

THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM SHALL BE REBUILT

Ezekiel 40:4-5; Daniel 9:27; 12:11; Revelation 11:1-2

Introduction: There was a story told some time ago about a young Israeli army officer who was severely wounded and being too weak to retreat with his comrades from the invading army on the Golan Heights, he lay waiting to be killed. Hearing voices of the enemy he heard them prepare to shoot and kill him but no shots were fired instead he heard the enemy soldiers running away. Slowly opening his eyes he saw strange looking figures surrounding him. One of them spoke to him and told him that God had a special task for him and that was to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The enemy soldiers were about to kill him but seeing the many angels around the soldier, they fled in fear. Now is this just a fictional story or did it really happen?

Today this Israeli man is said to lead a group called "The Temple Faithful" whose only interest in life is to see that the Temple in Jerusalem is one day rebuilt and the sacrificial system re-established. God did say that all this would take place and then His Son, Jesus, would come back for the second time.

What is so important to Israel that the Temple be rebuilt on the same exact spot as the one that existed in Jesus' time? It all starts with the beginning of Israel.

I. IT ALL STARTED WITH THE TABERNACLE

1. God called Abraham to form a nation that would be dedicated to worshipping only God.
 - Abraham did not live to see it all take place but many things that happened in his lifetime formed the groundwork for that special nation's (Israel) relationship with God.
 - He offered a tithe to Melchizedek at a place that later became Jerusalem.
 - He offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain that later became the actual site of the Temple.
2. While in bondage to Egypt for those three to four hundred years, Israel never learned much about God, and they never had a place of worship if they had known about God.
3. Moses delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage and it was through him that God began to make His nation visible and known.
 - Through Moses God gave Israel the Ten Commandments.
 - The twelve tribes were organized, named and given God's instructions.
 - The first visible, permanent place of worship was established, **a Tabernacle**.
 - In this tabernacle, God made His presence visible called the shekinah glory.
 - God led His nation, Israel, through the wilderness by a cloud in the daytime and a cloud of fire when they traveled by night.
4. The tabernacle was the place of worship and the sign of God's presence for several hundred years.

II. A TEMPLE REPLACED THE TABERNACLE

1. David wanted to replace the tabernacle with a permanent place for God to show His presence but God had other plans, God wanted David's son, Solomon to build it instead of David.

2. In time Solomon completed the temple on Mt. Moriah, the place David had bought and offered a sacrifice for Israel's sins which in turn caused God to stop punishing Israel.
3. For almost 400 years Israel worshiped God in the temple built by Solomon and always the temple glowed when the presence of God was there.
4. Sadly, the temple was destroyed in 586 B.C. and Israel was sent into captivity for 50 years.

III. A SECOND TEMPLE WAS MADE OUT OF THE REMAINS OF THE FIRST TEMPLE

1. The destroyed first temple was rebuilt in 537B.C. by Zerubbab and others which was much smaller.
 - Many who remembered the first temple wept when they saw the replacement for it was nothing in comparison to the original, first temple.
 - Although it was much smaller, God's glory filled the Holy of Holies as before.
2. For almost 500 years Israel worshipped God on the same original site but in a much less glorious temple.

IV. A THIRD TEMPLE WAS STARTED BY HEROD

1. In 19 B.C. Herod began to replace the temple buildings, little by little and each building was of much more splendor and glory than those of Solomon.
 - Upon his death some 46 years later, the rebuilding of the temple ceased.
2. For over 80 years Israel got to worship God in the magnificent Temple and it's surrounding buildings and it's splendor and glory was know world wide.
 - It was larger than 20 football fields.
 - There were 1,000 columns 30 feet tall and six feet in diameter.
 - The disciples remarked to Jesus about it's beauty and splendor which caused Jesus to remark that the day was coming and was very near that not one block of the magnificent Temple would be left standing on the other.
3. In 70 A.D. the Temple was destroyed, fulfilling Jesus' predictions and also Israel was scattered across/around the world.

V. ONCE AGAIN ANOTHER TEMPLE, BUT A TEMPORARY ONE

1. Just before the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. God established a new, temporary Temple.
 - It was not just for Israel alone.
 - It was not made of mortar and stones.
 - It was not at/on a permanent, particular site/location.
2. On the Day of Pentecost, God sent His Presence (Holy Spirit) into the hearts of certain people. Believers in Jesus are the Temple of God from that day to this. Each believer is a "stone" in God's living Temple.

3. On a day of God's choosing, He will issue the order to bring His Church, His Temple, His Family home and thus will end the period of His temporary Living Temple.

VI. THE FIFTH AND FINAL TEMPLE

1. When the Church is gone, the Holy Spirit gone, the temporary Living Temple gone, Israel will have it's Temple once again on it's original site, to signify the presence of God, after over 2,000 years.
2. There is an active group of Israelites dedicated to rebuilding the Temple but also it is said:
 - That three of the most important vessels used in Temple worship have already been made:
 - The Seven-branched candelabra (Menorah)
 - The Golden Incense Altar
 - The Golden Table of Showbread
 - Men from the priestly tribe have been located and are said to be studying the scriptures/Torah to prepare themselves for priesthood in the new Temple.
 - Some are in the process of making the other furnishings of the Temple required by the Scriptures.
 - A red heifer has already been offered according to scripture but in an unofficial location.
3. All that seems to be lacking for the Temple to be rebuilt is to regain the original sacred spot which is occupied by Islamic/Arabic nations.

CONCLUSION:

1. Things are happening there in the original Temple area which are upsetting to Israel.
 - Digging under the original Temple site.
 - Historical, sacred items and pieces have been found discarded at dump sites.
2. Prophets of old told of the coming day when Israel would be gathered once again as a nation in it's own homeland and the Temple would be rebuilt. Also was told about a time when a world-wide leader would betray Israel after 3 1/2 years of a 7 year treaty, placing his image in the sacred Temple and force worship of his image.
3. Are we living in that spoken of time? Is the time near when God will call His living Temple home and allow the rebuilding of an earthly Temple once again?
4. Are YOU one of God's living stones in His living Temple? Are you a part of God's Family? Will you be caught up when God calls His Family home, or will you be left behind?