

THE TEMPLE OF HEROD THE GREAT

- Jesus thought in this temple and prophesied its destruction.





WELCOME TO
EQUIPPING NIGHTS



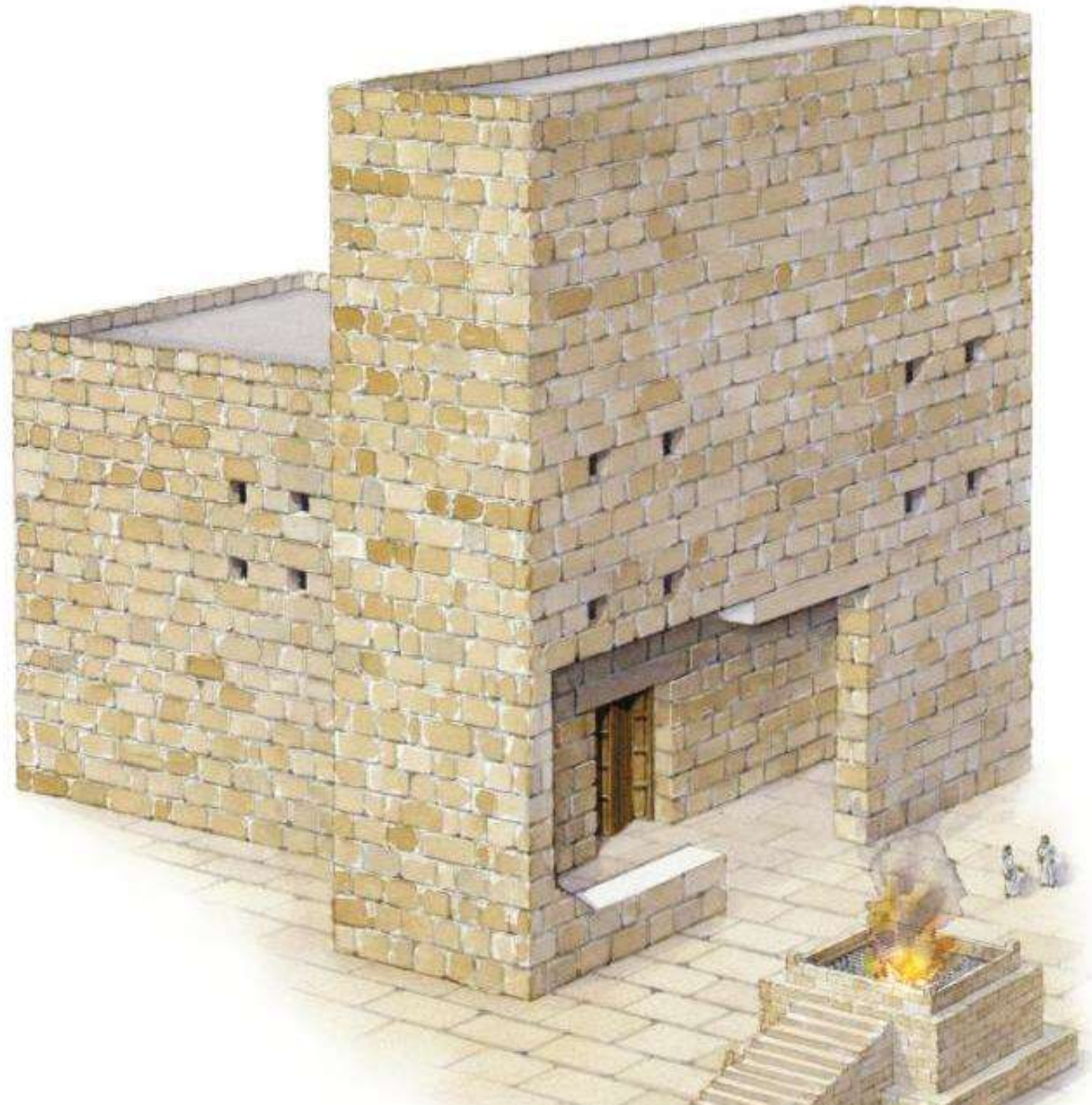
THE SECOND TEMPLE, FROM ZERUBBABEL TO KING HEROD

LEARNING TO PROPHECY SEMINAR

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THE TEMPLE OF ZERUBBABE L

Ezra 1:2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.



SESSION 9, TOPICS

- The Second Temple and the Temple of Herod.
- The Glory of God Rejected in the Second Temple.
- Jesus, the Glory of God was not accepted.
- The Glory of God searched for places and peoples where to rest.
- The Glory of God departed again.
- Destruction of the Second Temple.
- **Goal:** To See that a nice building is not enough to host the presence of God Almighty. He looks for hearts that will allow Him to be enthroned in.

- The first temple, built by King Solomon, had been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC, as described in the book of 2 Kings 25:8–10.
- In 538 BC, Zerubbabel, the leader of the tribe of Judah, was part of the first wave of Jewish captives to return to Jerusalem.
- The Persian king appointed Zerubbabel as governor of Judah.
- Immediately Zerubbabel began rebuilding the temple with the help of Joshua, the high priest.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR BURNS THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON

- 2 Kings 25:8-10 New King James Version (NKJV)
- *⁸ And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹ He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. ¹⁰ And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.*

END OF THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

- Ezra 1:1-2 (NKJV)
- *1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD 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, saying,*
- *2 Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.*

EZRA 1:3-4 (NKJV)

- ***³ Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem. ⁴ And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.***
- **What is the prophetic principle you can have from here?**

PLANNING THE SECOND TEMPLE


- The original structure of the Second Temple, was built, as already mentioned, at the decree of Cyrus [Cyrus II the Great, King of Persia].
- Indeed, vessels from the First Temple, recovered by the Persians from the Babylonians whom they had conquered, were returned to the Jews to facilitate and encourage the rebuilding of the Temple.

WHY GOD USED CYRUS KING OF PERSIA?

- **CYRUS: GOD'S ANOINTED SHEPHERD**
- **The prophet Isaiah foretold his birth, his name, and the tasks that the Creator God had predetermined for him to accomplish, some 150 years before he was born.**
- **In the Bible, there are certain people that are foreordained to be born and carry out specific tasks for God during their lifetime and a few of these individuals are even named before their birth.**
- **Cyrus the Great was one of these individuals whom God had predestined to play a pivotal roll in his awesome plan for humanity.**
- **What is a prophetic implication here?**


ZERUBBABEL GOVERNOR OF JUDAH

- Haggai 1:13-15 (NKJV), encouraging Zerubbabel
- *¹³ Then Haggai, the LORD's messenger, spoke the LORD's message to the people, saying, "I am with you, says the LORD." ¹⁴ So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.*

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- The people returning constructed their altar on the site of the altar of the First Temple.
 - The Temple building was of hewn stone, with wooden beams reinforcing the walls from within.
 - The Temple itself was 60 cubits (approximately 90 feet) high.
 - The Holy of Holies was empty, as there was no ark and no cherubim.


WORSHIP RESTORED AT JERUSALEM

- Ezra 3:2-3 (NKJV)
- *² Then ^[a]Jeshua the son of Jozadak^[b] and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. ³ Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its ^[c]bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening burnt offerings.*

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- Opposition to rebuilding the Temple came especially from the nobles who had taken control of Judea after the exile.
 - They were probably closely related to the aristocracy of Samaria.
 - Those encouraged the project were the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.
 - The rebuilding was resumed in the second year of the reign of Darius (521 B.C.E.). Despite continued harassment by their neighbors, the Judeans persevered in the work.

RESTORATION OF THE TEMPLE BEGINS

- Ezra 3:8 (NKJV)
- ⁸ *Now in the second month of the second year of their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of ^[a]Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.*

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- The building of Zerubbabel's temple was impeded by the active opposition and by the intrigues of the Samaritans (Ezra 4:4–5, 23–24).
 - In the second year of Darius Hystaspes (520 B.C.) the people, exhorted by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, resumed their task, and in the sixth year of Darius (516 B.C.) the feast of the dedication was kept (Ezra 6:15–16).

AFTER 20 YEARS OF EFFORT, THE TASK WAS COMPLETED

- The construction was completed in 515 B.C.E.
- The rededication was celebrated amidst great pomp and ceremony.
- Sacrificial worship could now take place in accordance with the rules laid down by the codes of the Torah.
- The Temple was rebuilt by Zerubbabel.
- the Hasmonean period did substantial refurbishing, by Simon ben Yohanan (Simon the Just) c. 200 B.C.E., he did not modify the basic structure.
- The returning to Zion had fulfilled their dream; God's house had been rebuilt and He would continue to dwell in their midst.

THE TEMPLE OF ZERUBBABEL INFERIOR TO THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON


- The Jews considered inferior as this temple did not have:
 1. the Ark of the Covenant
(lost or burned at the destruction of Jerusalem and never recovered);
 2. The Shechinah or manifestation of the glory of the Lord;
 3. The Urim and the Thummim;
 4. The holy fire upon the altar;
 5. The spirit of prophecy.

PROFANATION OF THIS TEMPLE

- This temple was the scene of the murder of Jesus the son of Judas by his brother Johanan, the high priest.
- In consequence it was profanely entered by Bagoses, the Persian governor of Syria (about 366 B.C.).
- Alexander the Great (332 B.C.) is said by Josephus to have offered sacrifices here.
- Simon the Just (about 300 B.C.), the high priest, repaired and fortified the temple.

- Ptolemy Philopator (217 B.C.) entered the Holy of Holies but was smitten so that he was carried out half-dead from the temple courts.
- Antiochus the Great (200 B.C.), in return for help given him by the Jews against the Egyptians, provided materials for building the cloisters and other parts of the temple, made a grant to provide sacrifices, and decreed that no stranger should enter within the temple enclosure.
- Antiochus Epiphanes (168 B.C.) entered the temple "proudly," stripped it of its golden altar, candlesticks, table of shewbread, etc., polluted it by offering swine upon the altar, burned its gates, and pulled down the priests' chambers.

- It was left desolate for three years. Judas Maccabaeus (165 B.C.) cleansed it and restored it to use. He and his brothers, Jonathan and Simon, fortified the sanctuary with high walls and towers.
- Alexander Jannaeus (95 B.C.) built a partition wall of wood around the altar and the temple so as to separate the court of the priests from that of the people.
- Pompey, when he took Jerusalem (63 B.C.), slew the priests at the altar, entered the Holy of Holies, but left the rich temple treasures intact, and commanded it to be cleansed the next day.

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- When Herod took the city in (37 B.C.) some of the temple cloisters were burned, but he used entreaties, threatening, and even force to restrain his foreign soldiery from entering the Sanctuary


THE TEMPLE OF HEROD THE GREAT


- Jesus thought in this temple and prophesied its destruction.



THE TEMPLE AND CHRISTIANITY

- The temple also played a central role in the early history of Christianity.
- Jesus' family came to the temple after his birth to celebrate the redemption of the firstborn ([Exodus 13:13](#), [Num 18:15-16](#)) and so that his mother could offer the sacrifice the Torah requires after childbirth ([Lev 12](#)).
- Most first-century Jews in the land of Israel observed these rites

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- Later, Jesus taught in the temple during one of his family's Passover pilgrimages (Luke 2:41-48).
 - Jesus saw the financial arrangements of maintenance of the temple and the purchase of sacrifices as corrupt, resulting in his famous protest, the overturning of the moneychangers' tables (Mark 11:15 and parallels).

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- The incident of overturning the moneychangers tables took place around Passover, as Jesus was participating in the festival (**John 2:13**).
 - According to the Gospels, Jesus predicted the temple's destruction (**Mark 13:1-2 and parallels**).
 - The temple and its sacrifices figure prominently as symbols in the Epistle to the Hebrews.

- **Matthew 12:6** But I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.
- **John 2:19** Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again."
- **Matthew 21:13 Luke 2:46** Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.
- **Matthew 21:23** When He entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?"

- John 8:2 Verse Concepts
- Early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people were to Him; and He sat down and began to teach them.
- Matthew 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.
- John 7:28 Verse Concepts
- Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.
- John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you."

THE GLORY OF GOD DEPARTS AGAIN

- Luke 24:50-51 (NKJV)
- *50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. 51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.*



WHY FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES?


- It was from the Mount of Olives that the Glory of the Lord left Israel.
- Ezekiel 11:23 (NKJV)
- *²³ And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city.*

AND IT WOULD BE HERE THAT THE GLORY OF THE LORD WOULD RETURN.

- Acts 1:11 (NKJV)
- *¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*


JESUS MADE HIS TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM BY WAY OF THE MOUNT OF OLIVES!

- Mark 11:1-3 (NKJV) The Triumphal Entry
- *11 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to ^[a]Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; ² and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. ³ And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here."*



NEXT WEEK: YOU, THE TEMPLE OF GOD

Be ready to share in the group why you believe you are His Temple

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- Comments?
 - Questions?
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