

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 32]

WILL THE JEWS REBUILD
THE TEMPLE?

Reading: **2 Thessalonians 2:1 - 4**

Introduction

- There are 2 opposing views on Bible prophecy: **Historist** and **Futurism**.
- We have seen previously that **'Futurism'** is wrong on the Rapture, antichrist, the tribulation and Daniel's 70th week.

1 Futurism's Temple Claim

- After the secret rapture a 7 year period occurs.
- The Jews take Jerusalem's temple mount, destroy the Muslim shrine and mosque and on the site rebuild their ancient temple.
- The **'Futurists'** antichrist emerges and makes a covenant with the Jews guaranteeing their safety.
- In this temple, animal sacrifice for sin re-commences.
- In the middle of the 7 years the antichrist breaks his covenant with them and puts himself in the temple to be worshipped.
- Those who refuse are subject to great tribulation.

2 Brief History Of Israel's Ancient Temple

- The focal point of Israel's worship initially was the **'tabernacle.'**
- David bought a piece of land on the outskirts of Jerusalem. [2 Samuel 24].
- This was the spot were Abraham was going to offer Isaac centuries earlier. [Genesis 22].
- Solomon built the first temple on this spot.
- Some 400 years later Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians destroyed it.
- After the captivity Zerubbabel rebuilt it.

- Some 500 years later Herod the Great initiated an enlargement and renovation of the structure.
- Jesus warned not one stone of it would not be torn down. [Matthew 24].
- This was fulfilled in AD70 by the Roman prince Titus.
- The site lay desolate for centuries.
- In 7th century Caliph Omar had '**the dome of the rock**' built on it.
- The site also is home to the Al-Aqsa mosque.
- The gold was only added between 1959-61.
- Both Jews and Muslims claim the rights of the site.

3 Will The Jews Rebuild The Temple?

- The '**Futurists**' say '**yes**' and the '**Historicists**' say '**no**'.
- God has not allowed it to be rebuilt and He will not allow it to be rebuilt in the future.
- There is no need for it. The time of animal sacrifices is over.
- Consider [Hebrews 9:12] and [Hebrews 10:12].
- Hallelujah, Calvary covers it all.

4 What Temple Then Is Paul Referring To In Our Reading?

- Look carefully at [2 Thessalonians 2:1 - 4]. Notice the order of events.
- The '**falling away**' (apostasy) and emergence of '**the man of sin**'.
- Then '**our gathering**' unto Him. (The Rapture.)

NB The Futurists have the order round the wrong way.

- What then is the temple in [Vs 4]?
- Two different Greek words our English word '**temple**' is translated from: [Matthew 24:1]. '**hieron**.' The word used for the temple building.
- The other word is '**naos**'.
- Examples: [2 Corinthians 6:16] and [1 Corinthians 3:16 - 17].
- '**Naos**' is used of '**the church**' which is the Body of Christ.
- It's the word '**naos**' that is used in [2 Thessalonians 2:4].
- This '**antichrist**' would arise in the church during the church age not after the church age.
- After Constantine, Christianity became '**paganised**'.
- The doctrines of men replaced NT truth (the great apostasy/falling away).
- The dynasty of the popes of Rome are the '**antichrist**' of Scripture usurping the place of Christ in the church.
- The great tribulation was unleashed by the papacy and its armies upon those who refused their teachings.
- This Thessalonian text is fulfilled, not future as the '**Futurists**' claim.

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