

“The Center of Worship”
I Kings 8:1-49; John 2:13-22
March 30, 2003 Pastor Harry Skeele

Introduction:

I. Israel came to expect that _____ would be centered in the _____.

1. God _____ with his people.

a. _____ to them.

b. _____ to them.

2. God _____ people by his holiness and justice.

Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. Psalm 73:13-17

3. God bringing _____ and _____ and _____.

They blessed the king and then went home, joyful and glad in heart for all the good things the LORD had done for his servant David and his people Israel. I Kings 8:66

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Ps 23:6

II. God warned Israel in advance: changes are coming!

1. God will come to his temple to _____ and _____ worship.

Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can

endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. Malachi 3:1,2

2. God's servant will take his _____ to the _____.

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 49:6

3. The _____ will come to God.

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, O Lord; they will bring glory to your name. Psalm 86:9

III. Jesus replaces the _____ as the center of worship.

1. Jesus alone gives _____ to God.

I tell you that one greater than the temple is here. Matt 12:6

Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." John 2:18,19

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

2. Jesus brings vital _____ with God.

I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:23,24

3. Jesus is the mediator of God's _____ and _____.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Conclusion