

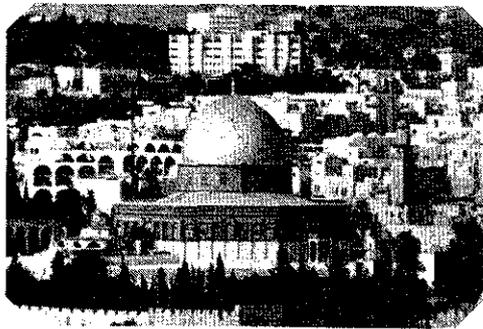
**What about...**

# The Rebuilding of the Temple?



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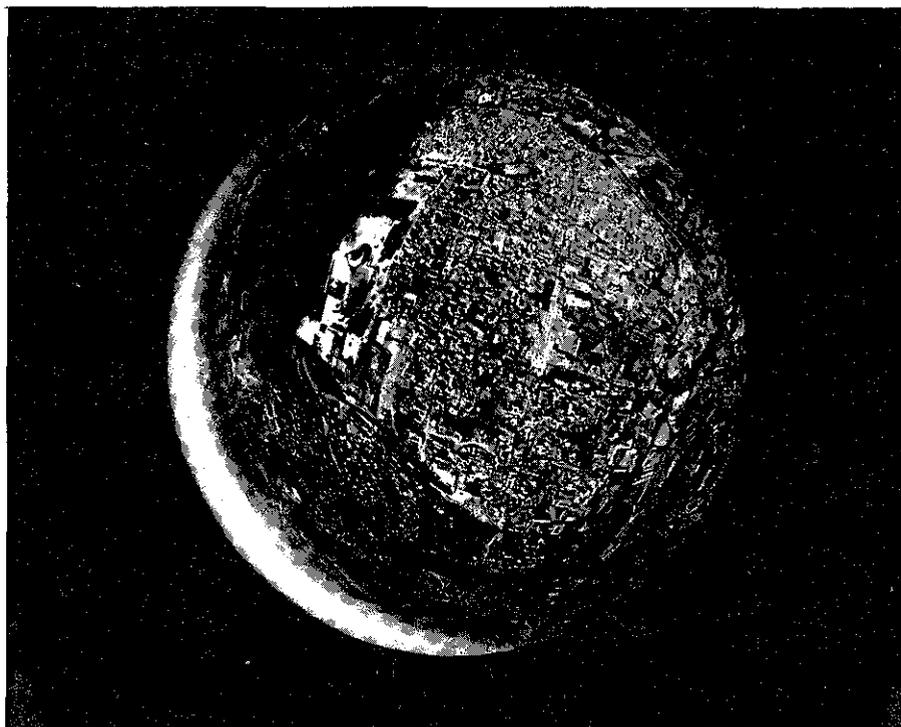


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## INTRODUCTION

This view of Jerusalem by photographer Marvin Newman pictures the old Temple area with the Dome of the Rock prominently displayed in the upper center of the photo.

Likewise in our book entitled **THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE** we present a view of endtime events as they relate to Jerusalem and the era of the Anti-Christ.

Our prayer is that all who read these chapters will come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord and be ready for His coming. In the words of Jesus himself we are warned: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Lu. 21:34-36)

Thus our message, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

# WELCOME TO...



Jerusalem! What does one think of when one repeats the name?

"Welcome home!" is what your tour guide might say upon your arrival.

Jerusalem is home to the Hasidic Jew with his long curls flying in the breeze, or to the Arab going about his routine business with donkey and pushcart, or to the soldier doing sentry duty at his post above the Wailing Wall.

Jerusalem by modern "city" standards is a mixture of up-to-date housing as well as the dingy, dull and drab, dirty streets and alleys. Jane Morse, news columnist, called Jerusalem "a pipsqueak non-contender, an overgrown village. It is a city of domes and minarets, winter roses, and, above all, Jerusalem stone." She adds, "At the same time, even the enthralled must notice the litter and the smells, the rotting garbage that at times strays from the streets into the sanctified areas, the frequent and far from subtle bids for baksheesh (a tip) by the ordained as much as the unordained. It can also be disillusioning to find that what so many come so far to see is often either questionable in its authenticity as the scene of a given event or comparatively new—a reconstruction of a reconstruction."

Its past history as well as its glorious future is what makes Jerusalem of significance.

Mentioned almost 2,000 times in the Bible, Jerusalem has a particular place in Christian thought.

It reached its greatest height in the reign of Solomon and although it declined after the division of the two kingdoms, it remained the symbol of God's glory and power, extolling righteousness and holiness.

\*The Wailing Wall is what is left of the temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. Back in 1925, the Illinois Society of Architects estimated the total cost of building Solomon's temple then would be \$87 billion dollars. In addition, equipping the temple, using gold and silver, came to another \$34 billion.

Now can you understand why Jerusalem had a glorious past?

However, no city has experienced as much devastation and bloodshed or survived as many attempts to destroy her. She has endured 40 sieges, 32 partial destructions, and has changed hands at least 20 times. She has endured three wars in the past 30 years.

The Rev. S. Levinson, writing in the PROPHETIC WITNESS (Aug. '78) says concerning Jerusalem, "It is very much the centre of the world . . . but it has no natural wealth, does not sit astride any great trade route, is perched high on the mountains of Judea . . ." He goes on to note: "This city, located in the centre of the Middle East . . . has long been the fulcrum of the religious world. To the Jew, it is a sign of God's faithfulness; to the Moslem, where Mohammed ascended to Heaven; to the Christian, where Jesus was crucified."

To the Mohammedan, Jerusalem fell into their hands in 637 A.D.

According to Orthodox Islam, there are three temples of special holiness attached: the Ka'ba in Mecca, the Mosque of Mohammed in Medina and the Temple Mount in Jerusalem where Abraham is believed to have offered Isaac.

Muslim tradition also asserts that the Holy Rock encased in the Mosque at Jerusalem is directly over Allah's throne and above the "cave of the spirits" where all the souls of the dead congregate weekly. Muslim legend also closely connects the city with the final judgment. They believe that living in the city purifies the soul and helps prepare for death. Like the Jews, religious Moslems long to be buried on the Mount of Olives.

After Israel seized Jerusalem in 1967, Pope Paul staunchly maintained that the city should be assured a special international statute with guaranteed free access for religions. He did not spell out, however, how the guarantees would work. The Pope told Sadat that the "question of Jerusalem and the Holy Places must be resolved with due regard to the millions of followers of the three monotheistic religions."

\*According to Lee Roddy and Charles E. Sellier, Jr., "The Western Wall (Wailing Wall), which still remains, was not a part of the temple, but was actually a part of the wall from Herod's palace. Every last stone of the temple was cast down exactly as Jesus had predicted." IN SEARCH OF HISTORIC JESUS (Bantam Books, 1979), p. 123.

The future of Jerusalem is dark and foreboding for its inhabitants. According to John Bonar, writing in the LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES, "Over 80% of the population are atheistic Jews who don't even practice Judaism."

Zechariah describes Jerusalem in the last days as being "a burdensome stone for all people" He goes on to declare, "All that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." (Zech. 12:3)

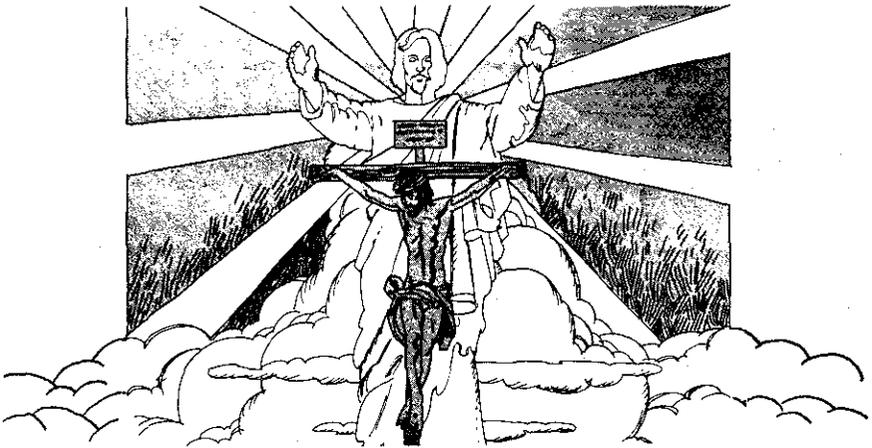
At Armageddon, we will see all of the nations magnetically drawn toward Jerusalem. Again Zechariah describes the event, saying: "Behold the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished." We read, "Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations as then he fought in the day of Battle." (See Zech. 14:1-2)



That's Armageddon when the armies of earth gather together to make war with the army of saints on white horses led by our Lord Jesus Christ.

What will happen then?

Howard C. Estep, in his PROPHETIC NEWSLETTER, notes: "After the war of Armageddon has been fought at the conclusion of the 70th Week of Daniel and the beginning of the 1000-year Kingdom Age, Jerusalem is going to be restored to the Israelites, the magnificent fifth temple of the earthly reign of Christ is to be erected, and Jerusalem will become the capital city of Jesus Christ's earthly government for 1,000 years.



Again, as Zechariah writes: "And the Lord shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one." (Zech. 14:8-9)

Says Estep: "So we can very well see that the city of Jerusalem is going to become involved in a tremendous way in the future of the world. It is going to become the focal point of all activity concerning the ongoing of this world system, from here on out, until the end of the Kingdom Age of one thousand years! Jerusalem is involved all the way. Keep your prophetic eye on Jerusalem as you keep your hand upon the Holy Bible."

The opportunities to visit Jerusalem may be limited. Yet as David Hoyle writes: "A visit to Israel today is therefore a unique opportunity to see firsthand how God in these days is working out His purposes in relation to His ancient people."

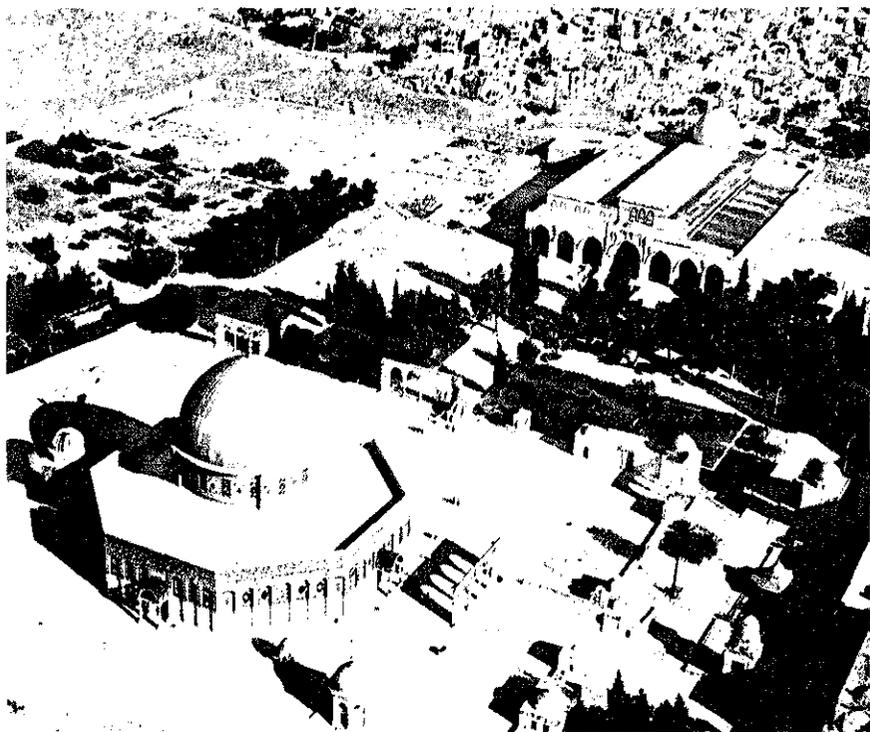
One news source points out: "Recent years have seen a considerable increase in the number of Christians, many of them clergymen, who come to Israel not only to visit the holy sites or to staff Christian institutions, but also for the purpose of study. For many of them, this is a unique opportunity to master the language of the Bible in its nascent form, modern Hebrew."

Over 90% of the total Christian population in Israel is Arabic-speaking. In the 400 or so churches throughout the country, Arabic is frequently heard.

Jerusalem is undergoing a cultural revival. The desert is blossoming as a rose. Mayor Teddy Kollek has inaugurated a beauty program that would create a vast green belt in this modern city of less than 400,000. The unique archaeological parks are only a part of a complicated and modern infrastructure, including roads, sewerage, parking along with the preservation and display of the ancient archaeological ruins treasured by both Jerusalemites and their visitors.

Some who travel the city may have missed these floral improvements. As Jane Morse comments: "Jerusalem is not a pleasant little tourist attraction. It is a city—an oddly sophisticated, beguiling and disturbing one—that's stood travelers on their ears for centuries."

Welcome to Jerusalem!



# The Rebuilding of the Temple

The JERUSALEM POST (Oct. 9, 1983) reports ultra-nationalists and religious zealots are pressing for a Jewish presence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City. They would like to see their ancient temple rebuilt.

The hopes, aspirations and dreams for some in Israel is for the rebuilding of their holy temple.

When the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem sent his blessing to the Rabbi in Moscow, he noted: "May it be God's will that all of us be worthy to witness the rebuilding of Israel and our Holy Temple in its glory."

Is the temple about to be rebuilt? Does the rebuilding of the temple play a prominent role in Bible Prophecy?

When a group calling itself the Faithful of Temple Mount applied for permission for a service at the site of Solomon's ancient temple, they were refused any such permit. But they did not take no for an answer.

Instead, they took their petition to the Israeli High Court and won. Permission was granted. Armed with this written permission and assisted by Jerusalem police, they entered a small corner of the Temple precinct and there conducted a service for one and one half hours.

You can imagine the excitement, the rejoicing, as hundreds of worshippers crowded into the area.

Testified Donald L. Diehl, associate editor of PROPHECY IN THE NEWS, "The sect feels that it is their calling from God to push for the rebuilding of the Temple and to have a Jewish presence on the Mount."

Today the Mosque of Omar sits astride the Temple Mount so that any attempt by Jews to occupy the area has been largely forbidden.

According to an article in the JERUSALEM POST, the desire of Jews to take possession of the Temple mount is indeed significant. It is stated: "Ascension to the Temple Mount for prayer is a way of hastening the arrival of the Messiah, who must arrive before the rebuilding of the temple can commence."

It is further explained, "Gentiles as well as Jews are regarded by Jewish law as "unclean" today, and thus unfit to walk on Mt. Moriah, where Jewish tradition says Isaac was willingly bound by his father Abraham for sacrifice and where the two holy Temples were constructed."

Orthodox Jews have thus been forced to admire the Temple Mount from afar or to view photographs. One is even forbidden to fly in a plane over the Temple Mount, as this, too, would violate the holiness of this Temple Mount which reaches into the heavens, we're told.

For those not acquainted with the Temple Mount it is the location of Israel's two past temples, the last of which was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.



The original temple site was the location where Abraham prepared to offer Isaac as a sacrifice when God intervened to show him a ram caught in a thicket. God was putting Abraham to the test to see if he would be willing to obey Him, even to the offering of his beloved son. It was a beautiful portrayal of how God offered His own beloved Son when Jesus came into the world as a propitiation for our sins.

The Moslem Dome of the Rock sits on the site of what is believed to be the place where Abraham offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and where Solomon's Temple once stood.

It is here at Mount Moriah that Jews are forbidden to come and pray lest they provoke a disturbance of the peace. However, it is believed there will come a day when this beautiful mosque will be gone and in its place will be erected the Temple of the Messiah.

It has been reported that the Chief Rabbinate has revealed there are plans to take the Dome of the Rock apart, piece by piece, and put it up elsewhere for the Moslems. For some say the Jews would never be satisfied unless their Temple was rebuilt at the very site where Solomon's Temple once stood.

We recall the capture of Old Jerusalem. What a time of rejoicing it had been. Historian El dad declared: "We're at the stage where David was when he liberated Jerusalem. From that time until the construction of the Temple by Solomon only one generation passed. So will it be with us!" And, concerning the Moslem shrine, the Dome of the Rock, he noted: "It is an open question. Who knows what we're going to do with that shrine? Perhaps it will be an earthquake."

Of course, not all Jews want to see that happen. They fear a Holy War could result with Islam's 500 million people were the mosque to come down for any reason.

On the other hand, for two millenniums now orthodox Jews have prayed three times a day, "May it be Thy will, O Lord our God, the God of our fathers, that the Temple be speedily built in our days . . . There we will serve Thee with awe, as in the days of old, as in ancient years."

In the Jewish Knesset there is lobbying going on for Jewish access to the Temple Mount. There are two extremely serious obstacles, however. These obstacles are the government's firm decision not to make any changes in the status quo on the Temple Mount and the ultra-orthodox ban against entering the area.

There are varying degrees of holiness on the Temple Mount. The Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was kept was the most sanctified section, and the high priest was the only one allowed to enter for the Day of Atonement services. The Jews who were ritually unclean — from a physical issue from their bodies or some other reason — were forbidden to enter the Temple and the courts of the priests and the Israelites as well as the court of women.

Indeed, how wonderful that Christ's coming changed all that! For upon His death on the cross the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom signifying we have access to the very throne of God. Thus, we are encouraged to come to Him at any time and anywhere.

As we read in Heb. 4:14-16, "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

Now, as a result of the finished work of Christ on the cross for us, we read: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Indeed, what a promise!

We're talking about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. We would note that there are several obstacles or hindrances to this bold venture.

First, the ancient law requires the Temple be administered by priests who are the descendants of Moses' brother, Aaron; yet it is nigh to impossible to trace the lineage of those today who might be in line for such an assignment.

Then, too, the Torah specifies that Temple ritual includes daily animal sacrifices, a concept alien to modern Jews.

Finally, the temple needs to be constructed on its original site, and this could be done only by removal of the Dome of the Rock held sacred by Islam.

Dr. Theodore Epp, of the Back to the Bible program, says: "There are obstacles to such a program at the present time, but undoubtedly these will be taken care of when the time comes."

The JERUSALEM POST notes: "There are growing numbers of Christians, many organized into small churches and larger groups, who see the construction of a Third Temple as the cornerstone of their beliefs."

The POST goes on to explain: "These are evangelical or Pentecostal Christians who believe that prophecies in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament indicate that the building of the Third Temple on the Temple Mount is part of a divine plan leading up to the end of days."

Notes this publication: "Though there is a clear divergence in religious belief between these Christians and Jews who work towards rebuilding the Temple, they willingly and enthusiastically cooperate. Indeed, the Christians are encouraged by their leaders to contribute towards such groups as the Jerusalem Temple Foundation."

In the WASHINGTON POST (June 10, 1967) there appeared some years ago a large advertisement addressed to persons of the Jewish faith all over the world, appealing to them to help "rebuild the temple of God."

In Miami, Rabbi Nathan H. Zwitman suggested that Jews "resolve today to fulfill a promise made to God." He pointed out, "For centuries we have repeated . . . bring us back to our land and we will build your house again."

When Teddy Kolleck, the mayor of Jerusalem, was once asked concerning plans to rebuild the Temple, his answer was, "We have no such plans at the present. When Messiah comes, He will rebuild the Temple."

This is the view held by some, including Maimonides, who believes Messiah would appear to rule over Israel in "the end of days."

So there is expectancy and great anticipation on the part of those who await the coming of their "anointed king," the Messiah, whom we know to be our Lord Jesus Christ.

We would yet comment on the position of evangelicals who also believe a temple will be built.

In Isaiah 66:1 we read where the Lord said, "Where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"

So, tied in with the rebuilding of the temple is the coming of the Messiah.

However, a temple may be in existence during the tribulation. Some see the coming Antichrist arising out of the European sphere and making an agreement with Israel that would allow for them to offer their sacrifices again. For a period of seven years the agreement would be in effect, but after three and one-half years he breaks the covenant and establishes himself as the sole object of worship.

This is based on Dan. 9:27 where we read, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: (week of years), and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease."

The late Russel Taylor Smith, whose publication was called GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS, wrote, "Jerusalem is the place where Anti-Christ will, for a brief moment, establish his headquarters. Certain prophetic scriptures tell of the rebuilding of the temple; they speak of the desecration of the temple by the man of sin (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 3,4), and the language of such scriptures implies that the temple will be built by the Jews."

In Matt. 24:15 we have our Lord declaring: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand). Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains."

We have pointed out that Judaea is the West Bank where a great struggle is going on today for the control of that area. Eventually it will no doubt provoke the conflagration that will find the Jews fleeing to the mountains.

However, simultaneous with this event will be the Antichrist. He comes on the scene as Israel's Messiah. He offers them protection. He poses as a great peacemaker. He even suggests they offer again their sacrifices. But he is in reality an imposter, a false Messiah. He proceeds to declare himself the object of worship. In this way he seeks to deceive the people. This is what we refer to as the "abomination" that Daniel and Jesus both speak about.

Our Lord spoke of this in John 5:43, saying, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

Furthermore, in 2 Thes. 2:3-4 we read, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come (Day of the Lord) except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

D.M. Panton, English writer, asserts, "Antichrist in the temple is not only the crowning iniquity, but the crowning deception of all history."

There's coming a day when a man will actually be worshipped by the whole world, when, as Panton notes, "All other worship round the globe is rendered illegal."

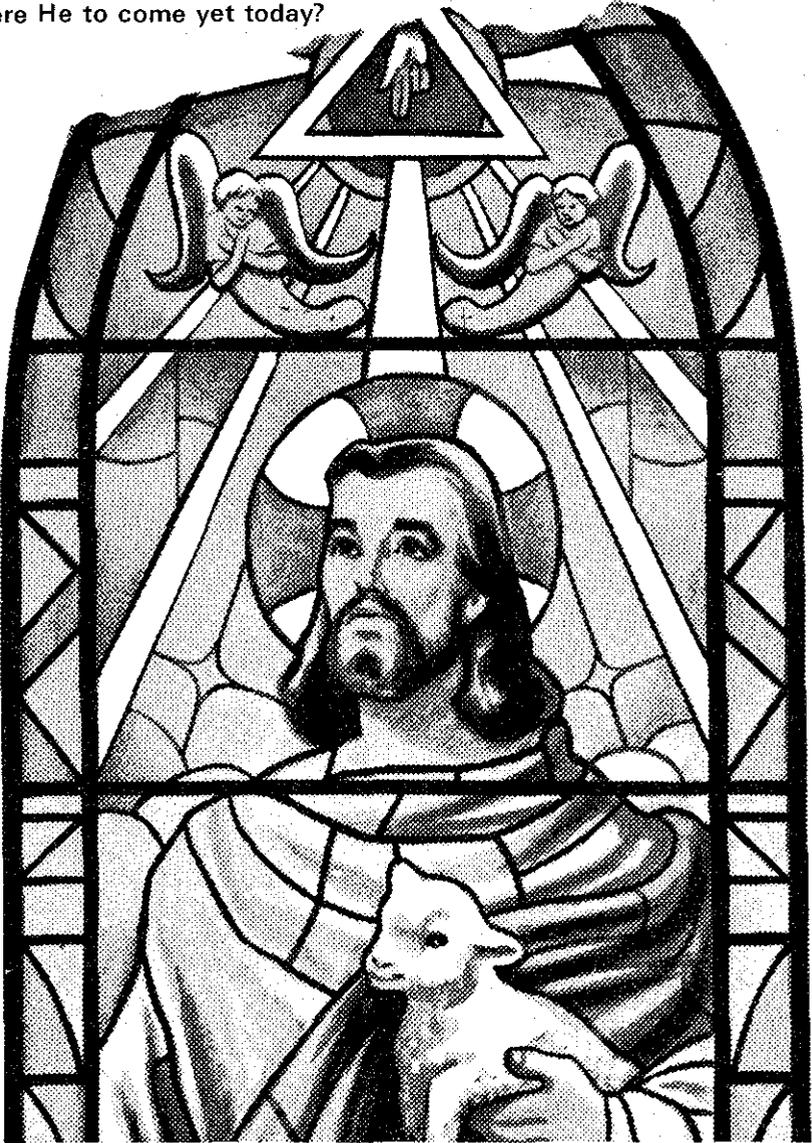
It sounds unbelievable that mankind will be so deceived, but a union of the world's religions in a future day of apostasy will bring this about.

How close are we then to the coming of antichrist and of this apostasy? What should we be looking for — is it the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem?

CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine comments: "It is our belief that Israel will rebuild its temple when Antichrist makes a league with Israel, which will be after the rapture of the Church."

So the next event we should anticipate as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ is the rapture, when Christ comes for His own.

We would ask, are you looking for Jesus to come? Are you ready were He to come yet today?



If you've never given your heart to the Lord, why not pray right now: "Lord Jesus, come into my heart and life. Forgive me of all my sins. I believe you died on the cross for me that I might be saved and made ready for your coming. Then help me to live for You with the help of Your Holy Spirit. Lead me, I pray, and keep me loving and serving You until You come. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



# Where?

## THE REBUILDING OF THE TEMPLE

"The world's most beautiful synagogue," that is the way Maurice Jaffe, prime mover and president of the Association of Israeli Synagogues, spoke of the edifice that was dedicated as a House of Prayer for the Jews of the world.

When asked whether this synagogue — first central house of Jewish worship in 2,000 years — was a temporary substitute for the rebuilding of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, Dr. Jaffe replied, "God forbid."

The project cost \$14 million, with \$8 million contributed by Sir Isaac Wolfson, of London, "to the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the European Holocaust and all those Jewish men and women who sacrificed their lives in and for the defense of the State of Israel." These words greet visitors to this massive building.

Mayor Teddy Kolleck of Jerusalem was absent on the occasion of the dedication. He had stated earlier that his conscience would not permit him to attend the ceremony of such an extravagant building.

When asked about the cost, Chairman Jaffe, who headed up the project, smiles and says: "The Tabernacle used by the Israelites for worship in the desert was made of gold and silver, not to speak of the splendour of the Temple."

The rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple was regarded by Herod as the culmination of his life's work. Herod considered the Temple to be "the holiest and most beautiful achievement" of his time. Even the Talmudic sages declared, "He who has not seen Herod's building (the temple) has never in his life seen a beautiful edifice."

It was this temple that Jesus visited as a baby. It was also the place that he drove out the money changers. He also predicted the destruction of the temple, saying that not one stone would be left upon another.

In fulfillment of our Lord's prediction, Herod's Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

Since that time there has not been a Jewish temple and no sacrificial system in Israel.

Now the question is asked, "Will there be a third temple?" Where will it stand? At the very site the Mosque of Omar now rests? Is it possible the new temple might be erected elsewhere? And why is it that temple worship could not begin without the ashes of a red heifer?

J. Dwight Pentecost, in an article in MOODY MONTHLY, writes: "The question of rebuilding the temple is asked frequently because many wonder whether the temple must be rebuilt before the church's rapture."

He then quotes 2 Thes. 2:4 which speaks of the coming of the lawless one or the man of sin of whom it is said, "He opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Says Pentecost, "Reference to a man sitting in the temple declaring himself to be God has led many to believe this temple in Jerusalem must be built to fulfill this prophecy. Dr. Pentecost expresses his opinion that "the temple referred to in this verse cannot be used or occupied by the lawless one, the head of the federated states of Europe, until at least three and one-half years after the church has been translated."

So our Lord could come at any moment if a temple need not be erected before the rapture.

Hal Lindsey, author of THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, relates that documents discovered following the repossession of the temple area give the exact methodology of cutting the stones for the temple. Plans had been buried for centuries near the Wailing Wall. Now, says Lindsey, the temple can be prefabricated in about six months.

Well, the dream of the Jews seen standing before the wailing wall is that one day their temple will be rebuilt.

However, there is one basic problem. Where the temple should be located is the present site of the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim shrine.

The temple site is an ancient landmark. For it was at the Rock, otherwise known as Mount Moriah, that Abraham took his son Isaac for a sacrifice to Jehovah. This is also the former location of Solomon's Temple, so it can readily be understood why the Jews desire this particular location.

This temple area had been in the hands of the Muslims since the 7th century. So, Mt. Moriah is sacred to the Muslims who teach that Abraham agreed to sacrifice, not Isaac, but Ishmael, through whom the Arabs trace their lineage to Abraham.

And according to the tradition of certain Muslim sects, it is the spot where Mohammed will one day return to earth as their Mahdi (Messiah).

So it can readily be seen why a holy war could flare up over Jewish plans to dismantle the Muslim shrine and replace it with their own Holy Temple.

Up until quite recently it was generally believed that the Mosque of Omar covers the exact location of the Holy of Holies of the Jewish Temple.

Now, however, Dr. Asher Kaufman, an Israeli physicist and Orthodox Jew, believes the site of Solomon's Temple and Herod's Temple may have been in a different location.

When Rabbi Goren, who served as chief rabbi of Israel, was 17 years old, he did a paper setting forth the theory that the Holy Temple in Jerusalem never stood in the area of the Dome of the Rock. At the time he was reprimanded because he was disagreeing with Rambam, with Maimonides, with Rashi, and other great Jewish scholars.

It is pointed out that if this theory is correct, the tribulation temple could be built, under certain circumstances, without removing or destroying the Dome of the Rock Mosque.

What would happen is that the Jewish Temple and the Mosque could stand on Mount Moriah at the same time. The temple would probably be located about 300 feet north of the present Mosque.

The Rev. Colin Deal, writing in END TIME NEWS, says, "The Bible amazingly seems to indicate this very thing will occur." He quotes Rev. 11:1-2 which reads: "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod; and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles; and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

Accordingly, the temple could be in Jewish territory, whereas, the court would be in the Gentile area or present site of the Mosque.

States Deal, "As I see it, during the first half of the tribulation period, the Jewish people will be given the inner court of the Temple Mount (300 feet north of the Mosque) and the Moslems will still be allowed to worship in the outer court (the present site of the Mosque.)

Then, says Deal, "At the middle of the tribulation period, the Gentiles (armies of antichrist) will move into Jerusalem and possess the entire city for the last 42 months, including the inner court."

We understand that when Dr. Kaufman began his study of the location of the Jewish Temple, what really caught his eye was a Biblical portion concerning the sacrifice of a red heifer. Numbers 19:4 states that a priest was to sprinkle the blood of the heifer "directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times." The heifer's ashes were then used to purify unclean persons so they could enter the Temple area.

We are also reminded that this was a statute to be given forever.

Dr. Kaufman found in his study that other sources seemed to believe the priest went out the Eastern Gate and walked up the Mount of Olives (opposite the Temple), and there sacrificed the heifer.

Sure enough, rabbinical writings supported this theory.

One writer pointed out, "All the walls were high except the eastern wall so the priest who burnt the red heifer might, while standing on the Mount of Olives, by directing his gaze carefully, see the entrance of the hekhal (sanctuary) at the time of the sprinkling of the blood." (Middot)

On a topographical map of the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount, Kaufman concluded the temple had to be about 100 yards to the right of the center of the Dome of the Rock.

The offering of the sacrifice of a red heifer finds significance in the light of our Lord's return.

For in view of Christ's coming we are called upon to be "without spot and blameless."

The Apostle Peter, after describing the Day of the Lord, when the heavens being on fire will be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, calls attention to new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Then writes Peter, "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless." (2 Pet. 3:14)

What an assignment!

D.M. Panton, the noted British Bible Expositor, writes: "The Holy Son of God cannot present unto Himself a trifling, indifferent, unsanctioned body of nominal church members. His church must be made like unto Himself, the fairest and noblest expression of redeemed humanity that only His sufferings and death could produce."

Did you hear it?

As our Lord is holy, He says to us, "Be ye holy."

Some equate holiness with piety. But, the Scriptures link holiness with purity.

We read, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

And again, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."

Notice, holiness is contrasted with uncleanness, and sanctification with fornication.

Billy Graham writes, "Let me warn you that the Scriptures teach that God hates immorality as much as, or more than, any other sin."

Sins which are often condoned by society, and glamorized by Hollywood, are hated by God and should not be in the life of a believer.

As a red heifer was offered by Israel as a sacrifice for carnal sin, so may we find Christ's suffering and death on the cross as able to break the power of sin in our lives.

Read Romans 6 and discover we can have victory over sin.

Verse 11, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Verse 22, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

Today we have been talking about the rebuilding of the temple. The *ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA* states on page 997, "The commandment to build the temple and the detailed instructions provided follow the manner and style of Exodus 35 which deals with the tabernacle."

Just as God has given instructions concerning the building of the temple, He also reminds us that we are His temple.

In I Cor. 6:19-20 we read, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Yes, you belong to God. When you receive Christ into your heart and life, your body is His temple.

Thus we read, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." (I Cor. 6:18)

God wants your body. He wants to protect it, to keep it, to heal it and make it whole.

Proof of this is found in 1 Thes. 5:23-24. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

Think of it! God wants your spirit and soul and body preserved blameless unto the coming of Christ.

Is that possible? you ask. Can God keep me 'til Jesus comes?

Indeed, He can and He will if you'll let Him. We repeat; "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it!"

What do you want the Lord to do for you? When He comes, He will change your vile body like unto His glorious body.

Why not let Him change you now? We read, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17)

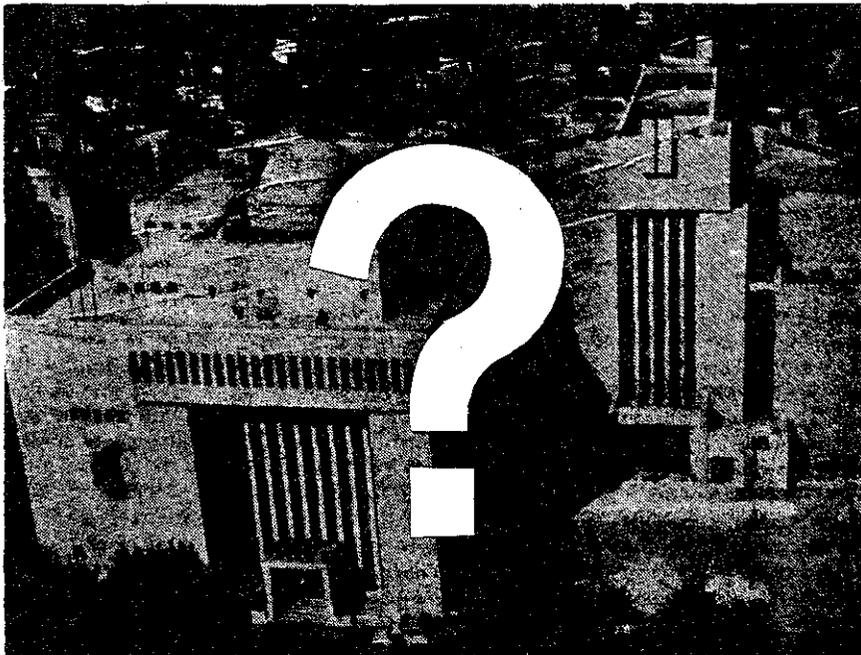
Is this what you want?

Then pray this prayer: "Lord, I want you to save me, forgive me of my sins, and heal my body. I believe you died on the cross to bring about a perfect redemption. By your shed blood I am saved. By your stripes I am healed.

I receive you as my Saviour and Lord, to live for you and do your will until you come."

Pray that prayer and mean it. And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of man cometh."

# THE ABOMINATION



# OF DESOLATION

A question some are asking is: will the Jerusalem Great Synagogue be the "temple" that will be desecrated by the antichrist?

Dr. Charles Taylor, on *TODAY IN BIBLE PROPHECY*, says there is provision for the offering of sacrifices necessary for temple worship as predicted in the Scriptures. Concerning the synagogue, Taylor asserts: "Many say it will serve as a Jewish tabernacle until the Messiah comes and builds the temple on Mount Moriah."

We're reminded of our Lord's reference to the abomination of desolation as a sign of this coming era of destruction that Israel faces. In

addition to armies sweeping down from the North in an effort to annihilate Israel, we likewise see the coming of a world leader we call the antichrist as moving his headquarters to Jerusalem.

It is believed that two personages will dominate the endtime, one called the beast and the other referred to as the false prophet. One is a political figure and the other a religious personage.

There is a difference of opinion as to which one is the actual antichrist. However, it is generally assumed that the political dictator better represents that role, although the word "antichrist" really means "one who poses as the Christ," who is really an imposter.

Anyway, the evidence is that Israel will again resume the offering of sacrifices as prescribed in the Old Testament.

So with the building of a synagogue with facilities for offering sacrifices, the time could be ripe for the fulfilment of additional prophecies.

For Antichrist is seen coming from Europe to make his home in Palestine. Seeking the worship of the entire world, where better could he display his power than in Jerusalem?

After witnessing the offering of sacrifices for awhile, it is believed the world ruler we refer to as the Antichrist, who poses as Christ, orders the sacrifices to cease. And he himself is established as the sole object of worship.

This is what Daniel refers to, saying, they "shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." (Dan. 22:31)

What actually happens is described in 2 Thes. 2:4 where one poses as the Almighty, "so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Did you hear it?

You would wonder—how would anyone gain the confidence of mankind so that they worship man as God. But the Scriptures indicate nearly all the people of earth will be deceived, perhaps due to miracles which he is able to perform.

In Rev. 13:8 we read: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Everyone except the believing remnant on earth at that time will worship this endtime personage. Not only do we find an image erected, but it is also revered with great admiration. In fact, in that day anyone who refuses to worship the image of the beast will suffer death.

Now there are those who believe the great temple must be built in Jerusalem in order for Antichrist to desecrate it.

The real temple site is believed to be atop Mount Moriah where today the Moslem shrine, the Dome of the Rock, now stands. This is the site where Solomon's temple once stood and where the Millennial temple will be erected.

Again there is uncertainty as to whether the actual temple will be built which Antichrist will desecrate, or whether it might be the Synagogue now being erected which will see the restoration of sacrificial worship that will be desecrated by the Antichrist.

Of this we can be sure: there is coming a time spoken of by Daniel the prophet when there will be this desecration of the temple, referred to as the "Abomination of Desolation." But now notice, our Lord states further, no doubt referring to the temple, as "standing where it ought not." We might ask, could this be a reference to the present synagogue under construction which is not standing on the real temple site of Mount Moriah but is located elsewhere in Jerusalem?

If this synagogue is to be the future scene of this prophecy, it could very well be that it is marked as the place of this desecration.

In other words, we would not have to wait for the actual millennial temple to be built. Rather, the present Great Synagogue being erected could become the place where this abomination of desolation will occur.

When this happens—when the abomination of desolation occurs, it is a sign to Israel to "flee to the mountains."

Why? Well, our Lord declares: "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be." (Mark 13:19)

Talk about suffering now. There is no comparison to the suffering that will be then.

Israel will be in her greatest travail. Talk about the persecution under Hitler. It will not compare to the bloody conquest then.

Jeremiah comments concerning Israel's return to her land, saying it will mark the beginning of awful tribulation.

Listen as we read it to you. "For lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it." (Jer. 30:3)

As we have said, this we have seen in our day. It is one of the greatest fulfillments of prophecy. If the Lord would have stated there is coming a time when all blacks would return to Africa, we should expect that to happen. Well, He said of Israel and Judah that they would return to their own land, the land of their fathers, and that they would possess it.

Then notice what happens.

We read: "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." (v.7)

"For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee; though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."

We all know from reading the Old Testament that Israel was God's chosen people. The Lord warned them again and again that they would be chastened if they wandered away from God, but that the Lord would ever seek them back, so, we have seen Israel scattered to the four winds upon their rejection of their Messiah. But now that He is soon to return, He wants them back in their land so He might appear to them again.

There's coming a day spoken of by Zechariah when the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall look upon Him whom they had pierced, and mourn out of great bitterness for what they had done in rejecting their Messiah.

Many do not know that Jesus is the Messiah, but when He appears and they see the nail scars, then they will truly believe that Christ is their King. The question will be asked, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" And they will know the answer to their own question.

Some might ask, what about America? What about England and Germany? What of the other nations of earth? Will they not also suffer God's judgment in this coming day?

Well, notice what Jeremiah says: "Though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee."

Did you hear it?

All nations to which the Jews have been dispersed face destruction. This includes the United States.

Again we read: "Therefore all they that devour thee, shall be devoured." (v.16) "In the latter days ye shall consider it." (v.23)

Beloved, these are the latter days. God's judgment is seen befalling the whole world. And the U.S. is included in this prophecy, for we have assimilated many Jews.

Although Israel is seen going through a time of intense suffering—great affliction—her time of trouble, she will be purified, and a remnant will be spared. It is believed that Petra is to be the hiding place to which Jews will flee when the abomination of desolation takes place.



However, the Gentile nations will be destroyed in the holocaust that hits the earth—blood, fire and vapour of smoke. Antichrist will force men everywhere into his army, and he will march his forces to Armageddon where in one stroke the Lord will destroy this multitude with the result that blood will flow like a river, reaching to the horses' bridles, for a distance of 176 miles. Think of it.

Today is still a day of salvation. The world is seen choosing sides. On one hand there are those rallying under the banner of the hammer and sickle with a fist raised toward heaven. On the other hand, there are those in nations around the world who are turning to the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and coming King.

In which army are we today?



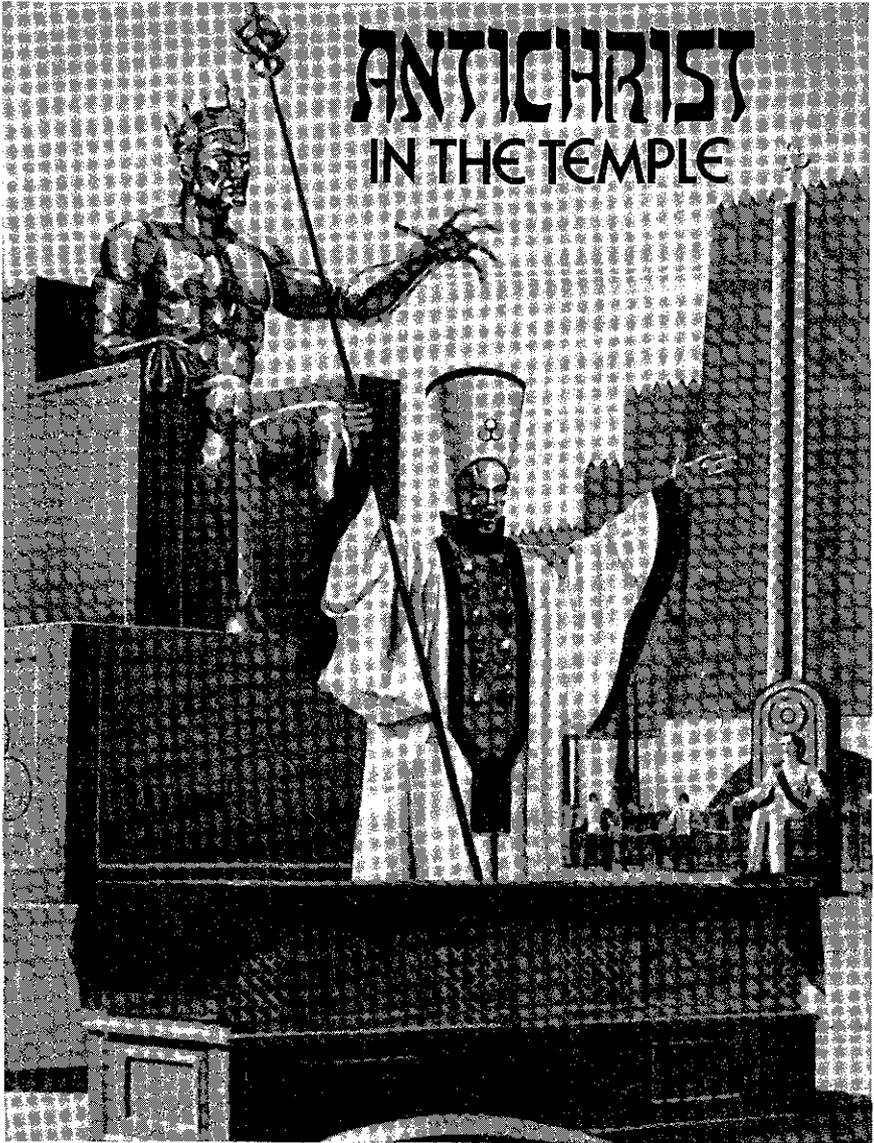
Perhaps we have not gone so far as to blaspheme God or to bow the knee to a godless tyrant who will one day rule the world. Nevertheless, the Bible makes it clear that if we have not accepted Christ, we have rejected Him.

The choice is becoming clear. It is Christ or Antichrist. It is for us to decide right now to receive forgiveness by receiving Christ's death on the cross for our sins, and then live for Him in the power of His Holy Spirit. Or, we can simply go on our merry way rejecting His offer of pardon, his love, his forgiveness, and then be left behind when Jesus comes to go through this coming day of great tribulation such as the world has never seen nor ever shall see again. In addition to the real hell that the Bible speaks of, there is a hell-on-earth that defies description which all who miss the rapture must face.

That's why we believe we have the greatest message to proclaim—that Jesus is coming soon. Get ready!

Realizing He loved you and shed His blood for you that you might be forgiven and invited to His home in heaven, why not receive Him today? And then you can be ready whenever our Lord does appear.

For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."



President Reagan has declared, "The world is moving toward Armageddon."

All around us are signs of conflict between nations as well as between ideologies. There is confrontation between Russia and the United States, between Capitalism and Communism.

William Malgo, in a recent publication, comments, "It is the spirit of destruction which has come over the world of nations that will lead them to Armageddon."

We think of the fighting that has been going on in Lebanon. When have you witnessed such a terrible nightmare of destruction?

But just as the headquarters of a Marine battalion blew up, one day the whole world will blow up.

Peter so vividly describes a day coming when "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (I Peter 3:10b)

Recently we started services on an island just eight miles from our present headquarters. In fact, it is so close that we would like to move our offices to this new location where we could have conferences, conventions, along with church services on a continuing basis.

In making such a change, we had to prayerfully consider whether this was in the best interests of this ministry. We certainly didn't want to become involved in acquiring additional property, but when you have services, you must have a church.

Then the thought occurred to us — locating on an island, there might be the danger of floods, high tides, hurricanes. But these words of Peter came to mind. As there was a flood that once came upon the earth, "the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (II Peter 3:7)

Could it be that the danger of a nuclear holocaust is more of a threat than is the destruction of a world flood?

On one occasion the president declared his utter contempt for the terrorism in Lebanon, saying: "I know there are no words to properly express our outrage of all Americans at the despicable act. But I think we should all recognize that these deeds make so evident the bestial nature of those who would assume power if they could have their way and drive us out of that area." The U.S. must be more determined than ever, said the President, to ensure that such forces "cannot take over that vital and strategic area of the earth."

Lebanon is a vital and strategic area. In fact, the closer you get to Jerusalem the closer you come to the most valuable piece of real estate anywhere.

As a matter of fact, Jerusalem is said to be located in the geographic heart of the earth. In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is a marker identifying the spot said to be the very center of the earth.

While we might question the accuracy of such a statement, we do remember what we read in Ezekiel 5:5 where the Lord says, "This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her."

What an interesting observation.

Incidentally, here is where the "terrorist of all time," called the "lawless one" and the "antichrist," will one day seek to make his world headquarters. So the struggle you now see in the Middle East is in preparation for the coming Antichrist, and which will lead to the closing battle of this age, Armageddon.

We know the Bible speaks of such an endtime leader to appear almost simultaneously with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His own. We shudder and quake to realize we stand at the threshold of such fulfillment.

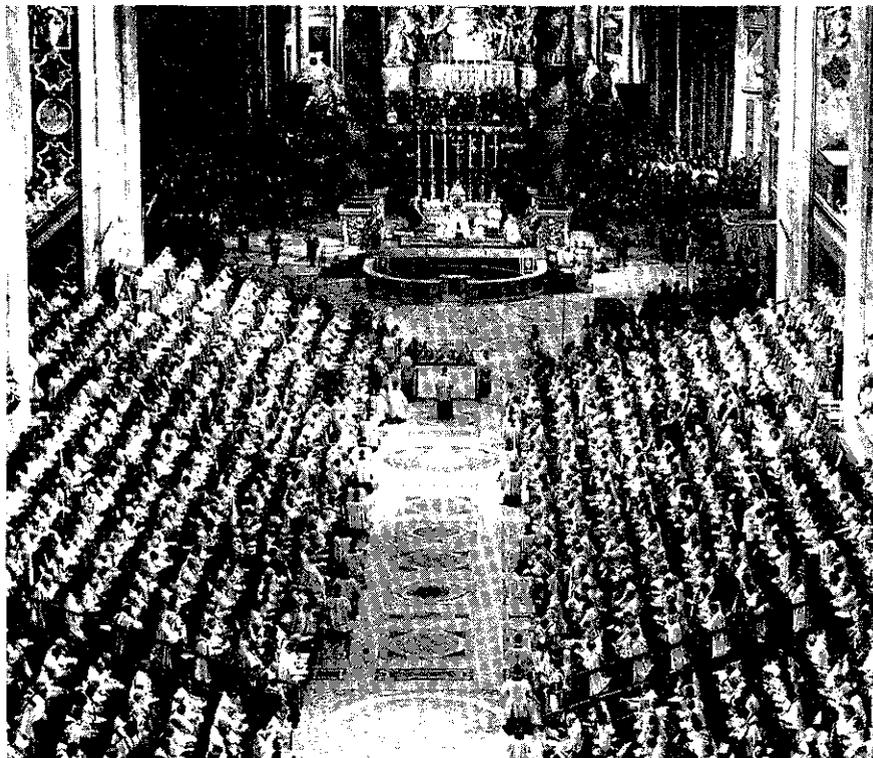
Listen to what we read in 2 Thessalonians 2, "Now we beseech you brethren by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him . . . Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." Incidentally, the Greek word for "temple" used here is NAOS.

May I call to your attention a remarkable revelation — the discovery that the word for temple here is never used in Scripture for a Jewish synagogue.

It is generally believed that when antichrist moves his headquarters to Jerusalem that he will sit in a Jewish temple. Either the temple there must be rebuilt in the exact location forecast in the Scriptures, or Antichrist may sit elsewhere.

I quote from the book called THE ANTICHRIST, "There are some twenty-five passages in the Acts of the Apostles where the Jewish temple is called HIERON, but not a single one where it is called NAOS: Nor is there one in any epistle where it bears this name. The NAOSTOU THEOU (Greek for "Temple of God") in the mouth of an Apostle, speaking to Gentile Christians concerning the future, could not mean the Jewish Temple. It could only mean the Christian Church."

Did you hear it?



Accordingly, the one who sits as God in a temple, showing himself that he is God, does not necessarily have to sit in a rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem to fulfill Bible Prophecy. At least, that is what we are led to assume on the basis of this scripture.

Let's look at another Scripture in Mark 13:14 where reference is again made to the coming awful great tribulation when antichrist will make his appearance. For when antichrist appears, it is believed he will do sacrilege and invade the Temple Mount which is forbidden as an unclean act. Antichrist is the one that many believe must sit in a temple of the Jews in Jerusalem — a temple that has not yet been rebuilt.



Before we comment further, let's read Mark 13:14, "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand)."

Now to know what Daniel had to say about the abomination of desolation, we must explain as Biedewolf comments in the **SECOND COMING BIBLE**, "Abomination" is the common name for an idol in the Old Testament. Appolonius, by direction of Antiochus Epiphanes, had an altar to Jupiter Olympius built on the altar of God in the temple: he also sacrificed its broth about the temple." So, the "Abomination of Desolation" was a pollution of the temple.

The Scofield Bible notes suggest that Antiochus Epiphanes is a "prototype of the man of sin." As Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig on a Jewish altar and entered the Holy of holies, which is forbidden, so the antichrist will do a similar deed.

Daniel refers to a prince that shall come out of Rome, or from those seen destroying Jerusalem. In 70 A.D. it was the Romans who entered Jerusalem and destroyed the Jewish temple.

Writes Daniel concerning this coming antichrist, "He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (seven years): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Daniel 9:27)

Now, very simply what does this mean?

We believe the time is ripe for a terrorist — a man of sin — the lawless one — antichrist — and whatever other title you might give him, to make his appearance.

It is believed he will come from Rome, or from nations within the Old Roman Empire. For he is described as a prince cast out of the people that came against Jerusalem and destroyed the temple in 70 A.D.

His act will be to desolate a temple, referred to by Jesus as the "abomination of desolation." Or as Paul says, "He as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

It is supposed by many Bible scholars that it will be in a restored temple in Jerusalem, site of the present Moslem mosque, that this new temple will stand.

However, Jesus said, "When ye see the abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not."

In other words, the antichrist world ruler, when he appears on the scene, should sit in a temple that has not been built. And, since the temple has not been built, there is the possibility he may appear elsewhere — in the new Jewish synagogue, or perhaps in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which we noted is believed to be in the exact center of the earth.

Notice Jesus' words, "where it ought not . . ."

The interesting aspect of this is that above the door of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre you'll find three peace symbols. The peace sign is said to be the sign of the antichrist.



Writing in the 5th century, Jerome expressed the sentiments of Cyril, Chrysostom, and Augustine, explaining: "Let us therefore say what all ecclesiastical writers have delivered to us, that when the Roman Empire is to be destroyed, ten kings will divide the Roman world among themselves, and then will be revealed the Man of Sin . . ." Jerome further commented, "Antichrist shall sit in the temple of God, either at Jerusalem, as some think, or else in the Church itself, as we more correctly consider."

Today within Europe ten nations have agreed to become members of the Common Market, an economic union, with ultimate plans for a political federation.

Watch for the day when they will select someone to be their sovereign head. Many guesses might be given. But we prefer to wait, because we don't expect to be around when he makes his appearance.

It is our belief that Jesus will appear before the appearance of the world's antichrist. Our Lord may return at any moment and then will follow the appearance of the man of sin.

We would ask — would you be ready were our Lord to come today? If He were to burst through the blue of heaven and amidst the starry host to be swiftly carried back to heaven, would you be ready?

This is not a dream. Rather, it is the believer's blessed hope. And we are encouraged, "Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Are you without sin? That is, have your sins been cleansed away in the blood of Jesus? Have you accepted Him as your Saviour? Is He Lord of your life?

If not, receive Him. For " . . . as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1:12)

Think of it. You can be a child of God, a part of the royal family. And when Christ comes back, you can return to heaven with Him, while on this earth antichrist rules and demands the world's worship upon the threat of death.

Where would you rather be — on earth when the devil reigns, or with Christ eternally?

Make your decision now. Tomorrow could be too late.



And, "be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."