

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Part 13: Rebuilding the Temple

Reading: *2 Chronicles 36:22 - 23*

Introduction

- From time of Exodus to the time of Solomon the **'Tabernacle'** was the centre of Israel's religious life.
- In Solomon's time the Temple superseded the Tabernacle and it was then the focal point for the nation's worship.
- Some 400 years later, due to personal and national sin **'the Glory'** left the temple.
- The Babylonians looted it and destroyed it and exiled the lion share of the population.

1 Seventy Years

- Unless the nation repented, 70 years of exile would be dealt upon the nation. [Jeremiah 25:11].
- For 70 years only the ruins of the temple remained and Israel lost their song. [Psalm 137].
- During that 70 years Daniel interpreted visions, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't burn and the Persians replaced the Babylonians.
- Then a man named 150 years earlier comes to the throne. [Isaiah 44:28].
- The Edict of King Cyrus allows the Jews to return home to rebuild their temple.

2 Zerubbabel And The Second Exodus

- Zerubbabel means **'born at Babel/Babylon.'**
- Zerubbabel led the first of 3 returns over a 90 years period.

- The story is taken up in the **'post exilic books'** of Ezra and Nehemiah.
- Ezra 1 - 6 records first return under Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple.
- Ezra 7 - 10 records 2nd return led by Ezra to rebuild the spiritual life of the nation.
- Esther records the story of the Jews who stayed in Persia.
- Nehemiah records the 3rd return under Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

3 Rebuilding The Temple

- The temple site was cleared and a new foundation laid.
- The work was then delayed for 16 years by the Samaritans who had taken up residency in the land while the Jews were exiled.
- The prophet Haggai challenged the people to build again and the temple was completed.
- The 2nd temple proved to be smaller and not as grand as the first.
- Haggai 2:9 stated however that the glory of this 2nd would be greater than the glory of the first.
- Note the promise in [Malachi 3:2].

4 The Temple In Jesus' Time

- The wheels of Redemptive History continued to turn.
- The Greeks replaced the Persians and then the Romans replaced the Greeks.
- About 63BC they conquered Judea and imposed Herod the Great as a puppet king over the Jews.
- Herod loved to build and he doubled the size of the temple in Jerusalem.
- When Jesus was born it was time for Malachi's prophecy to be fulfilled.
- See [Luke 2:22], [Luke 2:46], [John 2:13], [Matthew 21:12], [John 8:2], [Matthew 23:38].
- The Messenger of the Covenant had indeed come to His temple but only a few recognised Him.
- The time would come when **'their house'** (temple) would again be left unto them desolate.

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