

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

Apr. 2, 2023

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meetings at Districts 1 & 2

7:30 pm – Chinese-speaking prayer meeting at District 2

7:00 pm - Spanish-speaking prayer meeting in the homes

Friday

6:30 pm – English-speaking College Meetings

7:00 pm – Chinese-speaking Student Meetings

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance at the Hall

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther – Week 2

Ministry Publication Reading

The Genuine Ground of Oneness, Chapter 8

Scripture Reading:

1 Kings 11:9-10; Rom. 15:4

Announcements

❖ 2023 July Semiannual Training

- Place: Ministry Conference Center; LSM Campus
- Registration Donation (including outline): Live - \$205 per trainee; Video - \$130 per trainee
- Registration Due Date for Both Live and Video: April 30, 2023
- Live Training Dates: Monday, July 3; 4:00 pm – Saturday, July 8; 9:30 pm
- Video Training Dates: Wednesday, July 5; 7:00 pm – Lord's Day, July 16; 4:00 pm
- Registration Fee can be sent through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: register@churchinphoenix.org. Please indicate on the memo line "2023 July Training".
- Registration Form: <https://tinyurl.com/cipregisterjuly23>

❖ 2023 International Memorial Day Conference

- Dates: Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29
- Place: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, 540 N Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611
- Rooms sold out at the LSM discounted rate.
- LSM has made arrangements with two nearby hotels, for the same discounted room rate, for any who would like to attend the conference.
 1. W Chicago-Lakeshore Hotel: Please use the following link to reserve rooms at this hotel: [W Chicago Lakeshore Room Reservations](#)
 2. The Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago Hotel: Please use the following link to reserve rooms at this hotel: [Westin Michigan Avenue Chicago Room Reservations](#)
 3. The cutoff date to make reservations at the discounted rate for these two nearby hotels is May 1, 2023.

❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org

Riches from the Ministry

In Deuteronomy 12 Moses charged the children of Israel to “completely destroy all the places where the nations whom you will dispossess have served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every flourishing tree” (v. 2). He also charged them to tear down their altars, crush their pillars, burn their Asherahs with fire, cut down the idols of their gods, and destroy their name from that place (v. 3). Having destroyed all these things, they were to come to the unique place of God’s choice. According to 1 Kings, the temple was built in Jerusalem, the place God had chosen. It was the desire of God’s heart for there to be a unique place for His presence. This one place protected God’s people from division. Therefore, it was God’s wisdom to require that all the places in which the nations served their gods be destroyed and that His people come to the unique place of His choice.

According to the record in 1 Kings, two kings — Solomon, a good king, and Jeroboam, an evil king — took the lead to set up the high places. In the case of Solomon, the building of the high places was related to the indulgence of lust. Solomon had hundreds of wives and concubines. In order to satisfy their desire, he built up high places. His wives had “turned his heart after other gods” (11:4). In the case of Jeroboam, the building of the high places was related to ambition (12:26-32). Jeroboam wanted to maintain his empire. Fearing that the kingdom would return to the house of David if the people went to Jerusalem to worship, Jeroboam “made a house of high places” (v. 31). Hence, Jeroboam’s ambition was the cause of his decision to build up high places. Furthermore, Jeroboam made two calves of gold and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” (v. 28). He then “set one in Bethel, and he put the other one in Dan” (v. 29). Furthermore, “Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast that is in Judah” (v. 32). The month of this feast was “devised in his own heart” (v. 33). Jeroboam even appointed “priests from among the people who were not from the sons of Levi” (v. 31). What evil is associated with high places! The high places were related to lust, ambition, and idolatry.

The account of the building of the high places under Solomon and Jeroboam is not merely a record of historical fact. This record has a spiritual significance, and it was written for our training. In Romans 15:4 Paul says, “The things that were written previously were written for our instruction.” Hence, what was written concerning Solomon and Jeroboam was written for our spiritual instruction today.

A number of important matters are not covered in the New Testament in a full way. I believe that the Lord intends for us to consider these matters in the light of the types and figures presented in the Old Testament...so we need to consider the record in Deuteronomy, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles to have a full understanding of division and of the damage and loss of the ground of oneness. According to the Old Testament record, division is caused by lust and ambition. Solomon is an example of the former, and Jeroboam is an example of the latter. The Old Testament also reveals that only the unique place of God’s choice can deal with our lust and ambition. The reason so much emphasis is put on the matter of the place God has chosen is that only this place gives no opportunity for the indulgence of lust or the carrying out of ambition.

In 1 Kings 8 Solomon offered a marvelous prayer. As the one who wrote the Song of Songs, Solomon was very deep in spiritual things. Nevertheless, in 1 Kings 11 we see that Solomon’s “heart turned away from Jehovah the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and who had commanded him concerning this very matter, not to go after other gods” (vv. 9-10). However, Solomon “did not keep that which Jehovah had commanded” (v. 10). How far Solomon had fallen! His fall should be a warning to us. If we do not accept the restriction of God’s choice, we also may fall in the same way Solomon did.

It is crucial that we take heed to all the points in Deuteronomy 12. We must learn to fear the Lord our God and not to do what is right in our own eyes. Rather, fearing the Lord, we must do what is right in His eyes. Nothing requires us to fear God as much as the keeping of the oneness. If some Christians were to establish a place of worldly entertainment, we would immediately condemn that practice. However, not many would condemn just as vigorously the establishment of a divisive Christian meeting. At the most, the majority of Christians would say simply that they do not agree with that meeting. Some may even justify it, claiming that it helps people to know the Bible and to follow the Lord. Apparently, such a meeting is designed to render spiritual help. Actually, it is a division that has its source in someone’s lust or ambition. At such a high place something other than Christ is exalted.

All of us...must learn not to elevate anything other than the Lord Jesus. He alone should be exalted. In the church life we should not have any high places. Instead, we should all be on one level to exalt Christ.

(Lee, The Genuine Ground of Oneness, Chapter Eight)