

THREE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

God's messenger is told to "Show the HOUSE to the House"; Ezekiel 43:10

1. Jesus said "In my Father's HOUSE are many "mansions" (rooms; abodes); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you"; John 14:2

2. In the New Testament, the BELIEVER (not a building), is called the HOUSE OF GOD (temple, dwelling place); 2 Corinthians 5:1-2; 1 Peter 2:5

a. Every believer is an INDIVIDUAL "house"; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 3:6

b. Every believer is also part of God's CORPORATE "house"; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:19, 22; Hebrews 10:21

3. An Old Testament PATTERN of God's House is revealed in the description of the Tabernacle of Moses. It is a type and shadow of the New Testament Tabernacle, the Church. This is the "great house" (God's Residence), which contains different kinds of "vessels"; 2 Timothy 2:20-21. This pattern reveals:

a. **THREE Levels** of spiritual maturity, growth, development and rewards

b. **THREE Parts** of God's House represents three "groups" among believers

The Outer Court

Foolish Virgins

Passover

Outer Gate

Brazen Altar

Blade

30 Fold

The New Birth

Spirit has been saved

Out of Egypt

Gleanings

Faith

Water Baptism

Babes

Justification

Milk

Remnant of her seed

Birthright

Brass Vessels

Multitudes

Initial Love

Walk

Orpah

The Holy Place

Wise Virgins

Pentecost

Door of Tabernacle

Candlestick Realm

Head of Grain

60 Fold

H.S. Power and Gifts

Soul is being saved

Through the Wilderness

Harvest

Hope

Holy Spirit Baptism

Youth

Sanctification

Bread

Sun-clothed Woman

Blessing

Silver Vessels

Nine Disciples

Intermediate Love

Run

Naomi

Most Holy Place

The Watchmen

Tabernacles

Inner Veil

Ark and Mercy Seat

Full, Mature Grain

100 Fold

Rest, Union

Body shall be saved

Into the Land

Firstfruits

Love

Baptism in Fire

Fathers

Glorification

Meat

Manchild

Inheritance

Gold Vessels

Peter, James, John

Mature Love

Mount Up

Ruth (Bride)

The Bible tells us that we shall all be changed, but it does NOT say that we are all changed at the same time: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each IN HIS OWN ORDER: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming (parousia)"; 1 Cor. 15:23. The Lord is measuring His temple and His altar; Rev. 11:1. We must come to the "measure" of the fullness of Christ; Eph. 4:13

THE NUMBER **THREE** IS SIGNIFICANT IN SCRIPTURE

1. The Biblical Harvest is revealed in **3 phases**: Firstfruits, the Main Harvest and Gleanings. These are descriptive of different “gatherings” of people.
2. Man is a **3 part being**, and his salvation is progressive: the spirit is saved; John 3:3; the soul is being saved; James 1:21, and the body shall be saved; 1 Corinthians 15:53-54
3. There are **3 stages** of development among believers: The Blade, The Ear (Head of Grain), and the Full Corn in the Ear (Mature Grain); Mark 4:28
4. Moses’ Tabernacle was built in **3 parts**:
 - a. The Outer Court – all Israel could enter this area
 - b. The Holy Place – only the priests entered here
 - c. The Most Holy Place – only the High Priest could enter here
5. The “Ark” consisted of **3 stories** (levels); Genesis 6:16
6. The Parable of the Sower is the **KEY PARABLE**, which gives understanding for all the others; Mark 4:11,13. The “good ground” in this parable produces fruit in **3 degrees**: 30, 60, 100-fold. The “fruit” is the fruit of the Spirit, the nature and character of Christ.
7. There are **3 major Feasts** of the Lord: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Each of these pilgrimage festivals are Harvest/Resurrection Feasts; Deuteronomy 16:16-17, which speak of appointed times for the “Harvest” of men.
8. There are **3 groups** of people described in Ezekiel, chapter 44:
 - a. Israel - this is the entire nation of God’s people; Ezekiel 44:6-8
 - b. The Levites - they minister exclusively “to the House”; Ezekiel 44:10-14
 - c. The Zadok Priesthood - they minister “to the Lord” and also the house; Ez. 44:15-30
9. Jesus described a “Woman” who took “leaven” (speaks of Kingdom influence), and hid it in **3 “measures”** of meal; Matthew 13:33
10. Aaron’s Rod reveals **3 stages**: Buds, Blossoms and Almonds; Numbers 17:8
11. There are **3 stages** of Love described in the Song of Solomon:
 - a. Initial Love – “My beloved is mine, and I am His”; Song of Sol. 2:16
 - b. Intermediate Love – “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine”; Song of Sol. 6:3
 - c. Mature Love – “I am my beloved’s, and his desire is toward me”; Song of Sol. 7:10
12. There are **3 “Passovers”** in Scripture to consider:
 - a. The Passover Of Salvation; Exodus 12:7-10. This is initial salvation, “passing over” from spiritual death to life; it is the conversion of the sinner, whereby the Blood of Jesus Christ is applied to the “house” by faith. It involves the eating of, and the sharing of the “Lamb” with your neighbor. We are told to “eat” with our “loins girded”, with “shoes”

on our feet and our “staff” in hand. We must eat it “in haste”; we must “leave Egypt” (bondage to sin, the world) immediately.

b. The Passover Of Conquest; Joshua, chapter 5. This “passing over” points to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is necessary for spiritual conquest. It gives power to do spiritual warfare, and it involves the “reproach of Egypt” being rolled away. Another “circumcision” is required, a deeper application of the Cross, in preparation for full possession of the Land. (You cannot rule in victory with Christ apart from being continually filled with the Holy Spirit); Ephesians 5:18

c. The Passover Of The Kingdom; Luke 22:14-18, 28-30. This “Passover” applies to disciples, overcomers, who are given the promise to rule and reign with Christ, to sit with Him in His throne. These shall be delivered from death, and will “pass over” into a new age. Having been transformed, they shall demonstrate the supernatural life of the Spirit in the Kingdom Age to come.

13. There are “3 deaths” to be considered:

1. Death to the World:

- a.** Is revealed by Israel leaving Egypt and passing through the Red Sea
- b.** This brings us into the Kingdom of God

2. Death to Sin:

- a.** This is revealed by the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai
- b.** This brings us into victory over satan and the fleshly nature

3. Death to Self-Will:

- a.** Is revealed by Israel passing through the Jordan River
- b.** This brings us into our full inheritance of fruitfulness and dominion; 2 Cor 4:10-11

14. There were 3 significant events in the life of a Hebrew boy (as illustrated in the life of Jesus). Different Greek words are used to describe a “son” in the New Testament:

a. “Circumcision” on the eighth day; the word “teknion” describes an “infant”; he receives the “mark” of the Covenant; Galatians 4:19; 1 John 2:28; 3:7

b. “Bar-Mitzvah”, meaning “a son accountable”, took place as he entered puberty. He is now held accountable to keep God’s Commandments. “Teknon” is the word is used to describe a “youth”; Matthew 19:13; Luke 18:16

c. “Huiotesia”, meaning “Son Placement”, occurs about the age of 30. This ceremony included his father placing his hand upon his son’s head, declaring: This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. “Huios” describes a “mature” son; Rom. 8:19; Rev. 12:5.

15. There are 3 spheres of Inheritance: Dust, Sand and Stars; Gen. 13:16; 15:5; 22:17-18

16. The “Psalms of the Ascent” (Psalms 120-134) reveal God’s people ascending into higher realms in the spirit as they grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This “upward journey” leads to Mount Zion and the full authority of His throne. The Psalms of Ascent are divided into **3 stages** of Advancement:

- a.** The Beginning Stage – Psalms 120-124, From the Earthly to the Heavenly
- b.** The Intermediate Stage – Psalms 125-129, From the Soulful to the Spiritual
- c.** The Mature Stage – Psalms 130-134, From Duality to Oneness

Terri Hill

