

WHY WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT SENT TO THE UPPER ROOM
AND NOT TO THE TEMPLE



Before our Lord YAHSHUA went back to heaven He promised the disciples His presence to be with them always. So deep was His love for humankind. He said, I am with you all the days to the close and consummation of the age (Matt. 28: 20b). In His priestly prayer, He prayed His desire that those whom God had entrusted Him may be with Him where He is (John 17:24a). God the Son came into this world and physically displayed God's love for men. When He had fulfilled all that He had come to do, He then sent His Holy Spirit to abide in those who would trust and receive His gift of salvation. One can never measure God's gift toward men. It just grows beyond men's life on earth. Amazing gift! For the disciples to receive the promised Holy Spirit, He instructed them where they should be in order to receive Him. He said, And behold, I will send forth upon you what My Father has promised: but remain in the city [Jerusalem] until you are

clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49). The upper room was the place where His Spirit was to descend upon them. A new chapter of God's book was opened for men to know and follow His instructions. That was a new era, a new dispensation- the new covenant- the covenant of blood which included people from the entire world. Christendom was then born. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Have you ever wondered why YAHSHUA did not consider sending His Spirit to the temple? Precisely, because the temple was a symbol of the Jewish rituals, the Jewish tradition and all that they represented, including their rejection of their Messiah. The temple was the place for the offering sacrifices – of bulls, sheep and goats. In His death as the Lamb of God, He offered His own life as the ultimately sacrifice, not only for the Jewish nation, but for the entire world. He was not sacrificed in the temple, but outside the city where all criminals were killed. Also, that second temple was rebuilt by Herod- a representation of all that is contrary to Whom God is. The temple in times past had lost the Shekinah glory of God in the days of the Prophet Ezekiel, when God gave him a vision found in his book chapter 10 verses 18-19: He said, then the glory of the Lord went forth from above the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight, and they went forth with the wheels beside them; and they stood at the entrance of the East Gate of the house of the Lord, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. This is an earnest truth worthy of our attention. Coming down at the descent of the Mount of Olives, riding a donkey, while the people rejoiced and praised God for the mighty miracles and works of power that they had witnessed, crying blessed is the King Who comes in the name of the Lord! As he approached the city, He wept over it. He went into the temple and began to clean it with great zeal for righteousness. He drove out those who were selling, telling them, It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer; but you have made it a cave of robbers (Luke 19:46). If that was what the temple had become then, God would not send His Spirit to a place considered "a cave of robbers." He would not send His Spirit to a place of old traditions, from where His glory had departed. He would send Him instead, to a place where there was fellowship, communion and a relationship with Him. That was the place called the Upper Room. It was there that the LORD YAHSHUA had His last Passover with His disciples in an intimate communion before His trial, death, and resurrection.

It was at the Upper Room that YAHSHUA washed the disciples' feet, it was there that He uttered words of comfort and future hope: Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me; in My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you. And when I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:1-3). It was there that YAHSHUA called His disciples His friends; it was there that He promised to send His Holy Spirit- the third person of the God-head as a Comforter, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener. And after all these things, it was there that He lifted up His eyes to heaven and prayed a beautiful prayer- his last on earth, on behalf of the disciples, and on our behalf. Yes, the Upper room is a place of relationship with YAHSHUA, a place that unites Jews and Gentiles as one to be part of His body, which constitutes the new covenant established in His blood, of which covenant we all must remember by eating the "bread and drinking the cup" to call Him to remembrance and proclaim His death until He comes (I Cor. 11:23-26).

Many of us long for the manifestation of His presence. But often times we are found away from the Upper Room- the place where we must be for Him to reveal Himself to us. We are either in a noisy and confused world of TV, internet, work or in another distraction, where we cannot possibly focus on Him. To the disciples He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until Pentecost time when He would send His Spirit down. And when they (disciples) had entered [the city], they mounted [the stairs] to the upper room where they were staying – Peter, and John and James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthews, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas [son] of James. All of these with their minds in full agreement devoted themselves steadfastly to prayer, with the women and Mary the mother of YAHSHUA, and with His brothers. Then it happened on Pentecost's day. It happened suddenly when a sound came from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempests blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them (Acts 2:1-3). The disciples were in the right place at the right time to receive the gift of YAHSHUA'S Holy Spirit. Had they not being there as directed, they would had missed the blessing. There in that Upper Room Christendom was born. And new things happened all over the world.

The Jewish temple remained standing just a few years after YAHSHUA departed to heaven. It continued with its traditions, religious rituals and other activities, until it was destroyed by the hands of those who had rebuilt it. But the presence of God never returned to it. In her encounter with YAHSHUA the Samaritan woman said to Him, our forefathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that Jerusalem is the place where it is the place where it is necessary and proper to worship. YAHSHUA said to her, Woman, believe Me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem.. A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers. God is a Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:20-21, 23-24).

The Holy Spirit will manifest Himself to those of a contrite heart; He will come to us when we are in a place where freedom from all religious traditions abides. That place will be close to His heart. It is called the Upper Room. Establish yourselves there and let the Holy Spirit speak to you. He is not coming to your church; He is coming personally to you if you are willing for Him to do so.

THINK ABOUT IT!