

1 Chronicles 22:1-14 Matthew 16:13-18
Chosen to Build!
Sunday January 28th, 2018

God has chosen us to build! God has chosen you to build!! God has chosen us to build in word and in deed. Just as God chose Solomon in the Old Testament to build the 1st Jewish Temple, God has chosen us to build!! God has chosen us to do his will in concrete, glass and steel. God has chosen us to do his will in deed and in word.

Just as Jesus chose to build his Church on Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. Jesus has chosen us to build his church through the word. Jesus has chosen us to build Satellite Fellowships through the internet. God has chosen us to build in deed and in word.

Today is the first in a 10 week series on "Buildings in the Bible". In the next 10 weeks we are going to cover a 1000 years of recorded history and buildings in the Bible. This series will touch on what God planned and human being built in terms of structures for God from way before recorded history to beyond the end of history in the New Heaven and the New Earth on Easter Sunday. We will end where God begins anew with us, where God builds and we enjoy.

Themes that we will follow through this series are the following. I found in looking at all the structures that the God's faithful people built following God's instructions, there were several themes that carried through. I am going to state them now in various ways.

1st- Protection, Providence and Sanctuary.

2nd- Perfection, Holiness and giving our absolute best to God.

3rd- Incarnation of the will and work of God

4th- Symbols of relationship

5th- Details

Next week we will look at the themes of Protection and Incarnation. But I want to stress the excitement of this whole series is because in the background we will be working to fulfill our calling to build, for indeed God has called us to build.



The places that we live in form our lives and our lives form our the spaces and that is not only the physical places we live in, but also the places our minds and spirits live in, more on this later.

In our Chronicles passage today King David was chosen NOT to build but to prepare for it. As it says, “David said to Solomon, “My son, I had planned to build a house to the name of the Lord my God.

But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars;

you shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood in my sight on the earth.”

Solomon was chosen to build because he was a man of peace. Again as it says, “See, a son shall be born to you; he shall be a man of peace. I will give him peace from all his enemies on every side;

for his name shall be Solomon, (which means peace) and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for my name.”

God chooses us for different works and if you know the stories of David and Solomon you know he doesn’t pick perfect people, but God uses them anyway.

Now Jesus Christ honored the Temple. The Temple that Jesus taught and prayed in was called “Herod’s Temple” or the “3rd Temple”. I will speak more about this temple in a later message, but the temple was honored by Jesus presence in it. Jesus did not reject the Temple or

the true worship of God that occurred in it. Jesus in a very real way incarnated the Temple with the Spirit of God by his presence.

But the teachings of Jesus led to a temple being one not built out of wood and stone, but of our flesh. Our bodies are the Temples of God inhabited by the Holy Spirit. With Jesus and this series we will go from stone, to flesh, to Spirit, to heaven and to a house, a city not made with human hands.

We will go to worship with the people of Israel in a tent, in a stone temple, to an idea that needs no building to live and thrive, and be the Church, the Body of Christ. The Church is an idea that any can catch and live in and be a part of if they desire. It is simply and profoundly to believe in **“Jesus as the Messiah/the Christ”**.

To believe this you become part of a building not built with human hands whose foundation is Christ and whose fulfillment or completion is in Heaven.



2 mighty movements of the Holy Spirit of God have been growing side by side here at Vista Church. One is the work of the Building Committee whose fruit you will see today, and one is the Live Stream Satellite Fellowship Committee. You might think like I did at one time, “Ahhhhg! We can’t do both at once”, but my friends we already have been doing both at once.



Side by side for two years the work and workings toward this day have been in progress, silently, quietly, growing like twin seeds in the dark fertile soil of deep thought, planning and prayer. Oh the planning and work of those involved, their countless hours, their discussions and meetings and the work, work, work to get us here today.

First, the Building Committee, in November of 2016 we had Dream Sunday and took the 1500 ideas generated there and cogitated over them in the Long Range Planning Committee for months. The Long Range Planning committee determined the best route forward for Vista Church, after all the analysis, was to form a Building Committee. The Building Committee has met together for about 10 months. They hired an Architect to help them form their ideas into plans and a contractor to help them figure out what their dreams would cost and a financial consultant to see if we could afford it.

This process produced the plans you are about to see, which gave birth to a Financial Committee you will hear from in the next several months.

You have been chosen to build. You have been chosen to make the dreams and visions God has given us into concrete, steel and glass. Remember Acts 2:17, **“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,**

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”

You are living out that verse. We together as these plans, these dreams are revealed we are living out the vision of God and the purpose of God for our lives together.

Second, our Live Stream Satellite Fellowship ministry, it relates to our Matthew passage and in a moment you will see how.

When I was appointed to Vista Church 2 ½ years ago there was already a project underway concerning our sound and AV systems. Phase 1 & 2, as I remember, had to do with the sound system update. Phase 3 had to do with new projectors and screens. Phase 4 was Live Streaming. I didn't even really know what Live Streaming really was until 2016 and now today, for many, it's a reality.

In just the past 30 days, starting with Christmas Eve, we had 424 views. That averages out to 100+ people per Sunday. People in those

30 days joined us from 10 different states all across the United States. Our worship attendance grew by 5% in 2017 here physically in the house. We don't include our Live Stream audience in our worship stats, because it's so new we don't know what to do, but we, you are reaching out to the world the homebound and many who do not have church homes.

We are taking the idea of Church, Peter's Confession of Jesus as the Christ into Cyber Space and then back into the homes and lives of people who join us in that confession and the worship of God!! We are now a part of a modern day miracle.

And the idea of the Satellite Fellowship ministry is to take our beautiful worship experience here, through the technology of the internet, and incarnate it in another location: **"A Satellite Fellowship"**.

Whereas our Building Plans are concrete, steel, and glass and costly; our dream is to take the Gospel to people and places that can't afford to build like we do. In our Satellite Fellowships we do not intend to buy or own, but possibly borrow or rent, or use homes like the early Christians. But we still will incarnate our loving Christian Fellowship through members of Vista Church sent out to do this as missionaries of love.

February 11th at the Satellite Fellowship Luncheon (please sign up today) we will be and seeking your thoughts and ideas. In a real sense this is "Dream Luncheon" brought to you by Chewy's and a Conference grant. And we need you and your ideas!!!

This is the most talented, gifted and giving congregation I have ever served in 37 years. The wisdom you incarnate, you bring to this church, is so incredibly valuable and needed for the age we live in. Come help us figure out something that for me was just a word two years ago. We need you! God has chosen you to building in word, in deed, and in idea!!

And here on this campus, God has chosen us to build. God has chosen us to build... not a future generation, but us. A past generation

built and paid for this place paying off the mortgage last year (can I have an amen!) and this year it's our turn to build again. That is our God given purpose today.

Our Ed building and Admin buildings have far outlived their useful lives. They were meant to be temporary buildings.... 25 years ago. It is only through much tender loving care that they have survived this long, but have become inadequate for further growth. At least one of the classrooms for our growing children's program is about the size of walk-in closet.

Our Admin building is falling apart and needs extensive repairs to remain useful. All the AC units have failed but one and the cost to replace these units is prohibitive. In my office when the wind blows the whole end of the building creeks and groans and moves. First time I heard it, I thought a tree was banging against the wall, but when I went out to see there were no trees there.

So the plans, enough talk let's see the plans! Right?? In a moment.

First, the master plan honors the beauty of this site. It has a walking path shown that encircles the entire campus. Maybe one day we can put in the "14 Stations of the Cross" from our Book of Worship.

The Building Committee broke down the master plan into 3 phases because of cost and because the congregation chose their highest priorities.

Phase 1- Administration and Education building and the Nursery.

Phase 2- Storage, multipurpose rooms and a new choir room.

Phase 3- Parrish Hall or Fellowship Hall with a commercial grade kitchen. Our current kitchen will stay put until that day.

It's in 3 phases because just like the sound system we need to pay for what we can afford as we can afford it. The financial consultant we

hired is confident, and so am I, **we can raise the funds for phase one in a 3 year period so we do not have to take out a mortgage!**

So, finally let's see the plans. Now I know some cannot read floor plans so the Architect has prepared what is called a "Fly Through Video", which you will see at the end.

Master Site Plan

Phase 1

Phase 2a

Phase 2b

Phase 3

Fly Through (twice)

All of this is to fulfill the prayer we pray so often, **"Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."** These buildings are part of the Kingdom of God here on earth and are here to do God's work and will. It is for the spread of the Gospel that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God.

Now I would like to introduce to you our Building Committee who will be available around the boards after the service to answer your questions. In alphabetical order...

Jim Bleess, Dan Boring - Ex-Officio, Boyd Carpenter - Co-Chair
Kathleen Greer, Benith MacPherson, Susan Mawhinney
Mary Louise Roberson, Duane Waldo, John Witt, Ken Zebal - Chair
Terry Zimmerman

Friends, God has chosen us...what are we going to do?

In Jesus' name amen.

