

## Lesson 4: The Prophetical New Temple

The Bible teaches us that a new Jewish Temple will be built in the Last Days before the second coming of Christ. This third temple will exist during the Great Tribulation. Daniel refers to this temple in Daniel 9:27 where he says the Antichrist will enter and stop the sacrifices. Paul mentions the “man of sin” who will profane the temple by setting himself up as God in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. So this coming temple is a key component to fulfill Bible Prophecy and one that we must be watching for.

### I. The History of Jewish Temples

#### A. The Three Temples

From Moses to Solomon, the Tabernacle was Israel’s place of worship. David had the vision when he was king, to build a temple in Jerusalem to replace the Tabernacle. After David’s death, Solomon, his son, built the temple. This temple was replaced by others, but all of them were built on the same site.

1. Solomon’s Temple - completed about 960 B.C. This temple stood nearly 400 years before it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and his armies around 586 B.C.
2. Zerubbabel’s Temple - built between 536 and 516 B.C., after the Jews returned from captivity in Babylon. Zerubbabel was the governor of Jerusalem who directed the work. It was as large as Solomon’s Temple. However, it lacked the Ark of the Covenant, which had been taken by the Babylonians. This temple was not destroyed, but was rebuilt and expanded by Herod the Great, who ruled in Palestine when Jesus was born.
3. Herod’s Temple - the result of the rebuilding begun by Herod about 20 B.C. To avoid tearing down the old temple, the rebuilding was done a little at a time. It took a year and a half to complete the temple, but work on the surrounding buildings went on for years. The temple was not completed until about 64 A.D., only 6 years before the Romans destroyed it.

#### B. The Synagogue

The Synagogue was probably begun during the Babylonian captivity when the temple was in ruins. Unable to go to Jerusalem to worship, they would meet for worship and teachings in the various towns where they lived. There was only one temple for the nation, but each community could have a synagogue, just as communities today have local churches.

1. The synagogue was like a school where the Old Testament law and prophets were read and taught.
2. It was a house of worship for the Sabbath day and other occasions.
3. It was a day school for the children, where the scriptures were taught to them, as well as reading and writing.

## II. The Coming Temple

### A. The Last Days Prophesied Jewish Temple

1. The prophet Ezekiel proclaimed that God would have a sanctuary among His people forever.

**Ezekiel 37:28 NKJV** - *The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.*

2. The prophets Amos and Isaiah prophesied that the Jews would return to the ancient land, and they would rebuild ruined cities.

**Amos 9:14-15 NKJV** - *14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them," says the Lord your God.*

**Isaiah 43:5-6 NKJV** - *5 Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth.*

### B. The Prophetic Significance of the Third Temple

1. The Temple in Jerusalem was never just a structure, but an earthly dwelling place for the Divine Presence of God.

**1 Kings 8:10-11 NKJV** - *10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*

2. Ezekiel saw a vision of an eternal and permanent dwelling place of God on the Temple Mount in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

**Ezekiel 43:4-7 NKJV** - *4 And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. 5 The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 6 Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. 7 And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.*

3. The prophet Ezekiel further prophesied that the future Temple would involve sacrifices being offered as part of the restoration of the Jews back to the land.

**Ezekiel 42:13 NKJV** - *Then he said to me, "The north chambers and the south chambers, which are opposite the separating courtyard, are the holy chambers where the priests who approach the Lord shall eat the most holy offerings. There they shall lay the most holy offerings—the grain offering, the sin offering, and the trespass offering—for the place is holy."*

### C. The Role of a Rebuilt Temple in the End Times

1. The Old Testament prophet Daniel foretold about the Antichrist defiling the temple before the return of Jesus.

**Daniel 9:27 NKJV** - *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.*

2. This defilement was already foreshadowed when the Greek king Antiochus IV Epiphanes invaded Jerusalem in 168 B.C. and sacrificed a pig on the altar of incense. He then erected a statue of the Greek god, Zeus. He declared the daily sacrifices and other ceremonies illegal. Jesus said a similar abomination would take place just prior to His return.

**Matthew 24:15 NKJV** - *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand).*

3. The apostle Paul declared that the man of sin will proclaim himself to be divine and will sit in the Temple of God, acting as if he were God. This is the ultimate “abomination of desolation” that Jesus foretold.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** - **3** *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.*

### III. Key Components of the Coming Third Temple

#### A. Preparations Taking Place

1. A Jewish priesthood is being trained in the Old City of Jerusalem. Two Talmudic schools, located near the Western Wall, are teaching Jewish students the details of Temple service.
2. Temple sacrifices, offerings, utensils, priestly attire, even the elaborate attire of the High Priest are being prepared by the Temple Institute in Jerusalem.
3. A red heifer is most important to the sacrificial system, because its ashes are needed to cleanse Jews from their sins so they can enter the Temple Mount.

**Numbers 19:2-7 NKJV - 2** *“This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord has commanded, saying: ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come. 3 You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him; 4 and Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood seven times directly in front of the tabernacle of meeting. 5 Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight: its hide, its flesh, its blood, and its offal shall be burned. 6 And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet, and cast them into the midst of the fire burning the heifer. 7 Then the priest shall wash his clothes, he shall bathe in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp; the priest shall be unclean until evening.*

**Hebrews 9:13-14 NKJV - 13** *For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

4. The Ark of the Covenant, once located in the Holy of Holies, is considered the most sacred part of the ancient Jewish Temple. In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah ordered the caretakers of the Ark of the Covenant to return it to the Temple in Jerusalem. That is the last time the Ark’s location is mentioned in scripture.
5. Today in Israel, there is a plan to reestablish the Sanhedrin, the ancient ruling body of Israel. The Israel Torah Foundation is a driving force in restoring the ruling body of the Sanhedrin.

**Luke 21:28-32 NKJV - 28** *Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” 29 Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.*