

Meeker Christian Church  
Pastor Jim Pelley  
2-23-25  
The Lord Is Coming

I believe God created the universe and the heavens beyond. I believe He has a purpose and eternal design for everyone born in His creation, and an eternal destiny in place for their inheritance dependent on their righteous choices. I believe there is a finite period of time for the earth as we have experienced or know of it. And I believe we are in the latter time God has allotted for this present world order. Romans 13:11 *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*

The signs, prophecies and promises contained in the Holy Bible are everywhere being fulfilled. The preparatory steps resulting in Revelation 20 are exciting and encouraging. And in the present interim, human existence on earth has experiencing it all, recognized a trifle, and applied very little. Are we truly ready to receive and obey the trumpet call?

Just one of the multitude of those Bible revealed signs was brought to my attention by a recent news headline that said: Pete Hegseth floats third Jewish temple in unearthed speech: 'It could happen' By Jon Brown, Christian Post Reporter Thursday, February 06, 2025

Peter Brian Hegseth is an American author, former television host, and Army veteran who is serving as the 29th United States Secretary of Defense since January 25, 2025, in the second administration of President Donald Trump. In part he said: "There's no reason why the miracle of the re-establishment of the temple on the Temple Mount is not possible," Hegseth said during a 2018 speech at the Arutz Sheva conference in Jerusalem, according to the Times of Israel. "I don't know how it would happen. You don't know how it would happen, but I know that it could happen," he continued. "A step in that process, a step in every process, is a recognition that facts and activities on the ground truly matter." "That's why going and visiting Judea and Samaria and understanding that sovereignty — the very sovereignty of Israeli soil, Israeli cities, locations — is a critical next step to showing the world that this is the land for Jews and the Land of Israel," he added.

Your staff believes so strongly in all of this, and in obedience to scripture, that we place a comment regarding prayers for Jerusalem in every weekly newsletter.

The Third Temple in Jerusalem is a significant topic in Jewish beliefs, with ongoing preparations for its rebuilding. Recent developments indicate that the rebuilding of the Third Temple is viewed as a prophetic marker of the end times, with some far-right Jewish activists advocating for its construction on the site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. This situation is politically sensitive and involves various religious and cultural implications, as the Temple Mount is revered by both Jews and Muslims.

Many years ago, in the 1970's I think it was Jean and I went on a tour to Israel with a friend we had been introduced to who at the time started the Lamb and Lion Ministries in Texas, Dr. David Reagan - He helped us to understand that the Bible clearly teaches that a new temple — which will be called The Third Temple — will be built in the future.

The First Temple was the one that Solomon built with much of the material having been provided by his father King David in the 900's BC. Solomon's temple was eventually destroyed in 586 BC by Babylon with most Jews taken as slaves to their country.

The Second Temple was built after the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity. The temple mount location on which it sat on Mount Moriah was later greatly expanded and beautified by King Herod during his reign in 37- 4 BC. But since the sacrifices were never stopped during this renovation and expansion prior to the birth of Jesus, the new temple was still considered to be The Second Temple. That second temple was totally destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

A Moslem Mosque, The Dome of The Rock was eventually constructed on the Temple Mount starting in 691 AD. And remains there today.

This prophetic Third Temple will exist during the Great Tribulation. Which is the first half of the upcoming 7 years of tribulation following the rapture of Christians from the earth. An early prophecy of that is taught in Daniel with the pronoun "he" being the antichrist 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."*

The Apostle Paul mentions it when he declares that the "the man of sin" will profane the temple by entering it and declaring himself to be God 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 *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 worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

The Third Temple is also mentioned in the book of Revelation when John is told to measure it — a symbolic way of telling him to assess its spiritual condition.

Revelation 11:1-2 *11 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. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*

SO when will the third temple be rebuilt? The Bible does not specifically reveal the answer to this question. All it says for certain is that the temple will be in existence when the Antichrist reveals himself as we saw in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 a few minutes ago. And that it will be in the middle of the Tribulation as recorded in Daniel 9:27 we read earlier. Since this will be only three and a half years into the Tribulation, some have concluded that the temple will likely be rebuilt before the Tribulation begins. However as we study this third temple and the Jewish preparation, one possibility is that the temple may be literally resurrected overnight! That's because the Jews could erect a tent temple like the Tabernacle of the time of Moses.

With what we are permitted to learn, the Jews are ready to do so at any moment. Everything has been prepared. The possibility is that once a temporary temple is put up, they will resume the sacrifices and then start building a more permanent structure around and above the temporary one. And that is where the news of the red heifers that were imported from Texas in 2022 supports the building of the 3rd temple.

Let me review a scenario for the sequence of events that lie ahead for believers as the Jews prepare their 3rd temple: When the fulfillment of all the prophecies and signs of the times, the non-scriptural term "rapture" will occur. That simply refers to the catching up or removal of Christians from earth as described in: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Next in sequence is the seven years called tribulation and the great tribulation. That covers roughly chapters 6 through the start of chapter 20 of Revelation and is the part of Bible prophecy that upsets and confuses nearly everyone who reads the terrifying details of it. But now you know that dreadful 7 years is a description of God's wrath being poured out on the earth as a retribution upon and warning to - all readers of all ages not to ignore good and embrace evil. Here is why you may know that: Revelation

15:1 *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.*

Let me summarize that 7 years of tribulation this way: You as a believer will not be involved. The tribulation time is only for those who did not accept Jesus who are left on earth at the rapture. An abundance of the hundreds of Bible prophecies focus on just that 7 year period of time. God in his mercy has sent all those prophecies to warn us to accept Jesus.

Next in the scenario is in Revelation Chapter 20 that concludes the tribulation of 7 years and gives us all we know apart from an occasional prophecy of the 1,000 years. The result of those seven years of tribulation is that satan and all evil influences on earth will be imprisoned for a thousand years. AND HERE YOU CHRISTIANS WHO WERE RAPTURED BECOME INVOLVED AGAIN: Colossians 3:3-4 *For you died, (referring to your baptism) and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

That is the REAL SECOND COMING, the first coming of Jesus was his birth, at the rapture, Jesus only calls from the heavens, He did not come to earth. But this time, the 2nd coming, He came to earth as in Revelation 20:4b *...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* And again – Christians who were raptured are included in the “they” lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Next in sequence at the end of the 1,000 years is the the battle of Armageddon as it has become familiarly known from the description in Revelation 20:7-10 *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Sequentially we – all and only Christians including the redeemed after the tribulation — have now arrived at their eternal destination as described in Revelation 21:1 *Now I see a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

I close with what I interpret as not only regarding the book of Revelation, but applies to all the Bible: Revelation 22:6-7 *Then he said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”*

Invitation: We take time to teach these things from the Bible to guide listeners to the incredible revelation of the Bible and the promises for those who hear and believe and follow through with baptism as an example of their acceptance of God's love and promises for eternity. Here is the bottom line of becoming a Christian – if you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he was sent to earth by God to take away the sins of all who would acknowledge Him then you are ready for baptism. Nobody was, is, or ever will be good enough to deserve that forgiveness, it is only possible because of God's love and provision to those who accept Him because we realize our sin and want to do something about it. We all still stumble and carelessly sin even after we become a Christian-but becoming a Christian means we receive Jesus and desire to learn and grow and serve throughout our lives.