

April 16th, 2008

Command of Christ → Be a house of prayer
Character Command → Persuasiveness
Scripture Reference → Matthew 21:13

“The Scripture says, My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers.”

OT references from the above text:

Isaiah 56:7 (from v.1) – **The Temple and prayer in relation to the nations.**

- There was a provision for foreigners to participate in the covenant.

Jeremiah 7:11 (read v.1-16) – **The Temple and prayer in relation to lifestyle.**

- The house of the Lord (Temple) was supposed to be represented by a lifestyle of righteousness.
- The Temple bore His Name. (representative of His character)

The Temple in Jerusalem represented:

Jehovah’s covenant with Israel.

God’s presence in the midst of His people.

A “fore-shadow” of something greater that was to come.

The Temple had become a huge money-making enterprise and the order of worship and sacrifice was defiled. (explain)

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the Temple was torn.

The temple is:

You (individually) –

1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Corporately (the Body of Christ) -

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; Ephesians 2:18-22;

1 Peter 2:1-10

The main thrust of this command is a caution to not defile the temple, but to use it for the purposes for which it was created.

- To honor God. (lifestyle / worship)
- To communicate with God. (fellowship – 1 John 1:3, 6, 7)