**Passing the Torch**

**Solomon Builds the Temple**

**God will live in his people**

Solomon is a key figure in the passing of the torch from Abraham to Jesus.

This sermon: No “points” Joe made two really great points last week about our zeal to know God and our need for great spiritual friendships.

So, is this sermon pointless?

Today, I will be mostly just encouraging you with the scriptures.

In fact, Abraham is the chief figure in the Old Testament, other than God.

Here is the outline of the Bible:

I. Genesis 1 God made the universe and everything in it.

II Genesis 2 God made mankind in His image so that we could love him, he could love us, and we could love one another.

III Genesis 3-4 We messed up. We rebelled. We lost our relationship with God

IV Genesis 5-Revelation 20 God is fixing the problem

V Genesis 21-22 God fixed the problem and we are back in the Garden.

Our sermon series is about how God fixed the problem.

God’s plan:

He chose a man of faith through whom to bless all nations. And Abraham is the father of us all, spiritually.

God gave Abraham the torch.

He gave him a promised Son through whom he created a nation: Israel

Abraham passed the torch to the promised son Isaac, Isaac to Jacob, Jacob to Judah.

Notice Genesis 49:10-11 Messianic hints. God is working his plan.

I am very encouraged that both Jacob and Judah had great spiritual comebacks

He set them free from slavery

He gave them a Law

He gave them a place.

Ruth: A snapshot. God’s plan is still in place. (Ruth 4:18-22) Matthew 1:5

Notice this outline

14 generations from Abraham to the kingdom

14 generations of the kingdom

14 generations of exile and no king

Then God sent the king for whom the entire thing was intended to anticipate.

He gave them a king: David—a huge part of the torch relay plan.

Jesus is the Son of David. (Jeremiah 23:5)

David is king because Jesus is king.

David saved Israel when he took out Goliath

David was a good shepherd. A VERY good shepherd.

But this brings us to Solomon.

He gave them a temple through Solomon.

[He sent them prophets

He sent them into exile

He brought them back to the Promised Land

Finally, he sent the Messiah to bring salvation.]

The message of this lesson:

Through the Messiah, God will dwell with and in his people.

2 Sam 7 The covenant with David. 7:27 I will build a house for you. He is talking about us.

David’s final word to Solomon 1 Kings 2:1-4

David’s advice: If you want to pass along the torch:

a. Be strong (in the Lord). Trust God.

b. Show yourself a man. Do what is right. Be a person of character.

c. Observe (obey) the Lord your God.

d. Walk in his way and keep his decrees. If so, you will prosper (and pass on the torch to your children)

This is the key to making it to heaven. We need to keep walking…. By faith.

1 Kings 3:1-14 God blesses Solomon

1 Kings 3:1 Uh oh…. The seeds of Solomon’s destruction. He allows a weed to grow in his vineyard, and he never pulled it out.

1 Kings 3:4-14. A great heart. God wants to give us great gifts, but we must be committed to using them for God and for his people. Imagine what God could do through you.

1 Kings 8:6-27 Solomon dedicates the temple and God comes and dwells in his temple.

v. 6-13. Q: How do you picture God? This is his  *shekinah* his glory

Shekinah the glory of his divine presence. The message: Through the torch relay, God will dwell in his people.

v. 14-21 esp. v. 20 The torch has been passed.

v. 22-27 Will God really dwell on the earth? Really???????

The answer: YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

But all this is a mere foreshadow. Let’s look at its fulfillment in the NT.

John 1:14 God dwelt with his people. To the extent you can see God….

Not only that, but when Jesus left, he made us the temple

1 Cor 3:16 The glory of the Lord. The *shekinah* lives in us (if we have been baptized) WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Picture Solomon’s temple and the priests running out of there. That is you!

1 Cor 6:19 Therefore, honor God with your body.

If you are the temple….. If the “torch” of the Holy Spirit has been passed on to you, how ought you to live?

In Ezekiel Ch 9 & 10 God’s people practiced idolatry and God’s shekinah left the temple. May this not be you!!!!

Hebrews 10:19-22 Through Jesus we can walk right into the temple—the Holy of Holies. Jesus is our access to God. The torch relay is, in a sense finished. But we still need to pass it on.