



Cleansing the
Temple

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

Today, we walk along with Jesus as He makes His required pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem for Passover. My friends let's jump right in- John's Gospel records after the Wedding in Cana of Galilee that Jesus and His new found Disciples along with Jesus's human family went to Capernaum just before they all together set out to Jerusalem for Passover.

✠ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples.

There they stayed for a few days.

John 2:11-12 NIV

If you do not know there were 3 specific religious observances of festival directed by scripture within Judaism by which all Jews at this time had to attend in Jerusalem.

1st was Passover : (Pesach) to be celebrated as a remembrance of Israel's delivery from bondage in Egypt. Passover is to be observed by the Hebrew calendar on the 15th day of Nissan.

This being of course the actual anniversary date of when GOD freed the Jews from slavery.

This is in the springtime roughly April and we as Christians now celebrate Passover as Easter.

As a remembrance of Jesus's sacrifice upon the cross which will happen later when He returns to Jerusalem to celebrate during another Passover. He then as the "Lamb of GOD" became the final one and done sacrifice for our sins. It is specifically Easter Sunday morning on which we recognize that Jesus arose from the dead because His sacrifice for us was each complete and accepted by His Father Almighty Jehovah GOD.

2nd was Pentecost : (Shavuot) also known as "Weeks."

This festival occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan.

Pentecost means 50th day as in after Passover and today we Christians count 7 Sundays after Easter to get to the day of Pentecost. For the Jews of Jesus Time this was celebrated in thanksgiving for the time of the early wheat harvest which usually means mid to late May or early June.

For us as Christians this time of Pentecost is remembered as the beginning of the Church.

At Jesus's ascension into Heaven He instructed His Apostles and Disciples to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit descended unto them to teach, comfort, and literally indwell all believers. By GOD thusly creating the "Body of Christ." Also known as the Bride of Christ- us; the Church through Christ.

Of course this happened on Pentecost exactly 50 days from our Christ's Easter resurrection.

Jesus had remained near those who Loved Him and He instructed them off & on for 40 days after His rising. He appeared to many individuals several times including unto a large group of five hundred.

3rd was Tabernacles : (Sukkot) Tents or Booths.

Scriptures command this festival is to be celebrated for 7 days from the 15th day of Tishrei.

Also known as the fall harvest festival & this celebration for the Jewish people served a dual purpose. First it celebrated each the fall harvest and it served as a remembrance of the 40 years Israel was in the wilderness following their Egyptian Exodus and all of their needs were provided for by the Lord.

This festival in Jesus Time was the most joyous for the people.

All of their taxes and fees were complete at this time and the enjoyment of festival was theirs.

Of course by modern standards we would refer to this pilgrimage as a camping trip.

Complete with tents even those living in Jerusalem had to make booths or tents and dwell within them, usually put up or pitched upon the flat roofs of their homes just as Israel had camped in the wilderness for 40 years. (Jerusalem's official borders were expanded legally at this time for more camping room.)

Now back to our 1st scripture, Jesus & His Disciples along with His family returned to Capernaum. Capernaum; the town itself served as Jesus's base after He was rejected by His home town of Nazareth. Located on the north west shore of the Sea of Galilee renamed & called Lake Tiberius by the Romans. Capernaum was located within a district known as " Fisherton. " meaning all of the surrounding areas were part of the fishing industry. Much like our oil, steel, timber, tech, farming, or coal industries today. As such Rome stationed a Garrison at Capernaum not only to keep the peace but to protect the valuable fish trade being a food source. (fresh or pickled) As well as to maintain Rome's cut in tribute and taxes. Of course Capernaum was the home of two sets of Jesus's Apostles whom were brothers. Peter & Andrew who were originally born in Bethsaida of Galilee, and James & John Jesus's cousins whom Christ called the "Sons of thunder." Did they quarrel? Were they loud? Was their parents loud? Capernaum was located only a scant two miles away from where the Jordan river flows into Galilee and of course at the southern end of the Lake the Jordan resumes its flow down through Israel and terminates into the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee in Jesus time was flush with life and was roughly around 12 miles long and six miles wide. The famous Roman Centurions home and Matthew's (Levi) home likewise in Capernaum have been lost to time.

However the ruins of the original Synagogue in which Jesus taught remain to this day.

Capernaum survived with each Jewish and Muslim residents until the 8th century when it was destroyed by an earthquake. Jesus said within Matthew 11:23 that Capernaum would be lost and its people would be doomed for hell- as in they would be lost for their rejection of Him. (meaning they would die unsaved)

Today a village called " Kfar Nahum " meaning village of comfort exists upon Capernaum's ruins which has no relation or connection to the former city nor to it's Biblical Prophet's namesake.

✠ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.

John 2:13-14 NIV

What we should take note of here is that this event of Jesus becoming greatly offended when He enters into Jerusalem and finds greedy people by Law taking advantage of those simply trying to honor His Father Jehovah GOD- that these events in fact happen twice.

First the Apostle John our Revelator details this event at the beginning of Jesus Ministry where as the Synoptic Gospels detail the latter event during Jesus final Pilgrimage during His Passion week.

So yes, in a very real way at the onset of Jesus's Earthly Ministry and at the Conclusion of Christ's Work, our Lord and Savior makes it a point to cleanse His Father's House of Prayer and Worship.

✠ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here!

Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"

John 2:15-16 NIV

Jesus's first action in Jerusalem of His public Ministry was to purge and cleanse the Temple. Why?

The Temple and Passover had become so corrupted by the greed of those preying upon the need of those Praying; that the Temple itself- the House of GOD, had become a place of extortion and oppression by the abuse of power of the Pharisees and Sadducees. This particularly was by the line of Annas at this time. Annas was the father in law of Caiaphas who was the current High Priest.

Annas was installed as High Priest by the Romans (Quirinius Governor of Syria/Israel) & not by proper election. In fact all five of Anna's sons & now his son in law Caiaphas each held the title of High Priest. As such Annas assigned all the Temple tables & product stalls for a fee unto Sanhedrin members only.

Josephus the historian records that Annas was a great hoarder of money who oppressed the people with crushing law and violence. The Babylonian Talmud likewise records Annas' violence.

Think about it; when Jesus is illegally arrested at night before His crucifixion it was before Annas whom Jesus is brought first, & this be by a Roman guard. Not as it should have been, first to Caiaphas the acting High Priest.

The point being it was Annas sons who also ran the bazars and shops in the Temple area. Get that ? Annas sons also took turns as the Temple Treasurer and assistant Treasurer.

It was directly the family most in charge of Jerusalem which were most abusing their authority.

Now Jesus had just upset their selling carts- literally. For the record anyone who openly opposed the corrupt tables of the sons of Annas a public beating with sticks by hired thugs was the customary response.

Still holding onto that image that Jesus was a total softie, an unoffending timid wisp of a man?

Think again my friend, their be a reason as to why Annas requested an entire "Speria" or division of the Jerusalem Roman Legion at a future Passover to arrest Jesus Christ. We will get to this later in our studies.

During the festival seasons Rome's Legion stationed in Jerusalem was doubled in ranks to keep the peace as well as to secure the Temple Mount monies.

Meaning the Roman tribute of taxes and fees for protection were escorted by a full Legion using a camel caravan hauling it all of the way back to Rome itself. This was after the conclusion of every Jewish festival.

A receipt still exists today from the Roman General Crassus who escorted Rome's Tribute from Jerusalem which states that Rome's share of a single Passover was 2 ½ million in sterling silver which by our standards today would be nearly uncountable and this was just Rome's cut.

Remember the Temple itself was made of pure white marble decorated with actual overlays of gold, which not once but twice made the Temple in Jerusalem upon its mount when the sun shone upon it one of the ancient wonders of the world.

So during the Passover a double Legion meaning this inflates a single division from about 300 to 600 soldiers, that many plus the Temple guards will eventually be requested & sent by Annas & Caiaphas to arrest Jesus.

But lets get back to the upsetting of the tables, you wonder: Why just not go in the first place?

You know, as in thinking I will not go to the Temple just to be fleeced by pious thieves.

Then- when, your name is not placed in the records of those coming to Temple and paying their taxes, then your savings, property, wages, and or possessions, including your very person as in sold into debtors slavery even if you can produce the cash, it's far too late for that now- you are forfeit.

Sold to pay your debt and serve as an example unto others. You usually have until the third festival to pay up.

It was actually the Jewish Tax collectors employed by the Romans who would then turn you over to the Temple and or the Romans for unpaid tax. It is needless to say that the Jews who collected another 1% of ones total income for the Romans were considered to be worse than a traitor and lower than the lowest of Jewish society. Because such as these made their living off of you by also over inflating your polls, tolls, sales, income, property, or special taxes such as legion/war or building taxes in which they got to keep every cent.

That's how they were paid- by over charging, & such was Jewish life at the Time of Christ, tax & toll, toil & pay.

So what exactly were you expected to travel to Jerusalem for during the Passover in order to pay for?

✠ Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹² "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. ¹³ Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the LORD. ¹⁴ All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the LORD. ¹⁵ The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives. ¹⁶ Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD, making atonement for your lives."

(The Temple replaced the Tabernacle or Tent)

Exodus 30:11-16 NIV

In Jesus Time every Jew over the age of 20 male or female, every Proselyte, (Gentile convert) every child, (unclaimed orphans were exempt until 20 years of age) or slave also had to be accounted for. As in paid for.

As well as the uncountable myriad's of people within and without the Roman Empire whom the Pharisee's had convinced that they too could buy GOD'S favor or mercy for themselves by paying the Temple tax even if they themselves were not believers.

Each paid their ½ shekel unto the Temple and this was about 2 days wages of the Roman Denarius for each person of your household. So if you had a family of six it would cost you 12 days full wages to pay your families Temple tax. This was to include everyone such as grand parents or adopted children in fact many took in orphans or even widows without family. This tax was known as "Didrachma."

Not all widows had a savings, property, or family, at this time many young or old alone would starve.

This Tax was over and above the required blood animal sacrifice called "Korban" which in Hebrew means drawing near to GOD. Each person 12 and above was to be represented yearly by a portion of an animal blood sacrifice for sin. This is why Sinless Jesus is called the one and done Lamb of GOD.

Now onto the money (ex)changer tables of the Pharisees. These tables opened in every Jewish town or village on the 15th of Adar which was about 1 month before Passover.

Shamefully from this tax many of the priests of Israel claimed exemption by the twisting of scripture. Leviticus 6:23 states a priests offerings were to be burnt and not eaten by them, but the Temple Tribute offered by others could be eaten as in taken by the priests. (meaning they say they no pay)

Meaning the showbread loaves and the animal sacrifices & tax, however scripture plainly states that all rich or poor alike were to pay their same share at the Tent of Meeting. (Tabernacle/Temple)

Of course historians record that the people considered such priests who exempted themselves to be saying that they thought they were above GOD'S Law and most called such priests hypocritical.

Now the closer was the better as in nearer to the actual Temple in which you exchanged your money because less were your chances of being pickpocketed, robbed, purse snatched, or outright mugged.

In fact in between Jerusalem and Jaffa (Tele Aviv today) was a town called Abu Rosh. It was a community composed entirely of professional thieves & bandits, again preying upon those traveling to Jerusalem to Pray. The Romans themselves tired of complaints & eventually attacked this city without pity or warning.

The Passover Pilgrimage took a great deal of time, money, and effort.

For deepest Galilee the journey could take up to 15 days before and after Passover.

Yes an entire month altogether. Even longer if you traveled from distant lands afar.

Then- when, you finally reached Jerusalem:

No one was allowed to enter directly into Temple after their journey with wallet, staff, sandals or dust upon their feet from their journey. This means Passover required a stayover within Jerusalem.

Again as such Jerusalem's official borders were extended for festival.

Case in point Bethphage (Mount of Olives) scripture states this is where Jesus stayed.

So for the Pharisees finding Jesus would be harder than actually finding a needle in a haystack.

Remember that fact in our studies when we reach the betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot.

Now inside the Temple complex were the Temple Guards and Roman Soldiers. Protection at a price.

The closer the tables of exchange were to the Temple itself- the more costly were the exchange rates.

The Temple only accepted traditional Torah (Biblical) Shekels. No one used ancient Shekels anymore.

The only exception to Temple Shekels were Galilean Shekels which were basically the commercial version of Temple shekels. Galileans were payed low with Shekels and worked hard to earn them.

In fact all other coins had to be exchanged at an exchange rate of at least 12% loss with a fee added unto the total amount of exchange. Exchanged were Roman, Tyrian, Persian, Syrian, Egyptian, Grecian, or Palestinian silver. & if you exchanged raw silver or gold or precious stones such as those who came from mining regions, the scales used for weighing your funds were notorious for being rigged to underpay you as in to diminish your return. Not to mention the dismal Jerusalem currency exchange rate.

Nearly any form of payment from the vast Roman Empire could be made and or exchanged.

While of course the Temple currency was forbidden to be used elsewhere. (think of tokens for specific things)

This money redeemed someone as in personally & now an additional blood sacrifice was required to pay for ones sin. Of course this depended upon circumstances. Lambs, goats, doves, & bulls were all available for purchase at extremely inflated prices. Of course you could bring your own animals for sacrifice but it was not practical to bring animals on the roads all the way on foot to Jerusalem.

It was not just the care that it took to bring an animal considered to be perfect as in unblemished, just the inconvenience of such a journey with the danger again of theft or even damage to your livestock which left them unacceptable. (The livestock & shepherds of nearby Bethlehem were the Temple owned flocks.)

As such even if you made it all the way to Jerusalem with your sacrificial animals they had to now pass the Pharisee's inspection. Most were disqualified outright after which you usually just sold them off to one of the many animal merchants which were often fronts for the Pharisees as a rejected animal fit only for normal consumption rather than official sacrifice during the Passover Feast.

As such they would purchase your good animal for pennies & after you had gone said animals would then be returned to Temple and placed into the Temple(Passover) livestock bins upon the Temple Mount to be sold at an unreasonable price. Legend holds that there were usually in excess of 300 Temple mount animal vendors within Jerusalem at Passover time.

Get that?

Upon GOD'S Holy Temple Mount within the Temple complex, stalls of animals doing what animals do.

It was not just for fleecing, violence, abuse, & dishonesty that Jesus overturned the Pharisees tables;

The Lord also drove out the animals from the Temple Mount for disrespect & irreverence unto GOD.

Previously the animals of King Solomons Temple obviously had established lines by which the animals were to be escorted through GOD'S House using specific routes unto sacrifice. With all animals respectfully attended.

The Pharisees of Jesus Time within Herod's Temple for their convenience just simply passed the animals right through the public Temple proper as they were herded together to be sold right upon GOD'S Holy grounds.

What we would call Ranchers were required to Tithe 10% of their herds these being unblemished livestock.

As such they were to be added into the Temple flocks which by Law had to be done 2 weeks prior to Passover.

Just enough time for the Pharisees to increase their Temple flocks in numbers without having to extend themselves financially for the caring of living animals as in providing much cost & effort for their needs.

Farmers in Judea were likewise expected to Tithe oil or the olives to press the oil, where as the rest of Israel was expected to Tithe wheat, likewise the rest of Palestine or what we would call Syria and Jordan were also tasked with Tithing 10% their fair share of additional livestock. This Tithing did not replace or diminish their Temple tax it was simply another requirement placed upon the populace.

Judean land surrounding Jerusalem was far to rocky for supporting herds or growing grain.

Chickens on the other hand were forbidden in the public markets of Jerusalem even though they are Biblically clean. Chickens were banned because of their scratching which could expose unclean objects.

However personal ownership of chickens within Jerusalem upon private property was permissible.

& of course vast quantities of wood were always in demand within Jerusalem especially during Passover.

Usually this meant fig, nut, or pine wood. But not olive wood that was reserved for the oil.

Towns often paid to have Temple contracts that paid them in return to supply wood or pottery to festival.

This was because potters were banned from Jerusalem because of the noise and smell. (baking of pottery)

Thusly the vacant potters field in Jerusalem of Judas Iscariot infamy. (we will find this later in our studies.)

No pottery more than 17 miles away was considered to be clean. So after the Pharisees banished the pottery makers, they then contracted them to make pottery for the festivals only a few miles away. Then by Law they banned any other pottery to be used within Jerusalem. The Pharisee's did not like the potters so they relocated them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, this completes what was called the required First Tithe. Which basically amounted to 10% of ones yearly income & another 10% of ones products.

Tithe, Tax, Tribute, & Korban sacrifice. (this does not include any Israeli or Roman poll/toll taxes or alms)

Now comes the part most do not know. (to comprehend these be federal taxes your local & states you paid at home) The Pharisees controlled everything & of course at Jesus Time they “encouraged” which means they “expected” or else; your life will be unbelievable difficult by legal harassments that you “ Voluntarily “ paid the Second Tithe.

The Second Tithe was that during your Passover Pilgrimage you kept receipts to show that you paid an additional 10 % of your yearly income for lodging, goods, and services within Jerusalem proper.

This means you overpaid dearly for everything everywhere while at festival. (Remember those extended borders)

Yes, this was for the locals a licenses to steal from the thousands upon thousands visiting Jerusalem.

Here the lessor connected people of Jerusalem had their chance to provide some service and legally fleece you as well. This merely kept the rest of the locals happy in order that they did not bother the Pharisees by saying “Hey where is our money?” The Pharisees just added more rules so the less influential people of Jerusalem would not bother them & likewise by Law could rob you as well. (For example like modern movie theater popcorn.)

It is a fact that most Pharisee’s & Sadducees also had many personal side business’s within Jerusalem.

Now according to John; Jesus made a whip out of cord, these had to be the leather thongs used by the cattle drovers. Since no weapons were allowed within the Temple precincts save for the ones carried by the Temple guards as well as the Roman soldiers and of course unfortunately for the average person the thugs of Annas who were also permitted to carry beating sticks to be used against the people fed up and finally protesting over all the blatant dishonesty.

So Jesus had to make a cord & then drive out each the managers or operators of the tables, as well as the animals. Note Christ told the Dove dealers to remove the birds thusly not harming them.

Then the Lord dumped all of the money by turning the tables over because it was all from ill gotten gains.

Jesus the Living Son of GOD literally within His Fathers House cared nothing for their vast amounts of wealth.

The point being even at this early stage of Jesus’s public Ministry neither the Tempe guards, no Roman soldiers, nor the thugs of Annas moved against Jesus.

My best answer as to why? Is that the people had to have either recognized Jesus by His growing reputation or at least have heard the rumor that the famous Baptizer named John had publicly declared that the Messiah has arrived.

All the people even the officials had to be thinking it, all the people had to be feeling it, is this the man?

The one before me fearlessly opposing this entire system of corruption & yet no one dares to move against Him.

Could this possibly be He- the Messiah. Right here right now, in front of me clearing the Temple?

One final thought here before we continue on with our scripture; there was for each festival a few weeks later an “Alternate Festival.”

Travel was hard and of course there were the elderly, the young children, and herds or flocks & fields to be tended to. Let alone the thought of an entire village simply emptying out at once which would be an instant open invitation for thieves. So an “Alternate Festival” system was invented which would follow the main festival by which those who were able of body and mind who stayed behind to provide and protect for those unable to travel, it was now their turn to attend festival. Albeit a much smaller version.

Also for those Jews who were of more considerable distance from Jerusalem, often those who stayed behind to serve as protectors and providers, those staying behind from the first two yearly festivals, they alone just attended the final more festive festival of Tabernacles.

They too now payed their taxes while the rest of their friends, family, community, or employers just remained at home. (in case of sickness a family member would have to attend the third festival and pay for them)

Of course this be dependent that those skipping the final festival had already attended the other two festivals and had paid all of their tax burdens for the year. It is also highly likely even for those not attending the third festival that the local synagogues kept the people unto the practice of Tabernacles (camping outside) even at their homes far from Jerusalem at this time.

Now let's pick back up with our scripture; here we will find that the Disciples later after Jesus' Ministry is complete, they will realize while remembering this past event that it pertained to Psalm 69.

✝ His disciples remembered that it is written: Zeal for your house will consume me.
John 2:17 NIV

✝ for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me. (Jesus was insulted and verbally abused just as GOD & His Prophets have been mocked and denied) Psalm 69:9 NIV

Psalm 69 is an Old Testament Messianic passage this means that it pertains to the future Messiah. Many and all truths of prophecy came to pass within the life of Jesus our Christ including Psalm 69 which mentions that the Messiah would have a passion for maintaining the reverence of respect for His Father's Temple in Jerusalem.

✝ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"
John 2:18 NIV

Now something here unique just occurred and for us today it is easy to overlook.

This being that John the Apostle was of course himself Jewish and yet this is indeed the first occasion that John separates and refers to the elite Jewish religious leaders of Israel in Jesus' Time as THE Jews. Get that?

This is indeed another evidence that John composed His Gospel later in his life in which he was remembering (in Greek) that the former Pharisees, Scribes & Sadducees were THE as in the top or paramount Jews.

This is of course with a negative connotation against them by again a 100% Jewish man. In plain modern English here is what John was saying:

Those super Jews, you know- those pious self-righteous religious elite whom were fearful for their own loss of control, wealth, & power so they denied Jesus as their Christ. (Messiah/Savior)

Yes, that is how a 1st century Jew would think of those who John refers to when he calls them THE Jews. Just like today when one of us in disgust might say: "Oh THOSE Governmental Bureaucrats."

We too would understand this wording was meant to be a negative phrase for corrupt uncaring officials.

In fact John will use this phrase "the Jews" as in those corrupt super Jews several more times within his Gospel to identify and separate them from the common caring people of Jewish heritage. Like Christ.

This appears to be the closest that John got to publicly declaring his personal disgust against those in charge of Israel- whom he remembered were actually opposed to the Living Son of GOD.

Also just as when John the Baptist opposed the Pharisees they likewise demanded a sign from him.

This is because the Pharisees steeped themselves in tradition & superstition, and as such they were actually unable to provide any proof whatsoever that they were authorized by Jehovah GOD Himself.

As in being appointed by GOD'S authority to support their self-proclaimed positions of power.

So, we will see in our studies they; the religious elite, the super Jews as John the Apostle our Revelator liked to call them, they were literally astonished when Jesus does preform supernatural miracles and worse yet from their perspective- when Christ does provide supernatural Blessings and healings.

Yet Jesus does this all for free, save for instructing those whom He helped that they should Pray and Worship Almighty GOD alone with thanksgiving, adoration, & praise.

✝ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”
20 They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken. John2:19-22 NIV

Here the Bible clearly explains itself; John our Apostle recalls that they the Disciples in Christ Jesus remembered that Jesus had told the Pharisee’s if they destroyed this Temple He would raise it up again in three days. Of course we know Jesus arose alive from His tomb in three days.

This being the ultimate sign for everyone of all time that Jesus is the Living Son of GOD.

Of course the Pharisee’s missed the meaning of our Lord’s Words and stated that it had taken 46 years at this point to (re)build the Temple. What the religious rulers were referencing was that Herod the Great- in order to ingratiate himself unto the religious elite of Jerusalem, thusly began the monumental task of restoring the Temple mount back to its former glory of King Solomon’s days.

Herod did this by putting another hefty Temple reconstruction tax upon all of Israel so thusly he gained the religious elites favor at the common people’s expense.

The Temple in Jerusalem prior to Herod’s rebuild was but a shadow of the former Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonians on 586 BC.

History records that Herod the Greats complete restoration of the Temple Mount began in 20 BC and was not completed until 63 AD. Exactly one 7 year Sabbatical cycle of Jewish history before Rome destroyed the Temple yet again on the same exact date that King Nebuchadnezzar previously did.

The 9th of Av (August 10th) Question? Will the soon to be Biblically predicted rebuilt 3rd Temple also be sacked and repurposed by the future antichrist on this same date? Maybe, only GOD knows.

So by adding 46 years to the known 20 BC starting date of Temple reconstruction we get the year 25. Yes, this is further proof that our calendar is off by a few years.

20 BC is 20 years before the year zero. Then + 26 = 46. Then we have to -1 year for the 0 year.

The in between year that SHOULD have been counted in months like a baby, you know: 2, 4, 6, months.

Historical dates that were later verified after the calendar was changed to reflect the Life of Christ, new records were discovered of Kings such as Herod, Tiberius, and Julius Caesar that prove each the Julian and the Gregorian calendars were off by a few years. However it was also deemed too troublesome to recalculate & then get an entire world to reset its dates. So the year was just left alone as is.

Likewise scripture found in Daniel 7:25 clearly states that the future antichrist will be so arrogant that he will again change the dates and seasons of our calendar to meet his whims & fancies.

Oh, one last thought here about the Temple Mount Complex. The entire complex was massive however the Temple itself was surprisingly about the size of a modern church. This soon to be rebuilt prophecy predicted 3rd Temple already exists today as a pre fab unit scattered throughout various locations.

When the time comes using modern equipment I would not be surprised when the pieces of this pre fab Temple are finally brought together upon the Temple Mount that it will be assembled in three days.

For the record 1st Corinthians 3:16 makes it clear that anywhere GOD dwells is a Temple for Him.

Even within a human body, such as Jesus Christ and even us when we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

✝ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

✝ Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. ²⁴ But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. ²⁵ He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person. John 2:23-25 NIV

Here the Bible relates for us that Jesus did in fact perform many “ signs “ as John likes to call them in Jerusalem at this time as evidence of His Deity. When the scriptures detail that Jesus did not entrust Himself to those believing upon His name we understand that Christ understood human nature and that He saw the motivations and selfish nature of those present at that time and place.

The point is; we will see this again as in Jesus not entrusting Himself unto others at a specific time and place, to be specific when we learn Jesus fed the multitudes in Galilee by miraculously reproducing one young boys lunch.

It will be at this future point after Jesus has provided many evidences of His Deity, then- He will begin to rein in those who truly Believe in Him from those who simply wish to use Him.

People were encouraged by Christ’s resistance to the Pharisee’s corruption and excited over the miracles Jesus performed. But- most were not willing to specifically acknowledge their Sin and repent and live for Him. Jesus as their Lord & Savior.

As in getting what they want or need from the Lord, without having to obey Jesus’s Words which are indeed GOD’S commandments and His Holy directives.

✝ If you love me, keep my commands. John 14:15 NIV (Words of Christ Jesus)

Now I once read a reasoning as it pertains to this thought by Dennis Prager; from GOD’S intervention during the Exodus of Moses unto the miracles of Jesus Christ, these clearly demonstrate that miracles on display by the Divine Deity of GOD do not necessarily lead to Faith.

Why? Because deep down subconsciously we all already realize that life itself is a miracle from GOD.

From the DNA within the smallest of living cells that lead to biological life unto the very design of the universe with laws of attraction, gravity, physics, and complex process’s each within its time or seasons of cycles, all are in perfect harmony that are needed & able to support and sustain life is miraculous!

With this said the human mind in time, this be one in rebellion unto GOD will overlook, marginalize, or eventually outright deny all of the evidence of the existence of GOD.

Including GOD Himself born human and then dying only to rise again from the dead. Enough said. To be Spiritually blind & deny GOD is truly mankind’s alibi, unfortunately this be to ones eternal demise.

✝ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:18-20 NIV

This IS the answer to the age old question;” What about the remote person who has never heard or read GOD’S Word?” GOD knows the heart, if they know Him. Question; Do you know GOD? Seek Him through His Christ!