



THE THIRD AND FOURTH TEMPLE, and MILLENNIUM

Part II

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INTRODUCTION

In our last program on March 1, 2024, we discussed the biblical Tabernacle and the Jewish Temples, the importance of which goes all the way back to when the Lord delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, beginning their wandering in the Sinai Desert for 40 years. During this time, God gave Moses specific instructions to build a Tabernacle, that in essence, was a mobile Temple. When completed, the glory of God came to dwell in the Holy of Holies among His people. However, when David was appointed king of Israel in Jerusalem, David wanted to build a permanent Temple for the Lord, but God would not permit him to do so as he was a man of war. Instead, God appointed David's son, Solomon, to build the First Temple, blessing it with His presence and Shekinah glory in the Holy of Holies. Nevertheless, Israel turned to idolatry in the ensuing years and the glory of God eventually departed from Solomon's Temple (Ezekiel 8-11). Although this Temple lasted about 400 years, it was finally destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC (2 Kings 25:9).

The Second Temple was originally a relatively modest structure built under the authority of the Persian-appointed Jewish governor Zerubbabel after the Jewish people returned from Babylonian captivity. Later, Herod the Great made substantial renovations, enlargements and improvements to the Temple that took many years to complete, but turned the Temple into one of the wonders of the ancient world. This

Temple was standing when Jesus came to earth as a human and stood for almost 600 years until its destruction by the Romans in AD 70. Interestingly, there is a noteworthy difference between the Temples of Solomon, Zerubbabel and Herod the Great as there is no biblical record that God ever established His Shekinah glory and/or dwelt in the Temples of Zerubbabel and Herod the Great. In addition to the Temples of Solomon and Zerubbabel/Herod, Scripture indicates there will be two more future Temples in Jerusalem. Although the Third Temple can be inferred depending on which Scripture is selected, the Fourth Temple (Millennial Temple) along with its worship system is clearly described in Ezekiel, chapters 40-48. So, let's take a closer look at Temples Three and Four.

THE THIRD TEMPLE

The *Third* Temple is often referred to as the "*Tribulation Temple*" and/or the "*Antichrist's Temple*." Although Scripture does not directly or specifically denote the builder, location, size and timing such as Solomons, Zerubbabel, Herod's and the Millennial Temples, references of its existence are found in Daniel, Matthew, 2 Thessalonians and Revelation as follows:

"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"

Daniel 9:27

"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by the prophet of Daniel, standing in the holy place (whoever reads let him understand)"

Matthew 24:15

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless that Day comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 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"

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

"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 11:1-2

These four verses indicate that there will be a Jewish Temple *at least* by the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation (Daniel 9:7). The Tribulation will begin with a deceitful peace treaty between the Antichrist and the Jewish people. Marking the mid-point of the seven-year Tribulation, the Antichrist will compromise the peace agreement by taking a seat in the Temple himself and calling himself God, which in effect defiles the Temple as described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. Obviously, it is clear that if the Antichrist defiles the Temple at the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Temple must have been rebuilt for these events to happen. Of particular interest to prophecy enthusiasts and serious Bible

students, the Bible does not clearly define if the *Third Temple* will be built before or during the beginning of the Great Tribulation, yet, it is either indirectly or directly mentioned in six Scriptural passages as follows; Daniel 9:27 and 12:11, Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, and Revelation 11:1-2. Notice that Revelation 11:1 states that John is given a rod to measure “*the temple, the altar and those who worship there,*” but omits any further specific information about the Temple. Additionally, although the Bible does not specifically describe “*what happens to the Third Temple,*” it has to be removed/replaced/eliminated as part of the widespread topographical changes that will prepare Jerusalem for the Millennial Temple (Zechariah 14:10 & Isaiah 2:2) which we will discuss under a following section on the Fourth Temple.

CURRENT TEMPLE PREPARATIONS

Before we conclude our discussion on the Third Temple, let’s re-review the prospect that Orthodox Jews and the Temple Institute in Israel are currently actively engaged in the specific requirements that must be met and/or in place for the construction of the Third Temple in Israel as we ran short of time in the last program.

The Sanhedrin¹

Before the Temple can be rebuilt, the ancient Sanhedrin must be reconvened as one of their responsibilities was directing and supervising all matters pertaining to the restoration of the Temple. In the past, the last time the Sanhedrin convened was in AD 453. On October 13, 2004, over 70 of the most respected rabbis in Israel (appointed from the 12 tribes) were ordained to the new Sanhedrin and officially met in Jerusalem on January 20, 2005. They specifically considered the resumption of Temple worship and rebuilding the Temple. Three sites for a new Temple are currently being considered:

- Centered on the Dome of the Rock
- North of the Dome of the Rock
- South of the Dome of the Rock and near the Al-Asqa Mosque

Temple Institute²

The Temple Institute is a dedicated group of orthodox rabbis that has been aggressively pursuing the completion of the many facets involved in the preparation of building the Third Temple. As an example, tentative blueprints have been completed and are ready to be used for the construction process. A portion of the blueprints is illustrated in Figure 1. Beside the preparations for building the Third Temple, the Temple Institute is also aggressively researching and creating the sacred garments, vessels, and other items used for sacrifice and worship in the Temple, and is currently being undertaken as follows:

- Breastplate for the high priest (Exodus 28:29-30, Exodus 39:8-14)
- Linen robes (I Chronicles 28)
- Mizrak (capture blood from sacrificed animals and poured on corner of altar, Exodus 24:6)
- Altar of Burnt Offering (2 Chronicles 4:1)

- Laver of Cleansing (Exodus 30:18-19)
- Golden Candlestick/Menorah Exodus (25:31-32)
- Table of Showbread (Exodus 25:23-24)
- Altar of Incense (Exodus 30:1-2)
- Two Silver Trumpets (Numbers 10:2)

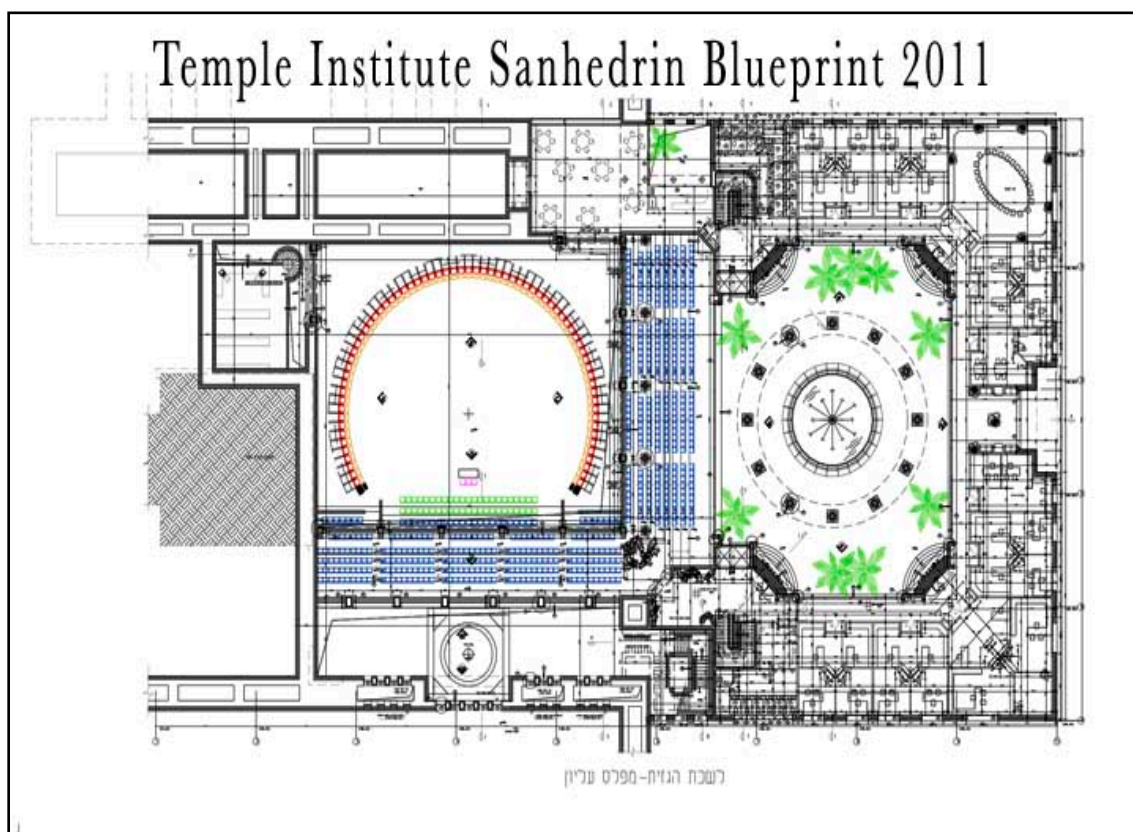


Figure 1. A portion of the blueprints for the Third Temple

Blue Dye for High Priests Garments³

Among the many items that God specifically chose for the Israelites was the color blue (*tekhelet*) and is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible 49 times. This specific color was used in the tapestries in the Tabernacle, the drapes in Solomon's Temple (Figure 2), and robes worn by the high priests of Israel (Exodus 28:31). Even common Israelites were commanded to tie one string of tekhelet to the tassels on the corners of their garments to remind them of their unique relationship with God. This commandment is found in Numbers 15:38-39; *"Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners."* This specific blue dye is only obtained from the digestive gland of a particular marine snail, the rare and small Chilazon snail that is only found in the Red Sea and long believed to be extinct. However, in the late 1990's, Israeli divers re-discovered the Chilazon snail

in the Red Sea. As a result, it is now possible to use the exact same dye to color the robes of the high priests.

Oil of Anointing^{4,5}

The Oil of Anointing was used to anoint the Tabernacle, the high priest, the sacred objects of worship (Exodus 30:25-30), and will also be used to anoint the Messiah upon his triumphant return to this earth. This specific sacred oil – known as *shemen afarsimon* –



Figure 2. Tekhelet

originated during the Exodus but disappeared when the Romans destroyed Herod's Temple in 70 AD. However, a recent discovery has allowed the exact same ancient oil to be used in modern times.

Most people are familiar with the discovery of the Qumran Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 but are not as familiar with a Copper Scroll that was discovered in Cave 3 near Qumran in 1953. The metallic manuscript, officially named 3Q15, was carefully restored and then opened to reveal a detailed list of 64 secret locations where Jewish Essene priests had hidden gold and silver treasures from the Temple. One of the key treasures mentioned was the Oil of Anointing. When Cave 11 in Qumran was searched, archaeological teams found a clay jar wrapped in palm leaves and buried three feet deep that contained an oil-type material that had turned into a gelatin-type substance. When the substance was analyzed, it was determined to contain the *exact* same five ingredients in the proper biblical ratios as delineated in Exodus 30:23-24 as God had commanded Moses. The five ingredients were composed of:

- Myrrh
- Sweet Cinnamon
- Sweet Calamus
- Cassia and Olive Oil



Figure 3. The Copper Scroll, Jordan Museum in Amman

Further testing by the Pharmaceutical Department of the Hebrew University has determined this is the ancient Oil of Anointing and Carbon-14 radioactive dating confirmed its age as about 2,000 years old. This discovery now makes it possible to anoint the new Temple, sacred vessels, priests, and the Messiah! Interestingly, the Copper Scroll has been on display since 2013 at the Jordan Museum in Amman (Figure 3). It is noteworthy to remember that Jesus of Nazareth was never anointed during his 33 years on earth, but it is now possible to do so on his triumphant return to Jerusalem.

Cohanim⁶

The tribe of Levi is historically the priestly family of the Jewish people, responsible for blessings of the Jewish people, Temple service, and their responsibilities are described in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. The Jewish priesthood began when Moses anointed his older brother Aaron the first high priest (Deuteronomy 18:5). Since that time, the priestly status has been passed from father to son without interruption for over 3,000 years, or more than 100 generations (patrilineal). The direct descendants of Aaron the brother of Moses is referred to as Cohanim (plural for Cohen).

Modern genetic DNA studies have indicated that the Y chromosome in Cohanim has an unusual set of genetic markers that allows detection of a paternal and time connection for proper identification of priestly Jews that have descended from Aaron. Interestingly,

the identification of Y chromosome markers has come to be known as the Cohen Modal Haplotype (CMH) that is the standard genetic signature of the Jewish priestly family. Therefore, the CHM discovery has enabled the correct identification of direct descendants of Aaron to fulfill the requirements for the new Temple that will require a cadre of trained Levites for priests. Training of Levite priests for the new Temple is currently underway with over 700 candidates. Interestingly, I Chronicles 23:2-6 states that 24,000 Levite males were used just to oversee the First Temple.

Water of Purification/Red Heifer^{7,8,9}

The Water of Purification was used for cleansing (Numbers 19:1-10) which is another term for purification from sin. As applied to the Temples, it was also used at the consecration of the Levite Priesthood, ritual cleansing of the sacred vessels, and the Temple (previous and future). So, when the Third Temple is built, it cannot be used for worship until it is purified with the Water of Purification. However, the Water of Purification has to be specifically made from the following five ingredients:

- Natural Spring Water
- Scarlet Thread
- Cedar
- Hyssop (known for its antiseptic properties)
- Red Heifer Ashes (a specific red cow)



Figure 4. Red Heifer

To qualify for the Water of Purification, a red heifer (Figure 4) that must meet the following biblical requirements must be available (Numbers 19:2):

- Pure red in color (even the hooves must be red)
- Not one black or white hair
- Without any blemish (wounds, blemishes, etc.)
- No yoke has ever been on its neck
- Female between the ages of 3 and 4 years old (this is the only female animal to be sacrificed). As a side note, Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver which was the price of a female slave
- Sacrificed *“outside the camp”*

A suitable red heifer is an extremely rare animal. As an example, and according to Jewish tradition, during the two thousand years from the time of this commandment and until the destruction of the Second Temple in the first century AD, there have been only nine red heifers that have qualified for the aforementioned biblical criteria. Currently, Jewish authorities are raising a herd of red cows in Israel for a qualified candidate. However, on March 17, 2023, five red heifers arrived in Israel and are now in a secure, undisclosed location in Israel. This project was a joint venture between the Temple Institute in Israel and some Evangelical Christian farmers in Texas/Nebraska who support the Jewish efforts. If one of these red heifers continues to be a suitable candidate, the necessary elements for the Third Temple will be in place.

Although there is an intensive search for the original red heifer ashes, it is not necessary to make the Water of Purification from the original red heifer ashes. As a side note:

- The sacrifice of a red heifer and the Water of Purification symbolize the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins (Hebrews 9)
- Without blemish signifies Christ was without blemish
- *Outside the camp* is the same way Christ was crucified outside Jerusalem. Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood (Hebrews 13:11-12)
- The shedding of blood by the red heifer was (and is) a foreshadowing of the blood Christ shed on the cross for sins

The Ark of the Covenant¹⁰

“Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. He overlaid it with pure gold inside and out, and made a molding of gold all around it. And he cast for it four rings of gold to be set in its four corners; two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it. He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with pure gold. And he put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark. He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width. He made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of

one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat. The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat"

Exodus 37:1-9

Of all the conditions that must be met to build the Third Temple and initiate the sacrificial system, the Ark of the Covenant (45" X 27" X 27") not only plays a key role in the Temple but also is perhaps the most familiar object associated with the Tabernacle and Temple (remember the movie Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark?), and its current existence and/or location is definitely the most controversial. The original Ark began its existence in the Tabernacle and contained the following three items (Figure 5) as found in (Hebrews 9:4):

- The Ten Commandments (God's concern for his people and His law to guide Israel)
- The Budded Rod of Aaron (displayed God's sovereign choice of Israel and supernatural deliverance from Egypt)
- Golden Pot with Manna (daily provisions from heaven for His people)



Figure 5. Ark of the Covenant and contents

Of notable interest, during the time of King Solomon, the Ark only contained the Ten Commandments (1 Kings 8:9) and also disappeared during this time in history. From the time of Solomon's reign until the present time in history, the Bible does not mention the

location of the Ark. Scholars agree that it was not present in the Temple after the Jewish captives returned from Babylon in 536 B.C. The last time the Ark is mentioned in the Bible is in 2 Chronicles 8:11; *“Now Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of David to the house he had built for her, for he said, my wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy.”*

Although the current status of the Ark is unknown, many scholars agree the Ark will play a pivotal role in the Third Temple in the last days. As there is much speculation regarding the existence and/or the current location of the Ark, the four most popular viewpoints are as follows:

- The Ark does not exist (previously destroyed)
- The Ark was presently hidden in a secret location under the Temple Mount area from invading Babylonian armies
- The Ark is presently hidden in Ethiopia (allegedly under the church of St. Mary of Zion in Aksum)
- The Ark has been secretly moved from its location in Ethiopia to a secret location under the Temple mount area (at the end of the Ethiopian civil war)

Although the potential that the Ark does not exist or is presently hidden under the Temple Mount area is easily understood (and likely its present location) its alleged presence in Ethiopia is not as well recognized. To clarify this issue from the perspective of ancient tradition and for *informational purposes only*, let's look at a brief history of why it is believed by some (and even some facets of the media) that the Ark could still be in Ethiopia:

- From biblical history, the queen of Sheba visited King Solomon during his reign as king of Israel; *“And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went away to her own land, she and her servants”* 2 Chronicles 9:12
- We also know that King Solomon desired female companionship, married foreign women (2 Chronicles 8:11) and had children by some of them
- According to Ethiopian history (Ethiopian Royal Chronicles), King Solomon married the queen of Sheba and they produced a royal heir, Prince Menelik I
- It is alleged that King Solomon educated the Prince in Jerusalem until he was nineteen with the prince becoming a strong believer in Jehovah
- It is also alleged the prince then returned to Ethiopia (becoming the first Solomonic Emperor of Ethiopia) with a large contingent of Jews and taking the Ark of the Covenant with him where it is alleged to currently be hidden below a church in Aksum

THE FOURTH TEMPLE

At the beginning of the Tribulation, the Jews will make a pact with a false messiah (Daniel 9:27), known as the Antichrist. In the middle of that 7-year pact, Antichrist will break his treaty with Israel and require the worship of him alone (Matthew 24:15). When Israel refuses, the armies of the world will gather to do battle, climaxing in a great siege of Jerusalem and the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19). Continuing this account with Zechariah 14:1, the prophet looks at the “*Day of The Lord*” (a technical term for when God’s wrath is unleashed against the whole world of sinners), resulting in the establishment of the Lords Millennial Temple and reign on earth. Then, in Zechariah 14:2, God Himself will gather all the nations of this earth to battle against Jerusalem. The city will be taken and be so overcome by the enemy that the spoil will be leisurely divided in the midst of the city, illustrating how completely Jerusalem will be overthrown.

Nevertheless, in Zechariah 14:3, God prevents the annihilation of His remnant Jewish people by personally intervening to fight against the gathered nations as the ultimate Warrior-King. Then in Zechariah 14:4, Jesus will literally and personally return to the Mount of Olives, just as the angels announced at His ascension (Acts 1:11). At this second coming of Christ, significant topographical changes will occur in Jerusalem as follows:

“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from the east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

Zechariah 14:4

Zechariah 14:5-7 then continues with the account of the remaining Jews safely fleeing through this newly created valley. Topographical changes will also be used to accommodate the immense “*Millennial Temple*” (also known as “*Ezekiel’s Temple*”) as Jerusalem and the surrounding area have been elevated in preparation for the key role of Israel during the Messiah’s Millennial rule. Zechariah 14:10 and Ezekiel 47:13-48:35 further describes the topographical changes in Israel that are planned to accompany Israel’s new restoration of the land and subsequent dominance over all the nations.

Once the aforementioned topographical changes are completed, a *fourth* Temple will be constructed by Christ, in Jerusalem, North of the Temple Mount (Ezekiel 45:1-4, 48:8), and at the beginning of the Messianic Kingdom (Ezekiel 37:26-28). It will primarily serve as a sanctuary in the midst of God’s people and allow Him to dwell with them (Zechariah 6:12-13) as God promised to dwell with man on earth (Zechariah 47:1-12). This has been God’s desire in all ages:

- Before Moses (Genesis 17:7-8)
- In the Mosaic era (Leviticus 26:11-13)
- In the church era ((1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)
- In the Millennium and eternity future (Ezekiel 37:26-28, Revelation 21:3)

The Millennial Temple will also be the center of worship for the world during the Millennium (Micah 4:1-3 and Isaiah 2:2-4) where Christ will reign as both King and Priest, and will be much greater than the previous three Temples. As an example, the Temple will be one mile square, and likely be the most magnificent building in human history (see Ezekiel 40-48 for details). Animal sacrifices will follow other biblical prophetic predictions where the Millennial Temple will include a priesthood and sacrifices (Isaiah 56:7, 60:7, Jeremiah 33:18, and Zechariah 14:16-21).

THE MILLENNIUM

Many Old and New Testament passages speak of a future time of an earthly kingdom that will be characterized by prosperity, peace, and a theocratic reign by Jesus Christ from Jerusalem. Author and former Billy Graham associate John Wesley has stated; *“God’s word assures us that a golden age lies just beyond Armageddon – an age of unprecedented peace and prosperity. An idyllic age, it will not be a democracy, a monarchy, or a socialist state. It will be a theocracy. Christ will be Lord and King over all the earth. What the Antichrist will have failed to do with militaristic and computer surveillance, Jesus Christ will do by his omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.”* This coming age, or period of time, is known by various names such as *“the fullness of times”* (Ephesians 1:10), *“the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6), and *“times of restoration”* (Acts 3:21). However, this period of time is best known as the Millennium which is derived from the Latin words *mille* (thousand) and *annum* (year). Therefore, Millennium means a period of one thousand years although the word Millennium does not appear in the Bible.

Not surprisingly, the Millennium is a major theme of Scripture. Biblical scholar Dwight Pentecost writes; *“A larger body of prophetic scripture is devoted to the subject of the millennium, developing its character and conditions, than any other one subject.”* This is relatively easy to understand if we overview some of the major conditions of the Millennium as follows:

- The binding of Satan at the beginning of the Millennium (Revelation 20:1-3)
- The final restoration of Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Deuteronomy 31:1-10, Isaiah 11:11-21:6, Matthew 24:3)
- The reign of Jesus Christ on earth (Isaiah 2:3-4, 11:2-5)
- The loosing, final rebellion, and eternal torment of Satan at the conclusion of the Millennium (Revelation 20:7-10)
- People will enjoy prosperity as disease, injustice, poverty, and wars cease (Jeremiah 31:12-14)

With this brief introduction and overview of the Millennium, let’s take a closer look at this biblical prophecy from the perspective of two of the most common questions about the Millennium:

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE MILLENNIUM¹¹

The Millennium is the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth after the Great Tribulation and just before the Great White Throne Judgement of the wicked who ever lived on earth. During the Millennium, Jesus will reign as king and Lord over the earth (from the Millennial Temple), consisting of Israel and all the remaining nations of the world (Isaiah 2:4, 42:1). Additionally, Satan will be bound during this time (Revelation 20:1-3), and the world will live in peace. At the beginning of the Millennium, all people will worship God (Isaiah 2:2-3).

The primary purpose of the 1,000-year Millennium and the reign of Jesus is to fulfill the various promises and/or covenants that God made to the world and Israel. In summary, the 1,000-year reign of Jesus will be a time of promises kept as follows:

The Land Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:1-10)

Israel has never possessed the specific boundaries of land that God promised in Genesis 15:18-20 and Numbers 34:1-12. Not even Solomon ruled over this particular area (1 Kings 4:21-24). Although Solomon did reign from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates, he did not hold the area from Mount Hor to Hazarenan (Numbers 34:7-9) into present-day Lebanon and Syria. In addition, the covenant God made with Abraham was that he and his descendants would have the land forever (Genesis 13:15, 17:8, Ezekiel 16:60). The current Israeli state may be a step in this direction, but they still do not possess the boundaries God laid out thousands of years ago.

The Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)

God's covenant with David was that his line would never die out and that David's heir would sit on the throne of Israel forever (2 Samuel 7:16). Biblical scholars agree that Jesus is the fulfillment of this covenant, one of the reasons His genealogy is given for both His adoptive father (Matthew 1:1-17) and His mother (Luke 3:23-38). The Jews understood this when they laid down palm branches and their cloaks as Jesus' rode into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-17). They expected Him to be a military/political leader that would liberate them from the Romans and make Israel a great nation again. However, they didn't understand that the nature of Jesus' work at the time was for the New Covenant, not the Davidic Covenant. The 1,000-year reign will be the beginning of Jesus' reign over Israel and the earth (Revelation 20:4, 6).

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

The work of the New Covenant—Jesus' death and resurrection to reconcile hearts to God—has been accomplished. But we have not yet seen the complete fulfillment. Jeremiah 31:33 says; *"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people."* Ezekiel 36:28 also says; *"You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."* Isaiah 59:20-21 explains that this covenant is possible because of the Redeemer, and the reconciliation

He provides will last forever. This covenant does not mean that every Jew will be saved. But it does mean that Israel as a nation will worship their Messiah. The Old Testament prophets who spoke of this covenant, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, and Ezekiel, all wrote that it will be fulfilled in the future. From their time on, Israel has yet to be an independent nation that worshiped its Messiah (Romans 9-11). They will be in the 1,000-year reign of Christ.

Other Promises and Covenants

Those are the covenants God made with Israel that are to be fulfilled in Jesus' 1,000-year reign, but the Bible lists other promises that will be fulfilled, too. God promised Jesus He will make His enemies a footstool, and that Jesus' followers will worship Him freely (Psalm 110). God promised the nations of the world that they would live in peace with Jesus as their ruler (Daniel 7:11-14). He also promised creation that the curse would be lifted (Romans 8:18-23), animals and the earth would be restored to peace and prosperity (Isaiah 11:6-9, 32:13-15) and people would be freed from disease (Ezekiel 34:16). These, too, will be fulfilled during the 1,000-year reign.

INTREPRETING THE MILLENNIUM¹²

Revelation 20:3 is the first of 6 references to the length of the Millennial kingdom (verses 3,4,5,6,7). There are three main views of the duration and nature of this period:

Premillennialism

This view sees this as a literal 1,000-year period during which Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of numerous Old Testament prophecies, reigns on the earth. Using the same general principles of interpretation for both prophetic and non-prophetic passages leads most naturally to Premillennialism. Another strong argument supporting this view is that so many biblical prophecies have already been literally fulfilled, suggesting that future prophecies will likewise be fulfilled literally.

Postmillennialism

This second view understands the reference to a 1,000-year period as only symbolic of a golden age of righteousness and spiritual prosperity. It will be ushered in by the spread of the gospel during the present church age and brought to completion when Christ returns. According to this view, references to Christ's reign on earth primarily describe His spiritual reign in the hearts of believers in the church.

Amillennialism

This third view understands the 1,000 years to be merely symbolic of a long period of time. This view interprets Old Testament prophecies of a Millennial as being fulfilled spiritually now in the church (either on earth or in heaven) or as references to the eternal state. Using the same literal, historical, grammatical principles of interpretation so as to determine the normal sense of language, one is left with the inescapable conclusion that Christ will return and reign in a real kingdom on earth for 1,000 years. there is nothing in

the text to render the conclusion that “*a thousand years*” is symbolic. Never in Scripture when “*year*” is used with a number is its meaning not literal.

CONCLUSION

Although the future of the Temple Mount and the location of Temple artifacts are intriguing, the real question is “*what is your future in life?*” If the Bible is true (and the evidence from science and Scripture indicate that it is), then each person should be concerned with their future destiny and specifically, where you will spend eternity. The Bible clearly says “*All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God*” (Romans 3:23), and those without a personal acceptance of God will spend eternity in a lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). However, God has provided an alternate choice, and that choice is a free gift that only needs to be accepted by you “*For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16), and “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved*” (Romans 10:13). This is God’s message to you. So, have you accepted his free gift of eternal life?

RESOURCES

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