

REBUILDING A ROYAL ARCH TEMPLE

28TH OCTOBER 2013, KENDAL MASONIC HALL

As a Royal Arch Mason , do you know:

- Anything about the historic background to the ritual?
- What do the different items of equipment on the floor of a Royal Arch Chapter represent?
- What are the Platonic Bodies?
- Why are there 6 candles around the pedestal?
- What in this instance do the Bible, Square and Compasses represent?
- What does the Arch represent?
- What is the significance of the large Banners in the East?
- Why are there smaller Ensigns around the Chapter carpet and what do they represent?
- Have you heard an explanation of that magnificent and unforgettable scene revealed to us all in the ceremony of exaltation?

Did you know that the existence of the magnificent and costly Temple, built and furnished by King Solomon (as we are informed in the Craft), was fairly short-lived? Solomon was surrounded by many pagan peoples, and even the Hebrews themselves tended from time to time to fall into idolatry. After Solomon's death, ten of the twelve tribes under the leadership of Jeroboam broke away to form the independent kingdom of Israel and made the city of Samaria its capital. Two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remained faithful to the line of David and held onto the mountain stronghold of Jerusalem.

The area suffered greatly from numerous attacks from the surrounding hostile nations (as it does to this day) and what appeared to be the end of Jerusalem and its magnificent temple came in 586 B.C. when both were plundered by Nebuzaradan, Captain of the Guard to Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. The Temple treasures were stolen and the two faithful tribes were carried off to Babylon leaving only the peasants and others whose enforced duty it was to till the land.

About 70 years later, Cyrus the Persian King conquered Babylon and issued a decree allowing the Jewish exiles to return to their native land only to find the city and its once magnificent Temple in ruins – What happened next is the basis of the Royal Arch ceremony - If you want to learn more – Come and see a Royal Arch Chapter assembled before your eyes, with explanations about its 'furniture' etc.

A demonstration of the Re-building of a Royal Arch Temple will be presented by the members of Custodes Copiae Chapter of Provincial Grand Stewards No 9430 in Kendal Masonic Hall in the presence of the M.E. Grand Superintendent – E.Comp. Norman James Thompson DL - and his team of Provincial Grand Officers on Monday October 28th 2013 commencing at 6.30pm.

Seating is limited and, therefore, early booking is essential – Ask your Chapter Scribe E for details.