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*Chapter 35*

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# HOW COULD THE RABBIS FORGET?

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**T**HERE IS A CLOSING COMMENT on the matters of the Temple that I wish to make. I want to express some conciliatory remarks regarding the plight that modern scholars have had in trying to locate the original Temples of God that Solomon, Zerubbabel, Simon and Herod built. I do not want to appear unduly critical of their efforts to understand the past history of Jerusalem. After all, I finally came to see the problems involved in this issue barely six years ago, in 1994. So, some consideration and allowance should be given.

The consideration is needed because it does not make sense to most reasonable people that the whole nation of Israel would come to an ignorance of forgetting the original location of their Holy Temple in Jerusalem (which was situated at one of the great capital cities of the world and in the mainstream of civilized society throughout all recorded history). It appears preposterous in human

terms to believe that Israelites would ever forget where the original Temples were built.

Perhaps Professor George Adam Smith can sum up the primary problem that all historians have faced in this matter. Paraphrasing him in regard to his article concerning the Temple in the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*, he stated that it was *inconceivable* to him, and to all other scholars, that the location of such a majestic and important building as the Holy Temple of God (revered and loved by all Israelites in the world since the time it was built by Solomon) could have been lost to their knowledge.

The earlier Temples were no ordinary buildings. The Sanctuary represented the very heart and soul of the nation of Israel. It made no difference if the people of Israel were righteous or heretical, religious or secular, young or old, man or woman. Whether they lived within Israel or lived far from Israel in the Diaspora, that Temple was the very center of their lives and the prime focus of their spiritual existence. It was as important to them throughout all periods of their history and in all areas where they lived as our capitol building is to us in the United States (indeed, their Temple was infinitely more important than our capitol building because of its supreme religious significance and the divine attachment which Israel had for that Holy Place).

It truly seems *incredible* to anyone with common sense that a few years of captivity within the Babylonian period, or the three years of desecration in the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, or any other periods of time when the Temples were not operating normally, would have allowed the whole nation of Israel (including every man, woman and child) to go into a state of complete ignorance and *to forget* where the original Temples had been located for almost 800 years of time. There is hardly a person in the world that would not think it to be *inconceivable* that Israel could ever forget the site of the Temple.

But strange as it may seem, the whole nation did in fact *forget!* That's right. All of them *forgot* — whether it is their scholars and educators, their leaders and elders, and it includes all their distinguished Rabbis for the past 800 years. All of them *forgot*. But wait

a moment. Not only did all Israel *forget*, all the peoples of the surrounding nations also *forgot*. All the Arabs and even later, all the peoples of Islam *forgot*. And too, all Christians in the world *forgot*. In fact, everyone on earth (including me) *forgot*. And what is the outcome? Jews and Arabs are today fighting over places in Jerusalem whose locations are based on fictitious traditional conclusions and not solid historical facts. One should wisely ask: Is there a purpose why God let all people on earth decline into a state of ignorance over these matters? Why did God let Israel and the world *forget* such a well known religious and significant site that was located in one of the most prominent and conspicuous centers of civilization in history since Abraham's time? Jerusalem was never in the outback!

One of the main reasons why this *forgetfulness* is rampant among both Jews and Arabs is the universal penchant for Jewish scholars to call Herod's Temple the "Second Temple" — as though it were a mere adaptation of the same Temple that was built by Zerubbabel after the Babylonian Captivity. This is manifestly wrong. In fact, it could be reasonably argued that Herod's Temple was the "*Sixth* Temple" from that of Solomon, NOT the "Second Temple"? That's right. The "*Sixth*." Note these facts. If one counts Solomon's Temple as the "First Temple," Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it. What then becomes the "Second Temple"? Note carefully that in Jeremiah we read that a *new* "House of God" (a temporary Temple because it had the Altar of God) was raised up in Mizpah the year after the former Temple of Solomon was demolished.<sup>704</sup> Then, after the Babylonian Captivity, a further Altar was raised up in Jerusalem which was also called the "House of God" (compare Ezra 3:3 with 3:8). This was also recognized as a "Temple." This Temple (the "Third Temple") existed about eighteen years before the foundation of the actual building called the "House of God" (the "Fourth Temple") was begun (compare Ezra 3:6 with all of Haggai). This *fourth* "House of God" lasted until the time of Simon the Hasmonean who then built the "Fifth Temple," and he was followed some 46 years before Jesus began

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<sup>704</sup> Jeremiah 41:4–5.

his ministry with Herod building what can legitimately be called a *new* Temple (or, the “*Sixth* Temple”).

Strangely, the Jewish authorities over the past 1600 years have been accustomed to call Herod’s Temple the “Second Temple,” as though it were a mere extension of the Temple built in the time of Haggai after the Babylonian Captivity. They must have done this for nostalgic reasons, because from a historical and architectural point of view such a belief cannot be reasonably sustained.

### **How Quickly People Forget**

What we have seen in this book is clear historical proof that people can forget very easily and quite quickly, even forgetting things dealing with the most sacred parts of their religions. While it is almost impossible to believe that the Jewish people (especially the Rabbis) could forget such a significant site as the Temple. they did indeed forget.

*Firstly*, I have clear historical documentation which I will soon post on the ASK Web Page on the Internet ([www.askelm.com](http://www.askelm.com)), that shows that every Jewish person in the world was fully aware a generation *before* the time of Maimonides (1134–1205 C.E.) that the holy site of their former Temples was over the Gihon Spring in southeastern Jerusalem. But, a generation *after* the time of Maimonides there was NOT a Jew in the world who remembered this historical fact. Indeed, it was Maimonides himself who got the whole of the Jewish nation to turn their eyes from the true site of their Temples over the Gihon Spring, and made them focus on the *fake site* of the Dome of the Rock that they all recognize today. I will show *why* and *how* Maimonides (the great rational philosopher) turned the whole Jewish nation to falsehood regarding the site of their holy Temples. The account is interesting indeed.

*Secondly*, I will also soon reveal on the ASK Web Page on the Internet *how* (and *why*) the Jewish people in the 16<sup>th</sup> century followed the advice of Rabbi Isaac Luria (the Ari) and *wrongly* selected the western wall of the Haram esh-Sharif (formerly Fort Antonia) as the “Western Wall” of Herod’s Temple. Truly, there was NOT a Jew in the world who paid the slightest respect to *that*

“Western (Wailing) Wall” before the 16<sup>th</sup> century. By following the false advice of Rabbi Isaac Luria, the whole of the Jewish nation has selected a wall to revere that was formerly a part of the Roman fortress that their ancestors in the first century held in highest contempt and disdain.

*Thirdly*, I will also soon reveal on the ASK Web Page the full relationship of the true location of the site of the Temples over the Gihon Spring with the area on the southern spur of the Mount of Olives where Jesus was crucified (and the place of his resurrection at the site of the Pater Nostra Church). This new information will show even more relevance and significance to Jesus being the Christ [the Messiah of the Jews and Muslims]. This new historical material will make the messages of the Holy Scriptures come alive with truth as never before understood. Keep your eyes tuned to our Web Page.

### **Now is the Time for the Truth to be Restored to Israel**

Though I am by race a Gentile and I have no religious or emotional attachment to Judaism (or even to “sacred sites” in Jerusalem), it is a privilege for me to have this opportunity in this book to bring to the attention of my Jewish and Muslim friends that their earlier and original Temples have been found once again. This historical and geographical research should be able to help those in Israel and Palestine to realize that they are fighting over (and now negotiating over) regions of Jerusalem that have no relevance whatever to the sacred occurrences once associated with Abraham, Jacob, David, Ezra and Nehemiah, or any other biblical personage. Perhaps this new knowledge may help negotiators to re-evaluate their religious and political positions regarding these important geographical matters. This information may be helpful in getting the antagonists to put down their weapons and turn them into plowshares. I hope so.

The truth is, it is time that the Jewish and Islamic authorities abandon their erroneous designation of the Dome of the Rock as the site of the “Second Temple” and establish an identification of the various Temples (all *six* of them) to accord with the historical facts. This teaching of the Rabbis that their “Wailing Wall” is a

wall of Herod's Temple is thoroughly erroneous. They are ignorant of the truth in this regard. This is one of the reasons why the whole nation of Israel and all Islamic authorities have *forgotten* even where the Temples stood in Jerusalem. Their ignorance they now express needs to be brought to the attention of our Jewish and Muslim friends.

Now is the time to remove this profound ignorance and *forgetfulness*. It is now time to remember — to remember what the newly discovered Dead Sea Scrolls are showing us. What we now know from these new archaeological and biblical discoveries is this: Though the whole world over the past generations has *forgotten* where the original Temple of Solomon was constructed, we are now assured that the Temples of Solomon, Zerubbabel and Herod were built just above the once fresh and pure waters of the Gihon Spring located on the southeast ridge of Jerusalem. The Temples have been *found*. No longer are they: "The Temples that Jerusalem Forgot."