

MISTAKE 14

THE NEXT TEMPLE WILL BE THE TRIBULATION TEMPLE: CHRISTIANS SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ITS CONSTRUCTION

Along with the incorrect view that the Temple in Jerusalem stood somewhere besides the Temple Mount there is another incorrect view that has recently gained traction: the next Temple built will be the one in which Jesus rules and reigns from.

However, the next Temple will be the “tribulation Temple” not the one that Jesus will rule from when He returns. Consequently, Christians have no business encouraging the building of the next Temple.

THE LORD WILL RULE FROM THE TEMPLE

It is true that the Bible speaks of a future time when the people on the earth will visit Jerusalem where the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, will rule and reign. Isaiah wrote about this:

This is a vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days, the mountain of the LORD’s house will be the highest of all—the most important place on earth.

It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship.

People from many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob’s God.

There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.”

For the LORD’s teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem.

The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes.

They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore (Isaiah 2:1-4 NLT).

We believe that this prediction will be literally fulfilled in the future. However, this will not be the next Temple that will be constructed in Jerusalem.

Indeed, there will a structure built in unbelief of Jesus on the Temple Mount. It will be center-stage, ground zero, for the main events that will take place in the last days.

We have fully documented this in our book, *The Jews, Jerusalem, and the Coming Temple*. It can be downloaded for free from our website educatingourworld.com under the heading of *Bible Prophecy*.

To sum up, at the end of the day, there will be four Temples that will have been built upon the Temple Mount. Two have already been constructed and two are still to come.

ISRAEL’S FOUR TEMPLES

When all is said and done, the nation Israel will have had four Temples built upon the Temple Mount in its history. They include the following.

1. The First Temple was Solomon’s, although the idea came from his father David. It was built in 967 B.C. and destroyed in 587 B.C. by the Babylonians.

2. The Second Temple was that of Zerubbabel, a smaller version of Solomon’s Temple. It was built after the destruction of the First Temple, and then later enlarged by King Herod.

The Next Temple Will Be The Tribulation Temple, An Abomination to the Lord

This is the Temple to which Jesus came. He predicted its destruction, and, as predicted, it was destroyed by the Roman army in the year A.D. 70.

3. The Third Temple is yet to be built. It will be built in unbelief of Jesus. Most likely it will be destroyed some time before He comes again.

4. The Fourth Temple is the Millennial Temple—the Temple of the Messiah Jesus. It will be built *after* He returns to the earth and it will be constructed to honor Him (see Ezekiel 40-48). It will be an entirely different structure than the Third Temple.

Let us not make the mistake of confusing the third and fourth Temple. The Third Temple will be an abomination to the Lord since it, by definition, rejects Jesus as the genuine Messiah by offering animal sacrifices for sin.

In the Fourth Temple there will be no need for sacrifices for sin. Indeed, He has once and for all paid the price for our sins. The writer to the Hebrews put it this way:

... and so when he had accomplished cleansing for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3 NET).

He sat down because His work was finished! As believers, we continually thank the Lord for this amazing truth.

THE ROLE OF CHRISTIANS AND THE FUTURE TEMPLE

Since we know what the Bible predicts about a coming Temple that will be built in the last days, Christians are confronted with some important questions as to their involvement with the rebuilding of the Temple.

What should a Christian do and not do?

THIS IS NOT OUR CAUSE

Though we know from the Scripture that a Third Temple is predicted, and will indeed be built, Christians should *not* participate in its planning, promotion, or construction. This is not our cause.

Some have argued that there was Gentile participation in building the First Temple so the same should be true with the “Coming Temple.” However, Gentile participation in the building of the First Temple does not serve as a precedent for Gentile participation today. Those involved in building the First Temple were not Gentile believers. Their involvement was not due to their devotion to the God of Israel—rather, their services were conscripted. Therefore, to assert modern day Gentiles should help with the rebuilding of the Temple finds no Biblical basis.

THE TEMPLE WILL BE BUILT IN UNBELIEF OF JESUS

There is something else to consider. While the New Testament teaches that a Third Temple will be built, it also declares it will be built in unbelief of Jesus as the Messiah. The Third Temple will be ground zero, center stage, for the activities of the man of sin, the final Antichrist. The future events surrounding the Third Temple will not honor Jesus in any way.

THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR A TEMPLE

For the Christian there is no more need for a physical Temple. Jesus said about Himself, “something greater than the Temple is here” (Matthew 12:6).

The Next Temple Will Be The Tribulation Temple, An Abomination to the Lord

When Christ died for the sins of the world, He made direct access to God the Father possible. The Bible says:

For there is one God and one intermediary between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, himself human (1 Timothy 2:5 NET).

The need for a Temple, and the sacrificial system, is now gone. Indeed, all of these things were fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ by His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. No more sacrifices are necessary! Those Christians who participate in the rebuilding efforts of the Third Temple would be sharing in the unbelief of the Jews.

WE CANNOT HASTEN THE COMING OF THE LORD TO THE EARTH

The motive of some, “to hasten the coming of the Lord,” is equally a wrong motive. For one thing, God is running this universe according to His schedule, not ours.

Furthermore, those Christians who want the Temple built should realize that this will lead Israel into their worst Holocaust ever. There is no moral or Biblical justification in becoming involved in the building of the Third Temple. It is a Jewish cause.

In sum, we need a proper understanding of the distinction between the Third Temple, that of the Final Antichrist, and the Fourth Temple, that of the Lord Jesus. Let us not confuse the two.