

The Temple is Rebuilt (Message #24)

Revelation 11: 1-2

Our study tonight continues the parenthetical passage that began in [Chp.10](#) and continues through [11:14](#). We have read only two verses, but they are very significant. On the surface they appear ordinary, but they deal with a particular prophecy that is found throughout the Bible, dealing with the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple.

Now there are a couple of things we need to keep in mind as we move through these verses: 1) They pertain to the nation of Israel. The Temple will not be rebuilt for the church, but for the Jews. 2) They are prophetic in nature, dealing with future events. Keeping these thoughts in mind, let's look at the message found here surrounding the time when: [The Temple is Rebuilt](#).

I. A Message of Prophecy (1) – [And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.](#) John has been instructed to measure the Temple of God, the place dedicated to worship. Right now there is no temple in Jerusalem. The Jews haven't worshipped in a temple since 70 AD. If John is to measure a temple, then one must exist. Here the Lord confirms that the temple will be rebuilt. Let's take a moment to consider the Jewish Temple.

A. A Picture of the Past – We all know that God ordained and orchestrated, in great detail, the construction of the Tabernacle. Every aspect of the Tabernacle itself, the furniture within, the priestly garments, and the offering of sacrifices were given of God to Moses. God's people worshipped in the Tabernacle for nearly 500 years, from Moses to king David. It was here that they met the Lord and transacted His holy business.

- David desired to build a Temple so that the Lord would have a permanent dwelling. He was a man of war and couldn't, but God allowed Solomon to build the Temple. Solomon's Temple took 7 years to build and was a magnificent sight. Upon its completion the Shekinah glory filled the house of the Lord, revealing God's approval. The Temple became the most cherished building in all of Israel.
- In 538 BC Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Solomon's Temple as the people were carried away to Babylon. The pride of all Israel had been destroyed by a gentile king. Sin brings a heavy price!

- In 490 BC some of the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem and Zerubbabel, prince of Judah, rebuilt the Temple. It wasn't as beautiful or elaborate as Solomon's, but the Jews had a Temple. [Hag.2:3 – Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?](#)
- Zerubbabel's Temple remained until 168 BC when Antiochus Epiphanies desecrated the temple by slaughtering a pig on the altar and demanding he be worshipped as god. He tore down the temple and once again the Jews had no temple.
- Herod the Great rebuilt the temple in an effort to gain the Jew's support. His Temple was some 46 years in construction and was the Temple in which Jesus taught and preached. Jesus prophesied that it too would be destroyed, and it was.
- In 70 AD, Titus the Roman general conquered Jerusalem. During the fall of the city, the Temple caught fire. The gold that overlaid much of the Temple melted and ran into the crevices of the stones. Looters tore down the Temple in an effort to retrieve the gold. All that remained was the Western Wall. It remains today and Orthodox Jews pray there each day for the coming Messiah and the Temple to be rebuilt. Three of their Temples have been destroyed, but a 4th will be built soon!

B. The Preparations of the Present – As we mentioned, John measured a Temple. There isn't one now, but there will be. In fact, preparations are being made right now for the Temple to be rebuilt.

- Jerusalem is a sacred place for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. The Mosque of Omar or the Dome of the Rock is the 3rd most holy site to Muslims. It was completed in 691 AD and they believe that it contains the rock that Mohammad ascended to heaven from, spoke with Moses, and came back with the Muslim prayers.
- It has long been believed that the Mosque was built on the exact location of Solomon's Temple. Recent excavations have revealed that the Temple was actually about 100 yards north of the site of the Mosque. This point of contention between Muslims and Jews seems to have found a solution. I don't believe this to be a coincidence or compromise on the part of Jews, but the divine will of God. His Word declares the Temple will be rebuilt.
- It's interesting as well to know that a group known as The Temple Institute is making preparations for the Temple to be rebuilt. They have already reconstructed the Golden Candlestick, or Menorah, the Altar of Incense, the Table of Shewbread, and the garments of the high priest. They have even made a replica of the Ark of the Covenant, but are seeking to find and obtain the original. You can find this information at www.templeinstitute.org. God's plans are being carried out today! That thrills my heart!

C. The Prophecy for the Future – The Jews have been without a Temple for nearly 2,000 years. God isn't through with His covenant people. The Temple will be rebuilt and the Jews will worship there.

- The nation of Israel regained its sovereignty on May 14, 1948. Since then Jews from all over the world have returned to the homeland. God's people will worship in the Temple again. He will keep His promises and the rebuilding of the Temple is just one of those promises.
- Before we move on, this message of prophecy has encouraged my heart. Things are beginning to line up in fulfillment of God's plan. The church is soon going home!

I. A Message of Prophecy (1)

II. A Message of Promise (1) – [And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.](#) So, let's get back to the measuring of the Temple. What exactly does that reveal to us? A couple of things, notice:

A. God's Possession – As John measures the Temple, he is revealing the possession of God. God is claiming the Temple as His own.

- The area around Jerusalem and Israel as a whole is a "hotbed" of contention. The Lord confirms His possession of that land. It doesn't belong to the Palestinians or any of the Islamic extremists. That land is the Promised Land of God alone! He hasn't forgotten, forsaken, or released His claim on Israel. [Rom.11:26-27 – And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.](#)

B. God's Preservation – John not only measured the Temple, but those who worshipped there as well. God will keep every promise He ever made to Israel. They broke the covenant vow and God has judged their sin, but He is still in sovereign control of their destiny.

- The nations of the world will one day rise up against Israel to destroy her, but God will intervene! A remnant in Israel will be saved. God's people will one day turn to Him in salvation. [Zech.12:10 – And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.](#) [Zech. 13:8-9 – And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. \[9\] And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is](#)

refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

I. A Message of Prophecy (1)

II. A Message of Promise (1)

III. A Message of Punishment (2) – But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. Remember John used a rod to measure the Temple. On one hand this was a message of promise, but on the other, a message of punishment.

- The rod brings to mind the judgment of God. Jesus will rule with a rod of iron. There are two aspects about this time that we need to consider:

A. A Time of Deception – The outer court, the court of the gentiles, was left unmeasured. The text reveals that the gentiles will trod underfoot the holy city of Jerusalem for 3 ½ years.

- This bears reference to the Antichrist. He will be the mediator for a peace deal between the Arab nations and Israel. The Temple will be rebuilt in the early stages of Tribulation.

- Let me say that Condoleezza Rice, Tony Blair, UN envoys, or US presidents will not be able to arrange lasting peace in the Middle East. This will be the work of the Antichrist. This will allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple.

- How do I know? It is confirmed in [Dan.9:27](#) – And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- He will allow them to worship for a while, but he will soon enter the Temple and seek to assume the position of God. [II Thes.2:3-4](#) – 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; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

- [Mat.24:15-22](#). This will usher in a time of intense persecution for the Jews. They will be driven from the Temple and pursued by the forces of hell.

B. A Time of Rejection – Remember what the Temple Institute is doing? They are preparing to carry out all the activities of the Temple, including offering sacrifices to atone for sin. They are still seeking the Messiah. God will allow the rebuilding of the Temple, but their actions will further reject the finished work at Calvary.

- Jesus' blood fully atoned for man's sin and the Jews must learn this. There is no longer a need for sacrifice! The Lord will continue to refine and purge the Jews so that they will turn to Him in salvation.
- Jesus is the only way for Jew and Gentile alike. During the future Temple worship, the Jews won't recognize and worship Jesus, but one day they will.

As I mentioned, this text is directed toward the nation of Israel. It doesn't relate to the church, but there is a great truth that all can learn: God's sovereign will is going to be fulfilled completely.

Things are certainly lining up for the Lord's return. It would not surprise me to hear the trumpet sound at any moment. Christian rejoice! If you are lost, please prepare for the return of Christ. He is coming soon to claim His bride.