

Introduction

- What is required to rebuild the temple?
- Is this something Christians should be concerned about or encourage?

David's Instructions

- David wants to build a temple to God instead of the tabernacle. God responds not with specific instructions for the temple, but with the promise of Jesus (2 Samuel 7).
- David is told he will not build the temple but his descendants will.
- David believes this to be Solomon, but in a greater sense will be Jesus.
- David takes a census of military aged men which leads a plague across the nation.
- The plague is only stopped after David builds an altar at Oran's threshing floor.
- David decides this will be the location of the temple and makes preparations.

1st and 2nd Temples

- The temple is built on the place David commanded on Mount Moriah.
- It could be the same mountain Abraham sacrificed Isaac, but the Bible never explicitly states so. It is only referred to as "one of the mountains."
- The temple is rebuilt after exile by Zerubbabel and Ezra.
- Ezra and Haggai never specify if the 2nd temple is rebuilt in the exact same location.
- The exact location is less important than the temple being built again.

Dedication

- They make countless sacrifices before moving the ark into the temple.
- Sacrifices are placed on the altar and then Solomon prays.
- Solomon's prayer is answered with fire and glory from heaven.
- 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep are then sacrificed to dedicate the temple.
- There are seven days of sacrifices followed by seven days of feasting.
- The 2nd temple is rededicated with 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and 12 male goats for each of the tribes of Israel.
- Each dedication is different and there does not appear to be a prescribed ceremony or specific ritual that must be undertaken.

Third Temple?

- Ezekiel 40-48 is a detailed vision of the rebuilt temple and the new Jerusalem.
- It is a notoriously difficult passage to understand and has multiple different valid interpretations.
- The primary issue is the dimensions described in the chapters, like an 8 by 3 mile district around the temple, were not fulfilled by the 2nd temple.
- Some believe this temple will be rebuilt and used during the 1000 year millennium.

Red Heifer

- People typically tie the appearance of perfect red heifers to the reconstruction of the temple.
- The only appearance of them is found in Numbers 19.
- An unblemished, never yoked red heifer is to be killed outside of the camp then burned. The ashes are kept outside the camp and combined with water to purify the unclean.
- Specifically, they are used to purify those who become unclean by contact with dead bodies.
- It appears to be a regular occurrence and is never used in reference to the temple.
- Jewish tradition added extra requirements for what constitutes "unblemished." This includes no single hair that is not red among countless other requirements.
- Jewish tradition also says only 9 red heifers were sacrificed and the Messiah will sacrifice the 10. This tradition originated in the 11th century AD.
- It alleges Moses performed this once, and then it was not done again until Ezra rebuilt the temple.

End Times

- The primary Christian expectation of the temple being rebuilt comes from a particular interpretation of the end times.
- Jesus predicted the destruction of the temple and the rebuilding, not of the physical building itself, but of His physical body.
- Matthew 24 and 2 Thessalonians 2 possibly refer to the anti-christ in the temple.
- Daniel 9 and 11 are more vague, but could refer to it.
- Jesus' imminent return is not being held back by a lack of temple.

Application

- How should we react when we listen to news stories about supposed attempts to rebuild the temple?
- We should rely more on the Scriptures than we do the news.
- Recognize the rebuilding of the temple is possibly part of God's eschatological plan, but not necessarily.
- God's presence and power has never been limited to one physical location.
- We should look forward more to the coming of Christ than the former shadows.
- We should encourage repentance and faith in Christ not the rebuilding of a temple.