

## Is Your Household a House of Prayer?

*(Isaiah 56:7; Mark 11:17)*

What is a house of prayer? (*house* is #3624; *prayer* is #4335)

Eph 2:19-22 speaks of the *household* of God's people, all who belong to Him (Heb 3:2-5). It is no longer a material temple of stone, but a *household*, depicting a people in whom He dwells (1 Pet 2:5), the place where He resides in His household. "Whose house we are..." (Heb 3:6) if we are unrelenting (firm) to the end.

Heb 2:12 — The church is His Body (Col 1:18; Eph 1:22-23). He is the head of our house, in every place, in each household; He is the household Head, ruling through the one who has been given the authority to rule. His corporate household is comprised of each household in every place that prays as 1 Tim 2:1-8, praying every morning and every evening (1 Chr 23:30). The priesthood of each household is the House of Prayer to all nations. "My house shall be called a house of prayer..."

Acts 2:42 — They *devoted*<sup>1</sup> themselves to prayer, as in Rom 12:12, "constant in prayer," and Col 4:2, "continuing steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." Steadfast, faithful, constant, with loyalty... *Devoted* in Acts 2:42 means that they were a house marked by firm, steadfast resolution and faithfulness, exhibiting constancy of mind and spirit, consistency of practice, steadfastness of mind under duress, fidelity, freedom from change (Pr 24:21), invariable, continual.

*And they were to stand every morning, thanking and praising the LORD, and likewise at evening, and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the LORD on Sabbaths, new moons and feast days, according to the number required of them, regularly before the LORD. Thus they were to keep charge of the tent of meeting and the sanctuary, and to attend the sons of Aaron, their brothers, for the service of the house of the LORD. (1 Chr 23:30-32)*

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<sup>1</sup> #4342 — 1) to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one; 2) to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing; 3) to continue all the time in a place; 4) to persevere and not to faint; 5) to show one's self courageous for; 6) to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly.

*Every* means with consistency, a never-renting care and service for the House of Prayer (Isa 56:5-7), including the physical house which houses this priesthood who stand every morning and evening to pray and give praise and thanksgiving (1 Pet 2:9; Eph 4:12). The physical house is kept as spotless as the spiritual house is kept. A dirty physical house indicates a dirty spiritual household. This is why all houses have sextons, as every spiritual household has a household head who rules over the flock, his fold, and over the sextons of the physical house. So if any house doesn't have sextons over its maintenance, then the spiritual household does not have a spiritual head over the flock (1 Pet 5:1-4; Eph 4:2-3, *maintain*).

The preparation for Pesach and the Days of Unleavened Bread will bring the physical and the spiritual together in a special way for our people as every spring, we intensively cleanse our physical houses of leaven (accumulated dirt or mold in hidden places), and our spiritual houses of the leaven of malice (ill-will, grudges, unforgiveness, etc.) and wickedness (lawlessness, selfishness, strife, etc.), restoring the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Cor 5:8). And in the fall, Yom Kippur gives us another opportunity for maintaining our House of Prayer.

So a House of Prayer is shown by this: Each household that maintains the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by verse 2 of Eph 4:2-3 shows verses 4-6, which is His house. This is the vocation or occupation which we all in each household must walk worthy of (Eph 4:1), in order for verses 4-6 to be a reality. So use your talents appropriately (verses 7-8; 1 Pet 4:10-11; Mt 25:14-15).

All these things maintain the House of Prayer (Phil 2:2-5; Jn 13:34) to be the ones — the only ones — who bring their Master's prayer to fruition (Jn 17:10,11,21-23), to be one as the Father and the Son. Anything less than what He prayed for means we are not also continuing His prayer before He suffered. Are we praying and carrying it out? Only those who love Him will be the "only ones" who do it (Jn 14:15,21).

Mt 6:9-13; Heb 10:13 — This is what is required of all who do their part in the restoration of all things (Mk 9:11-12; Isa 49:6; Mt 21:43; 24:14,34).

Rev 17:14 — “Well done, My good and faithful servant!” (Jn 12:26; Mt 25:21,23)

House of Prayer — prayer is for the motive and reason of being saved to do the will of the One who saved us from the world of selfishness and self-centeredness. We are saved from the life of Mt 6:31-32 (the domain of darkness, Col 1:13) and into the life of Mt 6:33 (the kingdom of His Son).

The prayer of each household that gathers morning and evening (Rom 12:1-2) is as 1 Tim 2:1-8 — prayer for the end result of Mt 21:43, which is Isa 49:6,8 (Mt 24:14; Heb 10:13), which is the aim and purpose for prayer. Gen 18:19 — Those who belong to Messiah (Gal 3:29) are the only ones who pray for Mt 6:9-15 and 1 Tim 2:1-8, who do Rom 12:1 each morning and evening as a Body or household effort.

It is His household. He said, “My household will be a household who prays for My Father’s name to be hallowed” — His kingdom come and His will be done. We pray for His ultimate purpose to be done, which can only be done through a household of faith (as Rom 12:1-2), offering their bodies (plural) as a single living sacrifice each morning and evening (1 Chr 23:30; Ex 29:42). This fulfills Mal 1:11 *in every place*, as 1 Tim 2:8 says — not *everywhere*, but in every *place* He has caused His name to dwell — His dwelling place, where He is, which is the only place He can be served (Jn 12:26).

Mt 24:45 — A household of the faithful who *pray*; a House of Prayer prospers.

Jn 14:2-3 — “Many dwelling places” where He dwells (verse 18,20,21; Jn 12:26).

1 Jn 4:2-3 — Where He is incarnate, the household of God (Eph 2:12-22; Rev 21:3), the house, dwelling, habitation of God, His household where He lives in His Body eternally. The corporate Body of Messiah is (now) in Rev 21:3 the habitation of the Godhead. His habitation, which is us in Messiah’s Body, is the wife of the Lamb. God will dwell in Messiah’s Body, including Messiah Himself as part of the corporate Body of God. This Body, the habitation of God, as Eph 2:22 says, will dwell among the men of the

nations, and He (God through us) will be their (the nations') God, and they will be His people.

“They” are the nations who went through death and were found worthy to live and be God’s people throughout eternity. The Holy in Rev 22:5 will reign over them forever and ever (Dan 7:27, RSV, ESV, NRS, NJB) as David prophesied in Ps 8:4-6.

We are now in the makings of this House of Prayer which we live in and love in and pray in as Eph 2:19-22.