

Holy Bible Presentation
By Cloyd W. Eppley, P.M. #672

Brother _____,

On behalf of the Officers and Members of Woodlawn Lodge No. 672, it is my privilege to present to you the greatest of the three great lights in Freemasonry, this Holy Bible.

In Masonry, the Holy Bible is known as the volume of sacred law. No Lodge can open nor any work done without it being present upon the altar. The Holy Bible opens when the Lodge opens and closes when the Lodge closes. It was from the Holy Bible our ancient brethren at Jerusalem obtained their wisdom and knowledge to lay the foundation work for Free Masonry.

In all the rich symbolism of Ancient Craft Masonry two symbols, or symbolic themes predominate. One is the search for light, the other is the labor of building. The source of light is the Holy Bible, and the grand representation of the builder's art is King Solomon's Temple.

Searching persistently and building carefully, the candidate travels slowly toward the east. As he pursues his quest for light and more light and still further light in Masonry, he learns by the way to use the working tools of the stone craftsman, until at last he finds himself portraying the character of the greatest of all legendary builders, the master architect of King Solomon's Temple. Searching and building, light and the Temple, these two dominant Masonic Themes are distinct but not separate, complementary rather than supplementary.

And the search and the labor are not completed by the candidate within the Lodge, Light is revealed, and the sacred source of all light is clearly indicated, but the search for complete illumination must be eternal.

The Temple in the Masonic Ritual is almost but not quite complete, the allegory rises from a physical to a spiritual Temple, "a house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens".

Regardless of symbolic revelations in Masonic Degrees apart from the Lodge, the unending search and the labor toward perfection begun in the Lodge must continue with the initiated Mason throughout his life.

It was upon this Holy Bible you reverently placed your hands while taking all your Masonic Obligations.

On the front page of this Holy Bible you will find your name, the dates when you were initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. It is signed by the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Secretary.

On several of the succeeding pages you may have the brethren who are here this evening, and have witnessed you being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, sign your Bible, and I urge that you have all the brethren sign as I feel fully confident that as you grow older in Masonry, you will look back on this Holy Bible and it will become a memorial to you.

This book is yours, my Brother, to read and consult through a long and useful life for Masonry and for mankind. Read from it often, for only by its guidance will you find the light which will ultimately reveal that which was lost, the goal of our spiritual seeking.