

Father, teach us to learn from your Son!

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19:8-11

1Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

God delivered the Commandments to the Israelites through Moses. Included was a warning concerning idolatry as the Lord God indicates he is a jealous God and mercy will be given to those who love God and keep the commandments. The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord and is to be protected as a day of spiritual renewal.

The psalmist notes that the Lord's laws, decrees, precepts, commands, and ordinances are perfect, trustworthy, right, clear, and true. They refresh the soul, give wisdom to the simple, rejoice the heart, and enlighten the mind.

Paul speaks to the brothers and sisters in Corinth noting that while the Jews look for signs and the Greeks for wisdom, we proclaim Christ crucified. This is a stumbling block to some and considered foolish by others but God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and his weakness stronger than human strength.

In the Gospel Jesus sent the message that the Temple is a sanctuary, a special place that is to be kept holy and not to be profaned by worldly dealings that belong in the market place. If the temple building was to be destroyed it would take over 40 years to rebuild it but consider how much more intricate is Jesus' human body and yet the power of God raises it in just three days. Perhaps forty years contrasted with three days is another way of exemplifying the difference between human power and God's power

The Father set aside the day of rest,
And the Son is Lord even of the Sabbath ;
The Holy Spirit refreshes and enlightens us on this day.

The destruction of the temple, points to the positive side of Jesus' program, just as the destruction of the temple expresses its negative aspect. The old order of worship is to be replaced by a new one—an order focused no longer on the old temple, built of wood and stone but on the body of Christ, which is Spirit and flesh.

Jesus enters the temple in Jerusalem and cleanses it of the moneychangers. "My Father's house," he says, "is not to be a marketplace." The religious leaders ask for a sign and Jesus tells them he will raise this temple in three days if they destroy it. He was referring to the "temple of his body" and his disciples remembered this when he was raised from the dead. He showed many signs to the people but would not trust himself to them as he understood human nature only too well.



(Dore Bible Gallery)