

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus and people, we hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JOIN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Stay up to date in your inbox!

Sign up at ourelement.org or email connect@ourelement.org and say, "Join mailing list"

REDEMPTION GROUPS

Begin this September

Join us for 9 weeks of focused and applied Bible Study through the book of Exodus, and see where God is wanting to bring Healing and Restoration in your life.

Check out our website for the full schedule, for more information, and online registration form.
Must Register by August 20th, but the sooner the better.

www.ourelement.org/redemption



PART 2 WHAT! - IN THE - WORLD?

JOHN 2:19-21

JOHN 3:4

JOHN 3:6-8

JOHN 6:55

JOHN 14:9

JOHN 2:13-22

1 CORINTHIANS 1:22

FIFTEEN: THREE DAY TEMPLE BUILDING

7/30/2017

FIFTEEN: THREE DAY TEMPLE BUILDING

At the end of last year, Element did a series through the bible where we answered some common questions people have. At the end of that series we asked Element to write down their own questions that we would answer in 2017. Today we are in week 15 and this is the question we are answering today: *“It has always bothered me that Jesus said stuff like “destroy this temple and I will raise it again in 3 days,” and not expect that people would think He’s a nut! They had no way of knowing He was referring to His body, so why didn’t He say it more clearly?”*

Is there anything you wish Jesus would have stated more clearly?

This is a good question because Jesus said many things that people didn’t understand clearly, many times He did not even bother to explain Himself. In John 3 Jesus talks to Nicodemus about being “born again” and Nicodemus is thoroughly confused. In John 4 Jesus talks to a woman at a well about “living water” and she is thoroughly confused. In John 6 Jesus speaks about his death and says that unless we “eat His flesh and drink His blood” we have no part in Him, and many disciples desert Him because they are thoroughly confused.

We have many more answers today because we sit on the backside of the crucifixion and resurrection. Many of the more perplexing things Jesus said in His teaching now make sense, but only in light of the resurrection.

Read John 2:13-22 (*the verses in question take place in context of the largest Jewish holiday of the year, Passover*).

What things does your family celebrate on a regular basis? Why?

Do these celebrations have meaning to you? (Why or why not?)

Passover was a celebration remembering how God rescued His people out of slavery in Egypt; it is still the main metaphor and picture that we use for our understanding of salvation today. God’s grace had passed over Israel and brought them life instead of death. The celebration of Passover in John 2 was to be done in accordance with how God told them thousands of years before. Yet in the temple, where they came to worship, it had been turned into a flea market for lazy worshippers and temple officials trying to make a buck.

Have you ever seen religious people more interested in comfort and money than worship of God? When?

Has this ever happened to you?

The place where all of this takes place is in the court of the Gentiles, where non-believers (or seekers) should have been able to come and find out who God is. Instead what they see is lazy worship and commerce that reflects nothing of who God is...it makes Jesus angry and He puts a stop to it. The religious officials ask Jesus what right He has to put a stop to their current temple practices and He responds with, “destroy this temple and I will raise it up in 3 days.”

John Piper points out that Jesus is saying that they were already destroying the temple, true worship, and real evangelism. Jesus also points out that their spiritual deadness is what will cause these same temple leaders to try to destroy Him.

In what ways do you destroy Jesus’ good work in your heart/life by seeking after your own desires?

How can you share those struggles with others to help you to not put yourself above Jesus?

To answer the What in the World question; some people did view Jesus as a nut when He said this, but eventually Jesus’ words brought about an understanding in the church of God’s true mission for the redemption of humanity. If there was a complete understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures, Jesus would have made sense because all that man destroyed, Jesus would restore in the 3 days of his death, burial, and resurrection.