

Temple Conclusion

1-17-2021

Introduction

1. Last week I taught the *Temple* on Snow Day via the podcast and the internet.

2. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page four.

3. The Tabernacle was not a Temple though it served the purpose of what would later be known as The Temple. The Tabernacle was a large tent constructed to strict specifications given by God to Moses.

3.1 It served as a mobile structure which was carried during the travels of the Exodus.

4. Following the Tabernacle would be five Temples.

The Temple of Solomon 960 B. C.

The Temple of Zerubbabel 516 B.C.

The Temple of Herod the Great 11 B.C.

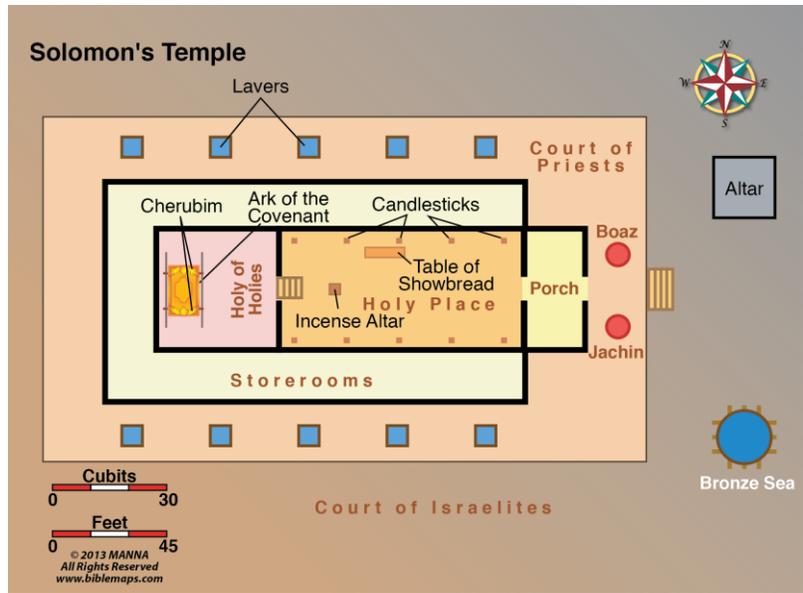
The Temple for Christ during His reign in the Millennium

The Temple of God in the Church Age as the home of the believer's soul.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Historical Summary

1. Let's look at the ultimate Hekal, the Hebrew word generally translated temple.



2. The word Hekal was sometimes used in error of heathen temples.
Joel 3:5

3. As contrasted to the open-air "high place," the pagan temples were considered as "houses" or dwelling places of various "deities," and only secondarily, as places of worship.

3.1 The Ra Shamra Tablets found at Ugarit documented their horrific practices. Ugarit was an ancient city which has been discovered and thoroughly analyzed by archeologists. Ugarit was located under the Tel Fukhkhar.

3.2 The Bible describes their heinous practices and prohibits them.

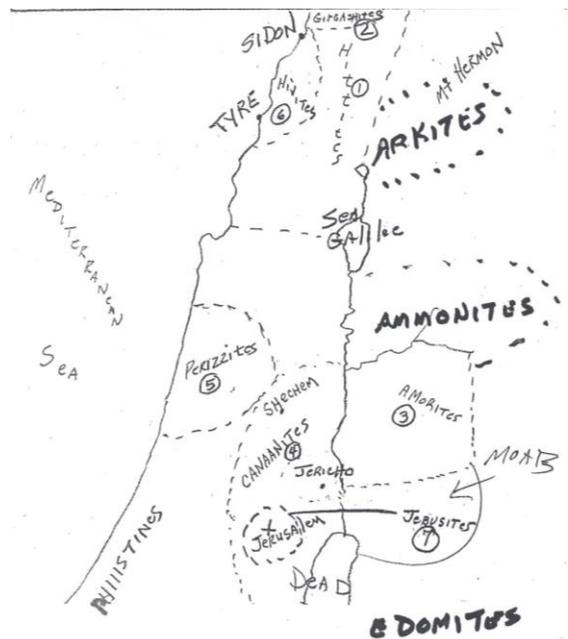
Lev 18:3 "After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: ..."

Lev 18:21 "Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech, for you must not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

Lev 18:22 "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable."

3.3 God instructed Moses to alert the children of Israel to evil practices of the inhabitants of the land of Canaan and resist their worship rituals.

3.4 Given Israel would soon enter the land of Canaan, God inspired Moses to warn of the temptations they would encounter. In fact, the Bible ordered Israel to annihilate those in Canaan as a means of avoiding their religious contamination. The Ra Shamra Tablets and the Bible mention child sacrifice as a common practice in the groves where sexual perversion pervaded.



4. At several Israelite sites beginning with the divided monarchy several enclosed sanctuaries have been found. These sites were in the main facades located in the northern kingdom i.e., Israel.

4.1 Amos denounced the worship at Beer-sheba and Gilgal and compared it with the temples which Jeroboam I built at Dan and Bethel on the north and south borders of his kingdom. Amo 5:5

4.1.1 The walls forming an Israelite high place at Dan have been discovered but no temple building has yet been located at this distant site.

5. In the Greek there are two terms that mean "Temple."

5.1 The more general HIEROS, the place of the priest, which applies to the entire temple complex with all its courts and auxiliary buildings. The more specific is NAOS, "sanctuary, shrine," the chief Temple building itself.

6. Solomon's Temple

6.1 The building was completed in 960 B.C., requiring a total of seven and a half years. 1Ki 6:1; 37-38

6.2 The origin of this house of worship is credited to David. In 1Chronicles chapter 28 God ordered David to replace the Tabernacle with a permanent building.

6.2.2 Although David was forbidden to build this house because he was a warrior and had shed blood, he purchased much of the material to be used in its construction. 1Ch 28:3-4; 2Sa 24:21

6.2.3 David committed the task to his son Solomon. 1Ch 22:6

6.3 The plan of this edifice was similar to that of the Tabernacle; but the dimensions were doubled, with the height tripled that of the former sanctuary.

6.4 The stone walls were lined with carved cedar which was overlaid with gold.

1Ki 6:22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

6.4.1 The ceilings and even the floor were covered with gold. The partition separating the holy of holies from the holy place apparently was also gold covered.

1Ki 6:16 He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.

1Ki 6:20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.

6.4.2 The entrance to the holy of holies consisted of a double door of olive wood with carvings and overlaid with gold.

1Ki 6:30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

1 Ki 6:31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs.

6.4.3 This doorway stood open, but was veiled with material similar to that in the Tabernacle, evidently held in place by gold chains in front of the partition.

6.5 In the Holy of Holies or inner sanctuary was placed the ark of the covenant, its top or lid being called the mercy seat.

6.5.1 It stood between two cherubim which were ten cubits high, being made of olive wood covered with gold.

6.5.2 It is believed that these appeared as winged sphinxes, with a lion's body and human face. The wings of the cherubim were outstretched and touched each other over the ark. 1Ki 6:23-26; 2Ch 3:10-13

6.5.3 In the Holy of Holies God especially manifested His presence by His Shekinah Glory.

6.6 In the Holy Place were the altar of incense, ten golden lamp stands with seven lamps to each stand and ten tables for the show bread.

6.7 When Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon in 586 B.C., Solomon's Temple was plundered of its wealth, and the building was burned to the ground.

2Ki 25:9 And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire.

6.8 Periodic plundering had occurred earlier, however, e.g., in the days of Shishak's invasion, c. 925.

1Ki 14:25 And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:

1Ki 14:26 And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made.

Zerubbabel's Temple

1. While prophecy includes prediction, it is very often more than prediction. It frequently teaches a moral and spiritual lesson.

1.1 Such is certainly the case with Zechariah who declares national discipline will follow national error although ultimately, the grace of God will deliver his people in His time.

1.2 Ezekiel, Daniel and Obadiah were written in Exile to first Babylon and later Persia. The exilic period is a name customarily given to a seventy-year period during which the Jews were displaced from their country after the destruction of their temple, capital city, and commonwealth by Nebuchadnezzar from c. 606 to 536.

1.3 Zechariah was known as a post-exilic prophet, i.e., he did his work after the 536 return (ordered by Cyrus a Persian King).

2. The displacement came as a result of a continued and prolonged rejection of God's protocol plan; mainly a sustained dalliance with "foreign gods" and a refusal to listen to their major prophet Jeremiah. One of the more major errors of Judah which seemed to stick in the craw of Nebuchadnezzar was their alliance with Egypt and Assyria.

3. This destruction came in three stages:

3.1 First, in 606 when Nebuchadnezzar brought Jehoiakim to his knees and carried off several hostages, one of whom was Daniel.

3.2 Later in 597 Nebuchadnezzar returned in force to punish several rebellious acts of Jehoiachin, Judah's king.

3.2.1 Nebuchadnezzar in 597 took some 10,000 captives, among whom were the king himself and a young prophet named Ezekiel. (Eze 1:1-3; compared with 2Ch 36:10; 2Ki 24:8-20).

Eze 1:1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Eze 1:2 On the fifth of the month--it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—

Eze 1:3 the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the LORD was upon him.

2Ch 36:9 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.

2Ch 36:10 In the spring, King Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon, together with articles of value from the temple of the LORD, and he made Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

2Ki 24:8 Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta daughter of Elnathan; she was from Jerusalem.

2Ki 24:9 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father had done.

2Ki 24:10 At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it,

2Ki 24:11 and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it.

2Ki 24:12 Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him. In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner.

2Ki 24:13 As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed all the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and took away all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD.

2Ki 24:14 He carried into exile all Jerusalem: all the officers and fighting men, and all the craftsmen and artisans--a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left.

2Ki 24:15 Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. He also took from Jerusalem to Babylon the king's mother, his wives, his officials and the leading men of the land.

2Ki 24:16 The king of Babylon also deported to Babylon the entire force of seven thousand fighting men, strong and fit for war, and a thousand craftsmen and artisans.

2Ki 24:17 He made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah.

3.3 Finally in 586, after a long siege, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and the Temple and disrupted the entire Jewish community (2Ki 25:1-7; Jer 34:1-7; 52:2-11).

2Ki 25:1 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it.

2Ki 25:2 The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

2Ki 25:3 By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat.

2Ki 25:4 Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah, 2Ki 25:5 but the Babylonian army pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered, 2Ki 25:6 and he was captured. He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where sentence was pronounced on him.

2Ki 25:7 They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

Jer 34:1 While Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms and peoples in the empire he ruled were fighting against Jerusalem and all its surrounding towns, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

Jer 34:2 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Go to Zedekiah king of Judah and tell him, "This is what the LORD says: I am about to hand this city over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it down.

Jer 34:3 You will not escape from his grasp but will surely be captured and handed over to him. You will see the king of Babylon with your own eyes, and he will speak with you face to face. And you will go to Babylon.

Jer 34:4 "Yet hear the promise of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah.

This is what the LORD says concerning you: You will not die by the sword;

Jer 34:5 you will die peacefully. As people made a funeral fire in honor of your fathers, the former kings who preceded you, so they will make a fire in your honor and lament, "Alas, O master!" I myself make this promise, declares the LORD."

Jer 34:6 Then Jeremiah the prophet told all this to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem,

Jer 34:7 while the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and the other cities of Judah that were still holding out--Lachish and Azekah. These were the only fortified cities left in Judah.

Jer 52:3 It was because of the LORD'S anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end he thrust them from his presence. Now Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

Jer 52:4 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. They camped outside the city...

Jer 52:7 Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled. They left the city at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah,

4. Restoration to the land began in c 536 when the victorious Cyrus, king of the new Medo-Persian empire and conqueror of Babylon, decreed the Jews could return (2Ch 36:22- 23; Ezr 1:1-4).

2Ch 36:22 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

2Ch 36:23 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of his people among you--may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up."

Ezr 1:1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

Ezr 1:2 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.

Ezr 1:3 Anyone of his people among you--may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem.

Ezr 1:4 And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem."

4.1 Isaiah some 150 years earlier had predicted Cyrus's actions by name and substance.

Isa 44:28 who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'"

Isa 45:13 I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty."

5. Let's stop here and take a look at several important dates and actions which will help place Zechariah's work in proper chronological perspective.

5.1 In 539 Cyrus conquers Babylon (end of the Chaldean Empire).

5.2 In 538 Edict of Cyrus permitting Jewish repatriation of Judah is made.

5.3 In 536 Return of 49,897 Jews to Jerusalem.

5.4 In 535 Altar rebuilt and sacrifices offered (seventh month Oct. - Nov.).

5.5 In 535 Work on the temple is stopped only to be resumed and later completed in 516.

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