

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

Part 14: The Little Hill Becomes A Powder Keg

Reading: *Matthew 23:37 - 24:2*

Introduction

- Today, Jerusalem is a sprawling metropolis but 4000 years ago it was a blank canvas.
- In [Genesis 22] Abraham builds an altar on it and calls it '*Jehovah-Jireh*'.
- Approx 1000 years later king David buys the plot from Araunah the Jebusite and he too offers a sacrifice on it.
- On that plot King Solomon built the 1st temple where God would dwell in midst of His people.
- It stood for some 400 years until God's glory left it.
- The Babylonians destroyed the temple and exiled the people to Babylon for 70 years.
- The Persian king Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jews to return home and rebuild the temple.
- Zerubbabel led the first of 3 returns and a smaller temple was rebuilt.
- [Haggai 2:9] said its glory would be greater than the first and [Malachi 3:1] said the Lord would come to His temple.

1 When The Fullness Of Time

- NT opens with the Romans in charge and the puppet king Herod ruling Judea.
- Herod extended and renovated the temple more than doubling its size.
- How would the Glory of this temple be greater than the former?
- Jesus is the Glory and He came in human flesh to it but the Jews rejected Him.
- [Matthew 21:12/13] Jesus threw the moneychangers out and called it, '*My house*'.
- [Matthew 21:33 ~ 44] He told the parable of the wicked vinedressers rejecting Him.

- [Matthew 23] He denounced the Jewish leaders 7 times. ***“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites.”***
- In [Vs 37] He laments over the city and in [vs 38] He now refers to the temple as ***‘your house.’***
- He predicts a terrifying apocalyptic future.
- [Matthew 24] He announces the future desolation of the temple.
- History is to repeat itself.
- Jesus warned His people however, when to flee. [Luke 21:20]
- Their obedience to Bible prophecy saved their lives while over a million Jews perished.
- When Jesus died, the veil in temple was torn.

2 The Destruction Of The Temple

- The first time it was Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.
- This 2nd time it will be Prince Titus and the Romans.
- AD70 saw the destruction of the temple for the second time.
- The temple was looted and set on fire.
- The gold melted and filled the crevices between the great stone blocks.
- The Romans pulled every stone apart to retrieve the gold once it had solidified fulfilling Jesus words.
- This was also a fulfilment of [Daniel 9:25].
- Notice the fantastic accuracy of Bible prophecy.

3 From AD70 To Today

- Surviving Jews taken as slaves or scattered abroad.
- In the 7th century Jerusalem went Muslim.
- About AD691 Caliph Al-Malik builds ***‘Dome of the Rock’*** shrine over original temple spot.
- In AD705 his son built the silver domed Al-Aqsa mosque across from it on same site.
- Israeli paratroopers stormed temple mount during the 1967 ***‘Six Day War.’***
- Today it is Islam’s 3rd holiest site and Jews pray at wailing wall for a new temple to be built on it.
- Such an event would provoke a terrible war.
- The little mount indeed is today a ***‘powder keg.’***

4 The Future

- The futurists say a 3rd temple will be rebuilt and in it their much talked about future antichrist will demand worship and initiate the great tribulation.
- I do not believe Bible teaches such a thing.
- A rebuilt Jewish temple with an occupying future antichrist is a ***‘Jesuit’*** deception.

Teaching Biblically · Thinking Biblically · Living Biblically