

Book of Hebrews Part 30: Third Temple Failed Attempts (6/29/2019)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/mnbxbhx/book-of-hebrews-part-30>.

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are currently digging into this concept of the Third Temple. This is something I believe is more relevant for today than ever before, especially considering what we see happening in Jerusalem. The Jews are moving to rebuild the Third Temple. This brings a question: Is what they are moving to do relevant; is this prophetically significant? I can answer that with a resounding, absolutely! You better believe this is significant. The prophetic implications can't even be measured. It is that intense!



However, what do we do with that in reality and light of what we studied in our last message? There are things we learned about the Third Temple which are immovable things. These are things which cannot be altered or changed such as, only the Mashiach [Messiah] builds the Temple. Think about that! Only the Mashiach builds the Temple. The prophets are very clear.

In the last message we learned the Third Temple is not earthly. It is in fact heavenly. It's not temporary; it's eternal. So take that information, and compare it to what is happening in Jerusalem today, and what do you do? How are we supposed to understand this on a prophetic level? As I said before, there is only one answer. You can only understand this through the lens of the New Covenant. You can only understand this through the lens of Yeshua, because if you don't have Yeshua, you don't have the Spirit of God. According to the Apostle Paul, only the Spirit of God knows the things of God. Therefore, we can't know the things of God unless we have His Spirit. We can't have His Spirit unless we have Yeshua; this is a reality.

So, what we're going to do today is peel back more layers to understand this and get some real perspective on what's going on. We are living in amazing days; I can tell you that. Hopefully, even a little bit or at least at a slight level, you'll appreciate it more at the end of this message.

Today we are going to actually take a look at history. Maybe for some of you when you think back to your schooling, you find history to be a snooze fest. You don't want anything to do with it? But I am telling you, you don't want to fall asleep during today's message. You want to stay awake for this

because there are such critical points we're going to be covering and you need to be alert. You need to be able to digest this stuff and pack it away.

With that said, I want to take you back to the early 2nd Century. Hadrian is emperor of Rome at this time. It is important to understand something about the first years of his reign. Hadrian's relationship with the Jewish people is amazing; at the very least favorable. Why do I say that? Do you know he granted permission for the Jews to rebuild the Third Temple? That is amazing!



However, something happened that today has mystified historians. It mystified them because they don't even know how it happened. Somehow a light switch got flipped off. Something happened and his attitude toward the Jewish people radically changed; it was a 180-degree change. He started walking in the footsteps of Antiochus Epiphanes. Do you remember Antiochus? He is the very one the Book of Daniel identifies as an antichrist.

The Jews perceived Antiochus was starting his reign at peace with the Jews only to find out all hell would be unleashed. He started a war against the Torah. He made war against Shabbat. He made war against circumcision. He made war against the dietary laws. He made war against everything in the Torah. Everything the Jews would identify with and by which God called them to be. Their identity of who they are, and all these righteous Commandments were all under assault by the spirit of antichrist, by Antiochus Epiphanes.

So if you compare Hadrian side by side with Antiochus, you can't tell the difference. They're literally a mirror reflection of one another. Hadrian seems to start out peaceable, but then something happens. The spirit of antichrist enters him. Guess what he does? He wages a war against the Torah. He wages a war against Shabbat. He does not allow the Jewish people to study Torah. He wages against circumcision and against the pure food list. He comes against all those things.

What do you think is going to happen when you do that? Go back and look at history. You will discover what happened to Antiochus as he waged a war against the Torah; against the Jewish people. He wanted war; it was war he got. A man by the name of Mattathias rises up and revolts. Then his son, Judas Maccabee fights the war and defeats the Seleucid armies. He takes back Jerusalem and the Temple Mound and purifies it.

Here is what is interesting. That is exactly how this story involving Hadrian goes. A man comes on the scene known as Shimon Bar Kochba, and he leads a Jewish Revolt.

There are a few things about him you need to understand. Number one, the rabbi's record Shimon Bar Kochba had a magnetic personality. He was talented, gifted, and an unbelievable leader. People were attracted to him. He was charismatic. He had all these things going for him. Even Jewish traditions got a little wild claiming he could rip a tree out of the ground roots and all. Amazing things were said about him.

So this guy led an army that wasn't a normal army. It is very significant you listen to me carefully; his army wasn't a bunch of barbarians. His army wasn't secular Jews. They were religious, and we know this

from those letters written by Nahal Hever [Greek Minor Prophets Scroll] that were found near the Dead Sea. This revolt was more of a zealot movement. They could be compared to the Orthodox Jews of today. These men had religious convictions. Because of that, they followed Simon Bar Kochba.



If we go back into the historical context, it gets even better than this. The rabbis favored and adored him. Rabbi Akiva, one of the most notable rabbis to have ever existed in Judaism, declared Bar Kochba to be the Messiah, and the people believed it.

Why in the world would they believe that? What happened? How could they come to that conclusion? What was one of the primary things the Jewish people were waiting for in regard to Mashiach Ben David? That He was going to fight the wars of the LORD, and He will conquer.

So here you have this situation where the spirit of antichrist is clearly going against all the principles of Torah; everything by which Jews identify, and Bar Kochba goes in and literally routs the Roman Empire. This was not the whole Roman Empire, but he routs the ones in Judea; out of the land of Jerusalem. He purges them. It was an unthinkable victory. It was supernatural. What Bar Kochba did was absolutely seen as the greatest wonder. That he won this victory seemed to indicate he was the Mashiach.

So think about that. Put yourself there. Being up against impossible odds and yet being victorious. Bar Kochba takes the Temple Mount. What is left for the Messiah to accomplish? If you're the Messiah, what are you expected to do? To rebuild the Temple.

Now keep in mind Shimon Bar Kochba has possession of Jerusalem. Guess what he does? He proclaims it is time to rebuild the Temple. But here's where things get interesting. Does that rebuilding happen? Actually Rome amasses an army that is unprecedented against Bar Kochba. In fact, the emperor was so terrified by how great of an army Bar Kochba had that the emperor sent an unprecedented half of Rome's army after him.

Now put this into perspective. When Rome destroyed Jerusalem the first time, an estimated four legions were sent. According to Josephus over a million Jews died. Now, however the emperor sent three times the amount after Bar Kochba than was sent the first time.

So you have this awesome conquest under the leadership of Bar Kochba. It was unthinkable. In the minds of the Jews, he had accomplished the miraculous. All the Jewish fathers were hailing him as Mashiach. Then he says they are going to rebuild the Temple. However, before that can ever happen, Rome comes in and literally routs, decimates, Bar Kochba. The Roman army was incredible. It was a bloodbath. Totally horrifying!

In fact, I want to share with you a little bit of history here; a side note. When Bar Kochba falls, he falls in the city of Betar on the 9th of Av. So get this: the first Temple, when attacked by the Babylonians, fell on the 9th of Av. The second Temple, attacked by the Romans, fell on the 9th of Av. Then you have Bar Kochba, who is going to build the 3rd Temple, but falls on the 9th of Av.

Now to further put this in perspective, I want to talk about the Roman historian Dio Cassius. Keep in mind what we're about to read is not Jewish commentary. This is not biblical commentary either. This is

Roman commentary. The Roman historian Dio Cassius says this: *“Five hundred and eighty thousand men were slain in the various raids and battles, and the number of those that perished by famine, disease and fire was past finding out. Thus nearly the whole of Judaea was made desolate.”*

Now think about that; 580,000 men, and an incalculable amount beyond that, were killed. So I can safely say we could estimate it might be the numbers cited by Josephus that in 70 AD over a million Jews perished. Think about that. That's incredible.

Then Dio Cassius goes on to say this: *“a result of which the people had had for warning before the war.”* Now, this isn't a Jewish commentator looking at this in hindsight. This is a Roman commentator saying there were signs that calamity was coming, and they [the Jewish people] didn't see them. Why? The veil was over their eyes.

Do you know what they called Bar Kochba before it was all said and done? Bar Koziba. Why did they call him that? It literally means, son of a lie.

He was the son of a lie; they recognized he was a false Messiah. They just followed a false Messiah; one of the greatest tragedies in Jewish history happened because they believed he was the Messiah.

I wonder if these Jews would have believed in Yeshua. Keep in mind these were Orthodox in mindset. They were not Messianic Jews. I wonder if they had listened to Yeshua how different that outcome would have been because this is what Yeshua says, Matthew 24:5, *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

I want to step back a second. I want to finish something here in regard to Dio Cassius. Dio Cassius had gotten into forewarning the Jewish people; he had said, *“a result of which the people had had forewarning before the war. For the tomb of Solomon, which the Jews regard as an object of veneration [Keep this word in mind, we will go back to it], fell to pieces of itself and collapsed, and many wolves and hyenas rushed howling into their cities.”*

So we have this whole concept the Jewish people were following this false Messiah. They have this veil over their eyes. Even Roman historians are looking at this and saying, “They were so blind. There were signs of evidence; signs that were clear. You're very objects, that you adored, are falling. They're crumbling. And hyenas and jackals are running around howling. Did you not see that this was a foreshadow of calamity? You didn't see this?”

So this is something you need to see and put on the shelf. As we continue, this is going to become extremely relevant to where we're at today.

Now going back to Matthew. I want to take you to what Yeshua said. He gave this warning in Matthew 24:5, *For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.*

So, you look at Bar Kochba's revolt, his glorious army, all the religious Jews following him who didn't listen to Yeshua, and their fathers who didn't listen to Yeshua. They couldn't see the warning. Bar Kochba was a false Messiah.

Yeshua goes on in Matthew 24:23-25, ²³Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

Put yourself in the historical context where you're suffering at the hands of Hadrian. There is no question he has the spirit of antichrist. A great Jewish leader rises up who everyone reveres. Even the religious leaders are calling him the Messiah. Then he fights the wars of the LORD, and he accomplishes the impossible by being victorious over Rome. It's unthinkable! But if they had backed up, if they had listened to Yeshua, as soon as Bar Kochba was starting to be hailed as the Messiah, that's when you say, "I'm getting off this train. I'm done because Yeshua warned me. This cannot be. You are not the Messiah. There is only one Messiah."

Now it goes on and says in Matthew 24:26-27, ²⁶ Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. ²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

In other words, what Yeshua is saying is, "You don't have to look to your neighbor. No one's going to question whether the Messiah has come because the entire world, Jew and Gentile, will see Him coming on the clouds of Heaven." Everyone will be clear on that matter. Revelation 1:7 says, **...every eye will see Him.**

There's no doubt. There's no mystery. So if someone is trying to tell you he is the Messiah, remember Yeshua told us to beware of false messiahs and false prophets. That's where you really get into scary territory!

So, as we look at this Bar Kochba event, what I want you to take away regarding this story is this, and this is critical, prior to calamity coming upon them, two notable things happen. Number one, there was a move to rebuild the Third Temple, and number two, there were signs confirming the calamity. Keep that in mind.

With that, we're going to move up in history a couple hundred years. We come to Julian the Apostate. He was called the apostate because he was the nephew of Constantine the Great, but Julian does not walk in his footsteps. Constantine the Great incorporated Christianity in Rome. This really is when you have the birth of the Holy Roman Empire. Constantine declared a Christian baptized and more.

You know that story. Whether or not you agree with his theology, that's a different matter. The point being is Christians, those who called upon the name of Jesus, had never experienced the time of peace from the time of Yeshua to the time of Constantine. It was horrific persecution before then. Christians were getting tore up in the coliseum as sport. There was no peace for them until Constantine comes on the scene. He incorporates Christianity into a political/religious system, and there is an interesting turn of events. It's huge.

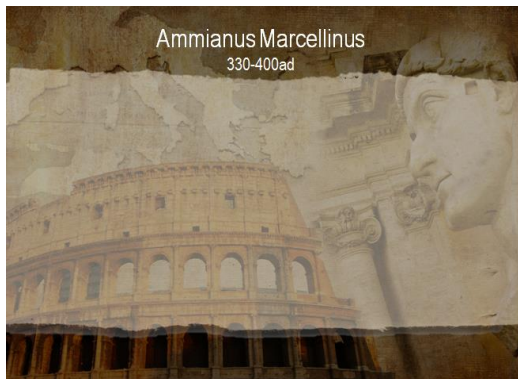


But later you have Julian the apostate. He is not favorable towards Christianity. In fact, he loves nothing more than to dismantle Christianity. He starts rebuilding the pagan temples. He starts encouraging the masses of Romans to worship anyone but the God of the Christians.

Now here's what's fascinating about this. The frosting on the cake, if you will, was to give Christianity the ultimate black eye. He tells the Jews that they/we need to rebuild the Third Temple. We want this. He orders the rebuilding of the Third Temple.

Now here is what is amazing. Earlier when Hadrian was favorable, he opens the door to the Jews to rebuild the Temple. Then the door is closed, and then Bar Kochba takes Jerusalem and the Temple Mount and says they are going to rebuild. Then the door closes again.

Well, this is very different. They broke ground this time. When Julian orders the Temple rebuilt, they are breaking ground. However, here is what's amazing: all of a sudden something happened.



Fortunately for us, this something is recorded. However, it's not recorded in your Bibles, and it's not recorded by a Christians, Jews, or the rabbis. It was recorded by a Roman historian. I want to invite you to see this. Ammianus Marcellinus was actually a personal friend of Julian, and what he does is give an account of what happened as they're starting to build the Third Temple. Pay close attention to this! *“Julian thought to rebuild at an extravagant expense the proud Temple once at Jerusalem, and committed this task to Alypius of Antioch. Alypius set*

vigorously to work, and was seconded by the governor of the province; when fearful balls of fire, breaking out near the foundations, continued their attacks, till the workmen, after repeated scorchings, could approach no more: and he gave up the attempt.”

This is not Christian history. This is not a Christian recordation. This is not Jewish recordation. This is what Julian's friend records as literally happening. Absolutely insane!

Think about this, historians have attempted to say, “Well, this must be the result of the great Galilean earthquake of 363.” I don't care what you call it. When you set foot on the Temple Mount to rebuild the Third Temple and fire starts shooting out of the ground, you have divine intervention, period!

So now we must ask the question: Could there be a force prohibiting the rebuilding of the Third Temple? Could there be? You have to at least, at this point, ask that question?



Let's fast forward in time a little bit. We come to 614AD; to the Sicilian/Persian Empire of 614. Guess what? The Persians go up and drive out the Christian Byzantines out of Jerusalem. They take Jerusalem, and they take the Temple Mount. Here is what is interesting about this: they do it with the help of the Jews. Thousands upon thousands of Jews had joined with them to purge it out, and obviously the Jews have a vested interest. This is their city given to them by Hashem, by the Living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob. It makes sense. You can see why they wanted their land back. They wanted what was rightfully given to them.

Well, as a token of his appreciation, guess what? A door opens again? The Persian Emperor says, "I'm going to allow you to rebuild the Temple." Amazingly, relationships break down before it can ever come to fruition, and it never happens.

So we have door opening, door closing; door opening, door closing; door opening, door closing. It absolutely makes no sense. You start to compile this evidence. It is nuts!

Let me fast forward to a more recent time. Go to June 1967, what we call the Six-Day War. I'm going to tell you something happened here that if it were not so recent, and if it were not recorded, no one would believe it.

In fact, there's nothing in this narrative that makes any sense whatsoever. So what happened in June of 1967 is Israel goes to the Old City, and they invade the Old City of Jerusalem. They take the Temple Mount, and this is led by the commander Motta Gur. And to this day, his words ring out. What happened is once he gets to the Temple Mound and takes it, he radios headquarters with these words, "The Temple Mount is in our hands."



Put yourself in the place of the Jews. Imagine having your feet on the Temple Mount, or being at headquarters, when Motta Gur radios those words, "The Temple Mount is in our hands." Can you even imagine the overwhelming emotion and connection as a Jew, as a chosen people, with your fathers, and their fathers, and their fathers? Your entire identity is wrapped around this spot right here ...Jerusalem. This is where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac. It is so powerful! They are overwhelmed emotionally.

So at this point, the Brigades Chief Communications officer Ezra Arnie comes to Gur and asks, "Shall we hoist the flag of Israel?" Where do you think they did this? From the Dome of the Rock. Gur tells them to, "Go up." They hoist it from the Dome of the Rock? This is an amazing thing!

So Ezra goes up along with two other gentlemen and literally hoists the flag of Israel over the Dome of the Rock. It is flying on the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is in their total possession and control. This is absolutely amazing!

What do you think would come after this because the rabbis are celebrating with the blowing of shofars on the Temple Mount? What do you think comes after this? The rebuilding of their Temple? You better believe it! This is what would come next.



However, before that ever comes to fruition, the defense minister Moshe Dayan is watching through binoculars and sees that they hoisted the Israel flag over the Dome of the Rock. He radios over to Gur and he says this, "Do you want to set the Middle East on fire?"

Obviously, are you insane? What are you doing? At which point Gur turns to Ackman and tells him to go take the flag down. It must have been so painful for Gur to hear this that he had to commission someone else to do it. Why? Because

the second they took that flight down, what did they do? They conceded the Temple Mount and any hope to rebuild their Temple.

Now, I'm going to tell you that you cannot make this stuff up. One moment they're crying out that the Temple Mount is in our hands, and then the next moment it was like grasping water going through their hands. It is gone. The door was open. They had all power and authority over the Temple Mound, and they literally handed it back.

This should baffle your mind. This is as crazy, if not crazier than balls of fire shooting out of the ground. It makes no sense whatsoever. In fact, today rabbis are puzzled; they are in anguish and pain that such a thing would be done. But it was.

So again, you have to ask yourself as you look at these examples in history, is there actually divine intervention. Let me ask you a question: Were the prophets right when they prophesied that the Mashiach will build the Third Temple? Was Yeshua right? Is Yeshua a true prophet? These are the things we are confronted with.

Do you remember what Yeshua said to the Samaritan woman at the well? This is what is recorded in John 4:20-21, ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father." [Emphasis added]

Here is what is fascinating about this. This is a direct statement about the Temple because that is the place of worship. He's making a statement. You can read the entire Book of John, and you will not find anywhere that Yeshua circles back and said, "But then after three generations it will be rebuilt." He doesn't say anything like that in regard to this age, the age of Esau. And keep in mind that when Yeshua speaks it, that is it. Nothing is going to change regarding what He says.

When you take this a step further, this is not the only place He speaks of it. In Matthew 23:37-38, we read this, ²⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸See! Your house is left to you desolate...[emphasis added].

I have to stop and say something here. If you have been to Israel, or you plan to go someday, this is a very emotional experience. You could not have premeditated the emotions you experience going there. It is really an awesome thing. When my feet hit the Temple Mount, I was so excited because I was going to the place of the Beit Hamikdash. And when I got up there, I'm going to tell you I've never felt such pain, such horror, in my life. It felt like my heart sank down into my stomach. I couldn't even explain it.

And there was one word that kept resounding as I'm walking on the Temple Mound, and that was the word, desolation. Desolation, desolation, desolation.

You can feel it. They have unclean animals running about on the Temple Mount. There were cats. I couldn't believe it. There were cats everywhere. They're crawling around you. It was absolutely creepy!

Continuing in Matthew 23:38-39, ³⁸See! Your house is left to you desolate. Now listen carefully because Yeshua gave a timeline as this verse continues. ³⁹ for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' " In another words, what Yeshua is saying is the status quo will not change until you invite Me back.

And here's the thing, He is talking about a coronation of the King. We read about it in Matthew 21. It was the first time Yeshua was coronated. It is referred to as the triumphal entry. The Jews were laying palm branches down for His donkey to walk on. This was just as the prophets foretold in Zachariah 9:9, ...Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

And as this King is coming, they are crying out, "Baruch Haba b'shem Adonai." It is declaration. It is the anointing of the King. It is a coronation. It is unbelievable! And it is going to happen again. There are two coronations for Yeshua.

Now, there is a precedent for this. When you go back and read about Solomon, one of the most unique things about King Solomon was he was coronated twice. He was anointed twice as king: The Mashiach Ben David. It would stand to reason that Solomon, as the anointed son of David, would be a foreshadow of the anointed son of David, Yeshua. This is amazing, mind-blowing!

So to sum this up, Yeshua has given a time the Temple Mount will be totally desolate.

Now, I want to take this even a step further. As we look back in history, I want to bring Bar Kochba back to the table. As Bar Kochba goes to rebuild the Temple, there were signs at the same time that this attempted rebuilding was a harbinger. This was a harbinger portending that calamity was coming.

EARTHQUAKE ISRAEL TODAY



Light earthquake measuring 4.8 hits southern Israel; No injuries reported



3.7 earthquake hits Sea of Galilee and surrounding area

Dozens of tremors have been felt around northern Israel in recent weeks.



Earthquake in northern Israel - 'felt like a bomb,' residents

People in Afula, Nazereth and Migdal Haemek in the North said they also heard loud explosions.

So I actually want to draw your attention to what's going on in Israel. I will talk about just a couple things; however, there are many other things we could talk about, but I want to discuss some things that will really resonate with you today. Number one, what do we see happening in Israel? There are all sorts of earthquakes happening. You want to be in tune with this because it is very significant. Yeshua prophesied this would happen. But this earthquake that hit the Sea of Galilee was actually felt in Jerusalem. It was quaking so much in Northern Israel that it felt like a bomb went off. Earthquakes are happening!

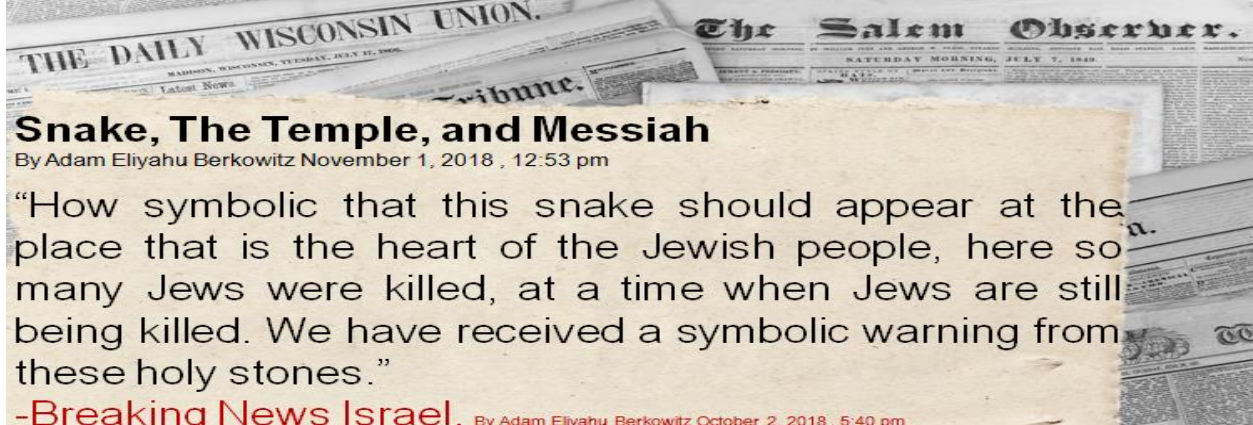
I want to show you another sign, but I want to set this up. Remember what Dio Cassius said about the Jews regarding the Bar Kochba revolt? He stated the Jews had signs that calamity was coming, but the Jews didn't read the signs. One of those signs was the place of veneration began to crumble.

I want to show you just a video clip here. [For the clip, please go to the youtube video link and marker number 33:42. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XW2gwWyHhtl>]

This was last year at the Western Wall, which is a place of veneration. [Video shows a large stone falling from the Western Wall] [Daniel pointed to a woman in the video who is standing by the wall] This is a woman. Look at the size of that stone. It is probably over 200 pounds. Let me help you understand this. If you build a stone wall, 200 pound stones don't just come out of the wall and fall. Stones don't just come out of the Western Wall. But this is happening. This is happening right now. Think about that for a moment. This is literally crumbling right before you. Do you think this is a sign? Absolutely!

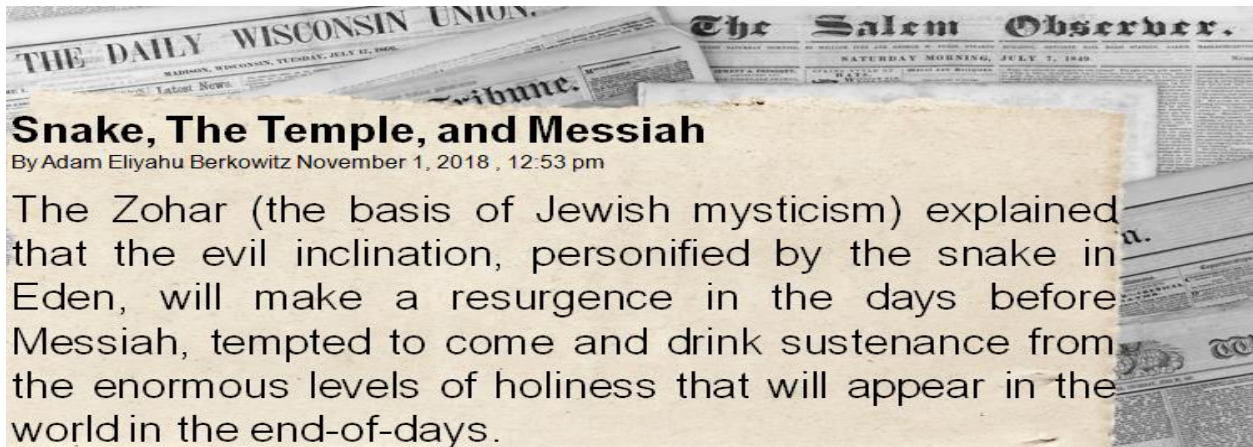
Let me show you another sign. [Same web link; counter 34:23] This was the Temple Mount last year. That is a snake. Watch as they pan out from this; it is crazy. And what is so amazing is the pigeon, which is an animal that you would sacrifice, flies off because of the snake. Nobody knows how this snake got up there. It is bananas! But it's at the Western Wall, the highest place of veneration in Judaism. These are two unbelievable signs in one year not including the little earthquakes that are happening right now. And this doesn't include other signs we could talk about. We will get into those next week. This is real. This is happening.

Now. I want to show you some commentary on the snake. There were many articles written on the matter; this is just one.



You see, it is time to lift the veil. You better start looking at the events and the things through the lens of the New Covenant; through the lens of Yeshua. And yes, all eyes should be on Jerusalem because it is the epicenter of prophecy. We need to be watching her now.

The article continues:



Just to make clear, I'm not advocating for Jewish mysticism. Then the article says:

Snake, The Temple, and Messiah

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz November 1, 2018 , 12:53 pm

It was noted in Sod1820 that the snake appeared in the women's prayer section, emphasizing its relevance to women. In Genesis, it is described how Eve was tempted into sin by the snake.

[The reference to Sod1820 is a reference to a kabalistic site.]

I want to draw your attention to the reason I showed you this. It is because of this last statement. When that snake was found, it was found in the section of the women. Now go back to the story in Genesis. The story is about the serpent that came in and deceived the woman. If you think this is all a coincidence at the epicenter of the heritage of the Jewish people, at the place that is more venerated than any other place on planet Earth for the Jewish people, you're kidding yourself. That is not possible. These things are significant. We are living at the very end. Do you understand how close we are?

Let me read to you some commentary from Josephus. Remember, Josephus was a historian in the first century, and he comments upon the fact that his people were blind to what was coming. There were signs that calamity was on the way, and they didn't read them. There was a veil. Listen to what he says.

Josephus said, "[Thus were the miserable people persuaded by these deceivers....](#)" In other words, Josephus is saying false prophets, who were Jewish themselves, had gone out and were deceiving the people. Continuing: [and such as belied God himself; while they did not attend nor give credit to the signs that were so evident, and did so plainly foretell their future desolation, but, like men infatuated, without either eyes to see or minds to consider, did not regard the denunciations that God made to them. Thus there was a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year.](#) This happened before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

He goes on: [Thus also before the Jews' rebellion, and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month Xanthicus, \[Nisan,\] and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day time; which lasted for half an hour. This light seemed to be a good sign to the unskillful, but was so interpreted by the sacred scribes, as to portend those events that followed immediately upon it. At the same festival also, a heifer, as she was led by the high priest to be sacrificed, brought forth a lamb in the midst of the Temple.](#)

This is absolutely bonkers! Things go on before calamity happens. The Lord sends obscure and bizarre signs.

Continuing: [Moreover, the eastern gate of the inner \[court of the\] Temple, which was of brass, and vastly heavy, and had been with difficulty shut by twenty men, and rested upon a basis armed with iron,](#)

and had bolts fastened very deep into the firm floor, which was there made of one entire stone, was seen to be opened of its own accord about the sixth hour of the night. Now those that kept watch in the Temple came hereupon running to the captain of the Temple, and told him of it; who then came up thither, and not without great difficulty was able to shut the gate again.

We are talking about humongous doors that would not have opened by themselves. These doors were found open. This is also recorded in Yoma 39.

Continuing: This also appeared to the vulgar to be a very happy prodigy, as if God did thereby open them the gate of happiness. But the men of learning understood it, that the security of their holy house was dissolved of its own accord, and that the gate was opened for the advantage of their enemies. So these publicly declared that the signal foreshowed the desolation that was coming upon them. Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the one and twentieth day of the month Artemisius, [Iyar,] a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared: I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sun-setting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Josephus – Wars of the Jews, Bk 6, Ch 5, Sec 3

It was a sign. I showed you this for a reason. Prior to calamity, there are crazy signs the LORD starts sending such as stones falling out of the Western Wall and snakes, which are the very symbol of HaSatan, showing up at the Western Wall in the women's section. This is crazy! This is absurd! This is the kinds of things we would expect to happen.

And as you look in history, one of the things we see over and over again that would portend calamity is coming is the move to rebuild the Third Temple.

So now I ask you. What do you do with this? How are we supposed to look at it? There is a serious move to rebuild the Third Temple. There are some serious signs that are taking place. How are we supposed to understand this?

Let me take you to Zechariah 14:1-3, **¹Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. ²For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;** (it is going to come under great pressure) **the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity....** (Emphasis added)

I cannot bring this scripture forward enough because we are at the precipice of this being fulfilled. I already told you about the UN creating resolutions to divide Jerusalem. This is no mystery. Well, now as they start investigating Trump's peace plan, the people investigating it are saying Trump's peace plan also includes a division of Jerusalem.

We are living in crazy times, and there is going to be a time of Jacob's trouble. There is calamity coming in front of us. The fact is the Jews are moving to rebuild the Third Temple. It's not Messianic Jews. It's the Orthodox. The fact they are doing this right now, and we have all these signs starting to come out, you better wake up because we're at the very end.

You know this prophecy invites the coming because what happens when you divide half of the city? When you go back to the pre-1967 borders, where you have split borders. Netanyahu has already come out and said if Israel is forced to go back to pre-1967 borders, she cannot defend herself. In other words, it will be suicide. There is a reason the Jews are not so quick to start conceding land; to concede this division of the land as written in this peace plan. It is because in their mind, militarily, they'll never be able to defend themselves.

But here is what is on the horizon. When this prophecy does come true, and the city is divided, what are the Jewish people going to rely on? Are they going to rely on the Iron Dome? Are they going to rely on their tanks? Are they going to rely on flesh? I ask this because we're told in Jeremiah 17:5-7, **...Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength,..... ⁷Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD.**

Do you know what they're going to do? They are going to invite their King back: Baruch Haba b'shem, Adonai. They will call out: "Lord, Yeshua, help us." Israel, the Jewish people, are going to turn to the Jewish Messiah, and He is going to come. So there is hope in the future. He is going to come, and He will deliver them, and it will be over.

But you have to understand where we are at in the signs and the times, and how all of this plays out. I know we still have questions. That doesn't mean after today we've answered all the questions. We still have questions. Questions such as: how do you deal with the Antichrist? He's supposed to be in the Temple, defiling the Temple. What about the abomination of desolation? We have questions.

We're going to get to those things, but not today.