Yahweh's House: The Temple in Bible Prophecy

Summary

From Solomon's dedication to a still-future desecration Yah'shua Himself warned about — this article follows "Yahweh's House" across the whole span of Bible prophecy.

- Solomon's dedication of the original Temple as a place "consecrated for Yahweh's Name," though Yahweh Himself remained in heaven.
- The Temple's destruction and Persian-era rebuilding under Cyrus.
- The New Covenant's reapplication of "Temple" language to believers themselves (Ephesians 2; 1 Corinthians 3), alongside Yah'shua's own continued use of "My Father's House" for the literal building.
- Prophecy (Revelation 11; Daniel 11; 2 Thessalonians 2; Matthew 24) pointing to a rebuilt, physical Temple's role in end-time events, including a future desecration Yah'shua warned believers in Judea to flee.

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"My Father's House"

When Solomon completed the building of the original Temple of Yahweh in Jerusalem, he made a simple statement that clearly summed up what that Temple was, and what that Temple was not, and exactly where Yahweh was in relation to it: "Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built ... hearken Thou to the supplications of Thy servant and of Thy people Israel, when they pray toward this place; yea, hear Thou from heaven Thy dwelling place." *(2 Chronicles 6:18,21 RSV)*

A Place of Worship, "Consecrated

For My Name":

The original Temple was consecrated for Yahweh's Name, and called a Temple of Yahweh, or House of Yahweh, even though Yahweh remained in heaven e.g. "Yahweh is in His Holy Temple, Yahweh's throne is in heaven." *(Psalm 11:4)*. It could perhaps be compared to the principle of a country opening *(or closing, temporarily or permanently, whenever a decision is made to do so)* an embassy in a foreign land, that is to be treated with the utmost respect and never to be violated, where official diplomatic business is conducted. The Temple of Yahweh was meant in a possessive sense, even though the "Head of State" remained at home.

Regarding the original Temple:

"I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built, and put My Name there for ever; My eyes and My heart will be there for all time." *(1 Kings 9:3 RSV)* "But if you turn aside from following Me, you or your children, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and the house which I have consecrated for My Name I will cast out of My sight." *(1 Kings 9:6-7 RSV)*

The original Temple of Yahweh was destroyed, that is, Yahweh had it destroyed, not because He turned His back on the Israelites, but because they turned their back on Him. Later however, at the appointed time, the Hebrews returned from the Babylonian captivity because Yahweh had a Persian king release them and allow them to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of Yahweh as a sacred place of worship. It was Yahweh's command to rebuild that Temple *(or sacred "embassy," if you wish),* not something that the

Hebrews took it upon themselves to do: "In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia that The Word of Yahweh by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, Yahweh stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all His people, may Yahweh be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of Yahweh, the God of Israel - He is the God Who is in Jerusalem." *(Ezra 1:2 RSV)*

"My Father's House":

From a Israelite point of view the term Temple takes on a much greater meaning: "for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to The Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of Yahweh, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yah'shua the Messiah Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy Temple in Yahweh; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of Yahweh in His Holy Spirit." *(Ephesians 2:18-22 RSV)* "Do you not know that you are Yahweh's Temple and that Yahweh's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys Yahweh's Temple, Yahweh will destroy him. For Yahweh's Temple is holy, and that Temple you are." *(1 Corinthians 3:16-17 RSV)*

Nevertheless, Yah'shua the Messiah, Who we may be absolutely certain knew what He was talking about, had no problem calling that re-built physical Temple in Jerusalem "My Father's House," or Yahweh's House, a sacred place, not because Yahweh lived there, since Yah'shua the Messiah plainly always prayed to The Father in heaven, but because Yahweh was worshiped there. He used the term Temple in a possessive sense. "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's House?" *(Luke 2:49 RSV)* "You shall not make My Father's House a house of trade." *(John 2:16 RSV)*

An End-Time Israelite Temple:

There are a number of groups working toward the construction of an end-time Temple - a physical, Hebrew Temple in Jerusalem. Their preparations are genuine, professional, and well financed. They would begin building today if the political situation permitted it. But will it happen?

Many Christian-professing people reject the thought of any such possibility, or deny Yah'shua the Messiah's own words and say that such a Temple could not be called a Temple of Yahweh, because their own perspective of Temple is now purely spiritual. But unconverted Jews aren't Israelites, who nevertheless worship and are subject to the true and only God. Jews have a religious perspective of their own, and since 1948, the Jewish state of the former (proper) Israel has been a reality.

Israelites and Jews worship the same God; Yahweh the true God, but differently, at different stages of understanding and fulfillment. Is the Hebrew religion now to be considered irrelevant? Most certainly

not, according to the Israelite apostle Paul: "Then what advantage has the Hebrew? ... Much in every way. To begin with, the Hebrews are entrusted with the oracles *[words]* of Yahweh." *(Romans 3:1-2)*

A great many other Israelites, including this writer, believe that the Hebrew people will indeed construct another Temple of Yahweh (the exact form that it will take is yet to be seen) that will be a focal point of many Israelite prophecies. These Scriptures of Bible Prophecy, among others, can only mean an actual physical Temple, in Jerusalem, just prior to The Return Of Yah'shua the Messiah.

A Physical Measurement Of A

Physical Temple:

"Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told: "Rise and measure the Temple of Yahweh and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the Temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant My two witnesses power to prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." *(Revelation 11:1-3 RSV)*

Abomination Of A Physical Temple:

"Forces from him shall appear and profane the Temple and fortress, and shall take away the continual burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate." *(Daniel 11:31 RSV)*

No Physical Human Can Enter

Yahweh's Spiritual Temple:

"Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the Temple of Yahweh, proclaiming himself to be Yahweh." *(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 RSV)*

Yah'shua's Specific Warning About A

Physical Temple In Judea:

"So when you see the desolating sacrilege spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the Holy Place, let the reader understand, then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." *(Matthew 24:15-16 RSV)*

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