

# The Psalms of Ascents

Week 7 – Saturday

Eph. 2:20-22

All they had in the Old Testament was an outward temple which was eventually torn down. It was destroyed the first time by King Nebuchadnezzar; all the vessels of the temple were carried away to Babylon until some returned to rebuild the temple. It was rebuilt but later it was again destroyed. When the Lord was on the earth He prophesied that the temple at His time would be torn down to the extent that not one stone would remain on top of another. The Lord permitted the Gentiles to again come and tear down the temple.

Now the age of the New Testament is here; the church is produced. In this age we are no longer building an outward temple; we are building the church of God. This building is altogether spiritual. What we need to build is the house of God, God's kingdom, the dwelling place of God in spirit. This dwelling will last forever. The temple Solomon built was torn down and the temple built when the Jews returned from captivity was also torn down. But today the Lord wants to gain us to build His spiritual house. In Him we are being built together to become the dwelling place of God in spirit. It is through local churches in each place that the church is being built to become the dwelling place of God in Spirit. Ephesians 2:20-21 says, "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord." This building is the universal building, the universal aspect of the church. All the believers are being built together as a holy temple for God. But the next verse says, "in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (v. 22). After saying that all the redeemed believers are being fitted together to grow into a holy temple in the Lord, verse 22 says, "you also". This refers to the saints in the church in Ephesus. This is not pointing to the universal building; it refers to the local building. The same principle applies to us as to the church in Ephesus: we need to be built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit. When we talk about the building of the church, this is not something far away from us. In each place we need to be practically built together. When the church is being built together in each place, the body of Christ as a whole is also being built together. We look to the Lord that we could have the heart of David for the building of God's dwelling place on earth by building the church in our locality. We must have such a strong desire within us to care for the building of the church and put our entire being and everything that we own into it. Even in afflictions we need to gather material to build up the dwelling place of God. We need to spend all that we have for the sake of building God's dwelling place. The purpose of our ministry today should also be for the building of the house of God, in order to satisfy God's heart and to fulfill the will of God so that God may have a place of rest among His children and receive worship, praise and service from His children.