord told the Children of Israel that when they were established in the Land of Canaan He wanted every vestige of idolatry removed from their sight. The groves where the heathen worshiped their idols were to be destroyed. Their altars and pillars were to be burned with fire, their graven images hewn down. Not a thing was to be left that would entice them to worship in those places.

The heathen set up their idols under every green tree and upon every high hill, making it easy for them to go to worship.

Many people today are quite content to sit and listen to a sermon over the radio. They feel that worship has been brought into their homes and there is no need to put forth the effort to go to church. Lazy worshipers! "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Hebrews 10:24, 25).

##### **Forbidden to Eat Blood**

When the Children of Israel slew an animal for a sacrifice, the blood was to be poured on the altar as an offering unto the Lord. If they slew an animal to eat at home, they were to pour the blood on the ground; for the life was in the blood, and they were forbidden to eat the blood.

The sacrifices all pointed to and were typical of the Lamb of God who would shed His own Blood and give His life for the life of the world. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18, 19).

##### **The Place to Worship**

"But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come" (Deuteronomy 12:5). If it had been left to the people to choose the place, there possibly would have been contention and strife among them as to where it would be located and among which tribe.

On Mount Sinai the Lord gave Moses a description of the Tabernacle He wanted built, where they were to worship. It was simple in design but elaborate in its furnishings. After the Tabernacle was built it was always the special meeting place of Jehovah and His people (**Numbers 11:24-25** <sup>24</sup> And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. <sup>25</sup> And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that *was* upon him, and gave *it* unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. **Numbers**

<sup>27</sup> And thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of the LORD thy God: and the blood of thy sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of the LORD thy God, and thou shalt eat the flesh.

<sup>28</sup> Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest *that which is* good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

<sup>29</sup> When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

<sup>30</sup> Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

<sup>31</sup> Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

<sup>32</sup> What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

### John 4:19-24

<sup>19</sup> The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

<sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

**12:4** <sup>4</sup> And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. **Numbers 16:19** <sup>19</sup> And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation. **Deuteronomy 31:14** <sup>14</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thy days approach that thou must die: call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, that I may give him a charge. And Moses and Joshua went, and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation).

After they entered Canaan, the Tabernacle was moved from camp to camp until the land was subdued; then it was permanently located at Shiloh (**Joshua 18:1** <sup>1</sup> And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them). There it remained until the days of Eli, the priest, when the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant. From that time the glory of the Tabernacle waned (**1 Samuel 4:22** <sup>22</sup> And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken). The Ark was recovered from the Philistines and brought by David to Jerusalem where it was housed under a new covering (**2 Samuel 6:17** <sup>17</sup> And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD). After Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem, the old Tabernacle was no longer used.

### The Temple

In the reign of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel stood foremost in its glory. It had become a great, wealthy, and peaceful nation.

Before David died, he saw that the grandeur of the buildings, and especially his own house, superseded that of the Tabernacle. He felt that that was not right; and one day as he sat in his house talking to Nathan, the prophet, he said, "Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains." Nathan said, "Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee" (I Chronicles 17:1, 2).

Because David had been a man of war and had shed much blood, the Lord would not let David build the Temple, but told him that Solomon, his son, could build it.

The plan of the Temple followed the model of the Tabernacle. We are told that these were patterns of the heavenly Tabernacle (**Hebrews 9:23-24** <sup>23</sup> It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. <sup>24</sup> For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us). In place of curtains, the Temple was built of cedar and overlaid with gold inside. It is estimated that over two billion dollars' worth of gold alone was used in building the Temple. Its magnificence was beyond description. It was a whole nation's place of worship. The worship and ceremonies, when carried out in faith and sincerity, brought the presence, power, and glory of God. It was the way of a nation's approach to their God.

The Temple stood for 400 years. It was destroyed by the Babylonians when the Jews were taken captive by that nation. After 70 years it was rebuilt by Ezra and was the place of worship for 500 years. It was remodeled by Herod and stood for 90 years longer. In A. D. 70 it was destroyed by the Romans. From that date the Jews were scattered among the nations and remained



<sup>22</sup> Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

<sup>23</sup> But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

<sup>24</sup> God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

without the Temple or homeland until the year 1948, when the Jews again became a nation. And according to prophecy, the Temple will again be built.

### Uniformity of Worship

It was the Lord's plan for all Israel to worship together in one place, and that place the Lord would choose (**Deuteronomy 12:5** <sup>5</sup> But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come). There were ordinances and appointed feasts for them to keep (**Exodus 18:20** <sup>20</sup> And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. **Leviticus 23:1-44** <sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even* these *are* my feasts. <sup>3</sup> Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: it *is* the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings. <sup>4</sup> These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. <sup>5</sup> In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S passover. <sup>6</sup> And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. <sup>7</sup> In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. <sup>8</sup> But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>10</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: <sup>11</sup> And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. <sup>12</sup> And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. <sup>13</sup> And the meat offering thereof *shall be* two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD *for* a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof *shall be* of wine, the fourth *part* of an hin. <sup>14</sup> And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. <sup>15</sup> And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: <sup>16</sup> Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD. <sup>17</sup> Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; *they are* the firstfruits unto the LORD. <sup>18</sup> And ye shall offer with the bread seven lambs without blemish of the first year, and one young bullock, and two rams: they shall be *for* a burnt offering unto the LORD, with their meat offering, and their drink offerings, *even* an offering made by fire, of sweet savour unto the LORD. <sup>19</sup> Then ye shall sacrifice one kid of the goats for a sin offering, and two lambs of the first year for a sacrifice of peace offerings. <sup>20</sup> And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits *for* a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest. <sup>21</sup> And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that it may be* an holy convocation unto you: ye shall do no servile work *therein*: *it shall be* a statute for ever in all your dwellings throughout your generations. <sup>22</sup> And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I *am* the LORD your God. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall ye have

a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. <sup>25</sup> Ye shall do no servile work *therein*: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. <sup>26</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>27</sup> Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. <sup>28</sup> And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup> For whatsoever soul *it be* that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. <sup>30</sup> And whatsoever soul *it be* that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. <sup>31</sup> Ye shall do no manner of work: *it shall be* a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. <sup>32</sup> *It shall be* unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath. <sup>33</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>34</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month *shall be* the feast of tabernacles *for* seven days unto the LORD. <sup>35</sup> On the first day *shall be* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*. <sup>36</sup> Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a solemn assembly; *and ye shall do no servile work therein*. <sup>37</sup> These *are* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: <sup>38</sup> Beside the sabbaths of the LORD, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD. <sup>39</sup> Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days: on the first day *shall be* a sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be* a sabbath. <sup>40</sup> And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days. <sup>41</sup> And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in the seventh month. <sup>42</sup> Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths: <sup>43</sup> That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God. <sup>44</sup> And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD). His divine Presence would fill the Tabernacle (**Exodus 29:45** <sup>45</sup> And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. **Leviticus 26:11-12** <sup>11</sup> And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. <sup>12</sup> And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. **1 Kings 8:10-11** <sup>10</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, <sup>11</sup> So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD). Their worship consisted of sacrifices (**Exodus 10:25** <sup>25</sup> And Moses said, Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the LORD our God. **Leviticus 1:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, *even* of the herd, and of the flock. **2 Chronicles 5:6** Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude), music, singing, praising the Lord, (**2 Chronicles 5:12-13** <sup>12</sup> Also the Levites *which were* the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, *being* arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets;) <sup>13</sup> It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one,

to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he* is good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;), prayer (**2 Chronicles 6:13** <sup>13</sup> For Solomon had made a brassen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven), reading God's Word, and preaching (**Exodus 24:7** <sup>7</sup> And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. **Deuteronomy 31:11** <sup>11</sup> When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. **Nehemiah 8:5-6** <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up: <sup>6</sup> And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground). They were required to attend worship (**Exodus 23:17** <sup>17</sup> Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD. **Deuteronomy 16:11** <sup>11</sup> And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that *are* among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.). They must know the statutes (**Leviticus 10:11** <sup>11</sup> And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses), and keep them (**Deuteronomy 16:12** <sup>12</sup> And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes). "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deuteronomy 12:32). Mortal man could never help out an all-wise God by adding to or taking from His Word. Down through the centuries there have been some who have tried it, but the Word of our God shall stand forever (**Isaiah 40:8** <sup>8</sup> The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever). In the Book of Revelation we are told what will happen to those who add to or take from the Word of God (**Revelation 22:18-19** <sup>18</sup> For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup> And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book).

The house of the Lord was kept up, and the ministry supported, by the people from their tithes and freewill offerings (**Deuteronomy 16:17** <sup>17</sup> Every man *shall give* as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee. **Numbers 18:21** <sup>21</sup> And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, *even* the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. **Exodus 25:2** <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering. **Exodus 25:8** <sup>8</sup> And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them). The tribe of Levi was called to serve and minister about the holy things. In this lesson Moses exhorts the people not to forsake the tribe of Levi.

## Synagogues

In the Maccabean period which existed between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Jesus, we find the Jews had erected synagogues in almost every town. The word synagogue means a congregation. Sometimes the people gathered by the riverside or a small stream of water and worshiped (**Acts 16:13** <sup>13</sup> And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*). Each synagogue had its chief ruler or minister, and every Sabbath Day the Law of Moses and the prophets were read. It was in these synagogues that Jesus often went on the Sabbath Day and taught the people. It was at Nazareth that Jesus entered the synagogue and preached that wonderful sermon from the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah, "And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.... And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Luke 4:15-22). Possibly it was from the synagogues that the early Christians patterned their churches.

### Fulfillment of the Old in the New

With the coming of Jesus a new dispensation was ushered in, the Gospel dispensation. It was to be a dispensation where the worship would be from the heart and not merely forms and ceremonies. God had chosen Abraham's seed as a peculiar people unto Himself. Through this nation, God's chosen nation, He would reveal to the world His great plan of salvation. The Law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Its sacrifices, forms, and ceremonies were just a shadow of good things to come. They could never make the comers thereunto perfect. If they could they would not have ceased to be offered. He taketh away the first that He may establish the second (**Hebrews 4:1-16** <sup>1</sup> Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. <sup>2</sup> For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. <sup>3</sup> For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. <sup>5</sup> And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest. <sup>6</sup> Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: <sup>7</sup> Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. <sup>8</sup> For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. <sup>9</sup> There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. <sup>11</sup> Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. <sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. <sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. **Hebrews 10:9** <sup>9</sup> Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second).

We enter into the Gospel dispensation by a new and living



### **QUESTIONS**

- 1 What did the Lord want done with the groves and idols where the heathen worshiped?
- 2 Who was to choose the place where Israel was to worship?
- 3 How were the priests and Levites to be supported?
- 4 Could the tithes be given just anywhere or in any place?
- 5 How much could they add to the Word of God?
- 6 What was to be done with the blood of slain animals?
- 7 Where was the proper place to worship, in the mountain of Samaria or in Jerusalem?
- 8 Is the Lord confined to certain places to be worshiped?
- 9 How are we to worship God?
- 10 Name the different buildings the Jews used for worship.

way, the Blood of Jesus. We are born into His Kingdom. It is called the "church of the firstborn," whose names are written in Heaven. When we are born again our souls are quickened by the Spirit of God. We are made alive, new creatures in Christ Jesus. We can then worship God in spirit and in truth.

### **Spiritual Worship**

In the conversation the woman of Samaria had with Jesus, she said, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus saith unto her, "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:20-24).

When Jesus comes into our hearts there is a spirit of worship in our hearts continuously, but the Lord still wants us to have places or churches where we can gather and worship Him in song, testimony, prayer, reading, and preaching the Word.

How glorious and inspiring it is for God's true saints to gather and thus worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. That kind of worship is never formalistic. It is never "cut and dried." It is not bound to a pattern or ritual. The hearts of the worshipers blend with one another in common love and devotion for God and a purpose to let Him have His way, that sinners might be convicted of their sins and the believers edified. It is their determination that the Holy Spirit remain unbridled and unfettered in any way.

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3: 17). When He is in complete control, everything is done decently, in order, and to the edifying of those present. This Latter Rain Gospel has witnessed, in its history, many time when God's Presence was manifest in an outstanding way. These glorious outpourings know no equal in Old Testament times, save perhaps the dedication of Solomon's Temple when the Spirit of God witnessed to the work that had been done and the consecrations there made. The greatness of the dispensation in which we live manifests itself in the fact that we are no longer confined to a Temple at Jerusalem, or any other particular place, but the Holy Spirit manifests Himself wherever hungry hearts invite Him to enter. Not only in the great periods of blessing is God's Spirit shown. Often, in the small and apparently insignificant details that form the units that go together to make up the whole service, God unmistakably leads and makes His will known.

Those who are not blessed with the privilege of attending such services are especially comforted by the fact that God has promised that where two or three are gathered together in His name, there He will be in their midst. So again we see God's providence. The woman at the well, the farmer in the field, the workman at the place of daily toil, and the worshiper in the congregation, all can receive the living waters and the spiritual instruction and comfort they need — if in sincere worship and living faith they lift their hearts to the Giver of every good and perfect gift.