



During Christ's day, the priesthood was not controlled by the rightful Zadokian priesthood. Zadok was the High Priest during the reigns of King David and Solomon.

During Absalom's revolt against David, Zadok stood with David and eventually became the human instrument to making Solomon king.

Zadok was the first High Priest to officiate at Solomon's Temple.

Ezekiel indicates that the sons of Zadok, as opponents to paganism during the king's rule, gave his family line the birthright to serve in the future Millennial Temple.

By Herod's time, the High Priests were politically appointed by the ruling governors, with the office going to the highest bidder.

Herod's destruction of Zerubbabel's Temple was more about destroying the genealogical records of the Temple than a magnanimous restoration of the Temple.

Herod feared the coming of the Messiah that he believed would destroy Herod's kingdom and rule.

He knew the genealogies would prove the authority of the Messiah, so they had to be destroyed.

He also wanted to get the glory for the restoration to enhance his power, thus he bore all expenses associated with the restoration.

He took full control of Jerusalem in 37 BC.

It is this temple's destruction that our Lord prophesied its destruction in Matthew 24:2; Mark 13:2; Luke 21:6, 20-24.

*And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*

While the Lord rejected this temple and what it came to represent, He never rejected the concept of the temple as a place to worship and sacrifice to God.

Thus, He indicated a future temple in the Tribulation - Matthew 24:15.

*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

Beginning in 66 AD, the Jews began a full revolt of Roman rule – this is called the First Jewish-Roman War and lasted until 73 AD.

In 70 AD, Rome began a siege of Jerusalem.

As a Roman general, the future emperor Titus, started it 3 days before Passover (April 70 AD).

After 3 weeks the Romans had broken down two outer wall defenses, leaving only the Temple compound to be conquered.

Only after a five-month siege did the Romans overwhelm the Temple site on Tisha B'Av, August 30. The soldiers had been ordered not to destroy the temple, but in their zeal for gold and silver, a fire was set that brought down the entire temple, leaving not a stone in place – just as the Lord prophesied. At this point in history, Zerubbabel's and Herod's Temple was destroyed.

### ***The Tenth “dot” – The Tribulation Temple***

Unlike the previous temples, the Scriptures are quite silent except concerning this Temple, with an Old Testament reference and three New Testament references.

In Matthew 24:15 we see that there will be a “holy place” or temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation.

*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the **holy place**, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 verses 3 to 4 we learn it will be used for worship:

*<sup>3</sup> Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup> Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or **that is worshipped**; so that he as God sitteth in the **temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God.*

From Daniel 9:27 we know that the worship will include sacrifices necessitating an altar during the first half of the seventh week of Daniel (the Tribulation).

*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause **the sacrifice and the oblation to cease**, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

And finally in Revelation 11 verses 1, 2 we learn of an altar:

*<sup>1</sup> And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the **temple of God**, and **the altar**, and them that **worship** therein. <sup>2</sup> But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the **holy city** shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*

And that there is also a court at the temple that is “given unto the Gentiles.”

Interestingly, John was told to measure it, but God gives us no dimensions.

Additionally, there is an outer court for the Gentiles.

Much of the timing of this temple and how biblical it was, remains unknown to us. We know it will last at the most, 3 ½ years.

Then the Antichrist will stop sacrifices and the Christ warned Bible-obedient Jewish will flee to the wilderness, thereby abandoning the Temple and Israel, until His coming.

Matthew 24:15, 16.

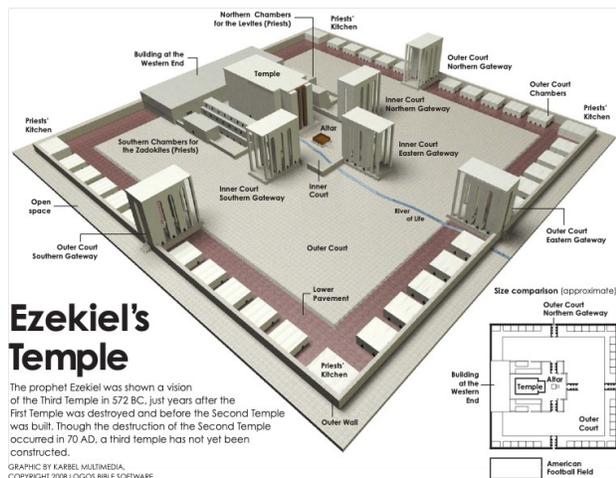
<sup>15</sup> When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) <sup>16</sup> Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains:**

We presume, this “temple” will either be destroyed during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation; by God or man.

With the coming of the Lord a restored temple will be in place according to Ezekiel 40 – 48.

### **The Eleventh “dot” – The Millennial Temple**

As we look at this last temple, we realize we are not only reaching the beginning of the Millennium Age, but the last Temple. Further, remember that the earth will be partly restored and altered he end of the Tribulation.



This temple is unique from the others for...

1<sup>st</sup> Temple limited Gentile participation

2<sup>nd</sup> Temple lacked the Shekinah Glory

Herod's Temple lacked the Shekinah Glory

This final temple occupies a worldwide position both in geography and importance

The prime references to this temple are given by

Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah. We could wish for a more in depth description of it. Also, more help in understanding the descriptions given about it.

While that description given is greater than that of the Tribulation Temple, we are left with many questions.

### **THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT**

Remembering that God chose the location for the first Temple, we believe this temple will be in the same place geographically as the other temples, but with a greatly altered topography.

Mt Moriah will be transformed, perhaps by that final earthquake of the Tribulation.

A massive plateau of land will now top the mountain forming the entire city of Jerusalem, with the Temple at its center – Isaiah 2:1-4.

*1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established **in the top of the mountains**, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

The phrase “top of the mountains” begins an idiomatic phrase meaning higher than any mountain, any hill in the world.

Centered on this mountain plateau, at its center, will be the Temple.

In Ezekiel 48:8 God declares this land to be an offering, offered by the people to the Lord and His use. All other lands of the earth are for the people.

<sup>8</sup> And by the border of Judah, from the east side unto the west side, shall be **the offering which ye shall offer** of five and twenty thousand reeds in breadth, and in length as one of the other parts, from the east side unto the west side: and the sanctuary shall be in the midst of it. <sup>9</sup> The **oblation that ye shall offer** unto the LORD shall be of five and twenty thousand in length, and of ten thousand in breadth.

This plateau area is a matter of some discussion and speculation. Some define it at 50×19 [25,000×10,000] miles, while other commentators conclude that it will be 50 miles square.

The problem here is that when you add the three sections of the temple of Ezekiel 45 require it to be 50×50 miles square. It is at this point, that we must note we have no answer.

Don't let this bother you, for there are other biblical questions that we do not have answers. But history shows that with time, many questions have been answered and some will have to wait until we are with the Lord for the exact answer.

Additionally, the editors of our Bibles put in either the word, “reed” or “cubit” into the text. The original Hebrew text does not specify either.

Furthermore, a reed is 10 feet and a cubit is approximately 1 ½ feet. A reed seems more likely owing to the significant role of the city of Jerusalem and the Temple during the Millennium.

Regardless it is very large, for 25,000 is a big number – Ezekiel 45:1-3; 48:8,

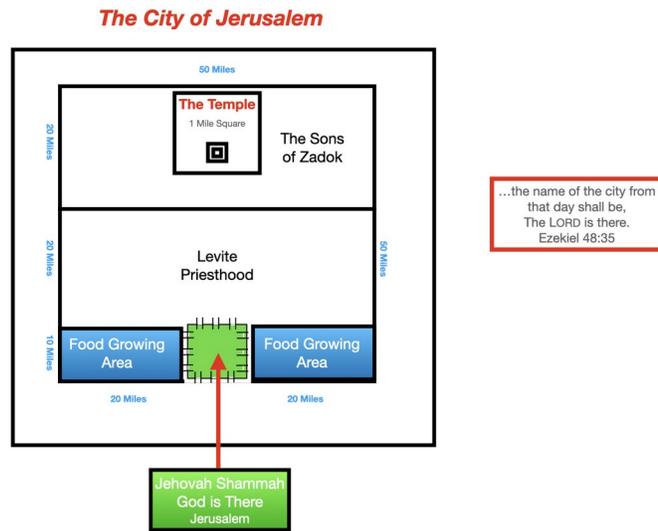
## Temple Size Comparisons



As is often the case, commentators merely ignore these questions and move on. So we will follow suit and say, we believe the city of Jerusalem, the plateau area will be 50×50 miles square.

In the slide, you can get some estimation of the size of this temple as related to the previous temples.

Ezekiel then describes the divisions of this area into sections – Ezekiel 45.



The Northern section (vv. 2-4) twenty miles by fifty miles with the Temple proper in the center about 1 mile square. It is Inhabited by priests that are descendants of Zadok (v. 10). They are the ones who server the Lord in the Temple worship.

The central section (v. 5) will be twenty miles by fifty miles reserved for the rest of the members of the tribe of Levi who work and dwell in the Temple

The southern section (vv. 6-8) will be ten miles by fifty miles; this will include two food growing areas and the millennial Jerusalem city, ten miles by ten miles.

There will be two fields, ten by twenty miles for growing food for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

### **THE PURPOSES OF THE TEMPLE**

Worship (Isaiah 27:13),

*And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

Prayer, and sacrifices (Isa. 56:6-8),

*<sup>6</sup> Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; <sup>7</sup> Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. <sup>8</sup> The Lord GOD which*

*gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.*

The seat of the government – Isaiah 2:3-4

*<sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will **teach us of his ways**, and we will walk in his paths: for **out of Zion shall go forth the law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> And **he shall judge among the nations**, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Aside from being the highest point on the earth, we learn that this will be the focal point of the entire earth. From here people will learn the ways of the Lord, and knowledge of Him and His laws.

They also will come here for judicial settlements to resolve differences between millennial citizens. People will learn God's laws and God's New Covenant will be enacted.

All the world will be governed by and under the rule of the Messiah, the perfect and just King – Zechariah 14:9

All the world will observe and worship at the Temple on the Feast of Booths – Zechariah 14:16.

The land will have lush greenery and vegetation, ideal for growing crops – Ezekiel 17:22-24

The land will be renewed by the flowing stream issuing from the Temple's altar – Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zech. 14:8

From the Temple will come the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, in Genesis 12:3:

*And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*