

An Excerpt from "The Coming Third Temple" by Enoch Lavender

4. The Stunning Rise of Yehudah Glick

October 29th, 2014 was just another day in the life of Jerusalem Rabbi and Temple Mount Activist Yehudah Glick. The soft spoken red-headed Rabbi – described by some as ‘the most dangerous man in the Middle East’ and by others as one who couldn’t even harm a fly – had just finished giving a public lecture on “The Importance of Maintaining a Jewish Presence on the Temple Mount”. Yehudah was packing his bags into the boot of his car while his wife was waiting patiently in the passenger seat. Suddenly a man on a motorcycle pulled over and asked in heavily accented Hebrew: ‘Are you Yehudah Glick?’. “Yes”, affirmed Yehudah while his wife casually listened on from inside the car.

“I am terribly sorry,” the man on the motorcycle continued with anger rising in his voice, “but you are an enemy of al-Aqsa”¹. With that the man pulled a gun and fired four rapid shots at point blank range into Yehudah’s unprotected chest before speeding off on the motorbike.

It truly looked like the end for Rabbi Glick and the loss of one of the best spokespeople for the Temple Mount movement. While this attack was intended to spell the end for the Temple movement, we will see how it actually ended up galvanising the movement across Israel.

Who is Yehudah Glick?

Yehudah Glick and his peers from the Temple Movement have for years been regarded as insignificant fringe elements of Israeli society with only limited influence. All this changed dramatically that day in October.

Exactly one week before the attack, doctors at the Shaarei Tzedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem worked frantically to save the life of a bullet riddled terrorist. One nurse openly questioned why they should work so hard to save the life of a man who had just killed three innocent civilians, but the rest of the team responded that they were simply doing their job.

A week later, the same team were in place as Rabbi Glick was rushed to the hospital, and the lessons learned from the week before helped them give Yehudah the best possible treatment as he was hovering between life and death. Many prayers were being lifted up for Rabbi Glick, and his survival and subsequent recovery has been described by many as nothing short of miraculous.

In what doctors described as a miracle - none of the four bullets fired hit any vital organs. One bullet hit his spine without touching the spinal cord, while another bullet went through his neck passing within millimetres of a major artery. Within one month and after nine surgeries, a pale-looking Yehudah Glick was able to leave the hospital, giving public thanks at a press conference to the ‘God who raises the dead’².

The assassination attempt and the subsequent dramatic recovery catapulted Yehudah Glick into the national spotlight, making him a household name and breathing new impetus into the Temple Mount Movement. In fact, Yehudah’s assassination attempt and subsequent recovery spawned the birth of several new organisations devoted to Jewish prayer rights on the Temple Mount.

Entering into Politics

As a member of Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud party, Rabbi Glick was listed as #56 on the ballot papers for the election of 2013. For the following election in March 2015, the newly

recovered and more prominent Glick was upgraded to #33 on the ballot papers³. At the time, most pundits expected Netanyahu's Likud party to barely win 20 seats. Asked by the Israeli press if he would run for a more realistic place on the ballot papers, Glick explained that his wife had vetoed the decision and that he was content to stay outside of the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) and to have a merely symbolic listing on the ballot papers.

While Glick may not have planned to enter Parliament, the surprising and sweeping victory of Netanyahu in the elections brought an unexpected total of 30 Likud candidates into the Israeli Knesset.

During the course of 2016, there were several resignations from Netanyahu's party due to scandals as well as members retiring – paving the way for the very unlikely candidate Yehudah Glick to join the Knesset after all.

The rise of Yehudah Glick from the brink of death to the national spotlight, and now to the Israeli parliament is truly breathtaking to watch. It would seem that God has had a hand in the unlikely turn of events that has seen this man survive such an ordeal and now be given an increasing influence in the nation of Israel.

Slow and Steady Progress

While Yehudah Glick's entry into the Knesset may excite many Bible Prophecy observers, it does not necessarily point to a speedy rebuilding of the Temple in the near future.

Those who wish to see speedy action towards a possible rebuilding of the Temple may well find themselves disappointed in Glick's slow and steady approach.

Rabbi Glick and the Temple Institute have for years recognised the impossible political situation concerning the rebuilding of the Temple on the Temple Mount. Given the strong opposition by most orthodox Jews – and the threat of the Islamic World erupting into unparalleled levels of violence – Rabbi Glick and the Temple Institute have found it wiser to take a slow and steady approach to changing the status quo.

Yehudah Glick has since 2009 shifted away from public calls to imminently rebuild the Temple and has instead focussed his public activism on equal Jewish prayer rights on the Temple Mount. This move has helped secure broader religious support for the movement and has already helped rekindle a flame in many hearts for the Temple. This shift of focus by Yehudah and other temple activists appears to have paid off as the number of Jewish visitors to the Temple Mount has doubled from 2009 to 2016.

Asked in 2016 about the likelihood of equal prayer rights for Jews on the Temple Mount, Yehudah exclaimed "Whether it's in two years, five years or 10 years from today, I don't know. I have patience"⁴.

A Sudden Green Light to Rebuild the Temple?

While Rabbi Glick and the Temple Institute both take a slow and steady approach, they none-the-less have their eye on the big picture and are awaiting the right moment to rebuild the Temple.

It is certain that Yehudah Glick who has devoted much of his life to the Temple Mount, still shares the same vision and has a deep longing for the day when the Temple can be rebuilt. Rabbi Glick is finding himself in an ever more favourable position to act when that day comes.

Rebuilding the Temple may seem impossible right now, yet the prominent role of the Temple in End Time prophecies means that we can expect a dramatic change sooner or later - which will bring about the necessary favourable environment for the rebuilding of the Temple.

Just as Yehudah Glick has had an unexpected and rapid rise to power, could it be that there are more unexpected changes lying ahead in the near future that will set the stage for the building of the Third Temple? Watch this space!

In the next chapter we will see how the Temple Institute is not sitting around idle waiting for this to happen. Their stated long term goal “is to do all in our limited power to bring about the building of the Holy Temple in our time”. As such, they are doing everything possible to be ready including recreating and preparing vessels for the Temple and training a modern priesthood in the complex ancient temple sacrifices and rituals.

If they are actively preparing themselves for the fulfilment of Bible prophecy, how much more should we as believers actively prepare ourselves for the Lord’s return? As I have been studying these developments, I have come to a growing conviction that the Lord is coming soon – and it has led to practical changes in my life. As you read this book, may it not just be interesting information, but may it inspire you to be ready and prepared for the Lord’s long promised return.

¹ *How a Palestinian Terrorist Saved the Life of Temple Mount Rabbi Yehuda Glick*, Breaking Israel News, Aug. 3, 2015 - <http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/46210/how-palestinian-terrorist-saved-the-life-of-temple-mount-rabbi-yehuda-glick-inspiration/#cY62kyg6Y1x0mRBH.97>

For more on Yehudah’s story, see the documentary: *A Jerusalem Hug From Heaven*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrEhbi-nqzU> (accessed Jan 18, 2018)

² Ibid.

³ “Yehuda Glick is Running With The Likud - Surprised?”, Arutz Sheva Israel National News, 26/2/2015 - http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/191888#.VmzCQ_krLWI

4 *Hardline US-born rabbi Yehudah Glick to enter Knesset for Likud*, Times of Israel: May 21, 2016 <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hardline-us-born-rabbi-yehudah-glick-to-enter-knesset/> (accessed Jan 9 2018)

10. Islam and the Temple

If a friendly foreign leader – like a Cyrus figure – backed Israel in building the temple, how then would the Islamic world react?

In this chapter we will first deal briefly with the possible role of Islam in End Time prophecy. With this in mind, we will then examine how the Islamic world might respond to the rise of the Third Temple.

Islam and End Times

Islam Expert and End Times teacher Joel Richardson has uncovered a significant correlation between Islamic and Christian understandings of the End Times.

The Islamic world is expecting its own 'Messiah' known as the Mahdi to appear in the End Times. According to Joel, this expected Mahdi has stunning similarities to what the Biblical anti-Christ will be doing. He will wage war against Jews and Christians, will conquer Jerusalem and will reign the world for a 7-year period. Amazingly Islamic teachers expect the Mahdi to have a returned Jesus by his side who will persuade all to submit to Islam and follow the Mahdi.¹ Any such 'Jesus' would obviously be a false prophet by the biblical standard. Christian eschatology speaks precisely of such a figure accompanying the anti-Christ and performing great signs and wonders to deceive many.

At the very least, it would seem that these End Times teachings of Islam are setting up the Muslim world to accept the coming of the anti-Christ and to side with him against Israel and true Christians.

However intriguing we may find these Islamic teachings, our foundation for understanding the End Times has to be squarely based on the Bible. Does the Bible itself predict a role for Islam in the End Times?

While the traditional view of End Times prophecy is that the final anti-Christ empire will arise out of Europe, Joel Richardson builds a fascinating case for it coming out of the Islam dominated Middle Eastern nations.

In brief he points out that:

- We should view the Bible through a Middle Eastern lense rather than a European/Western lense
- The events of the Bible all took place in the Middle East
- End times prophecies likewise involve the Middle East. Messiah's return is consistently linked with Him rescuing Israel from her enemies and pouring judgement on the nations that come against her. These nations are specified by name, and include Middle Eastern nations such as Edom and Moab which make up modern day Jordan (Num 24:14-20, Is. 25:8-11), Syria and her capital Damascus (Is 17), Egypt (Is 19), Turkey (Ezek 30:1-5) and the Philistine areas (Ezek 25:12-17).
- While the revived Roman Empire theory is based on a generally accepted view of Daniel's prophecies, through a careful historical and textual study Joel builds a case that a revived Islamic Empire may be a closer fit to Daniel's utterances.²

While we may not agree with all of Joel's findings, serious students of Bible prophecy would do well to examine Joel's views and keep them in mind as we approach the End Times.

Islam and the Temple

The Islamic world strongly opposes a Jewish presence in Jerusalem and especially any Jewish activity on the Temple Mount. But how then can the Third Temple be built?

Some prophecy teachers have envisioned Islam collapsing in an upcoming war, thus paving the way for the rebuilding of the Temple. This could be the case, and would certainly fit the traditional view of the Anti-Christ empire emerging out of Europe to dominate the world.

However, if Joel's view is correct then the Islamic world will instead continue to grow in strength and influence until it one day becomes the seat of the anti-Christ's empire. Such a global rise of Islam would obviously have profound implications for the world in terms of rising persecution of both Christians and Jews. For the purpose of our study, it raises the question of how the Third Temple could possibly be built under the imposing shadow of Islam?

A Compromise with Islam?

Interestingly, several Temple Mount groups see a co-operation with Islam as a real possibility and a harbinger of a new age of global peace.³

Yehudah Glick, the increasingly prominent face of the Temple Mount Movement, has been actively involved in such interfaith dialogue and believes that the temple should be a 'house of prayer for all nations'.

Many of us might have thought that the assassination attempt on Yehudah's life would have put an end to his interfaith ideas. Shockingly, barely ten months after the attempt on his life, Glick was invited to Turkey. There he was celebrated as the guest of honour at a Ramadan celebration attended by 1000 Muslim Clerics.⁴

His host and the organizer of the event was the high profile Turkish Muslim writer and TV personality Adnan Oktar. Adnan has for several years been publically calling for Jews, Christians and Muslims to support the rebuilding of the Jewish temple⁵. Drawing on Islamic prophecies, Adnan proclaims that the Jewish temple should be rebuilt and that Muslims are obliged to support the project.

Glick appears wide open to the idea of working together with Islamic leaders for the building of the Third Temple. Glick has spoken of the possibility of the Dome of the Rock becoming the Holy of Holies in the rebuilt Temple – a house of prayer for all who believe in one God!⁶

Many Bible-believing Christians and sections of the Temple movement strongly disagree that the Temple worship could in any way be shared with the Islamic faith. It is interesting in this context that Revelation 11:1-2 describe the outer court of the Third Temple as being '*given to the gentiles*', perhaps indicating some kind of shared arrangement on the Temple Mount as envisaged by Glick and certain Muslim leaders.

Summary

Large portions of the Islamic world are dead set against any temple being built on the Temple Mount. It is none the less possible that the Third Temple could come after some kind of compromise with influential Islamic leaders.

This kind of compromise is unpalatable to many believers. However, we need to keep in mind that no matter what kind of compromise might be happening behind the scenes, the Third Temple will be sacred to God and will be called 'the Temple of God' (2 Thes 2:4).

It is too early to say exactly how Islam will fit into this picture and into the End Time puzzle. Let's remember though that Muslims are not our enemy, and that most of them were born into Islam with no choice or freedom to leave the religion. Let us continue to pray for revival in the Islamic world and for many of them to have dreams, visions and revelations of Jesus.

In the next chapter we will look at whether Christian should be involved in supporting the building of the Third Temple in Jerusalem.

¹ Richardson, Joel. *The Islamic Anti-Christ*, Los Angeles, CA: WND Books, 2009

² For more see Richardson, Joel. *MidEast Beast, The Scriptural Case for an Islamic Anti-Christ*, Washington DC: WND Books, 2012

³ See a striking example of this approach at www.godsholymountain.org

⁴ “Temple Mount Activist 'Survives' Dinner - With 1,000 Muslims”, Arutz Sheva Israel National News, Jun 7, 2015
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/197769#.Vm0zsfnRKko> (accessed Jan 19, 2018)

⁵ Richardson, Joel. *End Time Eyewitness*, WND: 2014. Available from wnfilms.com

6 Ibid.

11. Christians and the Temple

Should Christians be Supporting the Rebuilding of the Temple?

In October 2007, on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, a group of 34 West Papuans showed up at the Temple Institute in Jerusalem. Influenced by Christian pro-Israel missionaries, the group had come to donate towards the Third Temple project.

As Temple Institute CEO Rabbi Yisrael Ariel saw the nature of the donation he became emotional – it was one kilogram of solid gold, plus a large sum of money! Some of the members of the delegation even began taking off their jewelry to donate – one couple even giving their wedding rings to the Temple Institute. West Papua is rich in gold, and the delegation declared that although this was their first donation, there would be more to follow.¹

The West Papuan delegation explained their donation as being motivated by a verse in the prophet Zechariah: “*Even those from afar shall come and build the Temple of the Lord.*” (Zec 6:15)

But how can Christians be involved in rebuilding the Temple, if we truly believe that we no longer need sacrifices or temple rituals to be right with God – as Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice?

To better understand the answer to this question, we will look briefly at the role played by Christians in Israel’s modern day restoration so far.

The Christian Role in Israel’s Restoration

Christians have played a significant role in the modern day restoration of Israel.

In 1898 it was the influential Rev. William Hechler who opened political doors and gave international legitimacy to the fledgling Zionist movement.

In 1917, it was the work of Christian Zionists in the British parliament that brought about the significant Balfour Declaration – paving the way for the re-birth of the modern state of Israel.

During the holocaust, it was often Christians who - because of their beliefs - risked their lives to hide and protect persecuted Jews.

In more modern times, Christians have played a key role in bringing home Jewish people to the nation of Israel. For example, the Christian organization Ebenezer Operation Exodus has brought home over 160'000 Jews to Israel since its inception in 1991. Today, Christian supporters of Israel are recognized as playing a key role in building up support for and standing with Israel on the international stage.

While critics may assert that lobbying political powers and aiding Jewish people to return to Israel is not directly part of the Church's Great Commission, Christian supporters of Israel counter that the restoration of Israel is a key to the ultimate return of the Lord.

Jesus will truly not return again until His people are back in His land – and are welcoming Him back with the messianic phrase '*Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord*' (Matt 23:31). So helping Israel in these various practical areas is entirely consistent with being a Christian as it is ultimately part of preparing the way for the Lord's return.

Is lending assistance to the Temple Mount movement any different? Christian supporters of the Temple would argue that it is simply another logical step in this process and that helping in this area is no different to helping the Jewish nation in other areas.

Won't the Third Temple spark a war?

How can Christians support something as controversial as the Third Temple? Considering that it might spark a major war, should Christians really be involved?

The nation of Israel itself has been surrounded with controversy, wars and terrorism since its inception. Some Christians would therefore argue that God cannot really be in her modern re-birth – or else there would have been peace and no war. It would seem that such Christians have forgotten that even life as a Christian is no 'bed of roses', and that we often face opposition and problems. This opposition is not because God is not with us – but it is because we have an enemy who is out to stop us fulfilling God's will. Christian supporters of Israel would point out that it is the same regarding Israel – opposition and wars does not mean that God is not behind the restoration of Israel. It rather shows that there is an enemy out there trying desperately to stop God's plans and to hinder the return of Jesus. So the threat of war and violence should not cause Christians to shrink back in fear, but rather to intensify prayer for protection so that God's will can be done '*on earth as it is in heaven*' (Matt 6:10).

Christians who love Israel can be rightly concerned about the devastating attacks that would come against Israel when she moves towards the Third Temple. It is helpful then to look back at 1948, when six well equipped and trained Arab armies sought to annihilate Israel in its infancy as a modern state. Against all odds, the nation was protected in the war, survived and has thrived. Similarly, the rebuilding of the Temple may spark another war. If it does, Israel will again be protected and kept as God has a purpose for this nation, a purpose for Jerusalem and a purpose for its Temple.

God Himself assured us through the prophet Jeremiah that as long as the sun and moon are in the sky, the nation of Israel will remain before Him (Jer 33:20). Israel's leaders should truly not be afraid to do what is right. As they act in God's timing, they will find that like in 1948, God will fight for His people and make a way for them.

Summary

While we as Christians do not need the Temple for our personal salvation, we can see that it is part of the ultimate restoration of Israel and is preparing the way for the Messiah.

Even if it sparks conflict and controversy, Israel will be protected as she rebuilds the Temple in God's timing.

Christians have stood with Israel in the past and opened crucial doors in the restoration process. Perhaps Christians will again be used by God to open up doors for Israel – this time when it comes to the rebuilding of the Temple?

In the next chapter we are going to view the potential impact of a rebuilt temple on both Christian and Jewish theology.

¹ "West Papua Delegation Donates Gold For Holy Temple", 7 Oct 2007, <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/123837> (accessed 7 Jan 2018)
See also Kobi Nahsoni's article *Papua New Guinea delegation donates gold for rebuilding Temple*, 7 Oct 2007, <https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3457263,00.html> (accessed 7 Jan 2018)