

THREE BIG CONVENTIONS END—I WA, OHIO, JERSEY 9,000 Delegates Participated In Proceedings.

CREATION DRAMA MAKES HIT

Pastor Russell, Association's President, Was In Attendance at Each—In Discourse He Discussed, "Church of Christ a Living Temple"—Solomon's Temple a Type of Temple of God, the Church of Christ—Quarry Under Site.



Clinton, Iowa, July 5.—One of three big conventions of the I. B. S. A. closed its sessions of eight days here today in the Coliseum with an address by Pastor Russell in the afternoon and the exhibition in the evening of Part IV. of the Pastor's famous Photo-Drama of Creation.

The Photo-Drama of Creation, which has already been exhibited in over one hundred cities at home and is now running abroad also, was an interesting feature of the evening sessions of the three Conventions. Creation's Drama depicts Solomon's Temple in its various stages of preparation, showing the stone quarries under Jerusalem, the cedar forests in Lebanon, and details incident to its erection and dedication.

The Pastor declared that both St. Paul and St. Peter are our authority for saying that the Church which is the Body of Christ is the Temple of God, and that His Temple is holy, God, who condemned the whole world in Adam, and who has declared that He will have no fellowship with sinners, has provided a way by which these sinners can come back into harmony with Him.

After every living stone has been placed in the great antitypical Temple, the glorification of the Temple will follow. In the type, King Solomon, type of our Lord Jesus, offered the sacrifice, and God accepted it; then the glory of the Lord filled the Temple. So in the antitype, the Church in glory will not be the Temple of God until the Heavenly Father Himself shall have recognized it.

The Living Stones of the Great Temple. After having described the Temple of Solomon as a type, the Pastor proceeded to discuss the antitype—the Church of the living God. The Builder and Maker is God, he declared. The quarry is the world in general. The living stones are taken out of the world, separated from the world, but are chiseled and polished in this antitypical quarry, made ready for their positions, and then taken to their proper place.

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going on. As the Scriptures express it, the Bride makes herself ready. Each living stone polishes other.

The Pastor here drew a lesson for those who are following in the steps of Jesus. He pointed out that while various severe experiences, trials and tests may come from the world, yet the very finest polishing is produced by contact with the brethren.

Construction of Antitypical Temple. Next the construction of the antitypical Temple was discussed. Eighteen hundred years ago the foundation was laid—in Heaven—the Top Stone, as the Apostle says. All the other stones must be fitted up into Him, according to St. Paul. In describing the antitypical Temple the Apostle here uses the figure of the pyramid, the top stone of which is a miniature pyramid, all remaining stones being fitted to come into line with it.

To the Pastor's understanding of the Scriptures, the building of the antitypical Temple will be done at the close of this Gospel Age. Just as in the construction of Solomon's Temple, all the materials were first prepared, and then the building began, so it will be with the antitypical Temple. Our great Master Workman has been getting ready the "living stones," supervising their preparation under strict rules as to shape, size, quality, etc.

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"A House of Prayer for All Nations." The Pastor then showed the purpose for which this glorious Temple of God is being constructed. Back in the Law Dispensation the required information was pictorially set forth in types and shadows. The Prophet Isaiah had foretold that God's House was to be called a House of Prayer for all nations. This was what the Temple at Jerusalem was in particular. It was arranged in different sections, representing various classes, as it were.

Another Old Testament picture which the Pastor explained was that of the typical priesthood. The Priests of this new Temple of the future will be Jesus, the great High Priest, and His Church, the underpriests. Jesus will be both a King and Priest—a Priest upon His Throne—after the

Order of Melchizedek. Our Lord is not yet upon His Throne, but remains waiting at the right hand of the Majesty on High, until the antitypical Temple is completed. The Father's right hand signifies the place of chief favor, next to the Father Himself. As it is written, "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."

Other Pictures of the Temple. Various New Testament references to the Church of Christ as a Temple were then explained. One of these was St. Paul's question addressed to the Corinthian Church: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you?"

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"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the First Resurrection; on such the Second Death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God, and shall reign with Christ a thousand years."

The Pastor then declared that these future Priests are also Knights of the Temple. While at present they do not wear white plumes, yet by and by they shall wear, not only white plumes, but white raiment. Our Lord has said, "They shall walk with Me in white; for they are worthy."

Elsewhere the Apostle calls the bodies of those begotten of the Holy Spirit tabernacles. The difference between a tabernacle and a temple is that the former is a temporary structure, while the latter is permanent.

In that same connection the Apostle goes on to say, "What communion hath light with darkness?" and again, "What harmony is there between the Temple of God and the temple of idols?"

The Pastor concluded his address with an exhortation to those who realize themselves to be living stones in process of preparation for a place in the antitypical Temple of God.

While each faithful follower of the Lord looks forward longingly to the glories of the future, when the glory of the Lord shall fill the Temple, yet each should remember that unless he is submissive to the chisellings and polishings of the present he will be set aside as a living stone, and his place given to another.

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