

# The Biblical Necessity of a Third Jewish Temple

By Jonathan Brentner

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The third Jewish temple has been in the planning stage for three decades. The Temple Institute in Jerusalem has completed all its furnishings with the exception of the Ark of the Covenant for which they claim to know the location of the original one. The institute is currently training Levites to serve as priests in the future temple.

On its Facebook page, the Temple Institute just announced a major development in its quest to find the perfect red heifer necessary for the cleansing sacrifice of the next temple. Judging from the live video that I am watching as I write, it appears that five red heifers vying for perfection have arrived in Israel amid much excitement. We live in amazing times!

The government of Israel is also preparing for the completion of the third temple. Consider the quote below from an [article](#) on the *Israel 365 News* website:

*Israel is upgrading its already impressive international airport. The government is also working on a railway infrastructure that will bring international travelers directly from the airport to the Temple Mount. This will enable all 70 nations to come to worship God in Jerusalem's House of prayer, a vision that the government has already hinted is their true intention.*

Are all these things relevant to scriptural prophecies regarding the last days? Absolutely! They all point to the fulfillment of biblical prophecies concerning the construction of the third temple, which is a biblical necessity. It must happen in order to fulfill scriptural prophecy. Lest you think I'm crazy for putting it that strongly, please allow me to build my case.

## DANIEL'S PROPHECY REGARDING THE DESECRATION OF A FUTURE TEMPLE

In [Daniel 9:24-27](#), the prophet lays out a timeframe of seventy weeks of years that God had determined to fulfill His purposes for the nation of Israel. Verse 27 describes a significant event that occurs during the last "week," or final period of seven years:

***Daniel 9:27 KJV** – "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."*

[Daniel 12:11](#) also refers to this time when "the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up."

The Lord, though the prophet Daniel, tells us that a future prince will make a seven-year agreement with Israel and at the halfway point of the covenant, he will desecrate the temple in Jerusalem. He will put an end to animal sacrifices, which will have started during the first half of Daniel's seventieth week.

Lest you doubt that there will be another temple with actual animal sacrifices, please know that the Israeli government envisions religious Jews with “vegetable and animal sacrifices” riding the train to the Temple. How amazing is that!? The nation of Israel is not only preparing to get travelers from the Ben Gurion Airport to the future temple, it’s also making provisions to get the sacrifices there as well.

## JESUS PLACED THE TEMPLE DESECRATION IN THE FUTURE

How do we know Daniel’s prophecy did not already happen in history? How can we be sure that there’s a lengthy gap between the sixty-ninth and seventieth week?

Almost four centuries after the time of Daniel, Antiochus Epiphanes came to power in BC 170. He later desecrated the second Jewish temple by setting up idols in it and by offering pigs on its altar. Although the actions of Antiochus Epiphanes may have foreshadowed what the prophet wrote about, it was not it. We know this because Jesus, in **Matthew 24:15**, referred to the fulfillment of **Daniel 9:27** as a still future event:

***Matthew 24:15 KJV** – “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:)”*

About two hundred years *after* the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, Jesus said that the fulfillment of **Daniel 9:27** would happen in the future. He also predicted that it would lead to a severe persecution of the Jewish people during a time of “great tribulation” on the earth (**Matthew 24:16-21**). Roughly forty years after Jesus spoke those words, a Roman general named Titus destroyed the second Jewish Temple along with much of Jerusalem. This set off a persecution of the Jewish populace that resulted in the deaths of a great many. Did Titus fulfill Daniel’s prophecy regarding the “abomination of desolation?” No, he did not. We know this primarily because of a key detail that the Apostle Paul adds to the fulfillment of **Daniel 9:27** and **Matthew 24:15**.

## JESUS HIMSELF WILL DESTROY THE DESOLATOR AT HIS SECOND COMING

In **2 Thessalonians 2**, Paul identifies the person who will desecrate the temple as the “man of lawlessness,” or the one we refer to today as the “antichrist.”

***2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 KJV** – “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; 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.”*

The apostle tells us here that the coming desolator will be blasphemous against the Lord, sit in the “temple of God,” and “proclaim himself to be God.” Then he adds one essential detail about the one that will commit Daniel’s “abomination of desolation:” *The Lord Jesus Himself will kill him at His Second Coming:*

***2 Thessalonians 2:8 KJV** – “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:”*

At His return to earth, Jesus will ...

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