

## Building God's Temple

### Who will Build God's New Temple

Will God's Temple be built before the return of Christ? If so when and by who? At one time it was thought that the Orthodox Jews would build it, but now it seems the Messianic Jews are expecting to get involved in building it. Ezekiel 40 is used to give credence to their efforts. Using both NT and OT we would look for something on the subject in the New Test. Much is said about the spiritual temple and God's temple in heaven, but nothing about building a physical temple (1Cor.3:16-17, 2Cor.6:16). There was a temple during the time of Jesus but since it's destruction it has never been rebuilt. Then there is mention about the man of sin in 2Thes.2: 3 sitting in the Temple of God.

3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.

Rev. 15:1 tells us just before Yeshua pours out his wrath on a wicked world that his temple is still in heaven v. 5-8. 1 ¶ And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

5 ¶ And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth forever and ever.

8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

1 ¶ And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

This scripture tells us this time period ends with Christ destroying the man of sin.

Does this mean there has to be a Temple built for worshiping God? One might wonder; what relevance would there be in having a Temple built when Revelation reveals that almost no large amount of people will even exist at the end of this age. A Temple may be built in Jerusalem, but if the man of sin sits in it he is the one being worshipped; it would no longer be associated with God. Would the Jews be the ones to build it? I doubt that God would accept a temple built by a nation that rejects His son. When we study the book of Revelation we find calamities and woes soon to befall at the end of this age, to the whole world Rev. 16:1-21. It seems unlikely that a temple would be built in such troubling times, unless it is by the "man of sin", the beast power. It is possible that one will be built before God pours out his wrath on a sinful world that may be called "the Temple of God", but would it be honored of God? Encouraging biblically ignorant people, in better times, to support such a hazardous project no doubt is quite a money maker for some organizations. Some are led to believe that modern day Israel is the Israel of the OT, ignoring the other tribes. They quote the scripture found in Gen.12:3 and apply it to the modern day Israelites, the Jews. But where are the Israelite nations that followed Jeroboam and was later taken into captivity many years before Judah was taken captive by Babylon (1Chr. 9:1)? Amos 7:9 And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.

10 ¶ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

11 For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. Amos is not talking about the people around Jerusalem, the Jews; he is talking about the tribes that separated from Judah. History tells us some of the tribes of Levi and Benjamin did drift back into the tribe of Judah but the rest of Israel are still out here somewhere on this earth as nations.

Israel consists of 12 tribes; Yahweh made a Covenant with one family, or nation beginning with Abram, later named Abraham, (a descendant of Shem) and his descendants: Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's (renamed Israel) twelve sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Naphtali, Joseph (who becomes two nations through his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh), and Benjamin and their children to reveal himself to, and to work with. Ezra and Nehemiah tells of parts of three nations of Israel who is known as Israel today, but it is not the whole house of Israel.

Not all Israelites nations are Jews, or live in or around Jerusalem. The promises made in the OT were made to the whole house of Israel. We find (in Gen 49) Jacob giving special blessings to his 12 sons who became the whole house of Israel. The many references made to Israel is to all 12 tribes unless specified. It is also possible some of the prophecies concerning Israel will not be fulfilled in this age.

In Ezekiel 40 we see that God gave Ezekiel a vision of a Temple that is to be built in a future age followed by Christ coming and dwelling in it. He also sees where and how the nations of Israel, all 12 tribes, will settle in the land after God cleanses and gives them His holy spirit.

Then, and only then, will the separated families become one great nation (Eze.37:21-28) again. Many teach that this will occur during the millennium, the next age. It will become clear, after studying and seeing that just as God has used the number seven throughout his plan, he has also given us 7 ages. This is an intensive study that shows: 1) creation to the flood, 2) from the flood to Christ - the giving of the law, 3) appearance of Jesus to his return to earth, - spiritual Israel – grace, 4) the millennium – resurrection of the saints – Satan bound, 5) Satan released – great resurrection of physical Israel who profanes God's name – attacked by Gentile nations – captivity of Israel, 6) Israel repents – God cleanses and gives them His holy spirit and fulfills the promises made to Abraham – Israel becomes one great nation - builds God's temple – sets a righteous example to the whole world. 7) all things are made new (Rev. 21, 22). To start this study one needs to start by studying what the bible (NT & OT) says about "age, ages, world, and time". Using a Strong's concordance we will find that "time, world, and age" all come from the same word. Another good place to go is to Rev. 20:4-9 and compare it with Eze. 37, 38, & 39. Then if you want to learn more about the 6th age read the last eight chapters of Eze. There you will find all the details of this newly settled nation of Israel and how the whole city and God's Temple are built according to the direction of God Himself. Mal. 3:1, Zech. 14:5,8, 14:9-21 tells us about the 4th coming of Christ when he comes with his saints to his Temple. There is lots more in the Bible about this period, too much to list them all. But before we end the study we should mention a little more about the 5th age, which is when Satan is released from his thousand year imprisonment, Israel is resurrected to physical life, Christ turns the world back over to Satan (for a short time). During this time the nations of Israel settle in and around Jerusalem. Israel will become very wealthy, (Eze. 38:11-13,26) and as usually happens when nations become wealthy, they drift away from God, back into idolatry, become sinful, profaning God's name among the nations, and provoke God's anger (Eze.39:23-28).

One might wonder how could all of the resurrected Israelites fit into such a small area as we find on the map today around Jerusalem. However, the study of Revelation shows the geography of our earth greatly changed from all the calamities that befall it at the end of this age. In addition to that, a thousand year age has come and gone before their resurrection. On top of that God is

going to make other changes (Isa. 43:16-21). We might ask ourselves, "is anything too difficult for God?"

The Gentile nations that grow large and powerful during the thousand year reign will allow Satan to influence them to envy the resurrected Israelites. God allows Satan to entice the Gentiles to attack Israel, using them as a tool to punish Israel. We read about that in Rev.20:7-9

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Eze. 38:1 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: {Libya: or, Phut}

6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: {think...: or, conceive a mischievous purpose}

11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, {safely: or, confidently}

12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. {To take...: Heb. To spoil the spoil, and to prey the prey} {midst: Heb. navel}

13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

14 ¶ Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? {by: Heb. by the hand of}

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; (Why will the shaking be done in Israel? Because these Gentile nations have occupied God's land, after taking all but one third of Israel out and into slavery.) 20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother?

Why would God do this to His land? The reason is that the Gentile nations have invaded the land and taken the inhabitants into captivity and claimed it for themselves. They have dared to violate God's holy people and His domain.

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Many Israelites will be killed, others taken for slaves, some few will be left to survive the best they can on a wasted land, still under the control of their enemies. Israel's captivity by their enemies will last for a very long time, then they will repent, as we see in Eze. 36:31-35

31 Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

32 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

33 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

Also read Zech. 14:1-4 and Isa. 61:4. Their land, which God claims as His, will become occupied by these Gentile nations. We find that God is eventually very angry at the Gentile nations for listening to Satan and occupying His land (Eze. 38:18-23).

The Temple plans still have not been used. But Christ said he would "come suddenly to his Temple" so there is yet to be a Temple built.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

When this happens the world will become a totally different place, ushering in the next age. But first God will pour out His anger on the Gentile nations that have wasted His land and cruelly abused His people (Eze. 36:2-7).

After Eze. 38:1-20 God will mercifully rescue surviving, punished Israel (Eze.39:25-29, 36:24-28) and brings them back into their land the second time. (The first time was out of Egypt). God promises His land to finally become the inheritance promised to Abraham (Eze.36:8-15, 37:21-28, Zech.14:12-16, Isa:36:5-12, Isa.61:4-6).

Eze.47 gives us a little information about the healing waters flowing from the temple, during the 6th age. We don't have a clue as to how long this 6th age lasts. Isa. 60, and similar scriptures, gives us a hint that it will last for a very long time, people are born and die, Gentile nations become converted. Growing house of Israel expands into many nations. It is clear that if Christ is dwelling on earth, in His Temple, Satan is no longer ruling the world as he is now. People will live to be very old, no one will die before they are one hundred years old (Isa.65:20). There will no doubt be many resurrections that we're not told about during the great white throne judgment Rev. 20:11-15. There will come a time in the 7th last age when there will not even be a temple. But we have seen in the last eight chapters of Eze. that when God wants a Temple built He will decide when and how it is to be built. He will not rely on the descendants of Judah, to build it in this age, especially when they deny Jesus as being the Messiah.

We are given some information about the 7th and last age in Isa. 65:17-25, 66:22-23, 2 Peter 3:13. Revelation 21:1-27 describes a great city of gold, but no temple is there v.22. Thus, we see that the period of time described in Ezekiel, in the last eight chapters, differ from the one in Revelation 21. It is clear that the temple that Jesus comes to will not be built until these prophecies are fulfilled concerning the resurrected house of Israel during the future age described in these scriptures. These are but a few of the scriptures that backs up this study, too many to list in one study.

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