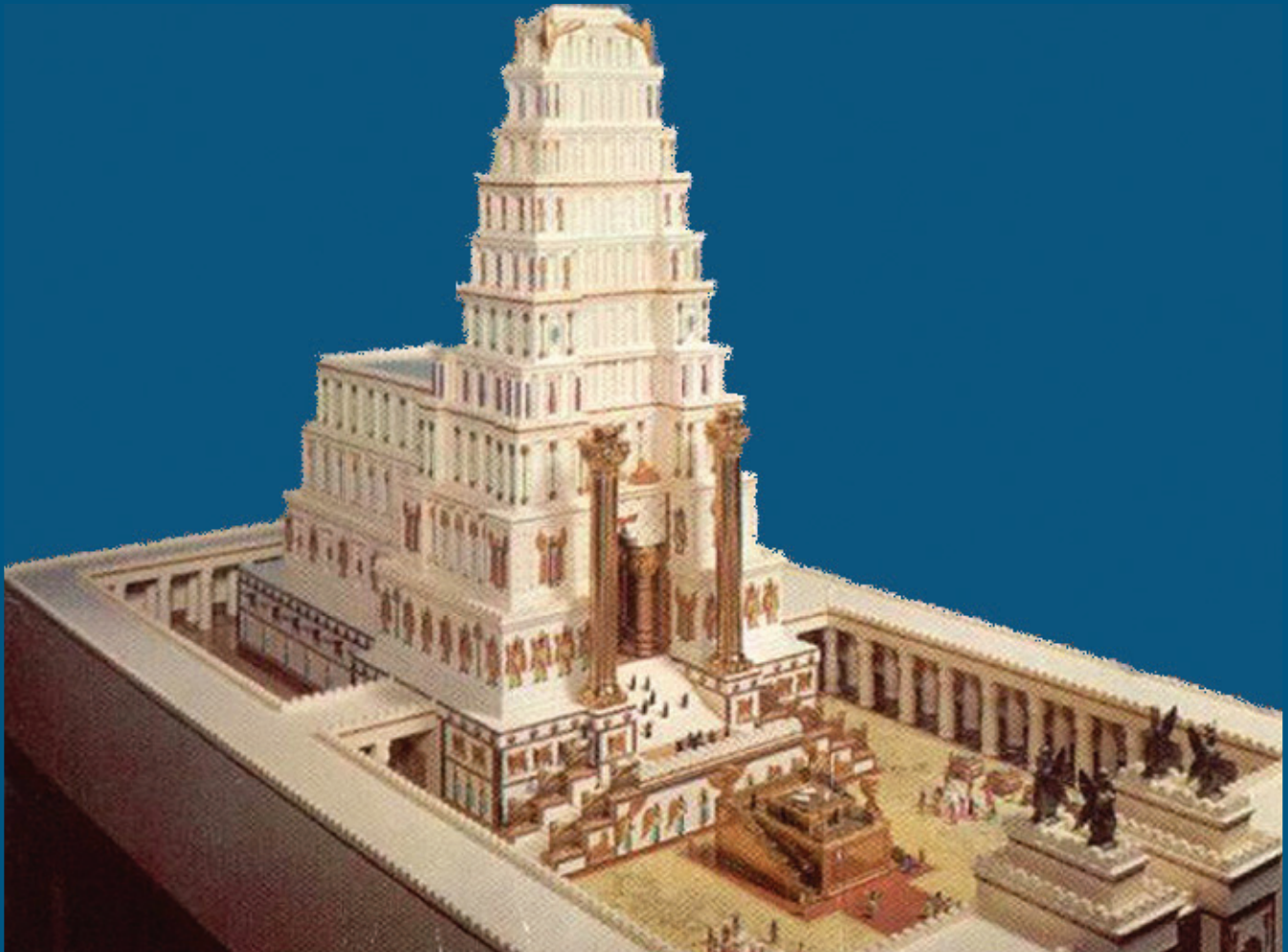


INSIGHT

Volume 8 Number 2

December 2013

Solomon's Temple



Will it be Rebuilt?

International Congregation of Yahweh

INSIGHT

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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A nonprofit, religious organization, ICY is dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles' and the prophets' (Eph. 2:20), message of obedience to Yahweh's Law (Isa. 8:20; Jer. 26:4-6; Ezk. 20:19).

Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

Other major foundational beliefs are the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua, and the inspiration of both Old and New Testaments. An ICY hallmark doctrine is the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark; not from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. *Insight* is sent free of charge to all who subscribe. Since ICY does not teach tithing on money, this is made possible through free-will offerings of ICY members and other contributors. Circulation presently includes over 30 foreign countries and the USA.

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The Gospel Makes Demands

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

Is the *true* Gospel a mere announcement of the good news of a coming world government?

The Gospel that John the Baptist and the Messiah Yahshua preached is much more than just an announcement of that coming government. Demands are included in that proclamation. And demands *from Yahweh* are something the human race has never liked. People submit to authorities of all sorts such as their employer, their spouse, their civil government, their personal philosophy and desires, etc., but not as willingly to Yahweh.

There are lots of popular “gospels” in the religious marketplace (Gal. 1:6), but the one *true* gospel has never been very popular, because it demands something that goes against human nature. And what is it that runs contrary to our own human nature? It is obedience to Yahweh’s Law.

The apostle Paul clearly recognized this: “...the carnal mind is enmity against Yahweh [“God” *KJV*]: for it is not subject to the Law of Yahweh, neither indeed can be” (Rom. 8:7). Our resistive willful human nature is the core reason why the *true* gospel message is not well known nor gladly embraced.

And this is one reason the true gospel may not seem like “good news” to the vast majority. It demands **repentance** and **a drastic change** in our personal lives. Its demands start there, *with us, on a personal level*: “And...Yahshua [Jesus; *KJV*] began to preach...Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” (Matt. 4:17).

Yes, we all want, need and earnestly desire what the Kingdom of Yahweh promises and *guarantees*: peace and safety for our families, cities and our nation, bumper crops, beautiful weather, glowing health well past a hundred. Additional promises include healthy happy children, comfortable homes, limited but effective and efficient government, fulfilled dreams and financial prosperity for all.

What is there not to like? Why would people not enthusiastically flock to that message by the millions? This is after all, what the Kingdom of Yahweh, the Kingdom of Heaven, will absolutely be like, a virtual utopia in every respect! (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Amos 9:13; Mic. 4:3). We know one reason.

Another reason it is so staunchly unpopular is that it is a *world ruling government*, and the idea of *another* overreaching government, if it is more of what

we already have, is repugnant to us all. It smacks of more red tape, self-serving politicians, crushing taxes and armies of government agencies with their bureaucrats nosing into everyone’s business, micro-managing away personal freedoms.

However, this is where the misunderstanding lies. *Manmade governments* as just described *are not to be confused* with the government of *Yahweh’s Kingdom* with its guarantees previously mentioned. Yahweh’s kingdom will not be a sprawling governmental monster with tentacles of never-ending bureaucracy. Certainly there are laws, about 600 or so, but compare that to man’s government whose *hundreds of thousands* of civil and federal statutes strangle personal initiative and liberties with their suffocating regulations.

Governments of men *cannot make the same guarantees Yahweh’s government does*. There is **no way** human governments can deliver on the lofty promises and **absolute utopian guarantees of Yahweh’s government**. It takes an “other-worldly” government to do it.

We humans *alone* are simply incapable of properly governing our cities, our nation, our world and ourselves. *We need help. We must have the guidance and direction of the unfathomable genius of Yahweh Almighty!! He made it ALL. Only the Father Yahweh and His Son Yahshua have the know-how and power to deliver on such guarantees!*

The dismal, bloody record of human history *proves we lack the wisdom, imagination and the will* to govern properly. It is time for human beings to step aside and submit to *THEM* who know how; let them take the reins of power! But that will come only with a fight to the death (Rev. 19:11-21)!

It is definitely going to happen, though no man knows the day or the hour. Yahweh is poised to take over the governments of this world. He will send His Son as the ruling King of Kings in fury and irresistible might with a heavenly army that will absolutely crush human governments into submission! (Rev. 19:11-16). The signs of the times signal this is near, that the end of this age is just over the horizon of human events. (See article this issue “Signs of the Times”).

There is hope ahead. A new era of world peace and prosperity is about to dawn. Praise Yahweh!

★★★★★★

Does the Condition of Barley Determine the First Month of the Year?

There is a widespread teaching that the condition of barley must determine the first month of the year, the month of Abib (also spelled Aviv as in Tel Aviv), the month of green grass or green ears. Is this Biblical?

What does the Bible tell us is the basis of the Sacred Calendar needed to find the first month of the year? The best place to start is at the beginning.

The Biblical fact is **the Feasts of Yahweh were established from the beginning, before** there was an earthly priesthood, a temple *or a man to check the condition of barley*: Genesis 1:14:

“And Elohim said, **Let there be lights** in the firmament. and **let them** be for signs, and for **seasons, days and years.**”

The word “seasons” here, the Hebrew “moed,” is the same word translated “feasts” in Leviticus 23:2: “...the feasts of Yahweh...” A more accurate translation is “...let them be for...festivals, days, and years.”¹

This shows the **lights** (sun, moon, stars), **determine the Feasts of Yahweh**. That is the Law and always will be. It does not say the state of crops’ maturity at some location determines the Holy Days.

The state-of-barley method uses the *seasons* (month of Abib: Deut. 16:1-2), to determine *which lights [which New Moons] are chosen to set the Holy Days*. That is,

we look at the seasons [crop conditions, temperature, etc.] to decide which New Moon is the first one of the year. But on the authority of the Bible itself, it is the other way around.

The **lights set the Feasts** (again Gen. 1:14). This is the only sure way, *exact* way, to fix Yahweh’s appointed times. The variability in weather conditions, geographical locations, and the consequent crop maturity variations are too uncertain for such a sacred matter as setting Yahweh’s Holy Days.

Once *the lights are correctly chosen for numbering the months*, the seasonal issue will fall in place as needed. The lights are chosen *first*.

LOCATION

Geographical variations in climate, altitude, growing seasons, etc., present major difficulties to the “barley theory.” To avoid these problems, a passage from Isaiah is often invoked: “...out of Zion shall go forth the Law...” (Isa. 2:3). Therefore the conclusion is made that Jerusalem is where the state of the barley sets the first month of the year.

But Isaiah’s statement leaves out many essential facts needed to sort out the Law. He does not mention *any* details or what exactly is meant. *If* it means, for example that New Moons are *announced* from Zion, does it mean the first day of the month starts there?

No, because the bible shows *elsewhere* that New Moon Days do not begin at a fixed location every month.

Furthermore, the days of the week for example, are not set from Jerusalem, and never were, according to Genesis chapter one. They do not change at the longitude of Jerusalem, because it is not the location of the Biblical International Date Line; a fact the inhabitants of Israel acknowledge to this day.

Numbering the weekdays determines what day is the weekly seventh-day Sabbath (See Gen. 1-2). The fact that they are not numbered starting at Jerusalem,

but at the IDL, also casts doubt on that interpretation of Isaiah’s prophecy.

The Scriptural International Date Line is at or very close to 168°46’ West longitude (See, *The Scriptural International*

Date Line Recovered, ICY publication).

These are just *two examples* of what Isaiah is *not* saying. So his statement is far from definitive proof of *how* the Laws of the calendar are set. This includes the “barley theory” of the first month of the year.

Now, crops ripen in the Negev region of southern Israel or Tel Aviv area (66 feet above sea level), two weeks or more earlier than around Jerusalem which is 2,500 feet above sea level.² So would farmers

“...Once lights are correctly chosen... numbering the months, the seasonal issue will fall in place...”



The light of the sun, moon, and stars fixes Yahweh's times. Genesis 1:14 is proof the light is the exact way to determine Yahweh's festivals. www.rgbstock.com

around Tel Aviv and the Negev regions ignore *their* crop conditions?

The barley was in the ear at the time of the exodus (Ex. 9:31), but this was in the Rameses, Egypt area and Goshen (Ex. 9:26; Num. 33:3). The need to somehow check the condition of crops in or around Jerusalem is never indicated in the Biblical record. Rameses' (modern name *Qantir*), is located in the Ash Sharqiyah region.

Israel left Rameses in a mass exodus on the fifteenth day of the first month (Num. 33:3), *as determined for that area* (not *by* that area). Crop maturity at Rameses' more southern latitude (30° 48' North) and lower elevation (88 feet above sea level) would have been earlier than the Jerusalem area further north (Lat. 31°46' North; about 70 miles further north) and much higher elevation (2,500 feet above sea level). If crop conditions around Jerusalem were to set the beginning of months, the Holy Days at Rameses would have been too early depending on the New Moon occurrence.

On the authority of the Bible, we *know* the New Moon and Holy Day Sabbaths of Passover were at their proper times in the Rameses area. When Israel reached the wilderness of Sin and Sinai far distant from Rameses, the New Moons were accurate, because Moses recorded the exact day of the month of their arrivals (Ex. 16:1: 15th of 2nd month; Ex. 19:1: 15th day of 3rd month).

It is not surprising then, that Jerusalem was not mentioned when Yahweh said, "This month shall be the beginning of months for you, it is to be the first month of the year to you" (Ex. 12:2). He did not say inspect the condition of the barley.

We should also keep in mind that additional laws were given at Mt. Sinai; not Jerusalem (Ex. 19:1, 18; 20-24:18).

The argument is also made that there is no temple in Jerusalem and no residing priesthood to check the barley and proclaim New Moons nor to offer sacrifices. Consequently, the New Moons and Feast Days cannot be known, nor legally kept today. That is, the Holy Days cannot be determined and kept apart from the temple and the priesthood.

What does the Bible say? The fact is they are and can be Biblically separate from the temple, and examples show even without a residing priesthood as well. We must look at the Biblical facts to answer this objection.

First, we know they were established from the beginning, before there was a priesthood or temple on earth: Genesis 1:14: "And Elohim said, Let there be lights in the firmament and let them be for signs, and for seasons days and years."

Clearly then, the Feasts of Yahweh were established from the beginning without an earthly priesthood or temple, and were in force during Adam's stay in the garden. Adam was sinless after he was created for perhaps seven years or more (See section below, "Adam and the Garden of Eden"). Being perfect he had to observe Yahweh's festivals, and there is no mention of an "Adamic" priesthood.

Another case without a temple OR a priesthood, was Lot who clearly kept the days of unleavened bread...IN Sodom (Gen. 19:1-3: baked them unleavened bread). He was called a just and righteous man (II Pet. 2:7-8). How could he be righteous and not keep Yahweh's feasts? He could not be so called without obedience to the Law of the Festivals.

A final example is that Israel kept the Passover with unleavened bread (Ex. 12:1-51; on Abib 14: v. 6), before there was a Levitical priesthood, and without a temple, the night before their exodus from Egypt.

YAHSHUA ADDRESSED THIS ISSUE

So what about location? The record of Yahshua's conversation with a Samaritan clarifies this matter. Here is what a Samaritan woman said to Him,

"Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say ["you Jews say" *Phillips Trans*], that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Yahshua saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father...But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth..." (John 4:20-21, 23).

The Phillips translation reads, "the time is coming when worshipping the Father will not be a matter of 'on this hill-side' or 'in Jerusalem.'" That is, the Fa-

ther, Yahweh, is to be worshipped, but not necessarily in Mount Zion nor Jerusalem.

When you think about it, there would be no point in preaching the gospel to all the world, which includes keeping the Holy Days, if it were not possible to keep them except in Jerusalem. People in places far distant from Jerusalem and having no way of knowing crop conditions or New Moons in Jerusalem [a very real situation], would be at a loss to keep Yahweh's festivals.

Without a doubt, the lights set Yahweh's festivals, beginnings of months, and the years. The locations do not set Yahweh's Feasts, "Then Elohim said, 'Let there be **lights** in the expanse of the heavens...**and let THEM** be for **signs**, and for **seasons** [Heb. **festivals**], and **days** and **years**...' " (Gen. 1:14). No mention is made of location or crop conditions. These are the facts of Scripture.

Isaiah's often quoted, "...out of Zion shall go forth the Law..." (Isa. 2:3), used to justify the view that all months must begin in Jerusalem, and the barley's stage at Jerusalem sets the first month, **cannot undercut these facts of the Law in Genesis**. Such claims are also refuted by Yahshua's reply to the Samaritan woman.

ADAM AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The Biblical examples of Adam and the Garden of Eden do not include the condition of crops as the basis for setting the first month of the year. Adam was not immediately driven from the garden, and no doubt remained in the garden for several years. The reason we know this is that Yahweh planted a garden eastward in Eden for Adam to tend which included *trees* (Gen. 2:8-9, 15-16). It took years to produce their first fruit. Remember we cannot eat fruit of a tree until the **fifth year of bearing** (Lev. 19:23-25). This is the law and was the law from the beginning. Every tree's fruit, when the fruit was mature enough to eat, was available to them...even the tree of life... when ready (Gen. 2:16-17; Lev. 19:23-25). So Adam and Eve were in Eden at the very least perhaps five-to-ten years...maybe more.

Recall that Adam was perfect before he sinned when he ate fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil which had been planted years earlier. Being perfect he had to observe Yahweh's festivals. **But there is not the slightest Biblical hint** he ob-

served a New Moon crescent to set the first day of the months *nor checked the condition of the barley to set the first month of the year*. If we assume he did, it would be just that, an assumption; not a fact of Scripture. He did not need to check crop conditions, because the lights set those times; not the crops (Gen. 1:14), nor the crescent moon.

NOAH

We know Noah kept the Feast of Tabernacles (and obviously New Moons), because he was in a temporary dwelling during the Feast and clearly knew the New Moons and days of the months when the Feasts occurred (Gen. 8:4). He knew the month and day of the month when the ark touched down on the 17th day of the 7th month during the Feast of Tabernacles. He obviously knew when the first

month came the following year (Gen. 8:13), *without a barley crop!* If the crop had to be checked *before the first month as many claim*, he could not have known when the first month started because the ground was not dry before the first month that year. Also Noah did not leave the ark until the 27th day of the second month so there is no way for him to examine plant life on earth until after that day. The dove He sent returned with an olive leaf, not green ears of barley (Gen 8:11).

THE LAND SABBATH

A final example regarding the Land Sabbath also proves the condition of barley does not determine the first month of the year. In each seventh year and Jubilee year Land Sabbaths nothing is sown (Lev. 25:1-7; Ex. 23:10-11), yet the Feast Days are kept regardless "at the times appointed for them." (Lev. 23:4; NAS). We might add, "as set by the lights..." (Gen. 1:14). Barley or no barley, the lights Yahweh established from the beginning set the Holy Days (Gen. 1:14). They still do.

REFERENCES:

- 1 - See also, *The Bible* (Moffatt), *Good News Bible*, *New Jerusalem Bible*, etc.
- 2 - U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service, Embassy of the U.S.A., Tel Aviv; 1987.

★★★★★★

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



“...in vain do they worship me [Yahweh]...” Isaiah 29:13

What is a major sign-of-the-times that is rarely mentioned? Worship. The world obviously has no shortage of worship. Religious organizations by the tens of thousands draw hundreds of millions to devotion and prayer in weekly worship; sometimes daily. Legions sincerely devoted in regular worship and prayer steadfastly cling to their beliefs totally convinced it is the true way; the path to the hereafter.

Ironically, parallel with this intense religious fervor, global woes continue their upward spiral of chaos, deception, hatred, treachery, poverty, disease and natural disasters.

Are these supposedly polar opposites of worship and evil consequences somehow related? Is it possible the worship is not working for the common good, that worship can be in vain, and actually be *the cause* of our woes? *Something* is not right!

It is not uncommon to equate devotion in worship and prayer coupled with a strong sense that we are right, as proof positive we are in tune with the Almighty.

Is that true? Does it matter to whom our worship is directed? For instance, what about the name we use in prayer? The Bible answers this question, leaving no doubt that when worshipping the true Creator not just any name will do: “You shall have no other Elohim before me...” and “you shall not take the name of Yahweh your Elohim...in vain...” (Ex. 20:3, 7); “I am Yahweh, that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images” (Isa. 42:8). It is not as the writer Shakespeare quipped, “A rose by any other name smells just as sweet.” (Request, *Just Who is God?*).

But how are we to know if we are worshipping in vain...even when addressing the Creator Yahweh? Is using His mighty name proof our worship is “getting

through...to the throne” so-to-speak?

An even tougher question is, “If we get what we want after we pray in the proper name, does it mean we were heard “on High” by Yahweh or Yahshua, and “...all is well with my soul”?

What is the truth? *It may be shocking to learn* prayers, petitions made in the name of Yahweh or Yahshua which produce the desired results are **not necessarily** evidence that we are in contact with them! *Astonishing as that may seem.*

Here is the proof of this fact: “...Many shall say to me in that day, Master, Master, [“Lord”] have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, *I never knew you: depart from me you that work iniquity*” (Matt. 7:21-23). Yahshua did not deny they had cast out demons and performed wonderful works in His name. The results were undeniable, but *iniquity* was the issue. It is not “many wonderful works” that is needed, not more prayers, but *more repentance*. It is the sinner’s prayer of repentance that Yahweh hears.

What a stunningly sobering and *surprising* revelation! Clearly, it is possible to misinterpret the *cause* of the effect produced when invoking His name in prophecy, casting out demons or a variety of other works. The hard fact is, just as Yahshua said, that iniquities separate us from Yahweh (Isa. 59:2); non-Biblical commandments alienate us from Him.

HOW CAN WORSHIPPING YAHWEH BE IN VAIN?

Yahshua’s statement backs up the verse quoted in the title of this article, showing we can actually wor-

ship Yahweh...but do it all in vain! That verse, Isaiah 29:13, also explains *exactly why and how* we can worship Yahweh in vain. Notice: "...Yahweh ["Lord", LXX] said, This people draw near to me with their mouth, and they honour me with their lips, but *their heart is far from me, but in vain do they worship me, teaching the commandments and doctrines of men*" (Isa. 29:13; LXX, Brenton translation; quoted in Mark 7:6-7).

Notice "...their heart is far from me..." How does Yahweh know our heart is not "in the right place?"

He answers: "...*in vain do they worship me teaching the commandments and doctrines of men.*"

That is the reason!

How often do we read and hear "the commandments and doctrines of men" published and preached? The Internet has provided the gateway to a virtual hurricane of religious teachings, which is unprecedented in human history! How much of these actually focus on the fundamentals of *Yahweh's* commandments, statutes, testimonies and judgments strictly as the Bible records them?

"To the Law and the Testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20). The rise of those worshipping Yahweh and Yahshua while using manmade commandments is one of the unmistakable *signs of the times*, a sign the end of this age is just ahead:

"...what shall be the *sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world* [Gr. "age"]?...And Yahshua answered ["Jesus"]...*many shall come in my name* ...and shall deceive many...And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matt. 24:3, 11).

What makes them false prophets? They come "teaching the commandments and doctrines of men."

There is no substitute for Yahweh's Laws. His commandments are *natural laws* and act inexorably without fail. Their effects are as certain as tomorrow's sunrise; as absolute as the law of gravity! We *have to teach and practice Yahweh's commandments and doctrines*. If not, our heart is not close to Yahweh; regardless of how sincere we may be. **THIS is how we KNOW our worship is correct...or not correct.** This is the line-in-the-sand separating the falsehood from the truth.

This is also where the battle line of controversy starts: Worshipping Yahweh in truth in obedience to His commandments versus the deception of commandments and doctrines men have devised, pre-

sented in the name of and worship of Yahweh and Yahshua (Matt. 24:4-5, 11).

Yahshua truly said, "...the hour comes and now is, when the *true worshippers* shall worship the "Father in spirit and *in truth*: for the Father seeks such to worship Him" (John 4:23). Yahweh clearly said (Isa. 29:13), worshipping Him is in vain, not in truth, if doctrines and commandments of men are substituted for His Laws.

Worship in the name of Yahweh or Yahshua (also variations of these: Yahuah, Jehovah, Yeshua, Yehoshua, etc.), alone cannot be used as the sign of the authenticity and sanctification of a ministry if it is based on commandments and traditions of men. The sacred names are not the sign of sanctification. Stunning perhaps, but true.

Yahweh clearly tells us the **true sign** of His calling and sanctification is His **SABBATHS**; **not** the sacred names (Ex. 31:13, 17; Ezk. 20:12, 20). Though the sacred names are extremely important, they are not necessarily the sign of Yahweh's sanctified people. *Their sign is His true Scriptural weekly and annual Sabbaths* (See again Ex. 31:13, 17; Ezk. 20:12, 20).

Even when the proper name of Yahweh is invoked in worship, there is still the possibility of deception. Vain worship (Isa. 29:13), is based on unscriptural commandments, doctrines and traditions which are professed to be Biblical.

But what are those false commandments and doctrines of men? The list is long with a sordid history much of which is from Babylon. Of course, the answer given to that question differs from one person to the next. One thing is certain, however. *If you cannot find it in the Bible, then it is a false doctrine.* Write for our booklet *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath in NOT from Sunset-to-Sunset*. It exposes one major

"I am Yahweh, that is my name, and my glory will I not give another.."

THE SCRIPTURAL
WEEKLY SABBATH
IS
NOT
FROM
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unscriptural doctrine devised by men.

A SOURCE OF WORLD PROBLEMS

Herein lies one of the major causes of the continuing woes and disasters stalking the global community daily... hourly, and looming on the horizon: man-made religious traditions (i.e. false religion).

The core of the world's problems are primarily religious in nature. False religion is often the culprit. Why? Because worship which Yahweh does not honor—not in truth according to His Law, is sin and sin brings evil consequences! So vain worship really is a subtle, but very real cause of global woes! How many wars and how much hatred are spawned over religion? The bloody record of history and the present, answers this question. That ought to tell us something (See article this issue, "How People Get Their Religious Beliefs").

No, it is not politics (an effect, not a cause). It is largely our *evil religious practices* which Yahweh hates that are burying us in skyrocketing health care costs, burdensome colossal national debt, war, disease and devastating weather extremes (Lev. 26:15-16). These practices help elevate evildoers to high places in government to enslave and crush liberty and freedom (Lev. 26:17; Eph. 6:12).

It may seem like an oxymoron to use "evil" to describe religious practices, but any religion contrary to Yahweh's Laws, statutes, and judgments will, sooner or later, bring the evil curses recorded in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. We should all review those warning chapters carefully and prayerfully.

THE OLIVET PROPHECY: ANOTHER SIGN OF THE TIMES

An intriguing sequence of prophecies in what is commonly called "the Olivet Prophecy" is recorded in Matthew 24 referred to earlier. Notice *the first warning* Yahshua gave: "...Take heed that no man deceive you...For many shall come **in my name**, saying I am Christ, and shall deceive many..." (Matt. 24:45). He emphasizes this again in verse 11: "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."

The word "Christ" simply means, "anointed," and scholars admit its use as a proper noun is largely a matter of the opinion of the translator. So this verse could reasonably be saying either the deceivers come

saying that *He* is the Anointed One, or with the message that "I am anointed;" that is, **they are anointed to come in Yahshua's name**. How many times have you heard the claim of an "anointed ministry?"

Yahshua plainly warned the misuse of His name would arise in the last days. Did He have it right? Look around. More and more are using Yahweh and Yahshua's names in worship. This is *another sign of the times*. Their coming is one **red alert** that we are living in the last days a short while before His second coming; one of the telltale signs of the end of this age! **It is also an ominous sign of great tribulations ahead!**

Now, *why* did He list that **first...BEFORE** wars, nation against nation, famine, pestilence, earthquakes?

Here is the unvarnished truth. It is because religious deception is one of the core causes of those evil consequences! When we see those teaching false doctrines coming in Yahweh's and Yahshua's name, we know these woes are not far behind. The cause precedes the effect. Non-biblical

religious practices reap deadly, heart-breaking consequences; exactly the present global situation on an unprecedented scale. Vain worship *does not work for us. It works*

against us! This is surely one of the great ironies of history, that what is thought to solve mankind's problems can *actually be their cause*.

Super typhoon-ravaged central Philippines with nearly two million homeless and twelve states in the U.S. recently hit by a devastating flurry of tornados are the direct results of breaking Yahweh's commandments. This is what practicing commandments and doctrines of men reaps:

"...if you spurn my statutes, and your soul abhors my ordinances, so that you will not do all my commandments...I will *lay your cities waste*, and [notice this] *make your sanctuaries desolate*...And I will *devastate the land* ...

Then will the land enjoy its Sabbaths...the rest it had not in your Sabbaths when you dwelt upon it" (Lev. 26:15, 31-32, 34-35; RSV).

Notice Yahweh will strike a desolating blow to places of worship (sanctuaries). Is He not showing these are odious to Him, places where the worship does not honor Him?

Worship if not done in truth and those falsely coming in the name of Yahshua *are the news behind the news*, the signs of the times. Pray, "Yahweh's Kingdom come His will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven!" We need it now more than ever.

★★★★★★

"...the core of the world's problems are primarily religious in nature..."

Sacred Calendar

The true sacred calendar of the Bible is vitally important to salvation. Most professing Christians have been lead to believe all they have to do is "believe" in the Messiah and their eternal life is assured; that all the "Old Testament" observances of holy days have been "done away." Nothing could be further from the clear teachings of Scripture. "Belief" without obedience to the Law of Yahweh is contrary to the true Gospel Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23).

The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gos-

pel, because it determines the true Sabbath days which are crucial signs of Yahweh (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). By these vital Sabbath signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified. True, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (i.e. His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh's true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh's calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

2014 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 13 - April 19
Passover Sabbaths	April 13 & April 19
Passover Supper	Night of April 13
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 14 (UB eaten Apr 13-Apr 20)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 4
Feast of Weeks	May 4 - June 21
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 10, 17, 24, 31 June 7, 14, 21
Pentecost	June 22
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 24
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	October 2 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 3
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 8 - Oct. 14
Sabbaths	Oct. 8 & Oct. 15
Last Great Day	October 15

New Moons Month		
January	1	10
January	31	11
March	1	12
March	31	1
April	29	2
May	29	3
June	27	4
July	27	5
August	26	6
September	24	7
October	24	8
November	23	9
December	22	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 26
Seven-Year Cycle
1st year
Jubilee Cycle
36th year

2015 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 2 - April 8
Passover Sabbaths	April 2 & April 8
Passover Supper	Night of April 2
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 3 (UB eaten Apr 2 - Apr 9)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 3
Feast of Weeks	May 3 - June 20
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 9, 16, 23, 30 June 6, 13, 20
Pentecost	June 21
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 13
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 21 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	September 22
Feast of Tabernacles	Sept. 27 - Oct. 3
Sabbaths	Sept. 27 & Oct. 4
Last Great Day	October 4

New Moons Month		
January	21	11
February	19	12
March	20	1
April	19	2
May	18	3
June	17	4
July	16	5
August	15	6
September	13	7
October	13	8
November	12	9
December	11	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 26
Seven-Year Cycle
2nd year
Jubilee Cycle
37th year

How People Get Their Religious Beliefs



How do people come to believe and practice a particular “brand” of religion?

In previous eras such as the period known as the “Crusades,” some had religion imposed on them by the likes of the Pagan Viking invader Ivar the Boneless and his Great Heathen Army in the mid-to-late AD 800s.

Earlier in the late AD 700s and early AD 800s, tens of thousands died by the sword and torture of Charlemagne’s (meaning “Charles the Great”) armies when they refused to convert to Roman Catholicism. A ruthless murderer, and devout Catholic, he waged wars on pagans (those who believed differently) during the Saxon Wars, and on Muslims in Spain and Italy. He converted the conquered to Roman Catholicism by “The Sword and the Cross.” The threat of the sword made “the cross” more appealing. The conquered adopted all beliefs...right or wrong. You may have heard the old saw “when you have them by the throat, their hearts and minds will follow.” Very effective.

Charlemagne was King of the Franks from AD 768, and was crowned Emperor of the so-called Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III on December, 25, 800 AD.

THE MISSIONARY APPROACH

Today, people are usually converted to a brand of religion through more humane methods. The tactics are necessarily more subtle, but still quite effective and far less painful. The sovereignty of nations through their rule of law and standing armies, has generally restricted the older “Crusade” approach.

One modern method of spreading religious beliefs uses humanitarian missionary work and other

relief efforts. Bringing food, clothing, medicine, shelter, etc., AND a professed Biblically based religion the Apostles of old would not recognize, missionaries convert tens of thousands. Are they not simply persuading them to trade one set of false beliefs for others equally false? If so, is this a deceptive use of humanitarian aid to promote religion?

Contrast this to Yahshua’s approach. Yahshua, the Messiah of the New Testament, did not go into a war-ravaged area, a poverty stricken country, or one reeling from the aftermath of a natural disaster, and set up a missionary relief camp as a vehicle to convert the masses. He preached the gospel. He did heal the sick that came to Him (Matt. 4:24).

On two recorded occasions he fed thousands, not because they were at a disaster relief encampment He had set up, rather they came to *him* to HEAR THE GOSPEL of the Kingdom of Yahweh. His gospel message was to **repent** and believe the good news of the coming Kingdom of Yahweh. Those meetings ran until late in the day, and the crowd became hungry, so he proceeded to feed them... miraculously-**AFTER THE GOSPEL WAS PREACHED**. He did not use their hunger to try to convert them. Their hunger was not what brought them to Him or Him to them. It was the gospel.

Whatever happened to *that* gospel, the gospel of true repentance? The true gospel says, “**Repent...**” (Matt. 4:17), of breaking the commandments in the Law of the Old Testament. This includes the weekly Sabbath, the laws of health prohibiting eating pork, catfish, shell fish (Lev. 11; Deut. 14), the annual Holy Days, the laws of economics forbidding charging interest to those of the same nationality, etc. Where is **that** gospel preached in the massive relief efforts of religious organizations?

THE “PROVE ALL THINGS” APPROACH

Another effective method of getting religious converts, uses terms which say the right things, but are not backed by deeds. Sounds like a reference to the scribes and Pharisees: “...but do not ye after their works: **for they say, and do not ...**” (Matt. 23:3).

This is one of the **most deceptive of all!** The reason is the Bible definitely requires that we prove all things (I Thess. 5:21). But professing to prove something and **doing it** can be worlds apart.

Here is a typical example from a religious website:

“Basic premises and assumptions must be proven first. Only then can an orderly progression be made to arrive at the truth...Correction

“Yahshua...did not...set up a missionary relief camp as a vehicle to convert the masses.”

of wrong basic assumptions and a genuine love of truth is necessary. This alleviates the need for illogical...explanations necessary to support preconceived conclusions...”

Who could possibly disagree with these impressive words that certainly say all the right things?

Encouraged by such apparent openness and objectivity, an email was sent to this organization, advertising ICY’s booklet on the weekly Sabbath: “Since... you obviously believe in proof, we invite you to examine the following advertisement of our Sabbath booklet: “WHEN DOES THE BIBLICAL WEEKLY SABBATH START? Does it really start at sundown Friday and end sundown Saturday? Where is the BIBLICAL proof of a sunset-to-sunset weekly Sabbath? Could it be you have overlooked something? We invite you to read “The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath is NOT from Sunset-to-Sunset.”

Their response was not long in coming: “Please remove us from your mailing list. We disagree. We believe we have the true Sabbath and Holy Days.”

What happened to “...premises and assumptions must be proven...genuine love of truth...correction of wrong basic assumptions...”? They were not about to read that which challenged *their* “basic premises and assumptions...”; nor would they consider having possibly overlooked anything. Obviously, “...they say... and do not...”

Was their website an invitation to accept what *they* taught...not to examine or prove, a clever ruse of

religious deception? If not, why was there no *consideration to reexamine* their basic assumptions?

Another religious group stated: “Our basic postulates are open for examinations and questions...” However, a close examination of their doctrinal history revealed that particular organization had not made any real doctrinal changes in over *fifty years!* Given that fact, one can hardly help but question whether their basic postulates were in fact actually open to examination and questions.

Again, a clever advertisement appealing to reason was used in order to sell their doctrines; not to have them examined and proven.

Another example of this approach is the following religious group’s direct quotes:

“Again, the Bible interprets itself. ‘The command to us is “PROVE ALL THINGS’ (I Thess. 5:21).”

“We must be willing to be corrected, if wrong....

We must free our minds of all prejudice...We must be able and willing to study BOTH sides honestly, laying our ideas and desires on the shelf,...” “If we already are right, honest investigation will but confirm it.”

“If we are WRONG, WE SHOULD WANT TO KNOW IT.”

“...study with open minds, without prejudice, proving all things. We want truth!”

Sound good? Certainly. But is this their *practice?* By their fruits you shall know them...not by what they say (Matt. 7:15).



One Bible...many religions. www.mychristianlife.com

THE “PROSPERITY GOSPEL” APPROACH

Another approach is sometimes called “The Prosperity Gospel” or “Prosperity Evangelism.” Its basic premise which reels people into “another gospel” as Paul called it (Gal. 1:6-9), is that “God’s sole concern for people is their prosperity.” Not that they repent of sins, of breaking Yahweh’s Law, but simply that

they have wealth. They simply ignore that great Law which defines righteousness.

There is nothing wrong with getting out of poverty. Being poor is not more righteous than being rich. BUT riches are not necessarily a measure of righteousness either (Matt. 13:22). One result of Yahweh's Law is financial prosperity, but not at the expense of ignoring *what righteousness* is in all areas of life.

Such "other gospels" routinely ignore Yahweh's great Law, the actual specifics, the details, so people continue in sin even though their finances improve. How is that possible?

This. They are enticed to "give a seed faith offering." "Give and it shall be given to you..." is a law (Luke 6:38). It works. We can literally "give our way out of poverty."

This is why this method deceives. Eager audience or viewers listen. They give. They receive something in return. The "hook" is set. Not that giving is wrong. But this principle of giving is used to mask or ignore many other important commandments Yahweh gives in His Law.

The point is that this is not the only Law of Scripture. What about robbing Yahweh of tithes and of-

ferings (Mal. 3:8); the Sabbath sign of sanctification (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20); loving your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18); honoring Yahweh's great Name (Ex. 20:7)...and hundreds of other laws of righteousness?

Riches are not bad, but remember Yahshua's warning: "...and the *deceitfulness of riches*, choke the word and he becomes unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22; see also I Tim. 6:5,

Prv. 28:11). Prosperity can be the **result** of righteousness. It is NOT of itself evidence of a righteous life. This makes this method especially effective in getting people to believe a particular brand of doctrines that are not Biblical. *It is a common human tendency to mistakenly think that if we get what we want, Yahweh must be favoring us.*

"...If we are wrong,
we should want to know it."

THE CORRECT APPROACH

What is needed is the true gospel message the Messiah Yahshua came preaching: the Gospel of Repentance: "...began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 5:17).

The "missionary approach," the deceitful use of "prove all things" and the "prosperity gospel" *miss the mark*. The true gospel shows people how to REMOVE THE CAUSES of the crises, the despair, the sickness, weather devastations, drought, war, slavery, and all the rest; for ALL areas of life. It teaches the REAL road to freedom from evil consequences by focusing on the causes rather than just the symptoms. It focuses on the Law of Yahweh, the perfect law of liberty (Jam. 1:25), which frees us from the penalties of sin. This knowledge is free of Babylonian influences and man-made traditions.

When only symptoms are treated the problem remains unsolved. Consequently, after "repairing" a desperate situation, it is just a matter of time until the same or another crisis occurs and the rescue HAS TO BE REPEATED ALL OVER AGAIN. An endless cycle of crisis and rescue continues.

What the world needs is permanent solutions, not stop-gap repairs. The government of Yahweh, the Kingdom of Yahweh, will provide lasting peace and prosperity.

The constitution of this world-ruling government will be THE LAW OF YAHWEH, the first five books of Scripture. Then and only then, will there be global peace and prosperity far beyond what is offered by any other approach. AND what is more important: IT WILL LAST!



The Washington National Cathedral is one of the oldest churches in the United States. Its actual name is the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the City and Diocese of Washington, Construction began in 1907 and the final stone was laid in 1990. www.wikipedia.org

★★★★★★

Will the Temple in Jerusalem be Rebuilt? A 'Third Temple'?

What is the Bible's Answer to this Epic Question?



Will a “third” temple be built? The speculation and controversy continues to swirl over the possibility. Certainly this would not have been possible before the Israelis captured the temple mount in 1967. Then, after 1,897 years, the possibility took a huge step forward with control of this sacred site...except for two final hurdles: The Dome of the Rock, otherwise known as the “Mosque of Omar” and the Al Aqsa Mosque both located on the temple mount area.

Devout Muslims consider the Dome of the Rock to **be the rebuilt temple**, the third temple. Christians and Jews obviously do not agree. It was built by Omar Ibn Al-Khattab after his conquest of Palestine in AD 636.

It is hard to imagine a “third” temple built on the site of a Moslem holy shrine as the situation now stands...if indeed the Dome of the Rock is actually located on the original site of King Solomon’s temple. But Yahweh can do it when and if He chooses.

There is, however, ongoing debate about the location of that temple. If the Muslim shrine is not on the original location, this provides an opportunity to rebuild the Israelite temple while muting the Arab-Israeli temple controversy.

In an article by Lawrence Sporty in the 1990 *Biblical Archaeologist*, evidence is given that King Solomon’s Temple actually lay on the northern portion of the Temple Mount so the present “Dome of the Rock” would lie to the south of the actual site of the original temple. This conclusion is shared by others as well.

Sporty wrote: “The holy house...commonly... assumed to be located on the same spot as the Moslem ... Dome of the Rock...has been held for centuries for the following reasons: The rock outcropping under the Dome of the Rock is centrally located with the esplanade, and is one

of the highest points within the area. Although superficially appealing, these reasons do not withstand closer inspection...”¹

The years 1991-1992 were the long predicted dates for the return of the Messiah and rebuilding of the third Temple:

“In Israel we have rabbis...who have a special way to count the days and years and know exactly when the Messiah will come and when the Temple will be rebuilt. According to their count, which they made according to Daniel, Yehezkiel [Ezekiel] and other prophets, this year, 1992 will be the year...I have a book in my library which was written 56 years ago [1936], and in this book the man says that this year, 1992 will be the year. Other scholars in Israel



Dome of the Rock is a shrine located on the Temple Mount, which is the site of King Solomon’s original temple in Jerusalem. The central dome was modeled after the Christian Church of the Holy Sepulchre. www.witcombe.sbc.edu

are also saying the same thing....” (Gershon Salomon as quoted in *Ready to Rebuild*).²

Gershon Salomon is the founder and leader of the Temple Mount Faithful, a group that calls for the Jewish takeover of the Temple Mount and the construction of the third Jewish Temple on the site.

In 1990, the group attempted to lay a symbolic cornerstone for the new Temple, triggering a riotous stone-throwing response from Arabs, which ended with 17 Palestinians dead. Today the group holds regular demonstrations and raises funds for the future construction of the Temple (*Jerusalem Post*; 5-26-2011).

Salomon is quoted as saying:

“Before the 1967 Six Day War I was terribly injured as a young Israeli officer in a battle when the Syrian Arabs attacked my unit. God miraculously saved my life **when He appeared in the field of battle with His Angels and called and anointed me to build His Holy Temple on Mount Moriah -- the location of the First and Second Temples -- in Jerusalem.**”³

Another advocate for rebuilding the temple, former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren said, “I cannot leave this world without assuring that Jews will once again pray on the Mount.”⁴

Further belief in 1992 was echoed by Rabbi Leon Ashkenazi:

“Preparation for the Messiah began with the Bal-four/Declaration in 1917, followed by the “unification” of Israel in 1967; it will be completed in 1992 with the rebuilding of the Temple.”⁵

Another set of failed predictions were given by a California-based movement covering the years 1982-1997 which included, “...1991 – rebuilding of Temple in Jerusalem, commencement of animal sacrifices...1997 – Beginning of 1,000 year millennial reign of the Messiah...”

“...the years 1991-1992 were the long predicted dates.... for...rebuilding of the third Temple.”

All these were supposedly based on the fact that, “...at this very time [1986] God is opening our minds to grasp new and wonderful things out of His word-timetables never before understood!” Such braggadocio is not uncommon and persists despite failed prediction after failed prediction.

There is perhaps no issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict more inflammatory than the drive to build a temple in Jerusalem. The hope of rebuilding the Temple spans some 50 generations of Jews. It is echoed in

“...hope of rebuilding the Temple spans...50 generations of Jews.”

their prayers, their conversations and writings. The *Amidah* prayer, recited three times a day by religiously devout Jews, includes a supplication for the renewed Temple services. The same can be said for their sabbaths and annual festivals. Obviously, the restored Temple is the fervent desire of many Israeli hearts...continually.

THE SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE NEW TESTAMENT

But is the third temple just an Israeli pipe dream, an unrealistic longing for the glory of a bygone era? Or is there Biblical evidence for a rebuilt temple.... on earth before Yahshua returns. That is, unless the matter is “spiritualized” into obscurity. Is the real question “If?” Or is it “When?”

If it is to be rebuilt, who will do it, orthodox Jews... maybe even Freemasonry (“the Masons”), who has long desired to rebuild the Temple? Though not highly publicized, Freemasonry, operating virtually off the public “temple radar,” is very much concerned about this very issue.

Previous predictions, as mentioned, have obviously missed their mark by a wide margin; both chronologically and in actual building. So what does the Bible say? Does it prophesy a “third” temple?

REVELATION 11:1

First, notice Revelation 11:1: “...measure the *temple of Yahweh* [“God”, KJV]...but the court which is without the *temple* leave out...for it is given unto the Gentiles...” (Rev. 11:1-2). Obviously, this refers to an earthly Temple as shown by reference to Gentile occupation of the outer court, and by the fact that it is physically measured. The measuring is done prior to the two witnesses’ work (vv. 3-6), who are killed by the beast (vv. 7-8). The beast is then **later** defeated by Yahshua and cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:19-20).

Clearly then, this Temple of Yahweh exists prior

II THESSALONIANS 2:3-4

Second, we have Paul's warning, "...Let no man deceive you...the man of sin [will] be revealed the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself...so that he as Yahweh ("God" *KJV*), sitteth **in the temple of Yahweh** ("God" *KJV*), showing himself that he is Yahweh..." (II Thess. 2:3-4). The term "temple" used here (SEC 3485) "...refers specifically to the *Holy Place*..."⁷

So, if we let the Bible interpret itself (II Pet. 1:20), **THIS refers to the abomination of desolation Yahshua predicted would be set up in the Holy Place** (*KJV*; See below: Matt. 24:15; ref. Dan. 9:27; 11:31 - 12:11)!

Why? Because II Thessalonians 2:3-4 is the *only* specifically detailed **Biblical** case of an abominable act in the temple holy place. Remember, we must let the Bible interpret itself.

Fact: *This never happened in Herod's Temple.* The book of Thessalonians was written in the winter of AD 52 or early AD 53.⁸ From the writing of this book forward, records of that early period give no reference to such an event as Paul describes.

If such an amazing thing had happened, surely somewhere it would have been recorded. It could hardly have escaped the notice of so imminent a scholar/historian as Josephus! But what do we find? Nothing.

The detailed accounts in Josephus' works, **never once** mentions such an event as a man sitting in the Temple Holy Place declaring himself to be Yahweh. Josephus was a Jewish historian who died sometime after AD 100 *and was an eye-witness to the Roman siege of the Temple in AD 70.*⁹

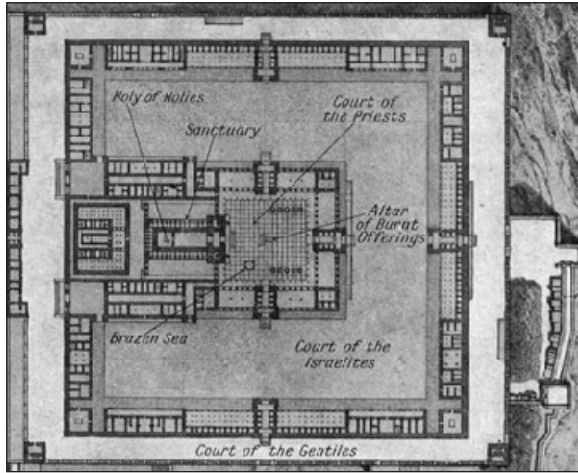
Josephus does record Roman emperor Gaius Caligula's attempt to desecrate the Temple by having an image of himself placed in the Holy of Holies around AD 40-41. However, *the edict was never carried out* due to enormous resistance by the Pharisees and the Zealots.¹⁰ He records no further such cases.

The estimated time of Paul's death was around AD 67; shortly before the destruction of Herod's Temple, and he gave no hint in any of his writings that the son of perdition's appearance was eminent.

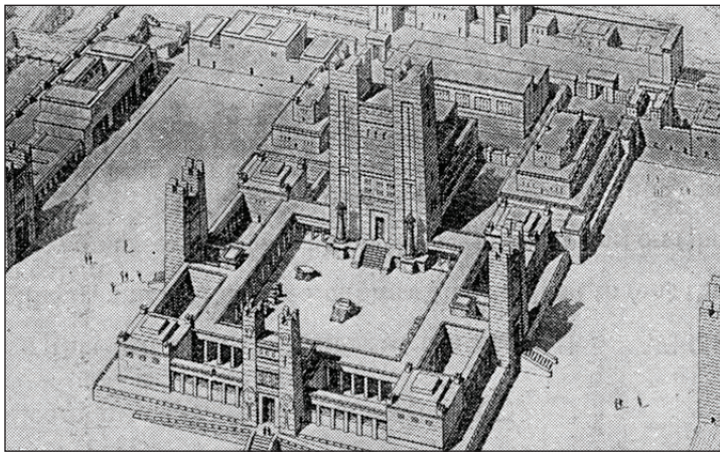
Unequivocally, there can be no escaping the fact that this "...temple of Yahweh..." (II Thess. 2:4) Paul refers to can only be a **rebuilt temple of some future period...after Herod's temple.**

MATTHEW 24:15

Now, if *Yahshua* indicated a third temple prior to His second coming, we would surely believe Him.



Ezekiel's Temple layout shows the Court of the Gentiles, Israelites and Priests, as well as the Holy of Holies, Sanctuary, Brazen Sea and the Altar of Burnt Offerings. *worldouroyster.blogspot.com*



Ezekiel's Temple as rendered by Chipiez in *Histoire de l'Art*, tome iv., p. 234, as reproduced in the Holy Bible, The Sunday School Supply Co., Ltd. 1897. *freemasonry.bcy.ca*

to these events which precede the millennial reign of Yahshua. His 1000-year reign follows the defeat of the beast and capture of Satan who is imprisoned for the 1,000 years during which saints rule with Yahshua on the earth (Rev. 20:2, 6-7).

Also, the book of Revelation was almost certainly written in AD 95 or 96.⁶

The Apostle John, the last surviving member of the twelve Apostles, returned from exile at that date from the isle of Patmos where he was banished in the latter reign of Domitian [AD 81-96]. This places his vision regarding the temple (Rev. 11:1-2), while in exile (Rev. 1:2, 9), after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

These facts are decisive for a premillennial Temple built **after** the destruction of Herod's Temple in AD 70 and **before** the millennial reign of King Yahshua.

Right? And He did!

So notice what he said, “When ye, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet...stand **in the holy place...**” (Matt. 24:15; *KJV, RSV*; reference to Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; SEC 40 & 5117). The holy place is translated “...**the temple...**” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, pp. 6, 628; *The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament*, Zodhiates, pp. 70, 1390).

So it *could* be in the Temple Holy of Holies or perhaps some other temple locations as well.

A. ALREADY FULLFILED?

Yahshua’s statement was a clarification of Daniel’s prophecies which do not specifically mention the temple, but use the term “sanctuary.” Many assume this prophecy (Matt. 24:15), was fulfilled in 168 BC when Greek King Antiochus IV Epiphanes set up a statue of Jupiter Olympus in the sanctuary and sacrificed on the altar (I Mac. 1:54, 59).

Yahshua clearly disproved this by the very fact that He references Daniel’s prophecy as a **future event** some **200 years after** Antiochus’ evil act! Nothing could be more certain.

Furthermore, based on Matthew 24:15, Yahshua apparently did not consider Antiochus’ act as a fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy at all! Historians and theologians think it was or some call it a “type” as they like to say, indicating another fulfillment. But what did Yahshua say, at least in this account in Matthew regarding a previous fulfillment? Nothing. His comment was of a **future fulfillment** of Daniel’s prophecies.

Besides, as mentioned, in all likelihood this is a **reference to the man** [son of perdition] **who will proclaim himself to be Yahweh as he sits in the Holy Place** (II Thess. 2:3-4).

There was a holy place in Herod’s temple when Yahshua spoke these words. So was it *that* holy place of which He spoke...or another?

We know already there was no specific instance of an abomination set up in the Holy of Holies of Herod’s temple such as attempted by Gaius Caligula in Josephus’ record.

He even records that it was his *opinion* that Daniel’s prophecy was fulfilled by *both* Antiochus in 168 BC and later by the Romans in AD 70:

“...I have...described these matters as I have found them and read them; but if anyone is inclined to **another opinion about them**, let him enjoy his different sentiments without any blame from me.”¹¹

In this record he mentions “...spoil the temple and forbid sacrifices...” (ibid), but mentions no specific act

by Titus to desecrate the Temple Holy of Holies as did Antiochus. This omission shows there was not one.

Clearly, Yahshua’s prophecy (Matt. 24:15) remains unfulfilled to this day.

B. DISCIPLES’ WRITINGS

What about Yahshua’s disciples? The fact is, **none of Yahshua’s disciples/apostles** to whom He was speaking (Matt. 24:1, 15), *ever* recorded in their writings any abomination such as Yahshua described! None. Peter, who died approximately the same time as Paul (c. AD 67), was silent on the matter.

Here is a clinching, decisive fact. Notice this. The apostle **John** who “...lived and taught for *more than a quarter of a century after the destruction of Jerusalem* [c. AD 70]...”¹² **never gave the slightest hint in his writings of such an abomination set up in the Holy Place of Herod’s temple!**

This glaring omission by John and the other apostles indicates **there was not** a desecration of the

“...is the third temple just an Israeli pipe dream...?”

Temple Holy Place during **their lifetime** and while Herod’s temple stood!

If Yahshua referred to Herod’s temple (Matt. 24:15), why is there no record from those disciples (v. 1) who lived through those times?

Yes, the temple was destroyed. Yahshua said it would be (Matt. 24:2), but in this prophecy, He points to a specific abomination of desolation in the holy place. He in no way implied this *was* the prophesied destruction of the temple, but something completely different.

Again, the facts force the conclusion that Matthew 24:15 **was not fulfilled while Herod’s temple stood and points to a future “third temple of Yahweh!”**

C. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Consider as well the context of Yahshua’s statement of the abomination. It leaves no doubt His prophesied abomination followed something **very significant: the preaching of the gospel in ALL the world** (Matt. 24:14).

The preaching of the gospel to ALL nations **did not occur in His day**. This was yet to happen, and

it is crystal clear that the context of Matthew chapter twenty-four **is the end time** (Matt. 24:14).

This is shown without doubt by references like "... great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be..." (ch. 24, v. 21).

The greatest tribulation since the beginning, eclipsing **even the flood**, did not occur while Herod's temple stood!

And finally, it is certain the abomination of desolation in the holy place (v. 15), **precedes** this greatest of tribulations **and** Yahshua's second coming: "Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days [vv. 21-22]...**then shall appear** the sign of the Son of man in heaven..." (Matt. 24:29-30).

So what do these facts **demand**? "...**the holy place** ..." (ch. 24, v. 15), Yahshua speaks of must be in a temple, **another temple**, built **after** Herod's temple was destroyed in AD 70 **and before His second coming!**

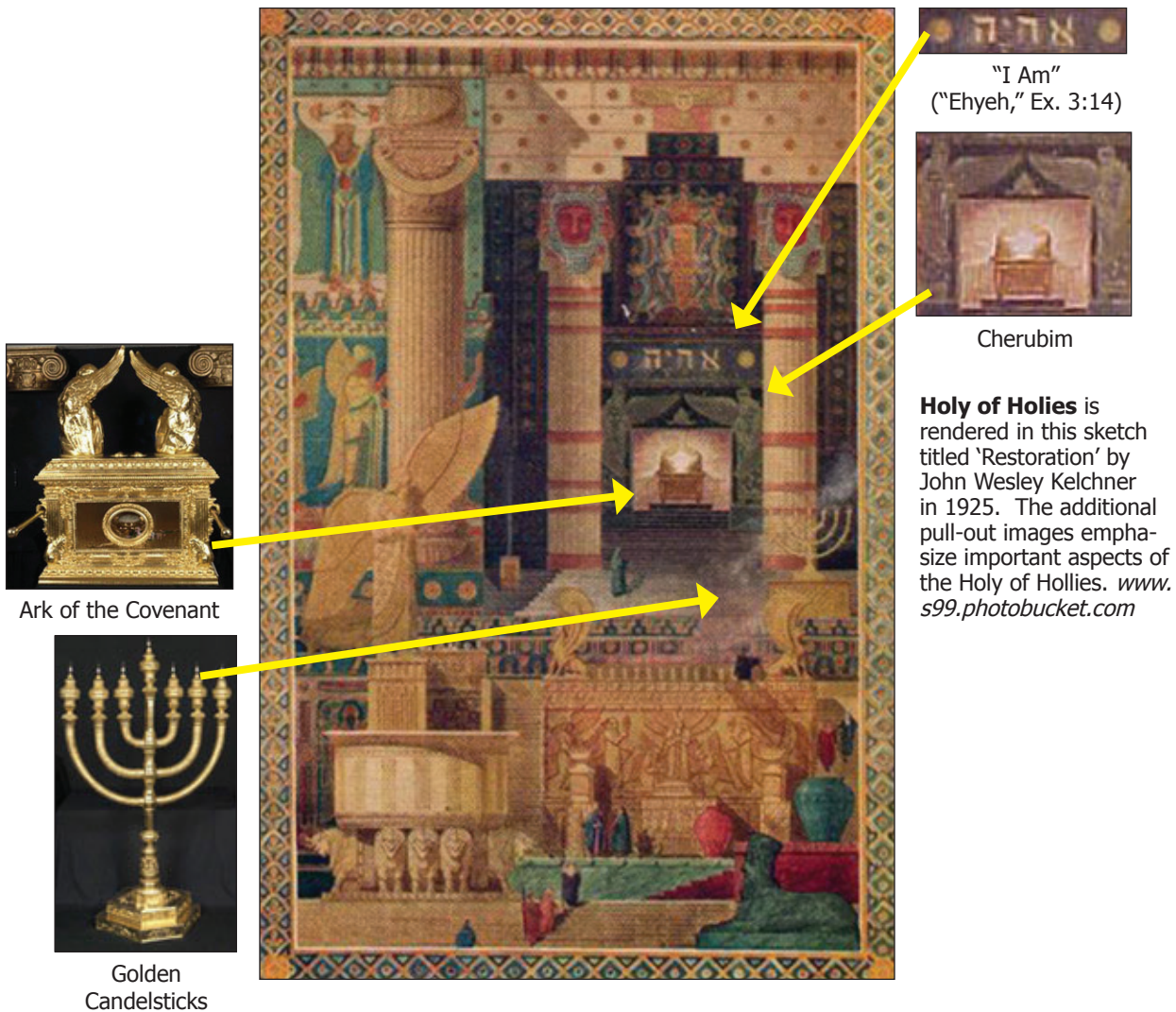
OLD TESTAMENT

The prophet Ezekiel records a lengthy set of prophecies in chapters forty through forty-three which describe the measurements of a temple. It is difficult to imagine such detailed **prophecies** would have no future fulfillment **beyond Herod's temple**, especially in light of the overwhelming evidence from the New Testament for a coming third temple [see above].

Though not well known, the scientist and theologian Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) believed from his studies of the temple described in Ezekiel 40-43 with the outer court, that it was in fact Solomon's temple. His successor at Cambridge, William Whiston (1667-1752), whose translation of *Josephus* is still the one in common use today, believed the temple described in Ezekiel was "...the Jews' future temple..."¹³

Ezekiel's record definitely shows the temple described is Yahweh's dwelling:

"...and...the glory of Yahweh filled the house..."



"I Am"
("Ehyeh," Ex. 3:14)



Cherubim



Ark of the Covenant



Golden
Candelsticks

Holy of Holies is rendered in this sketch titled 'Restoration' by John Wesley Kelchner in 1925. The additional pull-out images emphasize important aspects of the Holy of Holies. www.s99.photobucket.com

And he said unto me, Son of man, **the place of my throne** and the place of the soles of my feet, **where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile...**" (Ezk. 43:5, 7).

This clearly must be a temple in Jerusalem (Ezk. 40:2).

The time of Ezekiel's vision was 573 BC, some thirteen years **after** Solomon's temple was destroyed in 586 BC.¹⁴ So, the measurements as part of a vision were not made while Solomon's temple stood.

This clearly points to a future temple of Yahweh. Its measurements could even possibly be those of Solomon's temple. Yahweh's statement regarding His name and Solomon's temple are similar to those of the Ezekiel temple prophecy:

"And Yahweh said,...I have hallowed this house...**to put my name there forever**; and mine eyes and mine heart **shall be there perpetually**" (I Kings 9:3).

Yahweh's presence and name placed in these houses in perpetuity, shows His temple will have as many "resurrections" as necessary to have a place "... **where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel FOREVER...**" (Ezk. 43:7). The term "forever" verifies this fact, and explains **why** the temple has continued to be restored...**and will be again!**

So which temple "resurrection" does Ezekiel's prophecies describe; Zerubbabel's, Herod's, the final one? His vision could be viewed as applying as many times as necessary to ensure there will **always** be a house in Jerusalem where Yahweh dwells. After all, Biblical prophecy and historical occurrences usually closely shadow the pattern of the Holy Days (Lev. 23,

"...Matthew 24:15...points to a future "third temple of Yahweh!"

etc.), which are cyclic, not just dual (Col. 2:16-17). Multiple "fulfillments" are to be expected.

Looked at this way, the prophesied Ezekiel temple would be a **millennial** temple built during the one thousand year reign of Yahshua, if the third temple is destroyed during the tribulation (Matt. 24:21). If the third temple survives those horrendous times, Ezekiel's prophesied temple would be the third temple.

There is little doubt both the Old Testament and New Testament provide irrefutable evidence of a **re-built temple before Yahshua's second coming, a third temple for sure, and possibly even a fourth during His millennial reign!**

So let us pray for the peace of Jerusalem...that "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Temple History

- **First Temple built by Solomon 1005 (960) BC and dedicated during the Feast of Tabernacles.**
- **Solomon kept the Feast (II Chron. 7:8-9), and sent the people away the 23rd day of 7th month (II Chron. 7:10); the day after the Last Great Day.**
- **Solomon's Temple was destroyed by Nebucahdnezzar, King of Babylon, in 586 BC.**
- **Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple on a much smaller scale in 537/536 BC. Then after a lull, work resumed and the temple was finished in 515 BC (Hag. 1:1, 8, 2:1, 18).**
- **Herod enlarged the Zerubbabel temple and adorned it with marble and gold (30 BC).**
- **This temple is called the "Second Temple" or "Herod's Temple."**
- **Herod's Temple was destroyed by Titus in AD 70.**

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Solomon's Temple:

EDIFICE FOR THE AGES

The Temple and the Man Behind it

Solomon's Temple, the resplendent beauty of ages past continues to fire the imagination of academic researchers and Bible students! And why not? It was hands down the **single most expensive building ever!** The army of workers and materials assigned to this grand project was one of the greatest assemblages of talent, muscle, organization and wealth of raw material the world has ever witnessed.

Much is made of the Citadel of Rome capped by the temples of Jupiter and Juno, and the Roman Forum laced with the temples of Castor, Pollux, and Saturn. They were impressive no doubt, but why did secular historians generally include only *pagan shrines* such as these and other structures in their list of "the seven wonders of the ancient world?"¹ How could the most expensive building of all time be omitted?

Surprisingly, it was not until the 6th century AD that bishop Gregory of Tours included Solomon's Temple in its rightful place among the seven wonders of the ancient world. Certainly, the grandeur that was Solomon's, crowned by the magnificent temple he built to honor Yahweh, deserves more than a passing notice. It was truly one of the wonders of the ancient world, if not THE greatest wonder of those times.

Ancient Greek temples of Athena Parthenos (c. 438 BC), Artemis at Ephesus (Italian, Diana), and in Delphi have been lauded for their impressive architecture and richness. But did *any* of these temples surpass or equal in opulence the value in gold, silver, bronze, and quarried stone that graced the Temple of Solomon? Hardly.

STAGGERING STATISTICS

There can be little doubt the fame and unprecedented magnificence of Solomon's Temple (1005 BC to 586 BC), his palace and the Citadel, set a standard that spawned many ancient pagan temples that followed. It ante-

dated the pagan Temple of Artemis (c. 550 BC), and the temple of Zeus (456-466 BC) listed by Antipater of Sidon (in a poem, 140 BC), in the seven wonders.

During the **420 year** existence of Solomon's Temple, untold numbers of visitors and world travelers were no doubt struck with overwhelming amazement and captivated by the splendor they saw. Just think...the temple stood for **over 400 years!**

Accounts of those who witnessed the majesty of this magnificent edifice, the citadel, and Solomon's incredible intellect quickly spread. When the Queen of Sheba was told of this legendary spectacle and King Solomon, she determined to see for herself. In her visit to Jerusalem, the queen was so astounded she told King Solomon, "...It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, [seemed unbelievable] until I came, and mine eyes had seen it:



The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon, by Sir Edward Poynter, 1890. This famous oil on canvas painting of the depiction of the Queen of Sheba visiting King Solomon as referenced in I Kings 10. www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/works/898/

and, behold, **the half was not told me...**" (I Kings 10:6-7). "And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built... *there was no more spirit left in her*" (I Kings 10:4-5).

And for good reason. For example, the *value of gold and silver alone* used in the Temple of Solomon was a staggering **\$467,666,168,500** (@ gold: \$1780 per oz.; silver: \$34 per oz.)! That is over \$467 BILLION!

This figure is based on one hundred thousand talents of gold (131 lb. per talent); one million talents of silver (I Chron. 22:14; 117 lb. per troy: silver talent); three thousand talents of gold and seven thousand talents of refined silver from David's private purse (1 Chron. 29:4); five thousand talents, and ten thousands drams of gold, plus ten thousand talents of silver offered by the people (I Chron. 29:7; dram = daric ≈ 8.4 grams).

This incredible amount of gold and silver used seems nearly beyond belief, however, "It was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon" (I Kings 10:21)! Remember he had a fleet of ships returning every three years "...bringing gold, and silver...And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom" (II Chron. 9:21-22). The weight of gold alone that came to Solomon in one year was 87,246 pounds (43.6 tons = 666 talents; II Chron. 9:13).

Add to this the two huge pillars of bronze on opposite sides of the temple entrance each standing an astonishing 70 feet high with a 24 foot circumference (includes capitals and base (I Kings 7:15-22). The weight of the pillars is not given, but Jeremiah does record, "...they were four fingers in thickness,

and hollow" (Jer. 52:21). Four fingers by Josephus' reckoning was 3.5 inches.² Allowing for their size and density, at today's price the value of bronze in these pillars (over 25 tons) at \$9 per pound would be an estimated \$466,000 just for those two pillars.

These totals do not include other vessels of "...brass and iron without weight, for it is in abundance..." (I Chron. 22:14), *precious gems, quarried marble*, wood, fine linens, other fabrics, and skins.

"...value of gold and silver...
in the temple...was a staggering
\$467,666,168,500"

Add to this the cost of **labor** for thousands of skilled laborers (woodworkers, engravers, weavers and decorators) for *seven long years* (I Kings 6:38). One estimate of the cost of food and wages for workers was \$469,385,440 at the meager rate of \$1.125 *per day*.³ At today's prices multiply this by a factor of say, ten (minimum wage plus) would be more like \$4,693,854,440; four **billion plus!**

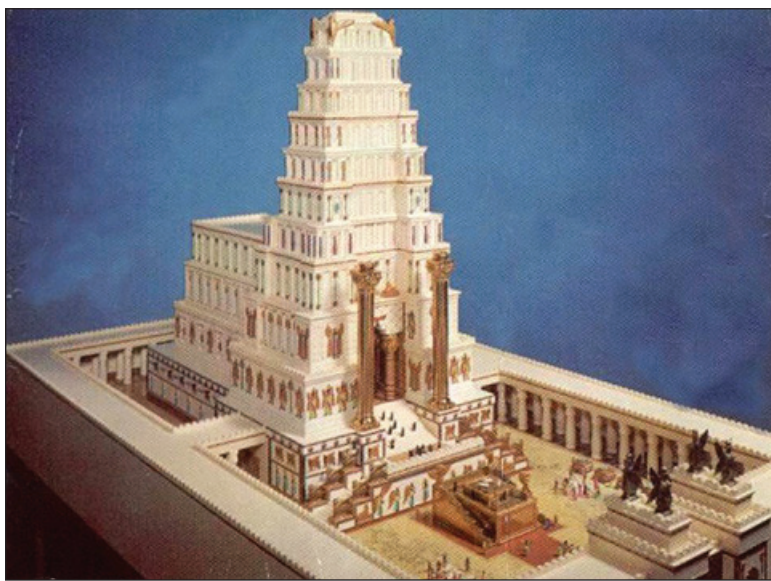
All this together could easily run the total building cost close to *half a trillion dollars...or more!!*

Compare this to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) *of whole nations or collection of nations*. The U.S. GDP is about \$14 trillion; the world's greatest. BUT this is produced by the efforts of nearly 250 million workers, which is far more than the few million population of Israel. Also, the land area of Israel is only about 7,900 square miles, about the size of New Jersey; compared to the U.S land area of 3,718,710 square miles; over 450 times Israel's! It is amazing this tiny country had these vast resources for such a colossal building project...one for the ages! This was truly Yahweh's project. The scale and opulence speak of His grand level of thinking and planning.

MORE TEMPLE HISTORY AND THE MAN BEHIND THE BUILDING

The dedication of Solomon's Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles (a fall festival of eight days) emphasizes the profound significance of this Holy Day period as a time of dedication, completion and a time of inauguration.

This period of Yahweh's commanded assembly and feasting is also a time of rest from the toils of this life, and looking forward to the future blessings of Yahweh, which He com-



A model of Solomon's Temple, the first temple, was constructed using the findings of the remarkable research conducted by Dr. John Wesley Kelchner in 1923 after thirty-years of exhaustive research on the original design of Solomon's Temple. King Solomon's Temple was 240 feet high with two brass pillars rising 70 feet high flanking the entrance. The Temple was originally built in 1005 BC and first destroyed in 586 BC by Nebucahdnezzar, King of Babylon. www.wikipedia.org

mands because of our obedience (Deut. 28:1-14).

As Israel feasted the full eight days (II Chron. 7:10), they no doubt savored the moment in the presence of this grand structure. They had to *know* the grand edifice of the temple would stagger the imaginations of generations to come.

As they left the Feast of Tabernacles that year, Solomon's deeply moving dedication prayer still ringing in their ears (I Kings 8:22-54), the future burned ever so brightly with hope and aspirations. Who can doubt the tremendous elation of ancient Israel, the sense of hopeful anticipation, their hearts swelled with joy and praise?

FAITHFUL TO FAITHLESS

But would it last? Solomon reigned from 971-931 B.C., but despite decades of faithfulness and exhaustive, massive building works to honor Yahweh, in old age Solomon turned from serving Yahweh; as sobering and dumfounding as that may be.

What precipitated such a bizarre behavioral change? How could Solomon forget Yahweh's great blessings on his life, a life that dreams are made of? Answer: his many, many wives (700: I Kings 11:3), which was strictly forbidden of a king over Israel (Deut. 17:15, 17). Those many pagan darlings eroded His love of the truth of Yahweh's Law, and led to the grave sins of going after the pagan gods of Ashtoreth, Milcom... "the abomination of the Ammonites..." He built a high place to Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, AND even to Molech another abomination of the Ammonites! Recall the abominable practice of

sacrificing children to Molech (Lev. 18:21, 24-29).

"But king Solomon **loved many strange women** together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites" (I Kings 11:1). "Solomon clave unto these in love" (v.2). He was courting disaster.

Solomon, somehow, had forgotten a very basic rule of national sovereignty and preservation: Do not make covenants and marriages with other nations. He was in *direct violation* of Yahweh's commandment: "Of the nations concerning which Yahweh

"...in old age Solomon turned from serving Yahweh..."

said unto the children of Israel, "Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: *for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods...*" (I Kings 11:2; see also Ex. 34:12-17). And that is exactly what happened! "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old [at 50?] **that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with Yahweh his Elohim, as was the heart of David his father**" (I Kings 11:4).

Unfortunately, Solomon was followed with a succession of rulers many of whom abandoned Yahweh's great law as well. His monarchy soon broke apart following his death during the reign of Rehoboam, Solomon's son, whose folly and callous rule are documented in Scripture (I Kings 12:4-15).

Though standing *over four hundred years* in all its splendor, the sins of Solomon and many that succeeded him (exceptions were Jehoshaphat, Asa, Jotham, Hezekiah and Josiah: II Chron. 34:1-35:20), eventually brought its ruin in 586 BC.

"And they [king Nebuchadnezzar's army] **burnt the house of Elohim** [the temple], and brake down the walls of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces [all the buildings of the citadel including Solomon's own palace] thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof" (II Chron. 36:19; *editorial insert*). Tragic! This did not have to happen.

DIED YOUNG

Estimates are that Solomon died at the early age of fifty-three!⁴ According to Josephus (*Antiquities* VIII 7:8), Solomon ascended the throne at age 14. Scripture records he reigned forty years (I Kings



The destruction of Solomon's Temple, originally painted by Francesco Hayes in 1867 titled "The Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem", oil on canvas. This painting depicts the fall of Solomon's Temple by King Nebuchadnezzar's army in 586 BC. www.wikipedia.org



A model of Herod's Temple is displayed in the Israel Museum. Herod's Temple is referred to as the 'Second Temple'. Construction was completed in 30 B.C. and then entirely destroyed in 70 A.D. by Roman troops under Titus during the siege of Jerusalem. www.wikipedia.org

11:42). This indicates his reign ended at age fifty-four. Another source indicates Solomon became king at age twelve.⁵

There can be little doubt the many colossal building projects exacted an exhaustive toll on Solomon's health. The temple, a seven-year project, **and the sprawling citadel** which included his own grand palace, requiring a staggering *thirteen years* to build (I Kings 6:38; 7:1), show the depth of his involvement.

It is no secret that huge building projects in earlier eras have often shortened the life of the main person in charge. For example, many antebellum homes in the Old South when completed were followed in short order by the death of the owner who was deeply involved in their construction. Sometimes it was a year to two years, months or *even weeks* as in the case of wealthy cotton planter, Smith Coffee Daniell II. He died in April 1861, *just weeks* after completing Windsor, considered to be by far the most elegant, magnificent home in all the South. It stood for twenty-nine years, surviving the Civil War, before being destroyed by an accidental fire in 1890 in which all known photos and drawings were lost.

Did all of these demands on Solomon's time and energy lead to his eventual apostasy? Perhaps, in part, but certainly Solomon's drift into paganism cannot be attributed solely to physical and mental exhaustion from over work. The level of energy needed for so much planning and execution of the many grand building projects was exhausting. Consider too, he composed 1,005 songs and 3,000 proverbs [I Kings 3:29-34], wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon, had to greet and entertain innumerable dignitaries, had to oversee high-level executive cabinet meetings and affairs of state, etc.

The Bible, as usual, goes to the real core causes of problems, and reveals the real cause of his demise began and ended with his *pagan wives*. (See earlier reference to his wives).

Such was the fate of Solomon and the temple he built. After all that Yahweh had done for him, given him unimaginable wealth, worldwide fame, unequalled wisdom, authority, health...how sad that he would abandon the truths that brought him all these things and turn to paganism. Astonishing but true!

If one could speak to him now, it would be hard to refrain from saying, "SOLOMON, what *were* you thinking?!"

ZERUBBABEL-TO-TODAY

Much later, Zerubbabel rebuilt Solomon's temple over a period of some twenty years, but on a *much* smaller scale and with a fraction of the original's opulence; so much so that it was as nothing in comparison (Hag. 2:3). Many of the "old timers" had seen the original temple and wept when the foundation of the second temple was laid (Ezra 3:12).

Zerubbabel finished rebuilding the temple in 515 BC Later, King Herod enlarged the Zerubbabel temple, which had fallen into disrepair, adding more decorations of marble and gold in AD 30. This became known as Herod's Temple as well as the "Second Temple" (See model picture). This was the temple Yahshua saw during his lifetime. Forty years later, the Roman armies of Titus destroyed the temple unintentionally on the 10th of the month Ab in AD 70 in the siege of Jerusalem.

Eventually the temple area came under Muslim control in the seventh century and remained so until General Edmund Allenby freed Jerusalem from the Turks on December 9, 1917. However, the temple mount remained in Muslim control until the 1967 war when Israel regained control of the area for the first time since the 7th century.

Their control was complete except for the "Dome of the Rock," otherwise known as the "Mosque of Omar," and the Al Aqsa Mosque, both located on the temple mount area. The situation remains so to this day.

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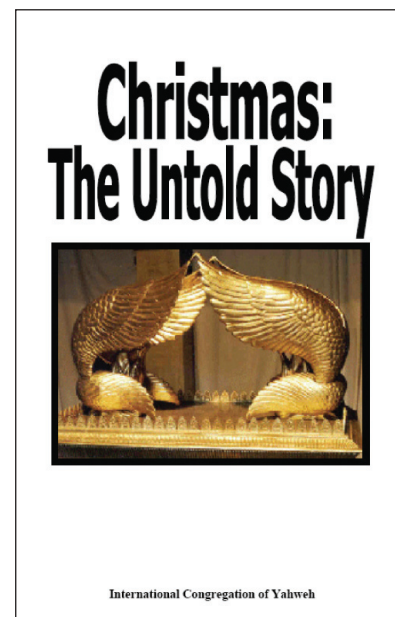
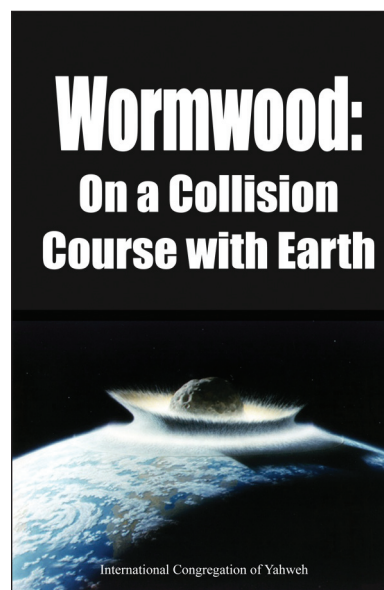
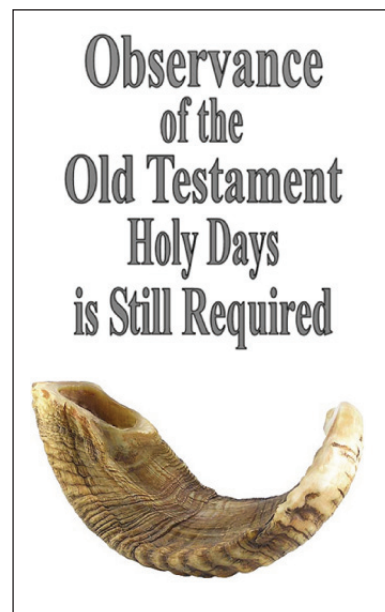
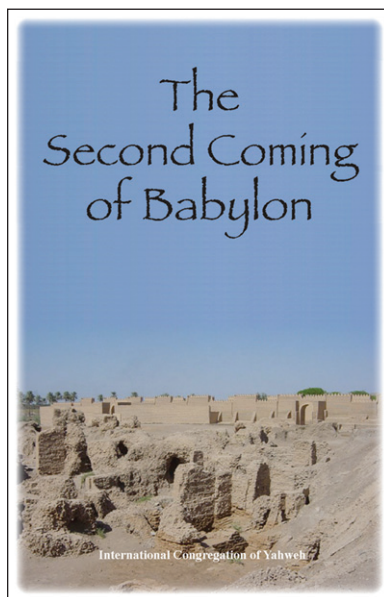
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