

Jehovah-shammah, – The Lord is There

“And the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there.” Ezek. 48:35.

Sunday, August 20, 2006

“But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” Heb. 12:22-24.

The local church is a microcosm of the church universal and has exclusive spiritual claim upon all good things spoken of and promised to the city of God, Jerusalem, Zion – that contain in them the love, or grace, or favor of God. We are so come unto this city as free citizens, born there (Psa. 87:5 – “And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her.”) Unto a participation of all the glory which was promised to the church under these names of Zion and Jerusalem and the city of the living God.

It is the only organization on earth whose name is, THE LORD IS THERE. “And the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there.” Ezek. 48:35. Jehovah-shammah. Think of it. The nondescript (lacking distinctive characteristics), humble, little building on West 12th Street in Topeka, Kansas – with its associated foolish, weak, base, despised group of nobodies – is the place God has chosen to put his Name (Deut. 12:1-14:

Text, Deut. 12:1-14. Profoundly impressed c. 1955, (coupled with Psa. 27:4: “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.”), to wit: “1. 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. 2. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods...5. 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...11. 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...13. Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest; 14. 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.” Get it? First, utterly destroy ALL OTHER PLACES – locate and cling to THE PLACE.

Solemn transition announced by Christ to the woman at the well.

Solemn transition for all mankind, announced by the Son of God, to the Samaritan woman at the well. John 4:19-24: "The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. 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." Nix Promise Keepers and Graham Crusades.

1 Cor. 1:26-31. "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are. That no flesh should glory in his presence."

And it is the only organization on earth whose members are called, THE PEOPLE OF GOD. "Chosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:25. The church is ten thousand times more honorable than any other organization on earth - indeed, than all others combined. It is - to the exclusion of all others, "the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Tim. 3:15: "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." "Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth." Psa. 48:2.

THE HOUSE OF GOD, THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PEOPLE OF GOD, JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH, THE LORD IS THERE (NOWHERE ELSE), THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH, THE ONLY PLACE GOD HAS CHOSEN TO PUT HIS NAME AND WHERE HE MEETS WITH HIS PEOPLE, CITY OF OUR GOD, AND, CITY OF THE GREAT KING. Psa. 48:1&2.

To the honest and sincere, The Place is easily recognized. It is local, visible and autonomous, with two ordinances (baptism by immersion and the Lord's supper with one cup and wine), where Calvinism is preached, no divorce and remarrige, and where church discipline is exercised.