

HWMR: CRYSTALLIZATION –STUDY OF 1 AND 2 KINGS, (Week 8)

Scripture Reading: Eph. 2:5-6, 8, 18-22; 3:4-5; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:17

THE GROWING INTO A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD

Ephesians 2:5	Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)
Ephesians 2:6	And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
Ephesians 2:18	For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father .
Ephesians 2:19	So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
Ephesians 2:20	Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;
Ephesians 2:21	In whom all the building , being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord ;
Ephesians 2:22	In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit .
Ephesians 3:4	By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ,
Ephesians 3:5	Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit .
1 Corinthians 3:16	Do you not know that you are the temple of God , and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
1 Corinthians 3:17	If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and such are you .
1 Corinthians 6:17	But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit .

Day 1

Ephesians 2:5-6 - Even when we were dead in offenses, made us **alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) And **raised us up** together with Him and **seated us** together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 2:18 - For through **Him** we both have **access** in one **Spirit** unto the **Father**.

I. Our being **saved** by grace, being **raised up** together with Christ and **seated** together with Him in the heavenlies, and having **access** to the Father are **for** the building up of the church, His Body, **through growing** into a holy temple in the Lord—Eph. 2:5-6, 8, 18, 21-22:

- A. God **enlivened** us together when He enlivened the crucified Jesus; therefore, He made us alive together with Christ—v. 5.
- B. By grace we have been saved **out of** our wretched position of death **into** the marvelous **realm of life**—v. 5.
- C. Through God the **Son**, who is the **Accomplisher**, the means, and in God the **Spirit**, who is the **Executor**, the application, we have **access** unto God the **Father**, who is the **Originator**, the unique source—v. 18:
 1. **Positionally**, we were reconciled to God; **experientially**, we have access unto the Father—vv. 16, 18:
 - a. To be **reconciled** to God is to be saved; to have **access** unto the Father is to enjoy God.

- b. When we contact God, we come to Him **through** Christ **in** the Spirit **unto** the Father; this is the **Triune God** in our experience and for our enjoyment—v. 18.
2. The **Father** came to us **through** the **Son** **in** the **Spirit**, and now the **Spirit** brings us back to the Father **through** the Son; through this wonderful two-way traffic, we enjoy the **dispensing** of the Triune God—2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:16-17a.
3. **Through the Son** is **through** the Triune God, **in the Spirit** is **in** the Triune God, and **unto the Father** is **unto** the Triune God; **this is** how we experience the Triune God and **the way that we can be built up**—2:18, 21-22.

Ephesians emphasizes **not** the forgiveness of sins **but** the **obtaining of life**. It does **not** emphasize being saved from sin **but** emphasizes being made alive from death. This is because the book of Ephesians is mainly on the church as the Body of Christ, and the **church** must **first obtain the life of Christ** to be made alive in order to become His Body. The **Body** is **not** a matter of forgiveness of sins **but** a matter of **obtaining life**. If a person receives only the forgiveness of sins before God but does not receive the life of God in Christ, he still cannot be counted as a member of the Body of Christ. Outwardly, of course, the **forgiveness of sins** in God's salvation and the **obtaining of life** take place at the same time. **As soon** as a person's sins are forgiven, God's life **immediately** comes into him; that is, the Holy Spirit **immediately** causes him to **receive God's life** based on the Lord's precious blood. Once a person receives the redemption of the Lord's blood, the Holy Spirit immediately comes into him based on that redemption and causes him to **receive the resurrection life**.

"By grace you have been saved." The meaning contained in this short sentence is exceedingly profound. When we read the Bible, we should not think that we already understand it. We need to humble ourselves and ask for the Lord's mercy so that we may truly see the real and rich significance of the words in the Bible. When we read this word, we first need to see **what it is to be saved**. Moreover, it says here that being saved is by grace; hence, we also need to see **what grace is**. **Being saved means** that we who were dead in sins **were enlivened by God**. **How were we enlivened?** It is **by God's life**. His life has a marvelous power that enlivens us. God enlivens us not because of any merit that we have but because **of His loving mercy**. **This enlivening is our being saved**, which is by grace. As we pointed out, this grace includes one item and one matter. The item is God's life, and the matter is His free giving.

It is in and with Christ Jesus that we were raised up together. This shows that God's **salvation in life** altogether depends on our **union with Christ**. Apart from Christ we cannot obtain salvation. We can participate in salvation only because we participate in Christ. **When God resurrected Christ** from the dead, in His eyes and reckoning, **we too were resurrected together with and in Christ**. In God's eyes, when Christ resurrected, He did not resurrect alone. Rather, millions of His believers were resurrected together with Him. Our resurrection is based on our union with Christ and our being in Christ. From **our standpoint** we were raised up from the position of death **one by one**, but in **God's view** we were all raised up together, just as all the Israelites were **raised up together** from the death waters of the Red Sea. (*Revelations in Ephesians: Seeing the Blessings and Position of the Church in Christ, chapter 11*)

Day 2

- Eph. 2:20** - *Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone:*
- Eph. 3:4-5** - *By which, in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit,*

II. As believers in Christ and as members of the Body of Christ, we are “being **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the **cornerstone**”—v. 20:**

- A. Since the mystery of Christ, the church, has been revealed to the apostles, **the revelation** that they received **is** considered the **foundation** upon which the church is built—3:4-5; 2:20:
 - 1. This corresponds to the **rock** in Matthew 16:18, which is **not only** Christ Himself **but also** the **revelation** concerning Christ, on which He will build His church.
 - 2. We need to build the church upon the apostles and prophets—Eph. 2:20.
- B. In **Ephesians 2:20** Christ is referred to as the **cornerstone**:
 - 1. Christ as the **cornerstone** **joins** together the Jewish believers and Gentile believers **into a holy temple in the Lord**—Psa. 118:22-26; Eph. 2:20-22.
 - 2. Christ, the **cornerstone**, is for the **building** up of the church in the New Testament age—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:5:
 - a. For the building up of the church as the temple of God, we need to experience Christ as the cornerstone—vv. 6-7.
 - b. In Christ as the **cornerstone**, all the building is **growing** into a **holy temple in the Lord**—Eph. 2:20-22.
 - 3. In God’s New Testament economy Christ as the **cornerstone**, in His **saving us** (Acts 4:10-12), **first makes us living stones** for the building up of God’s spiritual house (Matt. 16:18; John 1:42; 1 Pet. 2:4-7) and **then**, in the process of His **transforming us** (Rom. 12:2a; 2 Cor. 3:18), **builds us up** into a dwelling place of God (Eph. 2:19-22) so that He may carry out God’s eternal economy for God’s good pleasure (1:9; 3:9-11).

Ephesians 2:20b says, “Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone.” Christ is **not only** the foundation **but also** the cornerstone. The foundation and the cornerstone have different functions. The **foundation holds up** the entire house and bears its weight. The **cornerstone** is a stone at the corner of two walls that **joins** them together. Christ is **not only** the foundation upon which all who are part of the church are built; He is **also** the cornerstone that joins together the two originally separated walls, the Jews and the Gentiles. Without this cornerstone the Jews and Gentiles simply could not be joined together. Now Christ has joined them together. **Without Him the two** would be separate and different, but **with Him the two** become one and are being built into a **dwelling place of God in spirit**. In Christ there is no distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles. Outside of Christ there is no way to experience Him as the cornerstone. (*Revelations in Ephesians: Seeing the Blessings and Position of the Church in Christ, chapter 19*)

Day 3

Ephesians 2:21 - In whom **all the building**, being **fitted** together, is growing into a holy temple **in the Lord**
1 Corinthians 3:6 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth.
Colossians 2:19 - And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and **knit** together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

III. In Christ, who is the cornerstone, “all the building, being **fitted together, is growing into a holy temple **in the Lord**”—2:21:**

- A. The phrase **all the building** **denotes** the **universal** building, the church throughout the universe—v. 21.
- B. The word **fitted** **means** being made suitable for the condition and situation of the building—v. 21:
 - 1. To be fitted together is for all parts of the frame of the Body to be fitted together to form one structure—4:16.

2. In the building all the materials are fitted together; this is not merely to pile up but to build up—2:21.
- C. Since **the building is living**, it is growing because it is **organic**—1 Pet. 2:5:
1. This building is **growing** into a holy temple, a holy dwelling place of God; this indicates that the holy temple is a **living building**—Eph. 2:21.
 2. Apparently, growth and building are separate things; actually, **the building of the house is the growth of the Body**—4:15-16.
 3. The building of the church as the temple, the house of God, is by the **believers' growth in life**—1 Cor. 3:6-7; Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:2.
 4. The **Body grows** with the **growth of God**—Col. 2:19:
 - a. The growth of the Body **depends** on the growth of God, the addition of God, **the increase of God, within us**—Eph. 4:16.
 - b. God gives the growth by giving Himself to us in a subjective way—3:16-17a:
 - (1) For God to give us growth actually means that He gives us Himself—1 Cor. 3:6-7.
 - (2) The more God is added to us, the more growth He gives—Eph. 4:15-16.

Day 4

*2Cor. 13:14 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ and the **love** of God and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*1Thes. 5:23 - And the God of peace Himself **sanctify** you **wholly**, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

5. The church grows by **life dispensing**, the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14:
 - a. The threefold God—God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—is dispensing Himself into us as **life** and as our **life supply**—Eph. 3:16-17.
 - b. As long as the processed and consummated Triune God is dispensing Himself into us as life, we are nourished and we grow—4:15-16.
 - c. In the churches **we should care for the genuine growth** through the dispensing of the divine life—1 Cor. 3:6-7; 2 Pet. 1:5-7.
- D. All the building is **becoming holy**—Eph. 2:21:
1. God makes us holy **by** imparting Himself, the Holy One, into our being so that our whole being may be **permeated** and **saturated** with His holy nature—1:4; 1 Thes. 5:23.
 2. For us, God's chosen ones, **to be holy is to partake of God's divine nature** and have our whole being permeated with God Himself; **this makes our being holy** in God's nature and character, just like God Himself—2 Pet. 1:4; Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22.

Day 5

*1 Corinthians 3:16-17 - Do you not know that you are the **temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is **holy**, and such are you.*

*Revelation 21:22 - And I saw no temple in it, for the **Lord God** the Almighty and the **Lamb** are its **temple**.*

- E. All the building is growing into a **temple in the Lord**—Eph. 2:21:
1. The Greek word rendered “temple” in verse 21 means the sanctuary, the inner part of the temple.
 2. The **church** is the **temple of God**; as such, it is the sanctuary of the holy God, the temple in which the Spirit of God dwells—1 Cor. 3:16-17:

- a. The **temple of God** in verse 16 refers to the believers **collectively** in a certain locality, whereas the **temple of God** in verse 17 refers to all the believers **universally**.
- b. The unique spiritual temple of God in the universe has its expression in many localities on earth; each expression is the temple of God in that locality—Eph. 2:21-22.
3. There is **no** temple in the New Jerusalem, **for** the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple—Rev. 21:22:
 - a. The holy city Jerusalem as a whole will be the Holy of Holies; **hence**, there will be no temple in it—v. 16.
 - b. This inner temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb—v. 22.
4. The entire building of God's house, His sanctuary, is in Christ the Lord—Eph. 2:21.

Verse 21 begins, “In whom all the building, being **fitted** together.”

When we come to **verse 20**, we can say that all the materials are now ready, so we can begin to build the house. Therefore, the next verse speaks of **fitting** and coordinating these materials together.

Verse 21 continues, saying that all the building is “**growing** into a holy temple **in the Lord**.”

Because this house is **living**, it is **growing**. This house can grow because it is living, not dead. We are the house of the Holy Spirit, and this house is the Body of Christ. Hence, it can grow. Because all the members of the Body are growing, and the church is the Body of Christ, the whole church is growing. This is not only an increase in the number of people but also the **gradual growth of life**, the result of which is all the building “**growing into a holy temple in the Lord**.” This house is different from a house in the world. It is a holy temple, separated unto God to match God as well as to be for God and unto God.

Originally, we were Gentiles. It is incredible that God's salvation can work in us to such an extent that we **become** His holy building, with Christ as our **foundation** and **cornerstone** to **fit** us together so that we **grow** into a **holy temple in the Lord**. These words should not be mere doctrines but must be our experience. After acquiring the experience, **we need to speak** these experiences so that the brothers and sisters will know these divine mysteries...The words in Ephesians are spiritual and heavenly, and only spiritual people who are of the Lord can understand them. We should turn these words into our experience and proclaim these messages to others. (*Revelations in Ephesians: Seeing the Blessings and Position of the Church in Christ, chapter 19*)

Day 6

Ephesians 2:22 - In whom you also are being **built** together into a **dwelling place** of God **in spirit**.

1 Corinthians 6:17 - But he who is joined to the Lord **is one spirit**.

IV. Referring to the local saints in Ephesus, Paul says, “In whom you also are being **built** together into a dwelling place of God **in spirit**”—v. 22:

- A. The **temple** and the **dwelling place** refer to two aspects of the **same thing**—vv. 21-22:
 1. The **temple** is the **place where God's people contact God**, worship God, and hear His oracle—v. 21.
 2. The **dwelling place** of God is a **place of rest**; God rests in His dwelling place—v. 22.
 3. The temple and the dwelling place are **not** two distinct places; **rather**, they are two aspects, **two functions** or usages, of the same building.
- B. The word **also** in verse 22 **indicates** that the **building** in verse 21 is **universal** and that the **building** in verse 22 is **local**:
 1. According to the context, in verse 21 the **holy temple** is **universal**, and in verse 22 the **dwelling place** of God is **local**.

2. **Universally**, the church is **uniquely one** and is **growing universally**;
locally, the church in a **particular locality is also one**, and the **local saints are being built up together** in their particular locality—vv. 21-22; 1 Cor. 1:2; 3:16-17.

C. The **dwelling place** of God is **in our spirit**—Eph. 2:22:

1. **Verse 21** says that the **holy temple** is **in the Lord**, and **verse 22**, that the **dwelling place** of God **is in spirit**.
2. This **indicates** that for the building of God's dwelling place, **the Lord is one with our spirit**, and **our spirit is one with the Lord**—1 Cor. 6:17.
3. **Our spirit is where the building of the dwelling place of God takes place.**

Ephesians 2:22 says, “*In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.*”

Here Paul speaks again of building.

In **verse 20** he speaks of our being built upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets.

Why does he speak again of building in verse 22?

Paul's repetition here is necessary.

In **verse 20** he **says** that we are **being built upon** the foundation of the **revelation** concerning Christ received by the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone, but he **does not say** that we are **being built together in Him**.

In **verse 21** Paul also says, “*In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,*” but here also he **does not say** that we are **being built together in Him**.

For this reason, in **verse 22** he speaks again about building, pointing out specifically that **the building is in Christ, the Lord**.

In addition, **verse 22** points out that this **building** is **to make us** a **dwelling place of God in spirit**.

Verse 21 speaks of **growing into** a **holy temple in the Lord**, but **who dwells in this holy temple?**

Our mind is very simple, so we would say that it is the Lord who dwells here.

However, the apostle does not answer in this way. He says that this is **the dwelling place of God in spirit**.

Verses 21 and 22 say, “**Growing into a holy temple in the Lord...being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.**”

The **function of the church** is also to be the dwelling place of God so that God will have a dwelling place on earth. God has His dwelling place in heaven, and His dwelling place on earth is the church. **We are the dwelling place of God as well as His servants**. It is through us that God may accomplish His purpose. (*Revelations in Ephesians: Seeing the Blessings and Position of the Church in Christ, chapter 19*)