

From Scriptures to Stone: Is the Third Temple Becoming a Reality?

Rimmsh Fatima¹, Mansoor Ahmad²

^{1,2} Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Management Technology, Lahore, Email: rimmsh.fatima29@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70670/sra.v3i2.814>

Abstract:

The Third Temple has always been a controversial subject. Some believe it is just a myth, some believe it is a conspiracy theory while others consider it a part of their faith. It is often seen that people are worried about demolishing of Al-Aqsa and rebuilding of The Third Temple. It is very important to understand the historical perspective of this issue while keeping in view the faith and believes of every religion.

Introduction

The Third temple is a temple that the Jewish people aim to build in the city of Jerusalem on the Temple Mount exactly on the same location where the First and Second temple was built and demolished. The First temple was built by King Solomon in 957 BCE and later demolished by Babylonians in 586 BCE. The Second Temple was later rebuilt and renovated by Herod the Great in 516 BCE and demolished by Romans in 70CE.

Research Questions

1. What do the believers of monotheistic religions think about the Third Temple?
2. How is the arrival of Messiah and rebuilding of Third Temple linked with one another?
3. Why Christian Zionist influence the Israeli policies about Third Temple?
4. How's the process of rebuilding of third temple seen by different sects of Jews?
5. How do the statements from Israeli government officials hint the rebuilding of Third Temple?
6. Why is it believed that The Third Temple will be rebuilt by demolishing Al-Aqsa?
7. Does the rebuilding of Third temple hint the end of times?
8. Why does Islam endorse First and Second Temple but not Third Temple?
9. What are the Jewish rituals that need to be performed before the rebuilding of Third Temple?

Research Gap

There are more myths than realities about Third Temple on internet which makes this topic difficult to understand instead making it easier and the problem is that people don't have enough knowledge about the religious practices of other monotheistic religions and often the concept is misinterpreted depending upon the mindset of the person narrating it. It is very important to study each religion individually before expressing your point of view because the wrong type of information only brings hate and misunderstanding to the people. To bridge this gap we have studied faiths, believes and teachings of each religion and tried to coorelate them in the best possible way.

Concept of Third Temple in Monotheistic Religions

Islam

Islam doesn't support and hint the rebuilding of Third Temple in Quran (the holy book of Muslims) and Hadith whereas Islam recognizes the existence of First Temple and Second Temple as the former was built by Prophet Sulaiman (Solomon PBUH) and later existed in the times of Prophet Isa (Jesus Christ PBUH). Muslims recognize the site of Third Temple extremely holy as it is the third most sacred place on Earth for Muslims after Mecca and Medinah, Bayat-al-Maqdas also known as Al-Aqsa Compound is currently situated there. This place is holy for the Muslims not only because it was inhabited by a lot of Prophets in Islam but the last prophet, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) travelled from Masjid-al-Haram to Masjid-e-Aqsa and then ascended to the heavens in one night only and the event is remembered as the "Night of Miraj". Quran narrates the night of 'Miraj' in Surah Al-Isra (17:1) Besides Muslims warn the building of Third Temple at the site of Al-Aqsa will be met with serious consequences as it is considered a religious and political violation that will trigger Muslims worldwide. Muslim leadership around the globe protests and rejects the movements by Jews and Christians towards the rebuilding of Third Temple and clearly states that the rebuilding of Third Temple and the site of Al-Aqsa will not be possible until a single Muslim's heart's pumps blood in its arteries. Muslims consider the site of Al-Aqsa sacred since the times of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham PBUH) but there's no prophecy about The Third Temple in Islam.

Christianity

Christians believe that the third temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem and it is mandatory for the resurrection of Jesus Christ based on the fact believed by all the monotheistic religions that Jesus Christ use to deliver his teachings in the Second Temple which was later demolished by the Romans. The belief of rebuilding Third Temple in Christianity stems back to their teachings which narrates that the rebuilding of third temple speaks about the end of times, the rise of antichrist and second coming of Jesus Christ based on the following verses of Bible;

- “The man of lawlessness sits in the Temple.” - **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**
- “Abomination of desolation in the Holy Place.” - **Matthew 24**
- “Vision of a measured temple in the end of times.” **Revelation 11: 1-2**

Just like other religions there are different beliefs in Christianity as well when it comes to The Third Temple. Some Christian Zionists are potential supporters of Third Temple not because they side with the teachings of Judaism but to hasten the second coming of Jesus Christ which means that Jews want to build the Third Temple for their Messiah ‘Antichrist’ which according to Islam and Christianity will be killed by Jesus Christ so these Zionist Christians believe that when the Third Temple has been built and the Antichrist arrives to the Earth then Jesus Christ will come to kill him so the third temple needs to be built in order to hasten the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the other hand the other group of Christians believe it highly controversial and dangerous.

Judaism

The Third Temple is supreme for the Jews as many prophecies in Judaism speak about it. Again there are two groups in this regard, the Orthodox Jews and the Zionist Jews. The Orthodox Jews believe that the Messiah will come and rebuild the Third Temple whereas the Zionist Jews believe that the Third Temple has to be built for Messiah to smoothen the process of his coming. The one thing that is agreed by both of the groups is that the Messiah can’t be brought back by human rituals only the divine willingness is important too. The return of Messiah is important in Judaism because only then Jews can restore their prayers in the temple. Following are the requirements for the return of Messiah and rebuilding of Third Temple;

Teshuvah:

“The Talmud states that, “The son of David (Messiah) will not come until the entire Jewish people do Teshuvah which means repentance.”

So it is mandatory spiritual awakening for Jewish people before the Messiah can arrive.

Torah Observance:

It is essential for the Jewish people to increase study and observance of Torah to understand Jewish Law and commandments. Besides it will also assure them the strengthening of ethical behavior, family values, Shabbat and Kashrut.

Prayer for Redemption:

Amidah (standing prayer) is the daily prayer of Jews where they pray for the rebuilding of Third Temple and coming of Messiah.

Yearning for Temple:

It is important to develop spiritual and emotional longing for the temple which is expressed in the ways like: breaking a glass at the wedding reminding the destruction of second temple, Birkat

Hamazon (grace after meals) and Tisha B'Av which is a day of fasting to commemorate the destruction of First and Second Temple.

Acts of kindness and justice:

Since the second temple was destroyed due to baseless hate and enmity so it is very important for Jews to grow affection, trust and unification. The Talmud states, "Just as the Temple was destroyed by *sinat chinam*, it will be rebuilt by *ahavat chinam* (baseless love)." - **Yoma 9b**

Preparation of temple vessels and garments:

It is not mentioned in the Jewish Law but people believe that preparation of temple will fasten the redemption.

Maintaining Ritual Purity:

There are only a small number of people who study the ritual purity laws some even avoid entering the certain premises of Al-Aqsa Compound considering themselves impure due to sins.

The Red Heifer:

Being able to find kosher red heifer is very important since it will hasten and smoothen the way towards restoring temple services as it is stated in Torah that the ashes of red heifer is needed to purify the believers from corpse impurity before entering the temple.

Stance of Palestinians and Israelis

As stated earlier the city of Jerusalem is sacred for all, Christians, Muslims and Jews and it is seen as the city where the prophecies related to the end of times will be fulfilled. Currently, the Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Compound more specifically is under the Muslim administration via administration of Jordan but guarded by the security forces of Israel which sometimes creates trouble. Palestinians see Jerusalem and the entire land of Palestine and Israel as their homeland from there were displaced and their land was forcefully occupied for the creation of state of Israel while Israelis claim that this land was promised to them 3000 years ago and looks forward towards the creation of 'Greater Israel' that serves their purpose of greater good. Similarly the conflict exists between the followers of these two religions too. Al-Aqsa is sacred to Muslims and rebuilding of Third Temple is a holy purpose for Jews. So the Palestine issue is not just a territorial dispute but a religious conflict too. Palestinians are willing to trade their lives to protect Al-Aqsa on behalf of entire Muslim Ummah and Israelis have been natured for the holy cause to build Third Temple.

Current Status:

The National Security Minister of Israel Itamar Ben Gvir expressed his wish to build a synagogue at Al-Aqsa compound which is known to Jews as Temple Mount on 26th August 2024 saying that, "If I could do anything I wanted, I would put an Israeli flag on the site." The journalist asked multiple times, if he would build a synagogue at the site to which he said, Yes. Moreover he said, Arabs can pray wherever they want, so Jews should also be able to play wherever they want claiming that the current policy allows Jews to pray at the site. This met a serious response Worldwide as Palestinian presidency spokesman, Nabil Abu Rudaineh warned, Al-Aqsa and the holy sites are the red line, that we will not allow to be touched at all. HAMAS also refereed minister's comments as 'dangerous' and asked the Arab and Muslim world to take the responsibility for protecting the holy sites.

On 28th May 2025 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited an underground tunnel at Al-Aqsa Compound that too on the 'Jerusalem Day' that is celebrated by Israelis remembering their 1967 occupation of East Jerusalem which comes with settler incursions, racist slogans, and violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. On the occasion after chairing a cabinet meeting he said, we will preserve a united and complete Jerusalem. This tunnel is a part of disputed project, "City of David." Netanyahu's statement sparked immediate backlash from across the Arab world.

Jordan's Foreign Ministry condemned the move, reiterating that "East Jerusalem is an occupied city over which Israel has no sovereignty".

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry warned that the provocation is part of Israel's broader campaign of "genocide, displacement, Judaization, and annexation".

A very prominent organization for the rebuilding of The Third Temple claims that the preparations for the Third Temple are all complete. A video posted in the month of June, 2025 claims that not only they have prepared the structural plans of the building but also have prepared priestly garments, constructed ritual tools, trained kohanim and even gathered the red heifers that have been kept under the supervision of high level authorities. People also claim that there is rapid construction going on under the Al-Aqsa Compound.

Different fractions have different opinions but people worldwide believe that the conspiracy of rebuilding of Third Temple is a truth. Some Islamic scholars also believe that the main reason behind Palestine and Israel conflict is that Jews wants to occupy the entire state of Palestine in order to complete their prophecies related to the end of times, antichrist and apocalypse.

Analysis:

In my opinion the rebuilding of Third Temple is as true as the sun rising from East but this process includes a lot of hurdles and this is why this lives as a conspiracy theory till date not the reality of dream being watched for centuries. There is no denial to the fact that the dedication of

Jews towards their religious prophecy is commendable. Every day they woke up with renewed energy and move towards their goal more enthusiastically. Whereas Muslims have failed to develop the unity that is needed to save Al-Aqsa. We have only seen statements but zero action and commitments. The danger of Al-Aqsa being demolished exists side by side but unfortunately it seems like the least priority of Muslim World. It seems like the Palestine issue has only become a way to polish their politics and gain sympathy of people. Some talk about Palestine to strengthen their Governments and some talk about Palestine to overthrow the sitting governments while Palestine stands alone awaiting God's mercy. If the Muslim World can not save the entire region of Palestine how should we expect them to save the Al-Aqsa Compound. If Al-Aqsa is important to our Muslim World then why not save the people who protect Al-Aqsa with their lives promising that Al-Aqsa will live no matter they live or not? Al-Aqsa needs Muslim unity and if we fail to do it we all must wait for our turn to witness our beloved states to be like Gaza!!

Conclusion

These religious believes are a result of misunderstandings and misinterpreting of Holy books by people who change them to save their individual interests and they are dragging us to the end of times without any doubt and we are watching this happening quiet and helpless. The problem is not the Third Temple but the self-interpreted believes and the hate they are spreading. Studying the three monotheistic religions makes one thing very clear that we are heading to the end of times. Judaism awaits the fake messiah for whom they want to build The Third Temple, Christianity wait for Third Temple and fake Messiah because they believe that only then will the true Messiah, Jesus Christ will be reborn and Islam believes that Jesus Christ is the only one who can make World a peaceful and once He has completed His tenure it's the time the World ends. The World already seems to be standing at the verge of end.

References

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Temple
2. <https://thirdtemple.org/en/#:~:text=free%20to%20build-,the%203rd%20Temple%20in%20Jerusalem,Media>
3. <https://www.messianicbible.com/feature/end-time-prophecy-why-is-the-third-temple-so-important/>
4. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1914867>
5. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/8/26/israeli-minister-ben-gvir-says-he-would-build-synagogue-on-al-aqsa-compound>
6. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/9/what-do-texan-red-heifers-have-to-do-with-al-aqsa-and-a-jewish-temple>
7. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/9/what-do-texan-red-heifers-have-to-do-with-al-aqsa-and-a-jewish-temple>

8. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/19/palestinian-government-denounces-settler-threat-to-al-aqsa-mosque>
9. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2004/7/28/jewish-groups-raze-mosques-rebuild-temple>
10. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/12/who-are-jewish-groups-entering-al-aqsa-mosque>
11. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/24/israel-netanyahu-meets-with-jordan-king-abdullah-ii-as-al-aqsa-tensions>
12. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/4/12/israel-bans-non-muslims-from-al-aqsa-until-end-of-ramadan>
13. <https://www.newarab.com/news/outrage-netanyahu-visits-tunnel-beneath-al-aqsa-mosque>
14. <https://kashmirobsrver.net/2025/05/27/outrage-erupts-over-netanyahus-tunnel-visit-under-al-aqsa-mosque/>
15. <http://www.templeinstitute.org/>