

WHY DOESN'T THE DEVIL JUST QUIT? (Part 2)

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Students of Bible prophecy have long understood that before the final Antichrist can appear on the stage at the end of this Age --- immediately prior to the Second Coming or *Parousia* --- that the third Jewish Temple must first be built. Daniel, Jesus, and the apostle Paul (to name but three) all foretell that there will be a Jewish Temple in which the final Rebel will erect a Detestable and shocking Abomination "that makes desolate" (e.g. Dan. 9: 27; Matt. 24: 15; 2 Thess. 2: 3-4).

It will not do to dismiss this by saying that "the temple" is a reference to "the church". The Protestant Reformers who taught the Pope was the Antichrist so believed. And whilst true that Christians are "a temple" of God (1 Cor. 3:16), whenever Scripture speaks of "the Temple" in connection with the last days and the Man of Sin, it always means the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

But here's the problem. Standing right where Solomon's Temple allegedly stood, and standing right where the Second Temple which Herod finished refurbishing just before Christ was born, there now stands the Muslim-controlled Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque. The area is also called the Haram al-Sharif by the Moslems, meaning "Noble Sanctuary".

THE TEMPLE MOUNT ... WILL THE THIRD JEWISH TEMPLE BE BUILT HERE?



You can google any number of web sites reporting the current plans Jews have to rebuild their Third Temple. ¹ There is only one problem, of course. The Jews currently plan to build their temple where the Dome of the Rock stands. This is the third or fourth most holy site in the Islamic world --- depending on whether you are a Sunni or Shiite --- and the most contested piece of real estate on the planet!

The Temple Mount is currently administered by a Moslem body called the Waqf, and they have said that if the Jews so much as take a shovel to the site then --- to paraphrase their threat --- World War Three will start!

¹ For example ...

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/08/16/480238/Israel-Third-Temple-Aqsa-Dome-of-Rock-Temple-Mount>

Soooo ...big problem!

As things currently stand, the Third Temple can't really go ahead, and one of the plainest Bible prophecies of the end times appears stalled.



The Jewish Temple Institute has released a three-dimensional architectural rendition of their proposed Third Holy Temple.

So, from the Jewish perspective, everything is ready to go. Their Sanhedrin has already chosen the High Priest. The items to furnish the Temple are already made. Even the red heifers are now being carefully bred for the official sacrifices to begin.

So we ask ... must God's prophecies concerning Satan's final Abominable Man go unfulfilled without there being major international upheaval?

It seems like this Temple Mount and its 36 acre surrounds is in the wrong hands! Or ...

MIGHT THE ORIGINAL TEMPLE SITE BE SOMEWHERE ELSE?

Since King David conquered the old Jebusite stronghold around the year 1,000 BC and built Zion there, Jerusalem has been captured and destroyed many times over. The Egyptians, Babylonians, Ptolemys, Seleucids, Persians, Byzantines, Romans, Muslims, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Ottomans, British, Jordanians and even the Palestinians have laid claim to the City of Peace as well!

These multiple invasions and destructions make it very difficult to establish with certainty where the original Temple site was. But there is a growing number of serious Bible scholars arguing that Solomon's Temple was not on today's Temple Mount at all. ²

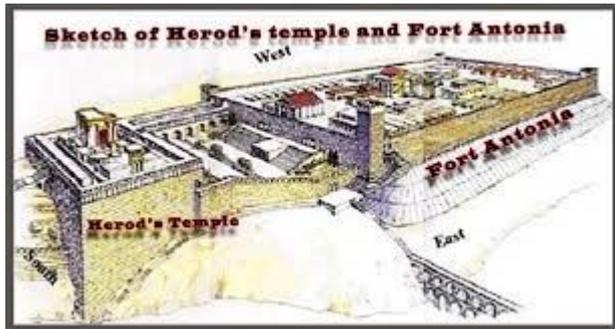
So, let's briefly touch upon a few of the convincing proofs that show tradition has very likely sent its tap root down in the wrong place, and why the Jews more than likely will build their Third Temple away from the present Temple Mount. In fact, the Bible tells us the exact location where Solomon built his Temple,

Now Solomon began to build the temple at the house of the Lord at Jerusalem...at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite" (2 Chronicles 3:1).

This verse conclusively says the temple was built within the boundary of the City of David at the place of the threshing floor bought from the Jebusite. That can only be in the City of David and this makes it impossible for the former temple(s) to have been on the present Temple mount, for this lies outside those strict boundaries.

There is a growing chorus of historians, archaeologists, and academics who are convinced Solomon's Temple was actually located in the old city of David, in Zion --- just a few hundred feet outside of the present Temple Mount. Let's take a closer look.

² For example, Bob Cornuke at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKqDx3RDCos>



THIS SKETCH IS BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE LATE ARCHAEOLOGIST DR ERNEST L. MARTIN AND SHOWS THE CURRENT TEMPLE MOUNT IS ACTUALLY SITUATED ON THE OLD ROMAN FORTRESS OF ANTONIA. WHERE YOU SEE THE LABEL 'FORT ANTONIA' IS TODAY'S WESTERN WALLING WALL.

JOSEPHUS THE FIRST CENTURY JEWISH HISTORIAN WAS AN EYEWITNESS AT TITUS' DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM IN AD 70.

JOSEPHUS SAYS FORT ANTONIA WAS WHERE THE ROMAN TENTH LEGION WAS STATIONED AND THAT EXACTLY 600 FEET TO THE SOUTH, AND ACROSS A CAUSEWAY, STOOD THE TEMPLE! FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT THE DOME OF THE ROCK IS NOT WHERE THE JEWISH TEMPLE STOOD!



THIS NEXT SKETCH SHOWS THE SECOND TEMPLE WHICH HEROD REFURBISHED AND COMPLETED IS REALLY OUTSIDE THE HAREM ESH-SHARIF. IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE DOME OF THE ROCK WHICH IS PRESENTLY BELIEVED TO BE THE SITE OF THE OLD JEWISH TEMPLE.

THE BIBLE SAYS THE TEMPLE WAS NEXT TO A GUSHING STREAM!

Just about a thousand feet south of the Harem esh-Sharif complex with its Dome of the Rock is the **only** source of running water within five square miles (8 square kilometres) of Jerusalem! It's in the old city of David --- Zion --- and excavated in 1997. It's the Gihon Spring. Gihon means "Gusher".

Nehemiah 2: 14-15 speaks about "the Gate of the Fountain and the King's Pool" and describes the fountain further as a "rushing stream". And Nehemiah 3: 7 describes this water source as "a river".

We know the Temple service required immense amounts of running water for the ceremonial rituals, and there is not another source of such running water anywhere else within those five square miles (8 square kilometres) in Jerusalem. There is one, and only one "gushing fountain" or "river" in old Jerusalem. Despite a significant earthquake in 1076 AD reducing the flow, and the effects of other digging and construction in the vicinity, today the Gihon Spring flows still.

There are at least five extra-Biblical historical accounts telling us there was a strong running fountain **inside** the Solomonic Temple complex. For instance, [The Letter of Aristeas](#) written in the Second Century BC testifies,

"There is an inexhaustible reservoir of water as would be expected from an abundant spring gushing up naturally from within the Temple."³

400 years after Aristeas recorded this, the Roman historian [Tacitus](#) also wrote that the temple at Jerusalem had a natural spring of water that welled up from its interior. These references could only be describing the Gihon Spring. It is located close to what is referred to as the Ophel, which is a bulge of the earth abutting the City of David (Zion) situated just to the south, and roughly about 1,000 feet from and below today's so-called Temple Mount. Even to this very day there is no other such spring anywhere else in Jerusalem.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_of_Aristeas

Why is this so significant? Well, it's a powerful reason why the traditional belief that the Dome of the Rock standing on the Temple Mount cannot be accurate.



THE GIHON SPRINGS ARE THE ONLY SOURCE OF RUNNING WATER IN ALL OF JERUSALEM. HEZEKIAH'S SECRET TUNNEL AND STAIRS ARE SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE STOOD NEXT TO THIS ONLY PERMANENT FLOW OF WATER AND IT'S NOT ON THE PRESENT TEMPLE MOUNT! IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE DOME OF THE ROCK!

NOT ONE STONE LEFT STANDING UPON ANOTHER!

If one accepts that today's Western Wailing Wall is actually part of the foundations of the Second Temple complex, then it makes Jesus look like a failed prophet. Did he not say,

Amen, I tell you, in no way shall there be left here a stone upon a stone which shall in any way be left resting upon another (or, which will not be torn down) (Matt. 24: 2)?⁴

Jesus' words at face value clearly state that each and every stone of the Temple buildings will be dug up, dislodged and tossed away. So, it's always bothered me to look at those **thousands** of massive stone blocks of the Wailing Wall --- that supposedly once *supported* the Temple and its buildings--- still standing there to this very day defying Jesus word!

All sorts of hermeneutical and exegetical tricks have been employed to "explain away" Jesus' unambiguous prediction ... "Oh, he was using hyperbolic language to mean destruction from which there would be no escape" ... "Oh, Jesus' poetic licence was typical of Israel's prophets", etc., etc.

Listen. Jesus always told the truth. Jesus never told a lie. Jesus solemnly under oath said "**Amen, I tell you**" that "**not one stone**" of the Temple building(s) would be left standing upon another. He meant it. And we can confirm his words have literally come to pass.

Recent digs in the old city of David (Zion) --- just to the south of the current Temple Mount, and right next to the Gihon Springs --- have found original Solomonic foundation-stones of the Temple --- in a heap of course. As a matter of interest, they have also found Nehemiah's Tower near the Gihon Spring.

But the Wailing Wall has no Solomonic stones! They are Herodian ... another potent reason to believe the present Temple Mount is not where the original Temple stood!

SO WHAT IS THE WESTERN WAILING WALL WE SEE IN THE NEXT PICTURE?

⁴ My translation. The last verb *kataluthesetai* ("will be thrown down") is an intensive verb meaning to break up, dissolve, destroy, unloose, depose. Note Jesus' solemn introductory oath, "Amen" is followed by **two** double-negatives (*ou me*) ... "by no means" shall there be left stone upon stone **and** "by no means" not torn down. This is strong language indeed.



In Jesus' day Jerusalem was a tinder box of political unrest and the 36 acre site overlooking the Jewish Temple was in fact Fort Antonia. The fort housed the Roman Tenth Legion and was like a miniature city. There were at least 6,000 Roman troops living there, and we know there were at least 4,000 support staff residing there as well.

Antonia was big enough then, to house barracks for over 10,000 residents. Some historians believe there were in fact, over 15,000 residents there! There were restaurants, laundry facilities, and even a red light district! Based on other Roman Forts throughout the Empire, Antonia was typical, and sat on the standard 36 acres of land.

Therefore, the Western Wailing Wall is part of the original foundations of the old Roman Fort Antonia. This means the Wailing Wall has nothing whatsoever to do with the First and Second Jewish Temples!

Writing in 73 AD the Jewish general Eleazar at Masada wrote,

Jerusalem is now demolished to the very foundation and hath nothing left but ... the camp of those (Romans) that destroyed it.

Josephus who was actually present when Titus destroyed the Temple, wrote that indeed the entirety of the Temple and its outlying buildings was destroyed. Josephus stated that, so great was the destruction, if he had not personally witnessed this he would not have believed the Temple had ever existed!

It stands to reason that the Roman Fort Antonia was not destroyed by Titus, as that was the property of Rome. And in fact, two hundred and fifty years after Titus' razing of Jerusalem we know Fort Antonia was still standing, still being used as a Roman fort. Emperor Hadrian had renamed it. But of course, as Jesus had foretold, the Temple was completely gone, with not one stone left upon another.

So the Jewish Temple never stood where the Dome of the Rock pretends!

Once the old city of David and the Temple had been buried by the Romans, it was only natural that people in the middle ages started to speculate where the Temple had once stood. The few Jews living in Jerusalem then, along with the influx of Christian pilgrims and crusaders, began suggesting that the impressive high-walled fortress of the Dome of the Rock was the actual foundation stones of Solomon's temple. After all, it was the most

impressive structure that was still standing in Jerusalem, so it was assumed it must have historical prominence—and that prominence was considered to be the Temple itself.

Uncertainty persisted until *circa* 1169 when **Benjamin Tudela** proclaimed emphatically that Muslim Haram al-Sharif --- The Roman Fort Antonia --- should be forevermore known as the proper placement of Solomon's temple. Tudela made this pronouncement with such surety and vigor that it was dogmatically adopted and is fervently accepted as uncontested fact to this day. The tap root of today's tradition was planted in the wrong spot and grows vigorously!

It should not therefore come as a surprise that as early as the 4th Century AD we have a number of accounts of various people and pilgrims still trying to find the lost site of Solomon's and the Second Temple.

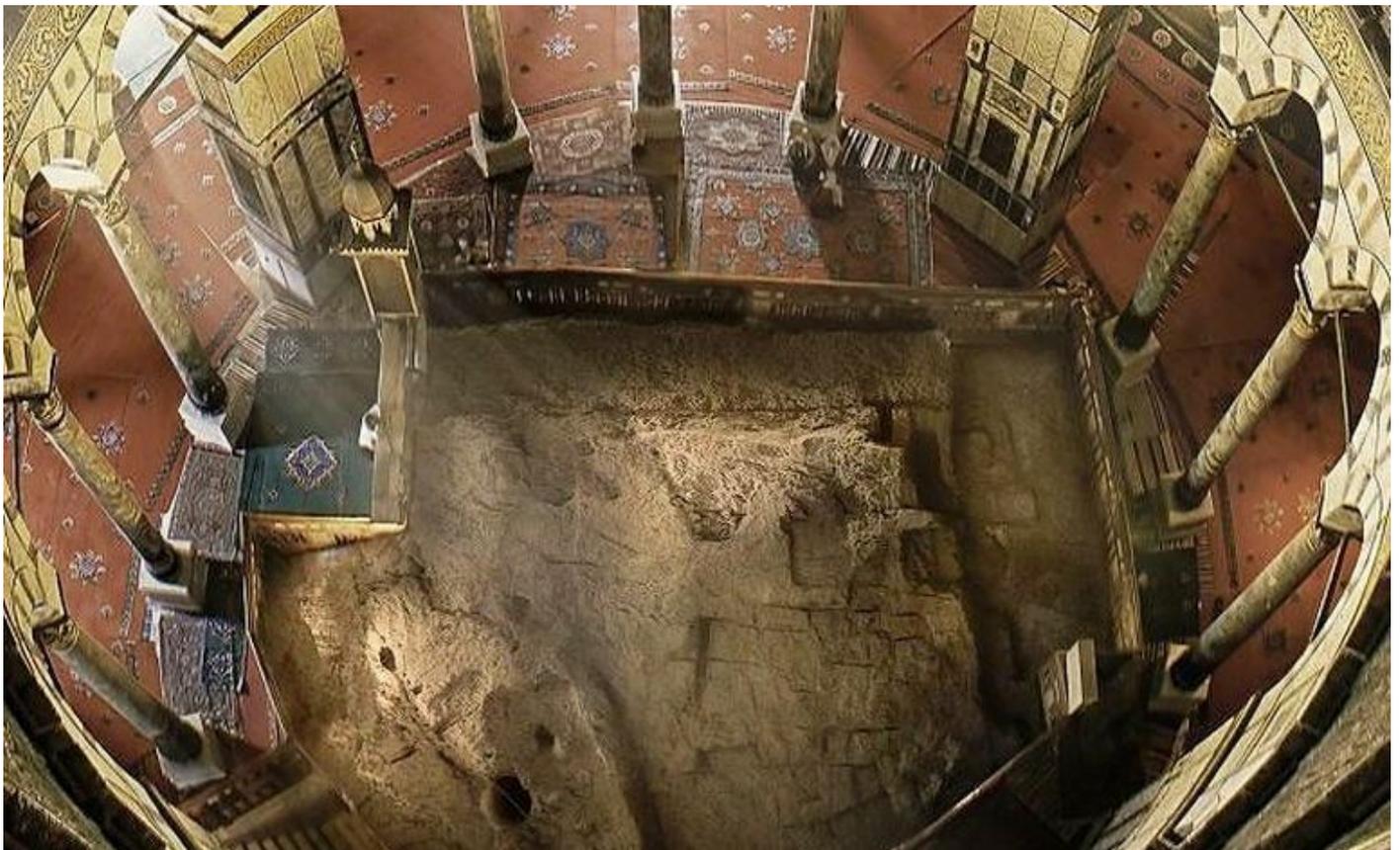
In 333 AD, **the Pilgrim of Bordeaux** wrote that while looking due east from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, he saw stone walls with foundations going down to the Tyropoean Valley. He was looking right over where the Temple Mount now stands, but he describes the stone walls as the Roman praetorium!

The praetorium in Fort antonia was the place where prisoners received their verdicts. So, in effect, if we are to believe the Pilgrim of Bordeaux, the Dome of the Rock, which is a Muslim shrine, would be the very site where Jesus was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate.

Then, in the Sixth Century **the Piacenza Pilgrim** also wrote of an oblong stone at the Roman praetorium, and he too described this rock as the place that Pilate heard the case of Christ.

What a massive shock it would be for the Jews today, if they suddenly found that the words of Jesus have been fulfilled to the very letter, and that the Wailing Wall is not the foundations of Solomon's Temple site at all! Would it help convince them that Jesus is their Messiah? Surely it might!?

Now take a close look at the following photo from inside the Dome of the Rock.



IT'S A PHOTO OF THE ROCKY PLATFORM AROUND WHICH THE DOME OF THE ROCK WAS BUILT BY THE MOSLEMS IN 691 AD. IN NO WAY DOES IT FIT THE PLATFORM DIMENSIONS OR REFLECT THE STONE ON WHICH THE HOLY OF HOLIES WAS BUILT IN THE JEWISH TEMPLE. THE ROCK OF THE HOLY OF HOLIES WAS 30 FEET BY 30 FEET, BUT THIS ROCK IS 52 FEET LONG, NEARLY TWICE AS LONG AND WIDE!

Not only is this rock the wrong dimensions to be the Jewish Temple's Holy of Holies, but remember --- it's also nowhere near the Gihon Spring where Solomon was crowned king of Israel and where he later built his temple inside David's city of Zion (2 Samuel 24:18, 24-25; 1 Kings 1:38; 2 Kings 3: 1). So, if Solomon's Temple site never was here, what is this rock?

Some archaeologists concur with the various early testimonies we have seen, that this really was the Roman Praetorium where prisoners stood to receive their judgement from the Roman governor. If true, this fact agrees this was where Pilate delivered his judgment against Jesus. This seems a reasonable conclusion as there are absolutely no Jewish markings on this rock. But there are markings where the chains of prisoners were held.

ACTS 21: 26-37

Now let's add to this growing picture. Remember the occasion when the apostle Paul was mobbed in the Temple courts? Recall that Paul goes into the Temple to fulfill a certain vow with others (v. 26). But certain Jews created a riot in the Temple precincts and Paul's life was in mortal danger. He was "dragged out of the Temple and immediately the doors were shut" (v. 30).

As they were seeking to kill Paul, news of the riot reached the Roman commander (v.31) and he "at once took some soldiers and "centurions, and ran down to them" ... just in the nick of time to stop the mob beating Paul to death.

The Roman commander arrested Paul, binding him with "two chains" (v.33). But unable to hear Paul speaking on account of the mob, the commander "ordered him to be brought into the barracks" (v. 34).

Now observe carefully what Luke the historian incidentally tells us,

And when he got to the stairs ... Paul standing on the stairs, motioned to the people with his hand; and when there was a great hush, he spoke to the crowd in the Hebrew dialect ...(v.35)

Now piece the facts together. The Roman commander and his centurions and soldiers ran **down** the stairs to rescue Paul from the mob who had all been locked **outside the Temple doors**. There surely were hundreds of soldiers involved as this was a major riot. We know there were a number of centurions (the Greek is plural, *ekatontarchous*) with each in charge of a hundred men. So definitely there are some many hundreds of soldiers there. There probably were thousands in that riotous mob. This is no small gathering!

And where did the Romans come from if not their barracks above the Temple at the Fort Antonia? The Roman commander was leading Paul back **up** the stairs **towards their Fortress Antonia** from whence they had come. Thus, Paul was standing on some stairs with the Temple buildings below and the barracks above! Those barracks are where today's Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque now stand!

Bottom line: Luke tells us the Temple was below the fort barracks, that is to say, below today's Temple Mount!



THIS PHOTO SHOWS VISITORS IN JERUSALEM VIEWING A POPULAR MODEL OF THE ALLEGED SECOND JEWISH TEMPLE. THE MODEL IS AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION ONLY, BUT NOTE THE FOUR TOWERS OF FORT ANTONIA AT THE TOP RIGHT OF THE PHOTO --- OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF THE ALLEGED TEMPLE MOUNT. CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT IF THE FORT WAS THIS SIZE IT WOULD NOT HAVE HELD MORE THAN A

COUPLE OF HUNDRED SOLDIERS ... CERTAINLY NOT THE 10,000 STRONG TENTH LEGION PLUS THE AT LEAST 4,000 OTHER PERMANENT SUPPORT STAFF. WE KNOW THE BUILDINGS OF THIS MINI CITY WERE HOUSED ON A 36 ACRE SITE! SO UNFORTUNATELY THIS ARTIST'S IMPRESSION IS NOW SET IN POPULAR TRADITION. AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, TRADITION IS THE FRIEND OF MYTH AND THE ENEMY OF TRUTH!

ZION WILL BE A PLOUGHED FIELD

Two OT prophets told us what would become of Solomon's Temple mount,

Therefore on account of you, Zion will be a ploughed field, Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the Temple will become high places of a forest (Micah 3:12).

Thus the LORD of hosts has said, "Zion will be as a ploughed field, And Jerusalem will become ruins, and the mountain of the house as a wooded height" (Jeremiah 26:18).

Now take a close look below at the black and white pre World War Two photo of old Jerusalem. See how exactly the prophetic word of the LORD was fulfilled. For almost two thousand years, the old city of David, Zion, lay buried under these ploughed fields and wooded heights! It was used by the farmer's plough and as a place to dump rubbish.

Until that is, explorers with Bibles under their arms turned up with their picks and started digging. They found the gurgling Spring of Gihon beneath this desolate place. Today, that forgotten subterranean world has again revealed its secrets of old ... the City of David ... where the Jewish Temple originally stood.



TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

We started this two-part series with the question, Why doesn't the Devil just quit? He already knows he is defeated. He knows the prophetic Scriptures better than we do, in fact. He knows Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and that God,

Has seated [Jesus] at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him as head over all things to the church (Eph. 1: 20-22).

However, the Devil is so haughty, and pride distorts reality. Pride puffs up making one deranged. That's why it's impossible for the Devil to ever quit his tyranny, for his original sin appears to have been the proud boast that he would ascend up to God's very throne and depose the Eternal One. Clearly, he is not thinking straight! Imbued with the same Satanic spirit Adolf Hitler kept fighting against all hope. Controlled by the same megalomania many of the world's dictators have also displayed the same hopeless insanity.

We also briefly considered the effrontery of the Devil's plan to substitute his lies in his rejection of God and His Son Jesus through the religion that is Islam. His utter detestation of God's word and glory extends even to what is wrongly considered to be the very place where the Holy of Holies and the Temple of Judaism once stood.

The traditional belief of Muslims, Jews and Christian, that today's Dome of the Rock with its blasphemous text, "Allah has no son!" emblazoned on one of its walls, would seem to be an impervious reason against the Bible prophecy that the Antichrist will appear before the Second coming of Jesus Christ. No Temple, no Rebel Antichrist (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2: 3-4)! Yet ...

IF the Bible is an historically accurate record of where the Solomonic Temple was erected in Zion,
IF recent archaeological discoveries such as the Gihon Springs in old Jerusalem are duly taken into account,
IF the Dome of the Rock was the site of the old Roman Fort Antonia, and had nothing to do with the Temple itself,
IF the prophets and NT apostles have accurately foretold a Third Jewish Temple will be built before the Great Tribulation and the appearance of "the Man of Sin", "the Son of perdition", "the Antichrist", and
IF Jesus is Israel's Messiah and spoke the absolute truth that all the stones down to the very foundations of the Temple would be completely razed, then ...

Perhaps the only obstacle standing in the way of the Third Jewish Temple being constructed is an entrenched but possibly wrong traditional belief that the Dome of the Rock is the site!

Whether Antichrist will arise from the midst of Islam is a moot question. Whether the Third Jewish Temple will be built where the Dome of the Rock now stands in defiance of the Eternal God of the Bible, is debatable.⁵ But if the evidence we have here presented is reliable, then there really is no reason why the current Jewish prayers and plans to rebuild their beloved Temple cannot immediately begin without international furore!

But of one thing we may sure, the words of Daniel the prophet whom Jesus loved and quoted so much will come to pass in God's good timing. The Devil and all his lies and subterfuge can not finally nor forever thwart the faithful prophetic word of our God. Satan's last man is coming to Jerusalem and the world stage with **"an abomination of desolations upon the Temple"** (Daniel 9:27 LXX).

So watch this space. The Devil will not quit though he knows he is conquered. Yet God's truth will triumph still. God is sending Jesus His Son, our the Messianic Lord, back to planet earth and he will slay the Antichrist with the breath of his mouth, and establish the Messianic Kingdom of glory over the whole earth! His headquarters will be in Zion. For the true God of Heaven will never abandon his faithful covenant with Israel's patriarchs and with Jerusalem.

Meantime, although the Devil has no intention of quitting his insane pride and lies, the Third Temple will be built. God knows the site. And nothing man nor Satan can do will stop His will being done on earth as in heaven!

⁵ For a rebuttal of the evidence and argumentation presented in this article, watch Speaker's Corner, Derek Walker of Oxford Bible Church, The True Location of the Temple, hosted by Anne Dawson on YouTube.