

Bible Student Convention, Pittsburgh November 1-3, 1929

Chairman: We now have the pleasure of listening to the next speaker, who is an old-time warrior in the Truth, having served many years as Colporteur and Pilgrim, Brother L. F. Zink, of New York. He will speak upon the subject:

“WHERE GOD DELIGHTS TO DWELL”

Discourse by Brother L. F. Zink

OUR Heavenly Father is a great Builder, Architect, and Sculptor, and tells us in Psalm 127:1 that, “Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh in vain.” This suggests that some one besides the Lord is building the house of God. But Jehovah speaks through the Prophet Jeremiah (51:25, 26) and says, I will not take a stone out of Babylon for a corner, nor for a foundation: “For My Word which goeth out of My mouth shall not return unto Me void, but will accomplish that which I please and prosper in the thing whereunto I send it.” Only those who are called according to My purpose shall have a part therein. I will set every stone in the temple, and when it is finished, it will be “Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the City of the great King.” “For the Lord hath chosen Zion: He hath desired it for His habitation. This is My rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.”—(Psa. 48:1, 2; 132:13, 14.) This is God’s masterpiece. The new creation, where God delights to dwell—called **Jehovah Shama**: the wonder of Jehovah, the city of God. (Ezek. 48:35.) “Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God.”

But where was God’s dwelling formerly? Where God dwelt temporarily—it was in the tabernacle, that God. instructed Moses to build. Then later God dwelt in Solomon’s temple. Then after that, when the foundation-stone was laid, God could justify us, cover all our imperfections, and from Pentecost down, the Church were anointed. The tabernacle and Solomon’s temple represented the work of the Gospel Age and the work of the Millennial Age. Soon now God’s finished work will be seen—the temple not made by hands—which will fill the whole earth with His glory. “For as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.”— Num. 14:21.

God said He would meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle would be sanctified by His glory (presence), and He would dwell among them and be their God (and no other nation). “And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, that brought them out of Egypt, that I may dwell among them”—temporarily. (Exod. 29:43-46.) And God was a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night—when the Lord would proceed, they would follow. God through Moses brought them out of Egyptian bondage. Yes, God carried them out as on eagles’ wings. (Exod. 19:4.) They were under His shadow. “Touch not Mine anointed.” Now they were only a house of servants, but we are a house of sons—brothers and sisters of Jesus. We have the same Father He had. And now Christ will soon deliver the groaning creation from bondage and death. For “God’s anger endureth but for a moment—weeping all night, but singing joy in the morning.”

Now David proposed to build this house for God to dwell in—something better than the tabernacle that God was dwelling in. And David said to Nathan the Prophet, See I am living in a nice house made of cedar, but the ark of God remaineth under curtains. And Nathan said, Do all that is in thine heart. And the word of the Lord came that night to Nathan, “Go and tell David My servant, Thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not build Me a house to dwell in: For I have not dwelt in an house since the day that I brought up

Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another [dwelling temporarily with you]. Spake I a word saying, Why have ye not built Me an house of cedars? Now therefore thus shalt thou say unto My servant David, I took thee from the sheeppcote, even from following the sheep; that thou shouldest be ruler over My people Israel: And I have been with thee withersoever thou hast walked, and have cut off all of thine enemies from before thee, and made thee a name like the name of the great men that are in the earth.” (1 Chron. 17:1-14.) I have fought all your battles for you and anointed you for this work (to typify Christ), and I will subdue all thine enemies from before thee (as I will for Christ). Furthermore I will tell thee that the Lord will build thee an house. For except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.

Did David kill Goliath? The battle was the Lord’s. The eleven tribes ran, but David did not. Forty days Goliath presented himself. God directed the stone that killed him, and the Philistines fled. David would not let a lion or a bear take a sheep out of his flock, and now no one can pluck a sheep out of My flock—My Father has them **marked**. Come under My wings, under My feathers, you are perfectly safe in the storm that is now on—those whom God draws, or chooses for His temple. He gives them the New Commandment. They are to become copies of Christ, the Topstone. “Now Jesus took not this honor upon Himself. No, and you must be called as Aaron was called” and you are My friends, if you do whatsoever I command you. What is it? This is My commandment (the law of the new creation) that as I laid down My life for you, you ought to lay down your lives for the brethren. Is it compulsory? O, no. It is your privilege to have the life that now is, and that which is to come—the highest life, the crown of life—likeness to My Son and in partnership also. But God is looking only for volunteers, volunteers only. No coercing into service—I would not accept it. I want to see you have gratitude like the one leper out of ten who would like to do My will. Would you follow Me? “Come unto Me”—“What a friend we have in Jesus.” I will look after you as a house of sons—better than the house of servants. “The Lamb shall overcome them.” In the battle now coming, “Be of good cheer.” “These things have I spoken unto you that your joy may be full.”

And God said to David, When thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, “I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons, and I will establish his kingdom [Solomon’s, who is a type of Christ and the Church in glory].” And Christ shall sit upon the throne of His Father David. He shall build Me an house. Upon this Rock Jesus said He would build the Church, the temple of God. “And His throne will be established for evermore.” (1 Chron. 22:1-12.) David was permitted to assist Solomon. And David set masons to hew out great wrought stones to build the house of God, which was only a shadow of the house God is now building, without hands—“to be the joy of all the earth.” Now David said, My son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries. This temple was overlaid with gold, which foreshadowed God’s temple, the preparation of which began in Moses’ time. This is to be God’s masterpiece, the new creation, which is to be the joy of the whole earth, “when Christ will draw all men unto Him.” And the Bride will say, Come and whosoever will let him come. And out of her belly shall flow rivers of living water. “All my springs are in Thee.” My spouse is a spring shut up—a fountain sealed, and will be opened soon and the water to be as “clear as crystal” and will flow from that temple or city which is God’s government, through the Prince of Peace—when war shall cease.

Now when the Queen of Sheba heard of the wisdom and wonders of Solomon, she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to see if these things were so, and she had many questions. His wisdom was only a shadow of Christ's wisdom (Col. 2:3), for in Christ is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Christ is God's repository of truth—"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." All the holy Prophets testified of Him. (Rev. 19:10, 11.) When the Queen of Sheba saw and heard all about Solomon in his glory she had no more spirit in her. She did not die, but it took her breath away, she was so astonished. Her subjects may have asked her if the report was true that she heard. True? True? Why the half never was told! Now if Solomon's glory caused so much fame, what will it be when Christ appears and the temple be that which God is building? The heathen (nations) shall say then, The half was never told, as they return from the sleep of death, shaking hands as they never did before. For the tabernacle in the wilderness was a shadow of good things to come. There were secrets hidden there. "The secrets of the Lord is with, them that fear Him," "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom." God hath revealed these things by His Spirit. "For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Cor. 2:9-11.

Solomon's temple which he was building pointed to God's temple which is soon to be completed, and "then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom." And God will speak from the rising of the sun (Christ) until the going down thereof. (Psa. 50:1, 2.) And the moon will shine as the sun (the moon being a reflection of the sun). Moses' law will then shine as the sun (the Gospel light) and the sun will shine seven fold. So perfect no one can mistake the Gospel. For as truly as I live the whole earth shall be filled with My glory.

David called for his son Solomon and charged him to build the temple which pointed to God's New Jerusalem, and said, As for me it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the Lord. But the Word of God came to me, saying, Thou shalt not build Me an house. Thou hast shed blood abundantly and made great wars. Thou shalt not build an house unto My name, because thou hast shed much blood in My sight. Then God said, Behold a son shall be born to thee who shall be a **man of rest**; and I will give him rest from all his enemies. His name shall be Solomon (peaceable—Prince of Peace) and I will give him rest from all his enemies, and I will give him peace and quietness in his days, which means in Christ's reign in glory. He (and this includes the little flock also) will have rest and peace—the day of sacrificing and suffering over. Here is no rest. Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come (Heb. 13:14)—God's **dwelling place**. Then "the government shall be upon His shoulders and of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." "Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth [people], and righteousness shall look down from heaven, and our land shall give her increase." (Psa. 85:10-12.) "Then all nations shall come and worship before Thee." (Psa. 86:9.) David said, "My son, the Lord be with thee and prosper thou, and build the house of the Lord thy God. ... And give thee wisdom and understanding."—1 Chron. 22: 1-14.

Note Solomon's Prayer. "Give me now **wisdom and knowledge**, that I may go out and come in before this people." And God answered him. Solomon, "Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked for **riches, wealth** or **honor**, nor the life of **thine enemies** [like nations often do], nor **long life**, but hast asked wisdom to judge My people, wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee: and I will give thee **riches, wealth, honor**, such as none of the kings have had before thee, neither shall there any after thee

have the like [in wisdom or gold].” For Christ the King, who came from the manger to the throne, will have this honor and share it with His Bride, the Church, the Queen who came from the pit to the throne. That will be a marriage such as the world has never known. Solomon had over one hundred and fifty thousand servants working for him. He had gold as plentiful as stones, and that was only a shadow of Christ’s glory. For the house I am about to build shall be wonderfully great, great and wonderful—“The wonder of Jehovah.” (2 Chron. 2:9; Ezek. 48:35.) And the city from that day will be called, The Lord is there (**Jehovah Shama**)—the wonder of Jehovah.

This is the house God is now building, where He will delight to dwell forever, and the fame of it will reach all nations and that government will be the joy of the whole earth. The dead will return under Christ’s reign, as it is written, “Awake and sing ye that dwell in the dust, the earth shall cast out its dead.” Jesus will have the keys of death and hell. He will then say, “O death where is thy sting? O sheol where is thy victory? O death I will be thy plagues. O sheol I will be thy destruction.” I will ransom them from death. Job 14:12-14; Hosea 13:14.

Solomon’s house was built of stone and every stone made ready at the quarry. Great, rough and unsightly stones were hewn and shaped, chiseled and polished, and at last **marked** for a particular **place** in the temple. For God places each one in the Body as it pleases Him. Some of the living stones now cry out, You hurt me sore, but the temple stones God now prepares are after the copy of the Topstone.

“The Sculptor seeks their perfectness,
And trims them more and more—
Until, by dint of strokes and blows,
The shapeless mass appears
Symmetric, polished, beautiful,
To stand th’ eternal years.”

God fashions every one. He is a Master Workman. “He works in us to will and do of his good pleasure, and we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.” When He sees that we reflect His image, then we are nearly perfected in His love. “For we are called to the obtaining of the glory of our Savior”—“To be clothed in gold of Ophir”—immortality. We develop character. Yes, indeed, it is progressive. Just as in the type when we enter the court of the tabernacle and look back we see wooden posts with copper sockets—they are perishable. But as we progress and are made acceptable, justified, covered, God anoints us, and we can go into the Holy, where there are great and wonderful secrets—in the secret place of the Most High. Now we are prospective heirs to God’s glory; and looking back into the holy, we see the posts are gold but still copper sockets—we are still human. We have this treasure in earthen vessels (2 Cor. 4:7)—changed from glory to glory, still progressive; not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of your mind. Having a transformation of nature, we have at last finished our course, faithful unto death, and we hear our Father answer, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” Now look at the posts as you enter the Most Holy, heaven itself—gold posts and silver sockets. The flesh is now gone, and you awake in Christ’s likeness. The wonder of Jehovah is the new creation—higher than angels, the Divine nature, shining forth as the sun (Matt. 13:43); seeing Him as He is now, not flesh, but spirit like his Father. (Heb. 1:3.) We were taken from the pit to the throne, called to a “far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” As every stone was finished in the quarry of Solomon’s, so every Christian is perfected here—not in

purgatory—proving now each Christian what they build with—gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, stubble.

I will send them strong delusions. (Those who do not obey Me.) “Hearken to Me ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord [not some human corporation]. Look unto the rock from whence ye are hewn and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.” Take a good look where I found you, God says, in the mire condemned as a culprit, through your father, Adam, but no fault of yours. (Rom. 8:20.) Look where you are called to, from the pit to the throne. (Rev. 3:21.) Look to Abraham your father and Sarah who bare you. (Isa. 51:2.) Sarah means princess and God is her husband (Isa. 54:1-5) who will bring forth the royalty—kings and priests to reign with Him. Abraham, thou shalt be the father of kings. Sarah, thou shalt be the mother of kings. Through Isaac thy seed shall be called. (Rom. 9:6-9.) The royalty are not Anglo-Israel, but these overcomers with Jesus (Rev. 3:21, 22)—the royalty, the true manchild, (Isa. 66:7-9) Shall I bring to the birth (the royalty) and then shut the womb saith thy God? No, no. (Psalm 110:1-5.) Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power—(Jews and Gentiles), and in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning (resurrection morning). Thou hast the dew of thy youth. When Zion travails, she will bring forth her children—the Great Company and Ancient Worthies too; also the groaning creation shall be delivered. “Rebecca, be thou the mother of thousands of millions” who will be Christ’s children. For He will see the travail of His soul. He shall see His seed, His children, and prolong their days. (Isa. 53:10-12.) Ye shall be with Me, St. Peter, in the regeneration, the world’s birthday, judging all mankind.—Matt. 19:28.

This Gospel Age is for the Church of the Firstborn, the royalty, who have part in the First Resurrection. When God moved out of the tabernacle where He was dwelling, He said, Leave out the golden bowl of Manna and Aaron’s rod that budded. And now we are just coming to the end of the Gospel Age, when God’s temple will be complete, leaving the tabernacle condition, going into the Most Holy, heaven itself, the antitype of Solomon’s temple, ready to meet the Bridegroom, when this class will be immortal, Divine, and be the priesthood represented by the bowl of Manna and Aaron’s rod. The Church will actually be this class Divine. Christ is coming after us. Let us get ready. This class are to be dressed in “gold of ophir.” “And those who were ready, went in and the door was shut.” The place I went to prepare for you is now about ready, I will soon appear. Watch, do not be lukewarm, if you love Me—“For when once I rise up to shut the door, you cannot get in.” And at last the Little Flock, who had eaten of the hidden Manna, drunk the same cup, and baptized with His baptism, become immortal. They became the priesthood.

When God left Solomon’s temple where He dwelt temporarily, through Christ’s death, He opened up the new and living way—the Most Holy. The veil was rent in twain. Then God could come and dwell with us. (John 14:23.) Now this is much superior to the tabernacle and Solomon’s temple—very much higher. “My Father and I will dwell with you,” because you love Me. This is where God delights to dwell now in this Gospel Age. (1 Cor. 3:16.) “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Cor. 6:19.) Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. I dwell with you. And “if the Spirit of God that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, it will quicken your mortal body.” (Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 6:14-18.) What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? as God has said I dwell with you. Come out from among them and be yet separate,

touch not the unclean [doctrines], and I will be a Father unto you, and you shall be My sons and daughters. (If ye do not, I will not be your Father.) St. Peter says we are living stones, to become copies of Christ—the chief Cornerstone. And we are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ, the chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20-22)—changed from glory to glory.

Our Lord, speaking through David of our Savior, said, I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, marvelous are Thy works. My substance [or body] was not hid from Thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see My substance, yet being incomplete; and in Thy book all my members (of the new creation) were written when as yet there was none of them, and which in continuance were fashioned (gradually) dying. “For precious in the sight of God is the death of His saints.” Jesus came from the lowest parts of the earth—David’s child—to sit upon the throne of His father David. (Psa. 139:13-16.) God fashioned them after the Pattern, Jesus, and said, Destroy this temple made with hands and in three days I will build another, not made with hands (Mark 14:58)—the house God is **now** constructing which groweth into an holy temple, for God’s habitation. And the third day I shall be perfected—the Topstone and all the other stones. (Luke 13:32.) The Topstone is now complete, waiting for the completion of all the other stones. Now the Prophet Hosea (6:1-3) seems to say that on the third thousand-year day since our Savior’s resurrection that the Jews will say, Come and let us return unto the Lord. He hath torn us, and He will heal us. After two days (this is nearly up now), will He revive us, and we shall live in His sight—in the land God promised them.

God’s masterpiece, His finished work is the new creation. “Glorious things of thee are spoken, O city of God.” Of Zion it will be said, This and that man was born in her, and the Highest Himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count when He writeth up the people, that this man was born there. (Psa. 87:1-7.) Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. (Psa. 48:1, 2; 50:1, 2.) Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King, where God delights to dwell.

But why on the sides of the north? Well, God says promotion cometh not from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the Judge. He putteth down one, and setteth up another. (Psa. 75:6, 7.) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning? He said, I will sit also in the sides of the north (Isa. 14:12-15)—where God ruleth the universe. There he became Satan. The Logos saw him fall from heaven as lightning long ago. (Luke 10:17, 18.) Only the Little Flock shall possess the Kingdom. (Luke 12:32; Dan. 7:18-22.) “The mighty God hath spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.” “Out of Zion the perfection of beauty God hath shined.” (Psa. 50:1, 2)—out of the true temple indeed, where God will dwell. “And then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun.” Who can say they shine like that now? The overcomers will sit with Christ on His throne, and have power over the nations—but not now. God will subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet, when we are upon His throne. (Psa. 47:1-3.) Then the new heavens and earth will have begun, and the Holy City (government) come down, adorned as a Bride for her husband, which will be the joy of the whole earth. Then multitudes will say, Hallelujah, the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7; 21:1-10.) Soon now we shall see the City of the Living God, the New Jerusalem, and come to the general assembly of the Church of the Firstborn (Heb. 12:22, 23), for He,

Jesus, is the Savior of the Body, “as man and wife are one.” This is a great mystery. But I speak concerning Christ and His Church. (Eph. 5:23-32.) At that time Christ will draw all men unto Him. For He said, I pray not for the world, I pray for them whom Thou hast given Me. Then He will say, Loose those appointed to death. (Psa. 102:13-22.) I will hear their prayer, and the nations will fear the name of the Lord when the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms to serve the Lord. This shall be written for the generation to come, “and God shall appear in His glory”—at that time.

Now God has said He would not take one stone for a corner, nor one stone for a foundation out of Babylon. (Jer. 51:25, 26.) But the Lord describes Babylon and disobedient Jerusalem and so-called Zion of today. (Lam. 2:15.) All that pass by clap their hands at thee, they hiss at the daughters of Jerusalem, saying, is this the city that men called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth? No, no. This is the city. This is God’s government which will be the joy of the whole earth when the righteous shall flourish, under the Prince of Peace, when war shall cease, as described in Psalm 46 and 72.

“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchmen watch in vain.”—Psalm 127:1 This city is beautiful, the city of the great King. “Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God.” The one spoken of in Lamentations 2:15 is only a counterfeit. God speaks to those who do not obey and says, But unto the wicked, what hast thou to do to declare My statutes when you hatest instruction? (Psa. 50:16, 17.) Away with your wonderful works, I never knew you. God’s dwelling place, where God delights to dwell, in the past it was in the tabernacle and in Solomon’s temple, then with the Church in the flesh (temporarily). At last He dwells in the City that is called **Jehovah Shama**, the wonder of Jehovah. (See margin, Ezek. 48:35.) “The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; He will not turn from it. Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne, and their children who keep My covenant shall also set upon thy throne forevermore. For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation. This is My rest forever. Here will I dwell; for I have desired it.”—Psa. 132:11-14.

Now do not judge hastily, until God’s house is finished, when all mankind will say, The half was never told. Hallelujah! Amen.

At the conclusion of Brother Zink’s discourse the Chairman announced Hymn No. 165 third verse:

3 Finish, Lord, thy New Creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Show us all thy great salvation—
Thine shall all the glory be.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till we see thine own dear face;
Till we cast our crown before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

Prayer by Brother Zinc.