

## The Temple in Jerusalem

Scripture Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2.1-12.

The apostle Paul wrote these words in the year AD53 to correct a misunderstanding of his earlier letter which was read to mean that the Lord may come back to earth at any moment and without warning (See 1 Thessalonians 4.13-5-11). Whilst His return will be sudden and unexpected by many, and none of us will know the day nor the hour of that event, Paul said that some things must occur first. This was also foretold by many of the latter prophets and also Jesus. In this series we have studied some of them (Daniel chapters 7,8,9,11 & 12 and Matthew 24.1-31.) Paul was summarising this information.

At that date the temple built by Herod still stood in Jerusalem. It was destroyed by the Roman general, Titus in AD70. From that day to this the Jewish temple site has been occupied by gentile religious buildings. It currently sites an Islamic mosque. In order for these prophecies to be fulfilled the Jewish people who today mostly occupy and control Jerusalem, must gain control this site. How or when this will happen we have not been told. It does not demand much of our imagination to speculate on a possible scenario. It has long been a hope of the nation of Israel and will be for those who look for the coming of the Lord, an indication that the time of the end is fast approaching

### The appointed time is *the end*.

Daniel 8.19 & 11.27. The phrase *the end* and a similar phrase *the time of the end* recur in Daniel and other prophetic parts of the Bible. See Psalm 46.9, Isaiah 46.9&10, Daniel 7.26, 8.19, 12.8 Matthew 10.22, 13.39, 24.3,6,13,14, 28.20 and other gospels, 1 Corinthians 15.24, and Daniel 8.17, 11.35, 11.40, 12.4 and 12.9 and indicate the period leading up to the end. This full list of references enables us to consider these phrases. The point here being that the counting of events is backward from the end of the age known as *the times of the Gentiles* (See last study, No. 6)

The last 3½ years of this time requires the presence of the sanctuary, the Jewish temple and the reinstating of old covenant style sacrifice. See Daniel 9.26&27. In verse 26 Jerusalem and the sanctuary are destroyed. In verse 27 the sacrifice

and offering is forced to cease. (This passage reads as though the events in it occur in time in one sequence. There is however an interval of 40 years between the Messiah being cut off and the destruction of Jerusalem, and an interval of possibly 2000 years between vv 26 and 27. The sequence is limited to its topic and the years included are years for the fulfilment of the topic.) Compare Daniel 12.11 and Matthew 24.15. It is suggested, but not clearly stated in scripture, that the covenant made by the prince with Israel for seven years will include the restoration of the temple.

### The temple in the life of Israel

The temple was the place under the old covenant where God said man may commune with Him according to the provisions of the former covenant. God is eternal, existing outside time and space. 1 Kings 8.27 & Psalm 113.4. God first met with His people under

the canopy of the heavens. Genesis 8.19&20, 12.8, Exodus 3.1-5, etc. God then Ordained a tent to be the place for meeting His people. Exodus 29.12&43

God agreed to sanctify the temple that Solomon built. 1 Kings 8.1-9.9 & 2 Chronicles 7.1.

God ordained that the temple would be rebuilt under Cyrus, Ezra and Nehemiah. Ezra 1. This temple was rebuilt against the will of the Jews by King Herod, and was destroyed in AD70.

The temple will be rebuilt at the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, as stated above.

At the Coming of Messiah Jesus as King, a millennial sanctuary will be established according to Ezekiel chapters 40-48 on the north of the city, which will be on the north of the riven mount of olives. Look up Zechariah 121-7, Matthew 5.35 and Psalm 48 which is clearly messianic. This sanctuary is the dwelling place of the great King. Ezekiel 43.1-5. Former temples foreshadow this, and this is a type of that which is the eternal Presence in glory.

(Our Body a Temple. The believer today is the dwelling place of God and their body is His temple. See John 14.18-24 and 1 Corinthians 3.16&17. But this is a Christian, not Jewish concept)

**The temple in prophetic time.** The Jewish tabernacle or temple has or will continue from the institution of the first covenant until the coming of the King, except for two periods: *First* the seventy years of captivity in Babylon. This 70 years was foretold See Jeremiah 25.9-14 & 29.10, and calculated by the prophets looking to the restoration of Israel to the land,

Jerusalem as capitol and the temple as the meeting place with God. See Daniel 9.1-3. How did Daniel reckon the 70 years; as years of captivity, of servitude or the years of desolation at Jerusalem? This we do know, and it appears most significant. There is exactly 70 years from the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple under Nebuchadnezzar in AD586 until the dedication of the temple in AD516. See 2 Kings 25 and Ezra 6.13-22. *Second*, the period from the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus to the beginning of the last week of Daniel, the reign of Antichrist. Acts 15.15-18 and Amos 9.11. The word used in these two passages in both the Greek and the Hebrew is one meaning a temporary dwelling, a tent.

### The Temple of Revelation 11.1&2.

The word 'temple' here is 'naos' indicating that the sanctuary only is to be measured, and not the outer court, normally known as the court of the Gentiles. Here however the word 'given' is stronger than that indicating that the outer court has been deeded over to another for their use. The passage indicates that the temple to be built will be a shared use of the site, possibly as a terms of an agreement, the covenant for seven years.

Knowing these things revealed in God's word helps us understanding; the plan of God for the ages, the signs of the times in which we live, why the antichrist will want to help the Jews gain access to the temple site, and why he will want to occupy it for himself. It helps us to be ready to meet the King. Are you looking for Him? Read 1 John 3.1-3.

# Welcome

## Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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