

The Church As God's Temple: When Will the Building Be Complete?

By T.W. Tramm

A FUNDAMENTAL understanding in Christianity is that the Temple built by King Solomon is a type of the Church. Just as the Lord's presence dwelt in the Temple in ancient times, His Spirit dwells in countless believers who make up the Church today. Just as Solomon built the Temple one brick at a time, Jesus is building His Church—the true and ultimate House of God—one believer at a time.¹

With the Temple/Church typology in view, it's interesting to consider how the ancient Temple's completion-time in Scripture corresponds to clues given by Jesus concerning the end of the Church Age:

TEMPLE

Solomon's Temple was completed in the month of Cheshvan, the month in which Noah's flood began and ended (1 Kings 6:38).²

CHURCH

Jesus likens the time of His return to "the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:37).

TEMPLE

Scripture provides only the month in which Solomon's Temple was completed (Cheshvan), not the day (1 Kings 6:38).

CHURCH

Concerning the time of His coming, the Lord says, "No man or angel knows the day" (Matt. 24:36).

TEMPLE

Cheshvan is the only month that has no holidays or special mitzvot attached to it. Thus, for those expecting the Rapture to occur on a feast day or other special observance, Cheshvan seems an improbable time.

CHURCH

The Lord says He is coming “at an hour we think not” (Matt. 24:44).

Jesus repeatedly tells us to keep watch. Part of keeping watch is considering different seasons as prospective times for His return. Could the completion of Solomon’s Temple in the month of Cheshvan on a day no man knows bespeak the timing of the Church’s completion at the end of the Age? Only the Father knows. With the month of Cheshvan upon us and talk of “peace and safety” in the air, however, it’s a thrilling prospect to consider.³

NOTES:

1. Solomon’s Temple is a type of the Church (1 Pet. 2:5; Matt. 16: 18; Zech. 6:12; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22). King Solomon is a type of Christ: https://biblehub.com/topical/naves/s/solomon--a_type_of_christ.htm

2. While Solomon’s Temple was completed in Cheshvan, it was inaugurated in Tishrei (1 Kings 6, 8). The Jewish sages believe that since the month of Cheshvan was deprived the celebration of the inauguration, the third and eternal Temple will be built *and* dedicated in the month of Cheshvan. Thus, Cheshvan will gain a festival, just as Kislev gained a festival (Hanukkah) during the days of the Maccabees.

3. The biblical calendar that reckons the first new moon after the vernal equinox Nisan 1 has the first day of Cheshvan corresponding to November 8-9 in 2018. For calendar reckoning explanation see NOTES section here: http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/THE_SEVENTH_MONTH_-_KEEP_WATCH_rev_a.pdf?fbclid=IwAR31kF4e3QE7Ud5st-R3dhdqyWHNWW800xDPIfVbd_Y6p9FgG37YGyGufCg

MISC:

*The modern pre-calculated Jewish calendar has Hanukkah beginning Dec. 1-2. Hanukkah is associated with the Second Temple, built by Herod, via the cleansing and rededication after the desecration committed by Antiochus Epiphanies.

*Unlike the First Temple, Scripture does provide the completion date of the Second Temple; it was completed on the third day of the month of Adar (Ezra 6:15, 16).