

## The new Temple

Why did the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob actually allow the Temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed by Babylon and Rome? We find the reason for this in the Torah:

*“Have not all the disasters come upon us because our God is not with his people?”* (Deuteronomy 31:17)

This however is only one reason for the Temple being destroyed. The real intention of God is this: He is building a new spiritual temple and its stones are living stones and its location is the throne of glory exalted from the beginning (Jeremiah 17:12).

Moses saw the original temple. (Exodus 25:9)

The master builder is God himself.

According to Jeremiah 23:5, God will raise up to David a righteous Branch. Zechariah 6:12,13 describes the Branch: *“Here is a Man whose name is the Branch, and He will branch out from his place and build the Temple of the Lord. It is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on His throne. And a priest will be at his right side, and it will be peace between both.”*

But before this happens, the builders, the priests, reject the stone which has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22). Still today many Jews react with anger when they hear that Y’shua haMashiah is this cornerstone. So it is written in Isaiah 8:14,15: *“And the Lord Almighty will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured.”*

Also because men misuse the name of Y’shua it is difficult for Israel to recognize his Messiah. But for those Jews who know him, the Lord says according to Isaiah 28:16: *“... See I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed”.*

Moses also speaks of the Messiah: *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him”* (Deuteronomy 18:15).

The tent of the tabernacle and the old temples of course were connected with the Law of Moses. The new temple is

also connected with a covenant. Jeremiah says in chapter 31:31-33: *“The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant though I was a husband to them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord, I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people”.*

Y’shua haMashiah has made this new covenant with his disciples and all men who believe in him as Messiah (Matthew 26:27,28): *“Jesus took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to his disciples saying: Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Leviticus 17:11). As mentioned previously, the new temple is connected with a new sacrifice. Y’shua haMashiah Himself is the sacrifice. John, the Elijah, who was to come (Matthew 11:14) cried out

when he saw Y'shua: *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29). This Lamb of God is also described in Isaiah 53:5-8: *"...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a Lamb to the slaughter."*

Since He is pure, innocent and holy, death couldn't hold him. Y'shua is risen and has raised the temple of His body (John 2:19-22). So Y'shua is our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5-6 and 1 Corinthians 1:30). Y'shua haMashiah is the fulfillment of the law. He said in Matthew 5:17: *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets: I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them."*

Y'shua, the Son of God, has born the mortal sin of this fallen world: the desire to be like God (Genesis 3, 1-6). "To be like God" is the deepest desire of all human thoughts (especially of all religions). This precisely was the

accusation against Y'shua: He made himself God, he must die (Mark 14:61-64). So Y'shua died for all men and is risen from the death and everybody who believes in Him will live with Him forever.

*"Look upon Him whom they have pierced"* (Zechariah 12:10 and John 19:31-37) and let us follow Y'shua. He says: *"If anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, but those who lose their life for me will save it."* (Luke 9:23-24).

Having been born again and made alive by the Spirit (John 3:1-8), we become *"fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the prophets and apostles with Christ Jesus Himself the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit."* (Ephesians 2:19-22).

After the sacrifice of Y'shua on the cross of Golgotha, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces

(Matthew 27:51). Thus, the way to the most holy place was open.

One generation after Y'shua's sacrifice on the cross, the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans and the temporary sacrifices of animals came to an end.

God is building a new spiritual temple with all the people who are born again in Y'shua (not with religious people). This Matthew 16:15-18 declares.

*"Therefore rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious in him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 2:1-5).

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