

## How God Builds a Temple

1. He Builds With Precious Stones
2. He Supplies Everything the Temple Needs
3. He Builds a Temple That Will Last

### *Builder Generation, and Other Cultural Generations*

- I've always been intrstd in study/labeling of cultrl gens. Cultrl gen (smtms called genrtnl cohort): grp ppl ~same age, share simlr life exprncs. Let me give sev exmpls; I'll start w/self. I: 1982; I'm Millnl (gen); 1981-96. I'm older Millnls. I in gr schl: intrnt widesprd; remem dial-up. In hs: cell phns; remem only few had. In colg: FB Inhd; guy who invntd FB (while in colg): only yr/hlf yngr. Most signfct social event our chldhd: 9/11 (I, frshmn colg; others: hs/gr schl). Ppl my gen: fought Irq/Afgnstn. Many Millnls: went colg, debt, hard time finding job bec great Recsn in late 2ks. There are other thngs could say; but that's snpsht my Millnl gen.
- When became pr in 2009, all kids in our gr schl: next cultrl gen, Gen Z; 1997-2012; so oldst, 25; yngst: upper grdrs in schl now. This: 1<sup>st</sup> gen not know wrld w/o intrnt or cell phns. Much of elemtry edctn: online/cmpttr based. Then 4<sup>th</sup> gr dwn, nxt cultrl gen: Gen Alpha. Sclgsts'll be stdyng their cultrl chrctr traits in yrs come.
- The gen before me: Gen X. You're Xer if in late 40s thru mid 50s, born 1965-1980. You: yng adlt Berlin Wall; you "*didn't strt fire that's been burning since wrld's been turning*" (you know!). 30 yrs ago, you were labeled rebellious, anti-authrtn. Now kids getting married, you're becmng grndprtns.
- Before Gen X: BBs, 1946-1964; my prnts; 60-70s; you're enjyng retrmnt or about to be. After WW2, lot babies; grew up w/Beatles, Elvis; yng adlts during Vietnam War and landing on moon.
- Know who came before BBs? Cltrl gen born before 1945: Bldr Gen (smtms Silent; better: Bldr). Grew up during WW2; wtnssd fall Nazi Grmny; saw dstctn atom bomb. Bldrs, very loyal: to cntry (patriotic); to company (rarely chngd jobs); to fam (rarely divrcd); to ch (ev Sun). Bldrs: respectfl, trdtnl, religious, hard wrkng ppl. Called Bldrs bec built strong: socty, busnss, chs. Most funerals I've done: for ppl of Bldr Gen.
- But they're not only Bldr Gen this wrld's ever seen. In 1<sup>st</sup> rdng fr 1 Chrn, we see anthr bldr gen: Dvd & son Sol. They blt: ntn/Isrl, Isrl's miltry, Isrl's royal palace; and, as see today, tmpl in Jrslm. But, as also see today, really wasn't D&S who built tmpl. God was bldr – just like today, God is bldr of his tmpl. And whthr talking re actual tmpl strctr blt 3k yrs ago in Jrslm, or tmpl/God i.e. his Ch, HCC, all bels in J of all time – either way, today we see from 1 Chrn 29 just how God builds a tmpl.

### *He Builds With Precious Stones*

- 1<sup>st</sup>, when God blds tmpl, w/prec stns. Kng Dvd wntd bld tmpl for Lord in Jrslm made of prec stns. But God: "No, Dvd, you're not; your son Slmn'll be bldr." That's why in rdng: **vs. 1a-chsn**. God chose Slmn be bldr. But Dvd: still contrbr. Dvd: **vs. 2**. And when you look at vast quants of prec stns/mtrls Dvd donated of own wlth for cnstrctn tmpl in Jrslm, you're tlkng hndrd/milns \$s wrth prec mtrls. But God was wrth it; this was his tmpl. **Vs. 1b**. So when God used D&S to bld this btfl tmpl in Jrslm, he blt it w/prec stns.
- There's anthr tmpl, though, that God is bldng. It's actly not a bldng but ppl – his Ch, HCC, all his bels, no matter what gen you're from. And that inclds you, whthr Boomer/Bldr, Gen Xer/Mllnl, in Gen Z/Alpha. Evone who bels in JC as Sav, God blds up into his holy tmpl; and consdr us prec stns.
- 1 Pt 2: "**You also, like lvng stns: being blt into a sprtl house**" (5). And Eph 2: "**[You are] blt on fndtn of apstls/prphts, w/CJ self as chf crnstn. In him, whole bldng is joined tog & rises to become a holy tmpl in the Lord. And in him you too are being blt tog to become a dwllng in which God lives by his Spirit**" (20-22). So you: the prec stns, blt tog into Lord's holy tmpl, his Ch.
- God cemented you in when bptzd. For some, many yrs ago. For others, mortar still drying. But whthr yng/old, you add to beauty of this bldng. And this bldng is beautiful! Rev gives us pic: "**[The angel] showed me Holy City, Jrslm, coming dwn out hvn fr God. It shone w/glry/God, and it's brillnc was like that of a very prec jwl, like a jasper, clear as crystl... The foundtns of the city walls were decortd w/ev kind prec stn**" (10-11, 19). That's pic/you! You didn't bld God's tmpl, just like D&S didn't bld God's tmpl. But God blt you into his tmpl; so you are his tmpl. And when God blds tmpl, blds w/prec stns.

### *He Supplies Everything the Temple Needs*

- Also supls evthng tmpl needs. Yes, true: Kng Dvd dontd of his grt wlth for cnstrctn/tmpl. But Dvd also realzd: all his blessings came fr Lord. Listen again Dvd's prayer; hear how many times says "you/yours."

**Vs. 10-12-fr you.** Lord, evthng I have comes fr you! **Vs. 14.** Lord, even offs we give to you, you first gave to us – **“Evthng comes fr you.”** **Vs. 16.** Lord, ev blessing we have comes fr your gracious hnd. Dvd knew: whn God blds tmpl, he supls evthng tmpl needs.

- Same true for God’s tmpl/Ch – God supls evthng his Ch needs in Son JC. Frgvnss/sins, remvl/glt, faith/Xp – **“Evthng.”** Prom: God’s presnc; God hears/answrs prayers w/wsdm; etrn life hvn – **“Evthng.”** Life changing msg/Gos; washing away of sin in baptsm; soul strngthning meal of HC – **“Evthng.”** Fun times we enjoy as little chldrn; fulfillmnt we find in wrk as adlts; joy/prnthood; exprncs we gain thru age; wsdm we pass onto othrs; grace we receive fr God whole life long – **“Evthng.”** There’s not a blssng you’ve been gvn that hasn’t come fr Lord; not sin you’ve commtd that hasn’t been forgvn by Lord; not a prom/Scrptr that won’t be kept by Lord. You: God’s tmpl. And when God blds tmpl, supls evthng tmpl needs.

### *He Builds a Temple That Will Last*

- Finly, blds tmpl that’ll last. Tmpl God blt thru D&S in Jrslm: blt ~1000 BC; dstryd by Bablynnns in 586 BC. So lasted over 400 yrs – long time! Cthdrls in Europe older. But I don’t know if any bldngs in US over 400 yrs old. The old SJL ch bldng on corner Pine/Madsn in dwntwn Burl (Nap prkng lot): blt in 1875. Cost: \$4k. But 105 yrs later, 1980, this snctry was dedctd to Lord; and we’ve wrshpd here since. Old ch bldng lasted over 100 yrs – long time! We try bld thngs to last. Should say: it was ppl of Bldr Gen, most of whom now in hvn, who were on this snctry’s bldng cmt. They took care old ch, then blt this new ch to last – just like D&S took care tabrncl, but then blt new tmpl in Jrslm to last.
- This sanctry won’t last forever; old SJ ch didn’t; tmpl/Jrslm didn’t; our lives here on earth won’t, either. **Vs. 15.** Nthng lasts forever, certly not our time on earth. Dth is our curse, bec of our sin, bec of our failure to love Lord God w/all hrt, soul, strngth. Reminds me of Ps 90: **“The lngth/our days: 70 yrs, or 80 if we have the strngth; yet their span is but trbl/sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away” (10, NIV84).**
- But when God blds his tmpl/Ch, blds tmpl that’ll last. When God brngs ppl to faith, he strngthns their faith thru Gos. And one of greatest joys God gives us here on earth: to see Gos passed on fr old/young, fr prnts/chldrn, fr gen/gen. Dvd saw Gos passed on fr gen/gen; said: **vs. 17c.** Ppl stndng before Dvd: faithfl bels in Lord, yng/old, who someday’d stand w/him in hvn. That brrht him joy! Brngs us joy too! We have gens/ppl here at SJ, who: trust in Lord; recvd Gos fr prtns; now as prnts/grndprnts are passing Gos onto their chldrn. We have Loises & Eunices & Tims among us. God has blssd us w/Gos. And when we share that Gos w/next gen, God’s Ch grows; and more/more ppl become heirs/etrn life in hvn, as God blds tmpl that’ll last forever.

### *A Prayer for All Generations*

- So today we pray w/Dvd, **vs. 18.** That’s a prayer for ev gen/bels: for Bldrs & Bmrs; for Gen Xers & Millnl; for Gen Zers and youngest Alphas among us. God knows how bld tmpl. Lord, keep us in that tmpl. **Vs. 18b.**

### **1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-18**

Then King David said to the whole assembly: “My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God.<sup>2</sup> With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colors, and all kinds of fine stone and marble—all of these in large quantities.

<sup>10</sup>David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.<sup>11</sup> Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.<sup>12</sup> Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.<sup>13</sup> Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

<sup>14</sup>“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.<sup>15</sup> We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.<sup>16</sup> LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.<sup>17</sup> I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.<sup>18</sup> LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.”