

# Israel and Jerusalem

- in history and prophecy -

## Part I

### The Temples of Yahweh

*Compiled by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, September, 2016  
Scripture is from New King James Version unless otherwise noted.*

It all began at the summit of Mount Sinai. Yahweh gave instructions to Moses, for building a Tabernacle - the holy place where priests and people would come to meet with God.

Exodus 25:8 “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.”

Hebrews 8:4-5 “If He [Christ] were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: ‘See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’” (*Exodus 25:40*).

*The Tabernacle was symbolic of Heaven itself, of the work which Jesus Christ would do.*

Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Hebrews 9:11 “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.”

Hebrews 8:2 [Christ is] “a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.”

The Tabernacle erected at the foot of Mount Sinai, was a prophecy - yes, but it was also the immediate place of interface between Yahweh and His people for some 1400 years (*Reese Chronological Bible*). We cannot simply ignore its message and its history.

For 40 years the Levites moved the Tabernacle from place to place, moving through the wilderness, as led by the LORD. The pillar of the cloud hovered above the most holy place of the Tabernacle. When the pillar moved, the Children of Israel followed. When at last they came again to the Jordan, the Levites carrying the Ark of the Covenant, (suspended on poles and hidden beneath three layers of special coverings) went ahead of Israel through the river.

From the first campsite in “the land” at Gilgal, to the start of construction work on Solomon’s Temple, a period of some 480 years passed. That’s a long time - for a fledgling nation. The journey of the Ark during those years is somewhat complicated. I will not take time to cover it here. The Children of Israel lost their way several times. They won many victories, but also endured several defeats. The “promised land” became more like the “wild West”. The LORD sent prophets, and raised up judges, and finally anointed a king (only because the people begged for one).

## JERUSALEM - THE PLACE OF HIS NAME

Deuteronomy 12:5-7 [Moses speaking] “But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.”

IKings 11:32 & 36 [the prophet Ahijah speaking to Jeroboam] “But he (Solomon’s son) shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel” . . . . “And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.”

*The 10 Northern tribes later revolted against Solomon’s son Rehoboam and Israel was split into two nations. I included the verses from IKings only because they repeat the LORD’s choice of Jerusalem.*

2Chronicles 3:1 “Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.”

*Mount Moriah was the mountain where Abraham was directed to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God (Genesis 22:2). The Angel of the LORD grabbed Abraham’s arm, as he was about to kill Isaac, who was bound on the altar they had built together. Jews and Christians believe the Temple of Solomon was erected over that very spot.*

1Chronicles 28:19 “All this,’ David said, ‘I have in writing as a result of the LORD's hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.” (NIV)

*See 1Chronicles chapters 22 and 28, and 2Chronicles 7:1-11.*

The Temple designed by King David under divine inspiration, and built by his son King Solomon, was consecrated some 488 years after the Children of Israel left Egypt. It stood for 386 years. Here is the warning God spoke to King Solomon concerning the Temple which he had built.

2 Chronicles 7:12, 16 “the LORD appeared to him at night and said: ‘I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices’. . . 16 ‘I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. . . .’

19 ‘But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, 20 then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

21 This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and say, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ 22 People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them-- that is why he brought all this disaster on them.’” (NIV)

*Solomon's Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586BCE (2Chron. 36:19).*

Lamentations 2:7 [Jeremiah the prophet] “The LORD has spurned His alter, and He has abandoned His sanctuary.”

2 Chronicles 36:18-19 “And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.”

## TEMPLE OF THE RETURN

After 70 years of captivity in Babylon (later conquered by Medo-Persia), a remnant of Judah was allowed to return and to rebuild the Temple of Yahweh. But the Ark of the Covenant was missing from the Most Holy Place. A stone was placed where the Ark had been, containing the two stone tablets upon which Yahweh had written His Ten Commands. No fire descended from Heaven to consume the sacrifice on the Alter at the dedication of this Temple (as happened at the dedication of Solomon's Temple) (2Chron. 7:1-3). No glory “filled the Temple”.

The Temple of the return, was constructed under the direction of Zerubbabel and later Ezra (a priest and scribe, and an official of King Artaxerxes). Still later Nehemiah served as governor of Judah (appointed by Artaxerxes) to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.

The Temple of the return was later enhanced by King Herod the Great. It was destroyed (once again) by the Roman General Titus in 70AD, on the very anniversary of the destruction of Solomon's Temple. Since that time, the prophecy of Yeshua has been fulfilled.

Luke 21:6 [Jesus prediction concerning the Temple] "These things which you see-- the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down" (Luke 19:44, Mark 13:2, Matthew 24:2).

*Much of the gold covering tables and alters, and the gold lining the walls of the inner Temple was melted in the great fire, and ran down between the stones. The Romans later pulled up the pavement and moved great stones to get at the gold.*

John 4:21 "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.'"

For almost two millennia there has been no Temple of Yahweh on Mt. Zion.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that you are the Temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16). Today we worship "in spirit" - but not in physical presence. Our Messiah Jesus, presently ministers as High Priest of "the True Tabernacle, which is Heaven itself" (Hebrews 8:2). The Temple on earth was only a "copy" (Hebrews 8:5).

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Wilderness Tabernacle

David/Solomon **Temple**  
*Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar*

Return **Temple** of Ezra/Nehemiah  
*Later enhanced by Herod  
Destroyed by Titus of Rome*

“You are the Temple” (2 Cor. 6:16).

Another **Temple**  
*Prior to the return of Messiah ?*

**THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF MESSIAH**

Ezekiel’s **Temple**  
*Redeemed Israel will serve as priests  
to teach the nations.*

“**No Temple**”  
*within the New Jerusalem  
God and The Lamb are the its temple*

From here, the future concerning the Temple of Yahweh, gets a little confusing.  
Let’s try to sort it out.

## THE FINAL TEMPLE

At the end of the Book of Revelation, you will find a City - the Holy City New Jerusalem. Within that City there IS NO TEMPLE.

Revelation 21:22-24 "I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. (NIV)

Revelation 21:25-27 "On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life." (NIV)

Revelation 22:1 "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him." (NIV)

## ABRAHAM WAITED FOR THIS CITY

Hebrews 11:9-10 "By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (NAU)

## JESUS HAS PREPARED THIS CITY - FOR HIS BRIDE

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

*NOTE: The word translated as "prepared" is the same in both verses.*

When Jesus left this earth, he returned to "where he was before" (*John 6:64*). He came "from Heaven" to earth (*John 3:13*) and he returned to sit at his Father's right hand. In Heaven he has "prepared" a place for His "bride". That PLACE is "a city" - the Holy City New Jerusalem.

## THE NEW JERUSALEM - IS MASSIVE

The base of the City is perfectly square. It's perimeter is 12,000 furlongs, (1500 miles). Each side of the base is 375 miles long. But the City is also 375 miles high. Picture a Ziggurat with its base covering an area the size of the State of New Mexico.

A Ziggurat is a stepped pyramid. Each step has a foundation. The New Jerusalem has twelve levels, going up through the clouds, and up through even the atmosphere of our planet. Each foundation is made of a different precious stone. When the glory of God shines out from within, the City will appear as a giant rainbow from outer space.

Personally, I believe the New Jerusalem will be a portal between this earth and the heavenly realm. Think of the symbolism of Jacob's ladder - going up by steps, up to Heaven.

A wall 144 cubits high (216 feet), surrounds the City. This wall is made of Jasper and is nearly 20 stories high. In the wall are twelve gates (three on each side) which appeared to John as giant pearls. Truly, eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, the things which God has prepared for those that love him (*1 Corinthians 2:9*).

I have heard various Messianic teachers dismiss the idea that the redeemed will leave the earth at the Second Coming. They say that Christ has gone to "prepare a place for us" only in the sense of our legal adoption into the family of God. But we are already adopted. "Those who are of faith are sons of Abraham" (*Galatians 3:7*). I believe Jesus has prepared a literal City, and someday that City will descend from Heaven to earth.

## OUR FINAL HOME WILL BE ON THIS EARTH

*When the New Jerusalem descends from Heaven to earth, it will completely cover all of the land promised to the Seed of Abraham. The Seed of Abraham is Jesus Christ. The City is his city. He has prepared it for his bride.*

Revelation 21:1 "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people.'"

The New Jerusalem is presently "in Heaven". It will not descend to earth until Christ has cleansed every trace of evil from this planet - hence "a new heaven and a new earth".

Revelation 21:9-11 " . . . Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear a crystal . . ."

Paul called the Heavenly Jerusalem “the mother of us all” (*Galatians 4:26*). The writer of Hebrews told believers of his day “you are come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven” - registered in the Book of Life (*Heb. 12:22-23*).

In other words, you *are* a citizen of that City, if you belong to Jesus Christ. You are part of “the bride”. Paul said that “our citizenship is in Heaven” and we are “betrothed” to the risen Christ (*Philippians 3:20; 2Corinthians 11:2*).

## AT THE SECOND COMING

Most believers - both Evangelical and Hebrew Root, expect that when Messiah returns in glory, He will immediately set up His kingdom on this earth. They believe that He will then rule for 1000 years of peace. **I do not agree.**

I have done my best to explain the impossibility of life on planet earth following the devastation caused by the seven last plagues. In the study titled “Millennium” or “Trumpets and Vials”, I covered the effects of the trumpet judgments and the final seven last plagues.

**I believe those redeemed from this age, will be removed from this earth.** John “saw” them in a vision, “standing on the sea of glass” (*Rev. 15:2*). That “sea of glass” is “before the throne of God, in Heaven (*Rev. 4:6*). The last “two witnesses” ascend to Heaven (*Rev. 11:12*). At His glorious return, the dead in Christ will be raised and will “meet the LORD in the air”. Those who are alive until that day will be “caught up” to meet with them (*1Thessalonians 4:16-17*).

They will go with Jesus to the City he has prepared for them. There they will prepare to serve as “priests” for “the nations”. When their preparation is complete, these priests will return to earth. These will be priests of the Melchizedek order - not the Aaronic/Levite order. They will be from “every nation, kindred, tongue and people.”

Please see the study “A Kingdom of Priests”.

If these “priests of God and of Christ” (*Rev. 20:5-6*) are going to govern the nations, and teach them the “way of the LORD”, they will need a Temple.

Ezekiel’s Temple will *be* that Temple.



## EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE - ANOTHER TEMPORARY HOUSE

The people from “the nations” who are resurrected after 1000 years (*Revelation 20:5*), will not be ready to enter the presence of God. They will still have mortal physical bodies (not immortal spiritual bodies). Like the ancient Israelites, they will need a buffer - a place where they may approach the LORD, while they are shielded from His glory. Ezekiel's Temple will *be* that buffer - that House of the LORD. Ezekiel Chapters 40 thru 44 contains the description of that Temple.

For more information concerning just who will be resurrected at the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium, see the studies on “[The 8<sup>th</sup> Day](#)”. For information concerning the animal sacrifices shown to Ezekiel in connection with this Temple, please see the studies “[The End of Sacrifices](#)”, and “[Two Covenants](#)”.

Some teach that Ezekiel's Temple vision describes what “might have been” *if* Israel had turned back to the LORD with her whole heart. I don't buy that one. Why give such a detailed description of something that only might have been?

God's word *will* be fulfilled. Ezekiel's Temple *will* be built. It will be restored on Mount Zion at Jerusalem. But it will *not* be the final Temple on that spot. When the New Jerusalem descends it will *completely cover* the entire mountain, the area now occupied by the modern State of Israel, and all of the territory promised to the Seed of Abraham.

## ANOTHER TEMPLE - BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS?

Will another Temple be erected on the Mount at Jerusalem BEFORE Christ returns in glory? I believe so. I believe that future Temple will be central to Satan's final masterpiece of deception. I believe that Temple will be built as described in Ezekiel's vision. I believe that animal sacrifices will be offered at that Temple, at least until the Little Horn - the Son of Perdition abolishes them. And that is the subject of another study.

*We pray this study will prove a blessing.  
Prophecy Viewpoint*

This chapter/study is Part One of a four part series  
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