The Third Temple...The End...and, then the 4th! A prophecy from John? Daniel 9:27; Revelation 11:1-2 (Part 1)Target Truth Ministries.com

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There is a great misunderstanding concerning the next temple, and the end of this age. Are we about to see prophecy from the Bible fulfilled soon...perhaps sooner than anyone expects ? God had John write in **Revelation 11:1-2**, that he was to measure the Temple, and the altar, and those who worship in it...and that John was not to count the Gentile court outside the Temple of God, because this court has been given over to the nations of the world who do not worship Jesus. And in fact, these nations in the end will trample on the holy city Jerusalem for 42 months (3 ¹/₂ years). In other words, those in the immediate Holy Temple area are to be recognized as part of the kingdom of God, but those in the court just beyond the immediate area of the Temple are to be left out.

There is no temple for Israel today on the "Holy Mountain" (supposedly the "Temple Mount") in Jerusalem. So, this reference to a Temple seems to refer to a future Temple. Furthermore, it is assumed that this Temple is an actual physical building which will be built on the holy site—essentially a prophecy that a third Temple will exist just before the end of days. Is this Temple going to be a physical building, or something that exists already...exists right now !

The assumption is that the Holy site for the Temple is on what is traditionally known as the "Temple Mount" where the Muslim Dome of the Rock is now located. As it turns out, many Jewish leaders today state that in order for the new Jewish Temple to be built, that there will be no area available for the "Gentile court," as the existing Muslim Mosque (the Dome of the Rock), is supposedly located where the Court of Gentiles would normally be located. There is room for the Jewish Temple to be built on the "Temple Mount" (the assumed correct location for the Jewish temple), and Israel has identified two possible locations, which tradition holds, could possibly represent the original holy site of the last Temple (referred to as Herod's Temple because King Herod had the old Temple remodeled and expanded). In other words, almost 2,000 years ago, God told John to write that the Gentile court would not exist along with the new Holy Temple, as it used to be in Jesus' time. And, today, almost 2,000 years later, we are witnessing this vision (prophecy) beginning to take form. The nations of the world are pressing Israel to accept an agreement where they would share the Holy Mount (today's traditional "Temple Mount"), with Islam, and supposedly be given the promise of peace and security, and allowed to build their Temple, and even begin Temple sacrifices once again.

The Jewish people have even identified two possible locations for the placement of the third Holy Temple on the "Temple Mount," and in each case, the Temple could be built and not interfere with the Islamic holy sites. However, what used to be a court for the Gentile believers in God (which was *outside* the immediate area of the Holy Temple itself—Gentiles being the non-Jewish people from other nations who worship the God of Israel), would no longer be available – no place for a Gentile court - just as God told John to write in **Revelation 11**.

King Herod (who remolded the second temple), had marked off an area outside the Holy Temple with colonnades for the Gentiles to come and worship God, but the Gentiles were not allowed to come any closer than the colonnades, just outside the Holy Temple itself. There were actually warning signs in both Greek and Latin that the penalty for trespassing was death. The Romans even permitted the Jewish people to carry out the death penalty themselves for this offense, even if the offender was a Roman citizen (Acts 21:27-32-Paul was a Roman citizen). According to God's Word, in **Revelation 11:1-2**, the space next to the Holy Temple of the Jewish people will be occupied by Gentile nations (such as Islam today), but, not for the worship of God...thus fulfilling the prophecy that John was not to include them.

Prophecy has always been a part of Israel's existence, and their worship of God. There is the great prophecy of Israel's restoral as a nation, which was fulfilled *exactly* to the very year...and this prophecy was given over 2,500 years earlier by the prophet Ezekiel. Following is a summary:

Ezekiel 4:1-8; Jeremiah 25:8-12; Leviticus 26:1-18; 2 Kings 24 & 25 - In 1998, Chuck Missler, determined that this great prophecy of Ezekiel 4:1-8, had been fulfilled by the restoration of Israel as a nation, once again,

after almost 2,500 years of being under other nation's control. In Ezekiel 4:1-8, God commands Ezekiel to lay on his side, as a prophecy against Israel for their iniquity. In verse five, the 390 "days" are to represent years of oppression they will have to endure, and in verse six, another 40 more "days" (years - Ezek. 4:6; Numb. 14:34), are added, because of iniquity, for a total of 430 "days" (or years). God is telling Israel that they face 430 years of judgment.

In Leviticus 26, God tells Israel that: 1) Verse 16: If they disobey Him, they will suffer their enemies ruling over them (this happened with the 70 years of captivity by Babylon prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 25:8-12, 29:10), which happened beginning in 605 B.C., with the first siege of Israel, and then, 2) Verse 18: If they still do not obey, He will increase the punishment *seven times* for the remaining punishment yet to be served. Israel served 70 years punishment (a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy), and yet, they still failed to worship God. Therefore, the remaining 360 years of punishment would now be multiplied by seven, resulting in another 2,520 years of punishment (390+40=430, -70 = 360, x7 = 2,520 years, or 907,200 days). Accounting for the Jewish 360 day years, all the leap years, and days, etc., this amounts to 2,483 years, 9 months, and 21 days (on our 365-day calendar), that Israel must serve in oppression under other nation's rule (on top of the first 70 years they served in oppression under Babylon).

The Persian cylinder of Cyrus (held in the London Museum), records the sieges of Israel and Jerusalem (the beginning of Israel's punishment, as well as the destruction of Jerusalem later). From the first siege of Israel (2 Kings 24:1 ff), to the establishment of Israel as a nation once again (which took place on May 14, 1948), this prophecy was fulfilled exactly to the year of the 70 years plus 2,483 years, 9 months, and 21 days. By the way, this fulfilled another prophesy as well, because Israel became a nation in one day—within a 24 hour period (Isa. 66:8).

Further, from the third siege (which was of the destruction of Jerusalem), which took place in 586 B.C. (2 Kings 25:1 ff), to the uniting of the city of Jerusalem to the nation of Israel on June 7, 1967 (the Six-Day War), this prophecy of Ezekiel 4 was again fulfilled exactly to the year of the 70 years plus 2,483 years, 9 months, and 21 days. Do you think this is just a coincidence? History and science confirm the Bible's accuracy.

Prophecy in the Bible recorded exactly, to the very year, that Israel would be restored as a nation, and also the exact year that the city of Jerusalem would be restored to Israel. And, now prophecy is revealing that when the Holy Temple is set up (supposedly, it could be a tabernacle / tent as it was originally with Moses, when the Holy Temple was first built as a tent—**Exodus 26**), that the Holy Temple will share its location with the gentile nations that mean it harm (as it states in **Revelation 11:2**—the holy city will be tread upon for three-and-one-half years by the Gentiles). But, is the Holy Temple to be a physical tent, or physical building, or something else ?

The first Temple built by Solomon was destroyed on the 9th of Av on the Jewish calendar. In **2 Chronicles 7:1-3**, God used to come visibly to the Temple to demonstrate His presence to the people. God stated that He would destroy the Holy Temple if the people continued in sin (**2 Chron. 7:19-22**).

The prophet Haggai witnessed the second Temple, and that the glory of God didn't ever come to that Temple like He did with the first Temple (**Haggai 2:3**). Still, the prophet Haggai prophesied that the glory of the second Temple would *exceed* the first (**Haggai 2:6-9**). The second Temple built by Zerubbabel, and updated by Herod, was also destroyed on the 9th of Av, in 70 A.D. But, the Temple was only destroyed after Jesus established His kingdom forever, and the promise of reconciliation for all who trust in Him. Truly, God did glorify the second Temple more than the first, with the final blood atonement for our sin - Jesus.

Today, everyone is waiting for the third Temple to be completed soon. This third Temple will also fall, as destruction comes to all the earth and human flesh in the end of days (**Rev. 11 & 19**). Will the third Temple also fall on the 9th of Av ? The 9th of Av on the Jewish calendar occurs around August / September on our calendars. Ironically, it is during this part of the year (September), that many people believe that Jesus will bring an end to this age, which would fulfill another prophecy given to Moses where Israel was to celebrate three feasts (or appointments—the Fall Feasts), recognizing their reconciliation to God, and their **arrival into**

the Promised Land (seen as the future appointment with Jesus at His return...the reconciliation of those who trust in Jesus as fully God, and their **arrival into heaven**). See the message on the 9th of Av at *Target Truth Ministries.com*.

Tradition today holds that the Islamic Dome of the Rock is where the Jewish Holy Temple also was located. In the 7th century Mohammad supposedly ascended into heaven from the rock on the "Temple Mount," and Islam supposedly constructed the Dome of the Rock to memorialize this event. This occurred 600 years after Jesus prophesized that not one stone would be left of the original Jewish Temple (**Matt. 24:1-2**). History does indeed record that not one stone of the Jewish Holy Temple was left by the Roman army after Jerusalem was conquered in 70 A.D.

Today, it is uncertain exactly where the original holy site of the Jewish Temple was. Josephus, an historian, who was an eyewitness of the Jewish Temple and its destruction, wrote a description of the holy site which does not match up with it being located upon what today is traditionally called the "Temple Mount" (where the Dome of the Rock is located for Islam). Josephus' description places the Jewish Temple in what is today known as the City of David (Zion), which is 600 feet south of the "Temple Mount" (close, but no cigar). According to Josephus, what we today call the "Temple Mount" was actually the location of the Roman garrison, and this fortress was located north of the Jewish Temple. Josephus wrote that from the northern part of Jerusalem, the Jewish Holy Temple could not be seen, as it was obscured by this structure with high walls (the Roman garrison on what is today called the "Temple Mount"). Josephus also wrote that two 600 foot long bridges were built by the Romans to connect what is today traditionally called the "Temple Mount" over to the Jewish Temple which was redone by Herod (supposedly in the City of David—south of the traditional "Temple Mount"). These bridges were built so the Romans could control disruptions in the Jewish Temple area. In fact, both Josephus, and later, the pilgrim of Bordeaux (333 A.D.), wrote that the Roman fortress was situated around a large protruding rock (perhaps the same rock where the Dome of the Rock is located today).

At the time of Alexander the Great (330 B.C.), a historian named Hecateus of Abdera, wrote that the Jewish Temple was located at the very center of the City of David (Zion). Fifty years after Alexander the Great, the Egyptian Aristeas wrote about the vast amounts of water which were available from a spring at the Jewish Holy Temple (which could only come from the City of David / Zion, where the spring of Gihon is located). Large amounts of water for cleansing were needed constantly at the Holy Temple due to the daily sacrifices of hundreds, and sometimes thousands of animals. Even hundreds of years later, the Roman historian Tacitus recorded the natural spring with large quantities of water at the site of the Jewish Temple. This reference must be to the Gihon Spring of the City of David, because the traditional "Temple Mount" (Dome of the Rock), has a very, very small source of water—sometimes dry—not enough to accommodate the cleansing of sacrifices. The Dead Sea Scrolls also record a great spring of water which continually flows from the Jewish Temple (the Gihon Spring still flows to this day). Another witness, Eleazar Bin Jari, who died in Masada in 73 A.D., wrote that in Jerusalem, only the Roman garrison fortress with its high stone walls, was left standing after the destruction by the Romans of Jerusalem and the Jewish Temple, including their foundations, in 70 A.D.

The Bible describes the City of David as the stronghold (fortress) of the Jebusite...about 12 acres in size, and having a great spring of water (Gihon). The Bible calls this City of David, the stronghold of Zion, and the Bible describes how God commanded David to pay money to the Jebusite for the "Threshing Floor" (which was to later become the holy place for the Jewish Temple). Zion, the City of David, the stronghold of the Jebusite, was identified correctly by archeologists in the last century as being the finger of land with walls, 600 feet south of the traditional "Temple Mount". The City of David includes the spring of Gihon, Warren's shaft, the Ophel wall, Hezekiah's tunnel, and Zedeciah's Cave, which connected to all the underground caverns under the old city of David...all 600 feet south, of what is known today as the "Temple Mount".

The following Bible verses link Zion, the City of David, and the Holy Temple together as being the same location: 2 Sam. 5:7; Joel 2:1, 3:17, 3:21; Psalm 2:6, 9:11, 20:2, 65:1-4, 102:16-19, 132:8-13; Isa. 2:3, 24:23, 66:20; 2 Chron. 3:1; 1 Kings 1:38-39. Old Synagogues (Jewish places of worship—like churches) were all to face toward the Holy Temple. And, in fact, those that survive in Jerusalem all point toward the city of David—

not the traditional "Temple Mount". It is interesting that the prophecy in **Micah 3:12**, states that Zion will be plowed like a field. And, just like the prophecy of Jesus, that not a single stone would remain of the holy site...so, too, this prophecy of Micah was fulfilled. There are actual pictures of the area of the City of David/Zion (where the Bible and some historians say the Jewish Temple was located), showing the land barren of structures, and actually plowed for crops! The traditional "Temple Mount" where the Dome of the Rock is located has never been plowed for crops.

<u>Next week</u> we will continue to analyze the "tradition" versus the biblical description, and what will happen depending upon which site is chosen by the Jewish people (Israel) for the 3^{rd} Temple. Or...is there another explanation? And, further, we will discuss the 4^{th} temple...

The Third Temple...and, then the 4th! Daniel 9:27; Revelation 11:1-2

A prophecy from John? (Part 2)

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Last week, we dealt in detail about the tradition of where the supposed holy site for the next Temple for the people is, and the biblical description of where it should be. The question is...before the end of the world occurs with the return of Jesus, where will the next Temple be built? Or...does the Holy Temple already exist ?

There is a great misunderstanding concerning the next temple, and the end of this age. Are we about to see prophecy from the Bible fulfilled soon...perhaps sooner than anyone expects ? God had John write in **Revelation 11:1-2**, that he was to measure the Temple, and the altar, and those who worship in it...and that John was not to count the Gentile court outside the Temple of God, because this court has been given over to the nations of the world who do not worship Jesus. And in fact, these nations in the end will trample on the holy city Jerusalem for 42 months (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years). In other words, those in the immediate Holy Temple area are to be recognized as part of the kingdom of God, but those in the court just beyond the immediate area of the Temple are to be left out.

There is no temple for Israel today on the "Holy Mountain" (supposedly the "Temple Mount") in Jerusalem. So, this reference to a Temple must refer to a future Temple. Furthermore, it is assumed that this Temple is an actual physical building which will be built on the holy site—essentially a prophecy that a third Temple will exist just before the end of days. Is this Temple going to be a physical building, or something that exists already...exists right now in fact !

Following is a timeline of events surrounding the Jewish Holy Temple (Herod's Temple):

<u>63</u> B.C.: Roman army under Pompeii entered Jerusalem (conquered it), and established a fortress atop of what is today known as the "Temple Mount" (where the Dome of the Rock is located). Over the years, the traditional Roman Temple of Jupiter (found in many locations in the Roman Empire) is constructed as part of the fortress and garrison of the Roman army (the Temple of Jupiter has the same dimensions and size as the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, which both share the "Temple Mount" today).

<u>40 B.C.</u>: Herod the Great is allowed by Rome to expand and update the Jewish Temple (in the City of David— Zion, which is 600 feet south of the Roman fortress).

<u>**70 A.D.</u></u>: The Jewish Temple is completely destroyed—every stone removed (Matt. 24:1-2).**</u>

135 A.D.: The last Jewish revolt (Bar Kokhba). Rome decimates the Jewish people from the land.

290 A.D.: Roman Empire in the west crumbles, and Jerusalem is abandoned.

<u>290-650</u> A.D.: Jerusalem land lies idle...desolate...history is lost.

<u>650 A.D</u>.: Islam conquers Jerusalem, and rebuilds the old Roman Temple of Jupiter into the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque, and (in the 12th century), claims it as the holy site of where Mohammad ascended into heaven.

<u>1099</u> A.D.</u>: Crusaders conquer Jerusalem, and place a Christian Cross atop the Dome of the Rock, and claim they control the holy site. <u>The tradition of the "Temple Mount" begins here.</u>

<u>1187 A.D.</u>: Islam regains control of Jerusalem, including the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque.

<u>1300-1918</u> A.D.: The Ottoman Empire takes control, and the land again lies idle and desolate until WWI.

1918-1940's: Jewish people begin buying land in what is known as Israel today.

1948: Israel becomes a country again after over 2,500 years.

1967: Jerusalem, and the traditional "Temple Mount" site, are restored to Israel after a war.

Today, as I write this in 2018, a peace agreement is attempting to allow both Islam and Israel to share the so called "Temple Mount".

Also, as I write this in 2019...there is a Jewish group called "The City of David Foundation" which is slowly buying up all the land in the old City of David...where the Gishon Spring is located...hmmmm!

Some may question about the gates in the existing "Temple Mount Wall," and Jesus passing through them...especially the Golden Gate (aka Eastern Gate or Mercy Gate), which was closed with stones by the Muslims, so that the Messiah (Jesus) cannot enter the Temple Mount (**Ezek. 44:1-3**—of course, this reference is

to the fourth Temple—the Temple of the Millennium—*after* the end of days—not the third Temple which will exist before this age we live in ends). If the real location of the Jewish Temple is actually south of the traditional "Temple Mount," then the gates we see today (sealed up), have no bearing upon the true Temple site. The Bible tells us that the gates of the true Jewish Temple are buried (**Lam. 2:6-9**). Jesus knows the location, and He will fulfill all prophecies when He returns. In the new heaven and earth, the gates will remain open to those who love Jesus (**Rev. 21:2-6, 21:25, 22:1-3**).

When the world someday soon decides to allow the Jewish people to rebuild their Temple, and the Jewish leaders agree (due to tradition), to build on the "Temple Mount," then the end times could begin, and the wrath of God poured out. For those who read God's Word (the Bible), and love God...no problem. But, even many "religious" people are not reading the Word of God—the Bible ! And, even if we refer to the Bible, instead of tradition (see the message "Tradition and the Bible"—*Target Truth Ministries.com*), and build the Temple in the exact, correct location (the City of David), this next Temple will still be destroyed, because it will be defiled by the beast of the end times (**Dan. 8:14; Matt. 24:15-21; Rev. 13**).

But wait...just like the old Ginzu knife commercial...there is more. We need to stay close to the Bible to determine the truth. And, the Bible also describes another Temple (a fourth Temple), which Jesus will build in the millennium to come, *after* the judgment of the last days. After the end of days for this earth age, Jesus will then establish His millennium (**Rev. 20**). As part of the millennium, *a fourth Temple* will be built...but, it will be different from the previous three.

Ezekiel 40-48 These chapters describe the Temple to be constructed by Christ when He sets up His millennial reign, *after* the last day of the tribulation of the end times.

Isaiah 2:1-4 God will establish His house (Temple), on the Holy Mount in Jerusalem, and cause all nations to worship in peace until the final final judgment – the second death (**Rev. 20**).

Isaiah 33:17-24 The Tabernacle at Jerusalem will forever be established, and no more will we be sick. Peace will reign.

Isaiah 66:18-20 God will bring all nations to His new house on the Holy Mount.

Hebrews 7:12-25 God gives us a *new* covenant. A change from the old laws and Temple sacrifices, to the new Temple and memorials.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Jesus is the new covenant.

Zechariah 3:7-10 Jesus will be the new covenant.

Isaiah 42:1-9 Jesus will reign as the new covenant, and establish the righteous to teach His Word.

Isaiah 49:8-13 Jesus will be the new covenant.

Ezekiel 43:13-27 A sacrificial altar. But, a new covenant. These sacrifices are for a memorial of what Christ has done in fulfilling the Passover.

Ezekiel 45:18-20 Sacrifices do cover sins of "error," or "simple" for the non-elect. In the supernatural environment of the millennium, God provides animals for the blood sacrifice, even though the resurrected / raptured will exist in their resurrected bodies. Jesus paid the price for sin, once and for all time for the elect--the many, as pointed out in many Scriptures. However, the non-elect in the Millennium to come, still need their sins removed temporally, so they can be in the presence of God, so as to hear the Gospel of forgiveness and Grace. In other words, sins of the non-elect which are accidental, or not intentional – not willful sin, or iniquity, will be temporally covered. In the old Temple covenant, the blood covered all sins for all Israel (Lev. 16:21-22). In the millennium, willful sinners will be cursed (Isa. 65:20), and to be cursed is to be sentenced to hell (Deut. 21:22--23; Gal.1:8-9). This is God's way of memorializing the sacrifice of Jesus, and also demonstrating how sacrifice pays the debt of death for sin, even unintentional sin. Note the symbolic nature of placing the blood on the doorposts and gates. Symbolic of the Passover of the old covenant, where death would pass them by (Exod. 12:7). Jesus' sacrifice was the complete fulfillment of all the sins of the *elect*, and no more sacrifice is necessary, but God uses these memorials as a symbolic way of recalling what Jesus did, how He suffered, and to demonstrate that these sacrifices do cover unintentional sins of the non-elect during the millennium (Jesus' sacrifice was for sins of the *elect*, not all sins of all mankind – see Isa. 53:11; Matt. 20:28; 26:28; Mark 14:24; Jn. 10:11-18, 25-30; 17:6, 9; Heb. 9:15 & 28; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 5:9.

Jeremiah 3:16 No ark needed. No ark listed in Ezekiel's passages here for this new millennial Temple. The

Ark's contents have been fulfilled. The contents were: The Ten Commandments – Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-14). Manna – Jesus is the manna from heaven (John 6:49-51). Aaron's rod (resurrection—new life), Jesus is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26).

Also *not* in the new Temple of the millennium period:

<u>Veil of separation</u>: Because of Jesus' atonement (payment of the debt of death for the sins of the elect), there is no separation from God for the elect (Matt. 27:50-51; Heb. 10:19-20.)

Menorah, or candlestick: Jesus is the Light of the world (John 1:4; 8:12).

Table of Shewbread: Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:35).

Alter of Incense: Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for all sins of the elect (Heb. 9:11-12).

Laver of brass: Jesus has cleansed all elect from their sin (Eph.5:25-26; Heb. 10:21-22).

Human High Priest: Jesus is now our High Priest (Heb. 10:11-14).

One last thought, before we ask the question "Are we overlooking something ?

Islamic prophecy states the Christian Anti-Christ will actually be a future Jewish Messiah – (not Jesus). Islamic prophecy states we are in the last 120 years of this earth age. The end will be in the year 1,500 on the Islamic calendar (**2076** on the western calendar). The Last Days then for Islam began in 1956, exactly in the midst of 1948 and 1967. On, or before, the year **2076**, Islam expects that many living will see Jesus, or the 12th Iman (Mahdi), return to the earth, to conquer the Jews and Christians in the final holy war, and establish Islam as the rule of the earth. The year 2006 for Islam has seen the last generation born before the end (as a generation is on average 70 years), and it is the duty of this generation to finish the command of Allah, and eliminate the Christian and Jewish presence. Present day Islamic teaching state that **Ezekiel 38:5-6** confirms that Iran / Persia, is to lead the assault on Israel...Iran, being the first country listed by God in this passage, and therefore the significant one.

Note...As to the period of time of this last generation, we read within the context of the biblical prophecy in Matthew 24:37, that the coming will be like the days of Noah, where God declared 120 years as the maximum limit of time which God would tarry with man, which means Jesus could return any time before **2068**, 120 years after 1948 (Matt. 24:22) (see message **2068** at *Target Truth Ministries.com*). No one knows the time of Jesus' return, but we are to keep watch! Islam has a date of **2076** for the end. Even if Christians, or Israel might ignore this date, perhaps Islam won't! Also remember...these are all "signs"...pointing to danger. The time could be shortened (**Matt. 24:22; Mark 13:20**).

One other thought...the prophecy of Daniel 8:14, as well as Jesus promise in Matt. 24, are that Jesus will cleanse the Temple / Tabernacle due to its' being desecrated for 2,300 days at the end of the age. That means that when the Holy Temple of God in the near future is desecrated by some person or power, that that will begin the 2,300 days to the end. And, as Jesus also promised in Matt. 24...He will shorten the time. This means, we do not know the actual year of the end, because even when the Temple is desecrated, Jesus said He will shorten these times (see messages <u>2068</u>, <u>2 Witnesses</u>, and <u>Hanukkah</u> at Target Truth Ministries.com).

So, are we overlooking something ? <u>YES !</u> We must consider yet another Temple which already exists today, and it is being defiled as I write this in 2021. In other words, the world seems fixed on thinking that the end-times Temple of God is a physical building, when actually, the Holy Temple of God already exists. In **Ephesians 2:12-22**, we learn that we who are Gentiles, as well as Jewish followers of Jesus, are now the Holy Temple of God (**Eph. 2:21**). Note in Eph. 2:20, that the Cornerstone is Jesus, and the foundation is the apostles. We "born again" (John 3:1-7), believers in Jesus are the Holy Temple of God today (1 Corin. 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Corin. 6:16-18; 1 Pet. 2:4-10; Rev. 3:11-13).

Yes, the end times Temple exists just as God intended. Its' Cornerstone is Jesus. Its' foundation is the apostilles and Word of God. Its' walls, windows, doors, and roof, etc. are those of us who worship Jesus as Savior and endeavor to spread the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus (**John 14:6**). Each follower of Jesus has a specific function in His Holy Temple. And, like the old Temples, there are steps which lead to it, which represent the "access" to the Temple. These steps are being eliminated by the world around us, which comprises the assault on the Holy Temple today. What are some examples of steps that used to lead people

toward the Temple of God, and now turn people away? Public education in America used to present classes in the Bible, and allow for prayer...no more. Public schools today present Big Bang Cosmology and Evolution as alternatives to the Bible. The book "<u>Science, Origins, & Ancient Civilizations</u>" (Target Truth Ministries.com), describes in great scientific detail how these "theories" are not supported by actual science, and how the Bible is. Yet, the world accepts the "theories" and denies God. The newest issue being taught to our children is "Climate Change" with the underlying assumption that overpopulation by mankind is one of the greater threats to the planet. The underlying premise is that abortion is a good thing—helping to control the climate. Again, actual science tells us that over 90 % of temperature change both up and down is due to solar activity...sun spots...and solar flairs. The temperature of the earth, according to archeology and geology, has been hotter in the past...as well as cooler...due to solar activity...even before mankind had any influence. The latest attacks on the Holy Temple of God are the teachings of sexual inclusiveness and gender identity, which pull our children into alternative lifestyles and addictions. Yes, in our world today, the Holy Temple of God is under attack.

If you doubt the Temple is under attack, just ask any pastor in your community and they will tell you the number of people in their community that attend worship service on Sundays across America is about half what it was just 10 years ago, and declining. Yes, there are a few churches that are growing, but, ironically, much of their growth comes from people who have left some other church. This would mean that we are indeed seeing the beginning of the last 2300 days – the apostasy (**Dan. 8:13-14** – see the **Book of Chronicles and Time Charts** available through **Target Truth Ministries.com**).

Still, it is not the last 3 ½ years yet (1260 days), because the 2 witnesses have not been exposed (Rev. 11:3-14; Dan. 12:5; Zech. 4:11-14). Soon we should see the 2 witnesses...and then the 1260 days start...and they also may be shortened (Matt 24:22; Mark 13:20)...and then the end (see Message on **2 Witnesses** at <u>Target Truth</u> <u>Ministries.com</u>).

God has a perfect plan. Even though we continually mess up things in life, and don't pay attention to His Word, God still provides for us. God loves His children, and wants to reconcile with all who will love Him back. If you truly love someone, you'll want to spend time with them. Read any of God's love letters lately?

For even more details on the subject of the Temple Mount controversy, see the following:

- 1) Martin, Ernest, The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot, Academy for Scriptural Knowledge, 1994
- 2) Cornuke, Robert, Temple, LifeBridge, Charlotte, NC, 2013

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