

## The Third Temple

There is a lot of Biblical Prophecy about the return of Jesus. So much so that some have decided to piece together the facts into a timeline and state when Jesus will return. I guess they have never read Matthew 24:36 where it tells us very clearly:

“...Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son but the Father only”

This is consistent with the Jewish wedding practices. The groom would go away to prepare a place for his bride. Only the Father of the Bridegroom would know the day and hour of his return because the Father would determine when the work was time and it was time.

This is all very true and should by rights stop these erroneous date slingers that cause so much unrest, panic and the loss of life.

So why do they bother?

There are prophecies that the word of God reveals to each of us in his word that describe the events surrounding the Lord's return. Cutting to the chase... What we have is enough information to know the season of the Lords return based on what prophecy has been fulfilled and what hasn't.

There is so much controversy and various theories around this that I thought it would be interesting to talk about a couple of significant indicators that the Lord's return is coming soon. If you are aware of some of the facts, you will be protected from charlatans who try to convince others that they know more and that Matthew 24:36 doesn't apply to them.

The fear generated is significant. Remember the Jonestown massacre? All those people deluded and killed. The word of God describes these “priests” as well: *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”* Hosea 4:6

Today I want to discuss a couple of prophetic facts...

These are given to you to build faith and eliminate fear. We do not know the day and the hour but there are signposts that we are in the last generation. The scripture says he is coming like a thief in the night and we are not to be caught unawares. This the primary point in the parable of the ten virgins.

As prepared children of God Luke 21:28 tells us: *“...and when these things come to pass, then look up, and lift your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh”*

Let's do the historical context part of the sermon now...

Solomon built the first temple about one thousand years before Jesus came on the scene incarnate. It also was destroyed. 586bc saw its destruction. The second temple was built in 536bc. It was called the Temple of Solomon.

About two thousand years ago Jerusalem was under siege by the legions of Rome. This force led by Titus, the son of Emperor Vespasian destroyed the temple August 9<sup>th</sup>, 70ad. The temple that he destroyed was the second temple built by the Jews following their Babylonian captivity in 536bc. This temple was enlarged and enhanced by King Herod.

So why do we care?

The rebuilding of this temple hold profound significance for our generation. It is on par with the appearance of the Anti-Christ or the forming of the armies that are prophesied to invade Israel following the War of Gog and Magog.

There are a lot of things with prophecy that seem uncertain or unclear, but one thing we know for sure is that the temple will be rebuilt in its location in Jerusalem prior to the Lord's return. It is a major signpost pointing to the time of the Lord's return and the battle of Armageddon.

Did you know that Israel took back the temple site during the six-day war of 1967. So why hasn't Israel rebuilt the temple. Is it funding? Why wouldn't the nation of Israel see this reconstruction done now?

The answer: Political Complications.

You see right now on the site of the temple is seen the golden dome of the Al Aqsa Mosque Israel knows of the heightened tensions in the area between the Christians and the Muslims. It is for this reason and others that Israel allows the (Waqf) known as the Supreme Muslim Religious council control. The Waqf patrols the temple site and allows Christians access to the site but with the condition that they are not allowed to Worship or Pray on the site.

Those of the Jewish faith abstain from worship at the temple site as they do not recognize Jesus as savior and so are afraid that they may be inadvertently trespassing on the area of the Holy of Holies.

Does this fulfill any prophecy?  
YUP

In Luke 21:24 the scriptures clearly state: *"Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled"*

The Jewish council of the Sanhedrin will need to be reconvened to authoritatively establish the placement of the temple.

An interesting side-note here is that in Jewish Mosaic law there is an ordinance that any journey of more than 1000 paces on the Sabbath day, which was Saturday at that time, would be considered work.

The non-biblical contemporary historian wrote that the distance from the temple mount to the Mount of Olives was approximately 1000 yards. Wherein a yard is the approximate length of a typical pace. In addition Luke wrote in acts 1:12 that the distance from the Mount of Olives to the temple mount was a Sabbath day's journey.

Israel focused its spiritual life around the temple and a mere 70 years after Christ's death and resurrection it was destroyed. They lost the center of their spiritual life.

Did you know that every year the people of the Jewish faith have a Passover feast called Yom Kippur? The Jewish tradition is to pray the following prayer at the end of Yom Kippur: "Next year in Jerusalem" and "May it be that the temple will be speedily build in our days". You see that they hold out hope for the rebuilding of the temple. Its significance is that it would be imminent of the Lord's return. It would signal the start of the establishment of the long awaited Kingdom of God on Earth under the dominion of the messiah.

There are many fronts in Israel that are currently tasked with making this a reality. There are tensions and significant hostility around this as both the Christians and the Muslims claim this as a holy site.

Now the temple was destroyed. That is a fact. So what does Jesus imply to us when he tells his disciples of "the holy place" in a future temple when he talked to his disciples about events of the last days and the coming great tribulation? What did he mean when he told them: "When ye therefore see the desolation of abomination spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the Holy Place, (whosoever readeth let him understand:) the let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains. (Matt 24: 15-16)

This prophecy of Jesus echoes the prophecy of Daniel that the "Abomination that makes desolate will stand in the temple of God in Jerusalem" Dan. 11:31, Dan. 12:11

In both of these cases the prophecies indicate that the temple will be build before the Anti-Christ comes to power and takes control of European Mediterranean region.

Now, although we know that these are clear indicators of the season of the lord's return and efforts are now underway to see the temple rebuilt, we also know that Satan will defile the temple, he will desecrate the Holy Place. He will do this by directing the his Anti-Christ to violate the Holy of Holies in the last 3&1/2 years of

tribulation. The False prophet who will be in essence the collaborator of the Anti-Christ will demand that the Anti-Christ himself be worshipped as God in the rebuilt temple.

So since we know that it will be in Jerusalem (The city of peace) that Jesus will establish his throne for his millennial reign, this occurs prior to his return. There are several scriptures that tell us through God's prophets of the events to come. We are told that the final battle for the soul and destiny of mankind will be decided in Jerusalem. This is where Jesus will set up his throne.

In Short, Christians the Third Temple will be built on one of the most hotly contested pieces of real estate on the planet...

Do not be deceived the day of the Lord is at hand! But we also do not know the day or the hour; we only know that since 1967 we are living in the last days before the return of Jesus.