



31 JUL 2022 | PASTOR ERNIE SONG WORSHIPPING IN WHOLENESS | 2 CHRONICLES 6-7

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that worship begins with restoration – wholeness.
2. Recognise that wholeness can only be found in the place of surrendering of our rights.
3. Know that when we surrender, our places of restoration will be where God's presence and glory is manifested through us to the world.

SERMON SUMMARY

In [2 Chronicles 6-7](#), Solomon built a temple for God on the threshing floor of Araunah, which is the place of David and Israel's restoration. When the temple was built, Solomon offered a lavish sacrifice unto the Lord and interceded on behalf of the people of Israel. God then accepted the sacrifice by consuming the burnt offering as an act of worship to Him. The place of restoration (threshing floor of Araunah) became the place of God's presence and glory.

In the New Testament, we are the temple and living sacrifice. God desires that our sacrifices (worship) to Him come from a place of wholeness. Hence, it is His desire that we seek wholeness (restoration) in our bodies (strength), souls (emotions) and hearts (minds). When we surrender areas of our lives that are "un-whole" to God, He will be pleased and will bring healing and restoration. Then, God's presence and glory can be manifested in us to the world.

SERMON RECAP

PART 1: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

1. **Solomon built the temple lavishly ([2 Chronicles 3-4](#)):**
 - The temple was meant for men to commune with the Lord (through the offering of sacrifice and prayers) and for God to dwell among men ([Exodus 29:45-46](#)).
 - It is to teach Israel that God is holy. It can therefore be dangerous to recklessly approach God for we are sinful. We must approach Him by His rules and His ways.
 - In the Old Testament, the living sacrifices offered to the Lord must be whole – clean, unblemished and without flaws ([Leviticus 1-27](#)).
 - The sacrifice that God accepts as worship on the altar is one that is whole.
2. **Solomon prayed as he dedicated the temple ([6:14-42](#)):**
 - Solomon recalled God's covenantal faithfulness to David ([2 Chronicles 6:14-17](#)).
 - Solomon pleaded on behalf of the people of Israel ([2 Chronicles 6:22-39](#)).

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- Solomon prayed for God to manifest His presence in a special way:**
 - Prayers offered at the temple ([2 Chronicles 6:41](#)).
 - After the prayer, God consumed the offered sacrifices that were lavishly given:**
 - 22,000 Oxen and 120,000 Sheep – all unblemished ([2 Chronicles 7:5](#))

Significance of the temple: The threshing floor of Araunah (Ornan), the place of brokenness and restoration, became the place of God's presence and glory.

PART 2: THE NEW COVENANT CONTEXT

- Christ's work on the cross was sufficient to fulfil all the ceremonial laws of Moses:**
 - Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is sufficient ([Hebrews 10:11-14](#)).
 - We need not go back to how the Israelites worship (e.g. sacrificing animals).
- The implication of Christ's work on the cross:**
 - In the New Testament, there is no more physical altar or temple.
 - We are now the temple of the Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#)).
 - Our bodies become the living sacrifice.
- The implication of God's requirement of sacrifice:**
 - In the Old Testament, God requires that the sacrifice on the altar be whole.
 - Likewise, our living sacrifice that we offer to the Lord must be whole.

Key Point: If we desire to see God's glory to manifest in us as living sacrifices to the world, we must seek wholeness.

PART 3: IMPLICATIONS FOR US

- To offer worship that is acceptable unto the Lord, we need to pursue wholeness.**
 - Allow God to be involved in every part of our days, not only during the times when we are doing our devotions.
 - Surrendering our wills, emotions and how we should take care of ourselves is an act of worship to God.
 - The foundation of acceptable worship is wholeness.
- People Are Un-Whole Because of Untreated Wounds.**
 - Wounds that are left untreated leads to un-wholeness.
 - God's glory cannot be fully displayed or present on a sacrifice that is un-whole.
 - God desires that we become a living sacrifice that is whole.
- Acceptable worship requires the sacrifice to be whole.**
 - To be whole, we need to surrender our rights.
 - When we come to a place of surrender, our worship to the Lord will come from a place of wholeness.

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- The altar in the Old Testament is built by the layering of rocks that have been broken through seismic activity. Similarly, if we are to build our altars, we need to bring the broken pieces of our lives (that were caused by seismic events) before the Lord.
 - Therefore, we can choose to drag these “rocks” that we have in our lives and be burdened by them, or take these broken parts of our lives and arrange them before the Lord as our altars for our sacrifices ([Psalm 51:17](#)).
 - If we build this altar of worship through the surrendering of our rights and our un-wholeness, and offer up ourselves once again to the Lord, God will come and consume our sacrifice. His glory will be manifested through us to the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **In the New Testament, there is no more physical temple. We are now the temple of the Holy Spirit and our bodies become the living sacrifice. Read [Romans 12:1-2](#). What do these verses say about wholeness? What prevents us from pursuing wholeness?** [10 min]
2. **Ps Ernie exhorted us to live our lives worthy of how Jesus had purchased for us on the cross. There is more to this life just than what we see physically. How can we get to the place of wholeness that God intends for each of us?** [15 min]
3. **Are there areas (e.g. wounds, disappointments, hurts, etc.) in our lives that we struggle to surrender to God?** [15 min]

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**
 - Our worship would begin with restoration and a commitment to seek wholeness.
 - We surrender our brokenness to God at the altar and be restored by God in His time to wholeness in Christ. May our lives be living testimonies of God’s glory and presence!
2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**
 - Pray for God’s protection especially from the Omicron variant.
 - Pray that the community cases will be low.
3. **World**
 - A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
 - Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Anniversary Sermon Series – Church on Fire. 7 Aug – 4 Sep.** This series will draw lessons from Hezekiah’s reforms in 2 Chronicles 29-31.
2. **31st Anniversary Celebration Calendar.**
 - *Sat, 27 Aug.*
 - 10am – 1pm. Chinese Service (Victory Chapel)
 - 2.30pm – 4.00pm. English Service (Worship Centre).
 - 4pm – 6pm. Celebration Carnival (Atrium).
 - *Sun, 28 Aug.*
 - 9am – 11am. Bilingual Anniversary Service (Worship Centre) with concurrent children’s services (Pre-School @ Level 2 Classrooms, Primary @ Grace Chapel).
 - 11am – 1pm. Celebration Carnival.
 - *Note: No second service
 - *Sat, 03 Sep.*
 - RCS Run for Families. \$65 per pax. Link: rlc.sg/run2022.
3. **Pastors Ben & Dinah on Ministry Break.** Ps. Ben and Ps. Dinah will be on ministry break from 1 Aug – 31 Oct (their 1st sabbatical in 30 years).
4. **Alpha @ RiverLife. 20 Aug – 29 Oct.** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a short video and a discussion at the end where you can ask anything or share your thoughts. Sign up online: rlc.sg/join-alpha.
5. **Marriage Preparation Course. Sundays, 4 Sep – 2 October, 1.45pm-5pm. \$280 per couple.** This course is specially tailored for couples exploring marriage or planning to get married in the next 2 years. This course covers Biblical foundations and practical principles needed to build a God-centered Marriage. Register: rlc.sg/mpc.
6. **RiverLife Missions – Medical Mission Trip to Sarangani, South Philippines. 20-24 October. Cost: \$800.** We are looking for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and healthcare professionals to join us for this trip. Team members will help to dispense medication, take basic vital statistics, interact with families, pray for the sick and share the Gospel. Signup: rlc.sg/signupformissions.
7. **40.Day Prayer 2022.** 40.Day is an annual national prayer initiative by LoveSingapore. The theme for this year’s prayer guide is “to live is Christ”, a journey through the book of Philippians. The prayer guide can be accessed one day at a time at this link: <http://www.lovesingapore.org.sg/40day/2022>. Let us join the body of Christ in Singapore in seeking the Lord.

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8. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.
 9. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
 10. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
 11. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
 12. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
 13. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.

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- RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. **Commitment:** Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: rlcares@rcs.org.sg.

14. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
15. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
16. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
17. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
18. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
19. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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