

The “Temple Mount” Still Key

Commentary for November 1, 2009 — ... and November Article Introductions

On October 26, 2009 an Associated Press article appeared that was titled “[Police on high alert at disputed Jerusalem shrine](#).” This article contains straightforward analysis, without editorializing. Note the statement of the root cause of the strife:

“Conflicting claims to the plateau, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, lie at the heart of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Jews revere it as the site of their two biblical Temples and Muslims regard the Al-Aqsa mosque compound as Islam's third-holiest site.”

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has boiled over to conflicts of Israel with her neighbors, all over a mistaken and wrong site of the Temple(s). Dr. Ernest Martin had said this for over a decade, well before intensified conflict began in the year 2000 with the visit of Ariel Sharon to the Haram esh-Sharif which set off severe violence between Palestinian Muslims and Israeli officials. The article continues:

“Israel has controlled the compound since capturing east Jerusalem in 1967 and insists it will retain it forever, though it has left day-to-day administration to a Muslim clerical body. Palestinians see east Jerusalem, including the Old City where the sacred complex lies, as the capital of a future state.”

The First Article This Month

There are two articles this month. Read first the “[November 2009 Newsletter](#)” that introduces the two articles. The first one is my article “Your Resurrection” and the second is “Archaeology and the Bible” by Dr. Ernest L. Martin.

There will come a time when you shall appear before God. David came before God as King of Israel before the altar of the Tabernacle, before the Temple was constructed:

“As the hart pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?”

• *Psalm 42:1–2*

You also shall appear before God after your resurrection from the dead:

“Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.”

• *2 Corinthians 5:9–10*

You might be saying to yourself, this does not say we will appear before God. It says we will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Consider some facts. First, where is Christ seated?

“But why do you judge your brother? or why do you set at nought your brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, ‘As I live, says YHWH, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ [quoting Isaiah 45:23] So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

• *Romans 14:10–12*

What does Isaiah 45:23 say? And where is that judgment seat of Christ? Let us look at the context (substituting "the Lord" by YHWH, as it is in Hebrew):

"Tell you, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who has declared this from ancient time? who has told it from that time? have not I YHWH? and there is no God else beside [to compare with] me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside [to compare with] me. Look unto me, and be you saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me [YHWH] very knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely, shall one say, in YHWH have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed."

• *Isaiah 45:21–24*

You shall appear at the judgment seat of Christ as Paul says in Romans 14:11 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 and you will bow your knee and you shall confess to YHWH (God the Father) that the resurrected Jesus is Lord. Christ shall be sitting at His right hand (Psalm 110; Mark 16:19; Acts 2:34; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:20-22; Hebrews 1:3, 13, 12:2), subordinate to His Father, YHWH. At present we are seated with Christ legally:

"And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

• *Ephesians 2:6–7*

This will be our future experience. Then (somehow) we will all be seated with Christ in reality. We are given glimpses of what to expect in the future as told us by the apostle Paul. It seems incredible, almost unbelievable, yet that is what Paul tells us. How did he learn that information? He may have learned it when **"he was snatched away into paradise"**:

"I am acquainted with a man in Christ [Paul himself], fourteen years before this, (whether in a body I am not aware, or outside of the body, I am not aware — God is aware) such a one was snatched away to the third heaven [where God's throne is]. And I am acquainted with such a man (whether in a body or outside of the body I am not aware — God is aware) that he was snatched away into paradise and hears ineffable declarations, which it is not allowed a man to speak."

• *2 Corinthians 12:2–4
Concordant Literal Version*

He may have been allowed to speak later about such things after the Mystery was revealed in 63 AD, because he talks about an entirely new and enhanced relationship with Christ (that we had all along, according to God's plan) whereby we will be **"in Christ"** and share His authority that He received from His Father.

How should you "prepare" for such events as appearing before God? There is only one way to prepare, by building character. Your salvation is assured in Christ. Your reward is determined by your works once you realize you have been saved.

The Second Article

... is about archaeology. This short article presents Dr. Martin's understanding of the enterprise of archaeology. Dr. Martin gives an overview of what archaeology can do and what its limitations are. The Bible is the key to properly understand archaeology (and not vice-versa) as future discoveries are made. However, these future discoveries will serve to fire the imaginations of men and women in the near future. Enjoy these two articles.

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