

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

TEXT: Daniel 9:27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

Revelation 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure **the temple** of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

Revelation 13:5-7 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, **His tabernacle**, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits as God in **the temple** of God, showing himself that he is God.

INTRODUCTION: Three of these passages speak of the activity of _____ during the tribulation. What is unusual about these passages?

- The antichrist will end the offering of _____.
- He will blaspheme God and His tabernacle or temple.
- The antichrist will even sit in the temple of God, claiming to be _____.
- In Rev. 11, an angel tells John to _____ the temple.

But today, there is no temple! No temple has existed since 70 A.D. when it was destroyed by the Romans. Therefore, sometime before or during the tribulation, ...

I. THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM MUST BE REBUILT

A. When is the temple to be rebuilt?

1. There is no reference to the temple until the _____ of the tribulation, but at that time it is already operational.
2. The building of the temple could begin before the _____.
3. At the latest, the temple will be rebuilt early in the tribulation.

- B. The rebuilding of the temple may well be connected to the war of _____ and _____.
1. Some Bible students believe the presence of the temple or its rebuilding will _____ the war.
 2. Some Bible students believe the rebuilding will be the _____ of the Jews response to God's miraculous deliverance of their people in the war with Gog.

II. PROBLEMS NOW INHIBITING REBUILDING

A. Political realities

B. Location on the Temple Mount

1. Most believe the temple location is the _____ as the Dome of the Rock.
2. Six other theories place it somewhere else on what is known as the Temple Mount.
3. For a summary of several of these views and some interesting diagrams, go to www.templemount.org.
4. Why do we not know? Why can't the archaeologists tell us for sure where the original temples were?

Matthew 24:1–2 1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

Mark 13:1–2 1 Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!” 2 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

Luke 21:5–6 5 Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, 6 “These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

These three passages above say essentially the same thing. But now let's read another passage that is similar, but different. Luke is telling us about when Jesus entered Jerusalem on the day we call the Triumphal Entry at the beginning of Holy Week, the week He was crucified.

Luke 19:41–44 41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 **For days will**

come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

5. There is another theory that places the temple on _____ mountain, south of the Temple Mount, one closer to the city of David.
- This interesting theory is explained and supported by Dr. Ernest L. Martin. (I am not endorsing his theory, and I stand contrary to his theology; however, I find his presentation of this proposed location for the two previous temples to be fascinating. His book is *The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot*.)
 - Martin places the first temples, on the southeastern ridge, south of what is called today the Temple Mount, above the area of the Gihon Spring.
 - He says the real Mount _____ is on this ridge as well.
 - He claims that what is labeled the Temple Mount today was never the site of one of the temples. Instead it was the site of Fort Antonia, where the Romans were garrisoned. All scholars agree that Fort Antonia was on the Temple Mount. Martin said that Fort Antonia filled the whole of the Temple Mount, and he offers much evidence in support of his claim.
 - Dr. Martin declares that his view alone does _____ to Jesus' prophecy in Lk. 19 that not one stone of all Jerusalem would be left upon the other. He says that the stones which make up the sides of the Temple Mount (Fort Antonia) were left in place because this area was NOT a part of Jerusalem.
 - All other views DO make the Temple Mount to be a part of Jerusalem. Therefore, the question must be asked, "In what sense is the prophecy of our Lord fulfilled with these stones, some 10,000 of them, still perfectly in place for thousands of years?"
 - In further support of this view, he says that when Jews tried to rebuild the temple during the reigns of Emperors Constantine and Julian (centuries after the destruction of the temple by _____), that their partial reconstructions were near where he placed the temple site, not on what is called today the Temple Mount. Remnants of these constructions remain today.
 - I am not sure what to believe about the original site(s) of the temple. Martin's argument from Lk. 19 moves me because I know that what Jesus said will most certainly be completely fulfilled if it is not completely fulfilled already.

- On the other hand, some scholars I trust, who know tons more about the history and archeology of Jerusalem, reject Martin's claim, even though they support the inerrancy of Scripture as strongly as I do or as Martin does.
- The good news is that we do not have to know where the temple was. God knows. He will cause the temple to be built again where He wants it to be!
- This is interesting, however. What a difference it would make if a temple site were agreed upon that was not on the official Temple Mount!

III. PROGRESS TO DATE

- A. The Temple Institute is an organization dedicated to seeing temple worship reestablished
- B. The Institute for Talmudic Commentaries has
1. published 38 books concerning the rebuilding of the temple and other points of Judaism
 2. maintained a data base of Jews eligible to serve as _____
- C. Many temple priests have already been trained.
- D. Many temple implements have already been made.
1. Priest's _____
 2. Serving implements
 3. _____ instruments
 4. Most things needed have already been reproduced.
- E. Locating the Ark of the Covenant
1. Currently, many possibilities have been offered.
 - a. _____ - This theory is popularized in a book by Grant Jeffrey. Mr. Jeffrey believes the ark was stolen by Ethiopian Jews and that a substitute ark was left in its place in the temple. He claims the real ark is protected by a secret society among those Ethiopian Jews even today and will be given to Israel when the new temple is ready to receive it.

An alternate to this theory says that the ark was taken by Levites during the reign of wicked _____ to Pharaoh Neco of Egypt (who was an Ethiopian) in order to protect it from the evil king. Certain references in the Bible could be to the attempts of good king _____,

Manasseh's successor, trying unsuccessfully to get it back. This theory offers a more substantiated version of how the ark got to Ethiopia, but ends with the ark still hidden away in Ethiopia.

- b. Mt. Nebo, _____ - reportedly found by Tom Crotzer in a cave where it was hidden by the prophet Jeremiah to protect it from the marauding Babylonians.
 - c. In a vault underneath the original _____ mount - believed by most conservative Jewish rabbis. It was hidden to protect it from the Babylonians and cannot today be retrieved because of prohibitions against excavations on the temple mount.
 - d. Under Mt. _____ - reportedly found by Ron Wyatt. Mr. Wyatt claims to have seen the ark in a cave that is directly underneath the site of Jesus' crucifixion. He says there is a fissure in the ground that allowed the blood of Christ to drip down on the Mercy Seat that covers the Ark of the Covenant.
2. I do not know if any of these are accurate, but they demonstrate the intensity of interest with which the Ark of the Covenant is being sought.
 3. I do believe the ark will be found because we know for sure that temple worship will be reinstated, and the ark is central to that worship.

CONCLUSION: We live in fascinating days. The things we have and can see in our lifetime should deepen our conviction of the _____ of God's Word concerning the past, the present, and the future. It should cause us to watch, live ready, and be urgent in our desire to rescue the perishing.