

The facts about Holy Temple

This is from a Chabad rabbi here in Cherry Creek Rabbi Shmuel Engel.
I just revised how he wrote it.

Julie Zhuk

There are nine facts that we need to know about the Holy Temples in Jerusalem. The first is it was a place of spiritual enlightenment. People gave animal sacrifices there as well. This was disputed what the primary purpose was to be about. A famous man named Maimonides stated that the Temple was a holy house of G-d and it was prepared for the offering of sacrifices themselves. G-d stated to Moses that the main object was in the ark itself. G-d went on to tell Moses that He would commune with the Jewish people in the Holy Temple, and speak to Moses from the ark's cover. What G-d was trying to say here, the main purpose for the Temple was it was a dwelling place for the Divine's Presence.

Another fact we learn about the Holy Temple is that King David, bought the site of the Holy Temples and Mount Moriah from a Jebusite whose name was Aravna. This happened during a terrible plague and it ravaged the Jewish people after David had counted the Jewish people. G-d had commanded for David to build an altar and bring a sacrifice and the threshing floor of Aravna. This caused for the plague to stop. The Jewish people had three temples. One was a portable Tabernacle that was built by Moses. The Jewish people would go into it through their 42 desert encampments.

It was set up in their various places throughout the land of Israel, this included the area of Shilo. The second place was the First Holy Temple which was built by King Solomon. He built it on Mount Moriah in the city of Jerusalem. This Holy Temple lasted for 410 years before it was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar who lived in Babylon in 423 BCE. After that Temple was destroyed the Jewish people managed to rebuild another one. This second Temple was built in the same spot by Ezra Nehemia. Everyone who returned from the Babylonian exiles helped build it too. It was renovated extensively by a King named Herod in 19 BCE. Unfortunately for the Jewish people by 69 CE the Romans had gotten to it and destroyed it.

The Holy Temple had a special hall that was called "Lishkat Hagazit." It was known as "The Hall as Hewn Stone." This meant that it served as the Seat of the Jewish Court. It was considered to be the nation's highest court that had seventy-one jurists in it. It was set up partly on sacred ground and partly on less-holy area of the Temple Mount complex. The reason for this was sitting down was not allowed in a very sacred area. In this area the most important issues of Jewish laws and tradition were discussed and debated.

The Holy Temples had two altars to them. The one with the large copper altar was used in the courtyard. People brought animal sacrifices and used the the altar outside for that. The other altar was the golden altar was inside the Temple. It was used for incense and twice a day only by the priests. There was a stream of water that ran through the Temple courtyard. The afternoon before Passover, every family would bring their sacrificial animal lamb that they planned to eat at their seder. This would cause the floor of the Temple courtyard to become extremely dirty causing the stream of water to flooding the courtyard. When the blockage would be removed the entire courtyard would be clean and fresh once again.

The Holy Temple, was a special place. It was always being watched by cadres of priests and Levites in twenty-four locations. The man who I mentioned earlier, Maimonides stated earlier that there was no threat for this Holy Temple for fear or enemies to come about this Holy Temple. Still the Jewish people wanted to watch over this Holy Temple.

They were guarding this Holy Temple for honor because it was an unguarded palace. No one could compare the Holy Temple to a prestige place that had guards. What was said about the Holy Temple is if a guard was to fall asleep when watching it, the overseer of the guards meaning the Man of the Temple Mount was allowed to beat him with a stick. He was allowed to strike him using the edge of his cloak. It's been two thousand years since the Temple was used and it's been laying in ruins. It is still considered sacred. the Jewish people still believe G-d's presence is there.

Tradition tells the Jewish people that the ark of the Covenant is still there. The Jewish people believe that it is especially there in a vault that is deep under the Temple Mount. The Jewish people do not believe they would be able to build a third Temple until the Moshiach comes again. G-d told Ezekiel that "studying the Torah" (known as the design of the Holy Temple). By studying the Torah, people can help bring the Moshiach. G-d told Moses to tell the Jewish people to study the form of the Temple. G-d wanted to reward the Jewish people for studying the Torah and occupation with it, He would consider if they actually did go along with building it.