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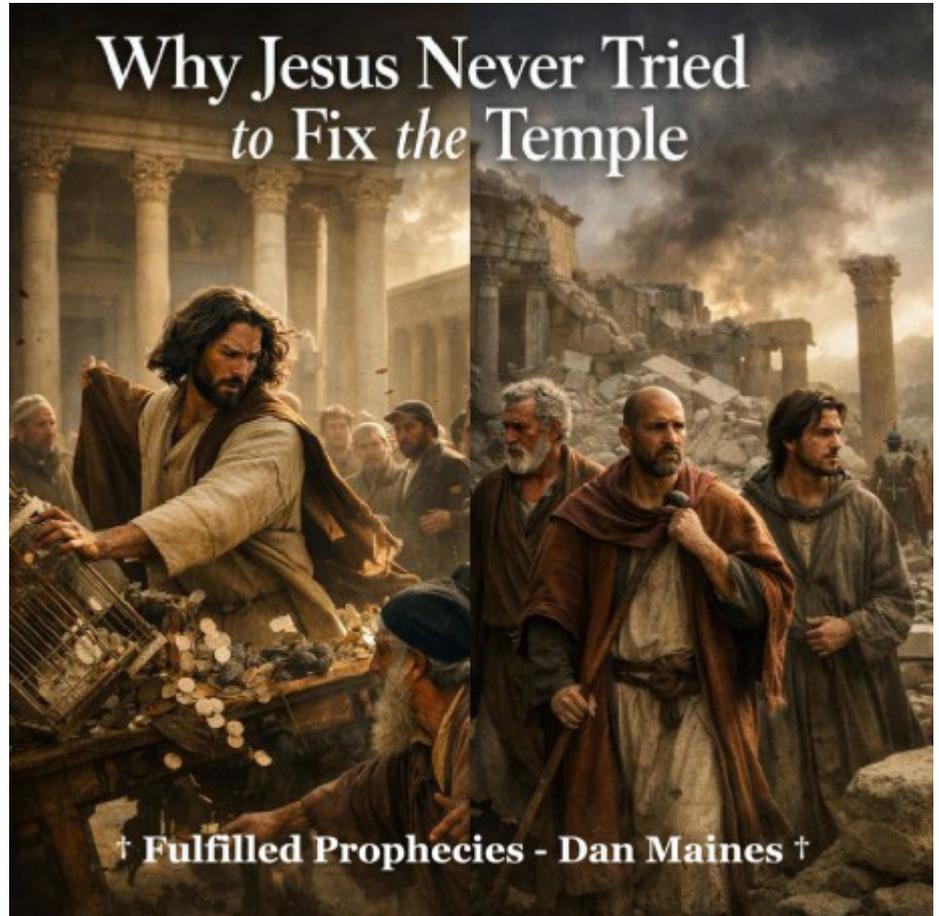
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Temple - Why Jesus Never Tried to Fix the Temple



By Dan Maines

Why Jesus Never Tried to Fix the Temple

Introduction

† This message is not about disrespecting the Temple, it's about understanding Jesus' purpose.

† If the Temple was meant to continue, it's because Jesus would've worked to restore it.

† Instead, everything He said and did pointed to its removal, not its repair.

† The question isn't why the Temple fell, the question is why

Jesus never tried to save it.

Jesus and the Temple

Matthew 12:6

Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.

† Jesus didn't argue for Temple reform, He declared its replacement.

† Calling Himself greater than the Temple was a direct covenantal statement.

† You don't repair what's already been surpassed.

† If Christ Himself was the greater dwelling place, the lesser one had no future role.

John 2:19

Jesus answered and said to them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

† Jesus redirected attention away from the building to His own body.

† He didn't promise to restore stones, He promised resurrection life.

† The Temple's fate was already sealed in His words.

† His silence about rebuilding it speaks louder than any miracle He performed.

Matthew 21:12-13

Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, It is written, My house shall be called a

house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.

† This act was not a repair, it was a prophetic indictment.

† Jesus didn't cleanse the Temple to preserve it, He exposed it.

† He quoted Scripture to show it had failed its purpose.

† Judgment precedes removal, not renovation.

Matthew 23:38

See, your house is left to you desolate.

† Jesus called it your house, not My Father's house.

† Ownership had shifted, abandonment had begun.

† Desolation was declared before destruction occurred.

† A house declared desolate is not meant to be fixed.

Luke 21:5-6

Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said,
These things which you see, the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.

† Jesus showed no emotional attachment to the structure.

† He didn't warn Rome, He warned His disciples.

† His focus was escape, not preservation.

† Demolition was certain because replacement was already standing.

Hebrews 9:11

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

- † The writer confirms what Jesus demonstrated.
- † Christ's priesthood did not operate through the Temple.
- † The physical building had become unnecessary.
- † A greater tabernacle makes the former obsolete.

† What Jesus declared in word and action, the apostles carried forward in doctrine and preaching.

The Apostles and the Absence of Temple Theology After the Cross

Acts 6:13-14

They also set up false witnesses who said, This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law,

for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.

† Stephen was accused of teaching Temple destruction, not Temple reform.

† His accusers understood exactly what the gospel implied.

† The charge wasn't false in substance, only in intent.

† The apostles were preaching change, not preservation.

Acts 7:48

However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says.

† Stephen openly denied the Temple as God's dwelling place.

† This wasn't post AD 70 hindsight, it was pre AD 70 preaching.

† The apostolic message had already moved beyond the building.

† You don't fix what God no longer inhabits.

Acts 17:24

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

† Paul preached this while the Temple was still standing.

† He made no effort to defend or honor it.

† His gospel functioned completely independent of Jerusalem.

† The Temple's relevance was already gone in apostolic theology.

2 Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said, I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

† Paul didn't point believers back to Jerusalem.

† He declared them to be the dwelling place of God.

† This statement alone ends any need for Temple restoration.

† Identity replaced architecture.

Hebrews 8:13

In that He says, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

† The Temple stood physically, but it was already obsolete.

† Decay is not repairable by design.

† Vanishing was imminent, not hypothetical.

† The apostles knew the system was in its final stage.

Hebrews 10:9

Then He said, Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God. He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

- † The first covenant was not repaired, it was taken away.
- † Establishing the second required removal of the first.
- † This confirms replacement, not renovation, was God's intent.

Historical References

- † Josephus recorded that the Temple leadership had become corrupt long before AD 70, Wars of the Jews, Book 5.
- † Eusebius stated the Christians fled Jerusalem before its destruction, showing they knew it was beyond saving, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3.
- † Tacitus described the Temple's fall as inevitable due to internal decay, Histories 5.
- † No early Christian record exists of any attempt to rebuild or preserve the Temple after the cross.

How It Applies To Us Today

- † Jesus still doesn't repair what He's replaced.
- † He doesn't renovate old covenant thinking, He removes it.
- † Our identity is not tied to structures, systems, or religious monuments.
- † Christ Himself is the dwelling place of God with His people.
- † When something has served its purpose, clinging to it only delays freedom.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Appendix, Questions and Answers

Q: Did Jesus respect the Temple or reject it?

† Jesus respected the Law and the Prophets, but He did not preserve the Temple as an ongoing dwelling place (Matthew 5:17; Matthew 12:6).

† His actions showed authority over it, not dependence on it (Matthew 21:12-13).

† Declaring Himself greater than the Temple established succession, not hostility (Matthew 12:6).

† Respect does not equal permanence (Matthew 23:38).

Q: Why did Jesus cleanse the Temple if it was about to be destroyed?

† The cleansing was prophetic exposure, not restoration (Matthew 21:12-13).

† Biblical judgment often begins with exposure before removal (Isaiah 1:21-25; Jeremiah 7:11-14).

† Jesus quoted Scripture to show the Temple had failed its purpose (Matthew 21:13).

† Cleansing revealed corruption, it did not signal repair (Luke 19:45-46).

Q: If the Temple was obsolete, why did the apostles still go there early on?

† The apostles preached Christ wherever Jews gathered (Acts 3:1-6; Acts 5:42).

† Presence does not equal endorsement (Acts 17:2-3).

† Their message never promoted Temple loyalty or restoration (Acts 7:48-50).

† As persecution increased, Temple association disappeared from apostolic theology (Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:11).

Q: Does this mean God abandoned Israel?

† No, it means God fulfilled His promises in Christ (Romans 9:6-8; 2 Corinthians 1:20).

† Covenant fulfillment is not abandonment (Matthew 23:31-36).

† The people of God were redefined around Christ, not a building (Ephesians 2:19-22).

† Scripture consistently moves from place to person (John 4:21-24).

Q: Why is there no New Testament command to rebuild the Temple?

† Because Christ fulfilled its purpose (Hebrews 10:1, 9).

† A fulfilled shadow is not rebuilt (Colossians 2:16-17).

† The New Testament consistently identifies believers as God's dwelling place (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16).

† Silence here is theological, not accidental (Hebrews 8:13).

Q: What does this mean for Christians today?

† Faith is not anchored to sacred locations (John 4:21).

† God's presence is not accessed through structures or rituals (Acts 17:24).

† Christ is the meeting place between God and man (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

† Freedom comes from recognizing what God has replaced, not trying to restore it (Galatians 5:1).

Source Index

† Matthew 12:6; John 2:19; Matthew 21:12-13; Matthew 23:38; Luke 21:5-6; Hebrews 9:11; Acts 6:13-14; Acts 7:48; Acts 17:24; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 10:9

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3

† Tacitus, Histories 5

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