



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"Tread Wary"

11:1-2

Revelation 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

Revelation 11:2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months.

Tisha B'Av is a day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people, many of which coincidentally have occurred on the ninth of Av (our month of August).

Tisha B'Av primarily commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av (the first by the Babylonians in 586BC; the second by the Romans in 70AD).

Over time, Tisha B'Av has come to be a Jewish day of mourning for later tragedies. There is a custom of assigning Tisha B'Av as the date on which wars affecting Jews began or expulsions and persecutions of Jews occurred, although this dating is not always historically accurate. Regardless of the exact dates of these events, for many Jews, Tisha B'Av is the designated day of mourning for them.

In our weekly prophecy updates I reported that this year (2008) on Tisha B'Av both religious and secular Jews are calling for the building of another Temple.

Beyond the religious, cultural, and historical reasons to build a Temple is the prophetic reason. Daniel, in his prophecies of the Tribulation, indicates there will be a Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus verified the accuracy and literalness of Daniel's prophecy in His Olivet Discourse to His disciples.

Our verses in the Revelation describe it.

Revelation 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

Revelation 11:2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months.

These verses assume the Temple has been built and has been functioning for some period of time. People will **worship** there at the **altar**. The sacrifices and offerings will have been reinstated.

The **forty-two months** correspond to three-and-one-half years or twelve hundred ninety days. These designate half of the seven year Tribulation.

Something will happen at the mid-point of the seven years and for forty-two months Jerusalem (including the Temple) will be **trodden underfoot by the Gentiles**.

We read in Daniel 9:27,

Daniel 9:27 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."

The **he** is the world leader we call antichrist. **He shall make a firm covenant with many for one week.** This is the starting point of the Great Tribulation. The antichrist enters into a treaty with Israel and promises to enforce it.

It will not necessarily be the Rapture that will begin the Tribulation. The Rapture will come sometime before the Tribulation starts. It may come just before; it may come years before the Tribulation starts. While the Bible teaches that the Rapture will precede the Tribulation, it never says that the Rapture begins the Tribulation. The event that begins the Tribulation is the signing of the seven-year covenant.

Daniel says that the covenant is made with **many**. I'm told the Hebrew text uses a definite article meaning **the many** and that they are the leadership of Israel empowered to sign covenants of this nature.

The verse goes on to state that in the middle of the Great Tribulation he will **bring an end to sacrifice and offering**. After the first three-and-one-half years the covenant will be broken. There is going to be a forced cessation of the sacrificial system.

Following the breakdown of the covenant and the cessation of the sacrificial system Daniel says, **And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate**. The word **wing** refers to the pinnacle of the Temple and it is a Hebrew word that means *an overspreading influence*. It specifically refers to the worship of the Antichrist, when the Antichrist declares himself to be the one true god (see Second Thessalonians 2:3-4). The word **abomination** in Hebrew refers to an image or idol, meaning that an image or idol of the Antichrist will be set up in the Temple compound on the pinnacle of the Temple itself. This is also spoken of in Daniel 12:11 and Matthew 24:15, with the image itself seen in Revelation 13:14-15.

By these actions the antichrist will cause the Jews to be desolate as they must flee for their lives.

A criticism you sometimes hear about the building of a Jewish Temple is that it would take too long to fit in the first three-and-one-half years of the Great Tribulation. It wouldn't and here is one reason why.

Because we've seen representations of the Temple King Herod built for the Jews we think that the entire complex is the Temple. Not so. The Temple refers only to the holy place and the holy of holies. They were a structure about 2700 square feet. The Temple could be built quickly and at very little cost.

The major criticism you hear is that the Moslem Temple the Dome of the Rock sits on the site of the holy of holies. It would therefore have to be destroyed in order for the Jews to build their Temple.

Certain historical accounts say that this building was built by the Moslems to overlay the location of the original Jewish Temple(s) and most rabbis in Israel today associate the original Temple location with this site.

There are at least two other possibilities, however. In 1969 there was some Arab construction work going on around the Dome of the Rock. A man by the name of Dr. Ze'ev Yeivin happened upon this Arab constructions site and made some drawings of an exposed ancient wall near the Dome of the Rock. Since you cannot have archaeological digs up there this was a very important find.

In the Early 1970's a man named Asher Kaufman published a very interesting theory. He identified the section of this wall, seen by Dr. Yeivin, as the eastern wall of the Temple's Court of the Women.

Based on this and many different works Kaufman concluded that the site of the Temple was at the northwest corner, 330 feet to the north of the Dome of the Rock. In other words, the Moslem Temple is *not* built over the holy of holies!

In recent years Jewish architect Tuvia Sagiv has proposed another, more southerly, location. He's used ground penetrating radar probes and thermal infrared scanning (in addition to all the known research) to arrive at his conclusion that the site of the Temple lies between the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque beneath a clump of trees.¹

In either of these two more recent theories the Temple could be built and coexist with the Moslem structures. This seems consistent with what you read in Revelation 11:2,

Revelation 11:2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles...

Could **given to the Gentiles** mean that one or more of these other structures co-exist with the Temple? It could and if this happened soon, it would.

Things are lining-up just as prophesied. Not only is there talk of the Temple being rebuilt; and evidence of a site where it could coexist with the Moslems. But also preparations are being made by groups in Israel to reinstate the priesthood and most of the implements needed to reinstitute sacrifice and offering have been or are being made.

One thing to realize is that this Tribulation Temple, called by the Jews the Third Temple, is not really for Jesus. God does not really authorize it. It will be the Temple of the false Christ, the antichrist.

The Lord will have a Temple on earth during the Millennium. It's described in some detail by Ezekiel.

Today, **you** are the Temple of God – both individually and corporately. How blessed we are to be able to worship God *anywhere* and *anytime* in spirit and in truth.

¹ <http://www.templemount.org/theories.html>