Bible Prophecy: 'Destroy This Temple'

This is part two in my series on how to 'Understand Bible Prophecy' and by Bible Prophecy I mean End Times Bible Prophecy and this is November 3rd, 2014. On my last program I talked about one of Jesus' prophecies, and we know it's a prophecy because He said it's something He 'will do'. In John 2, verse 19 He said: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up'. Now, I claimed on that program there were four fulfillments of this prophecy and I got several responses from you, my subscribers, but no one discovered all four. So let's review them and we will apply the seven rules of prophecy that we learned in the last program.

The first is a literal interpretation of what Jesus said, in other words, He was sort of boasting to the scribes and pharisees that if they tore down the temple, he could build it back up again; but was that really a boast? Jesus was the Son of God, the Second Person of the Divine Trinity; of course he could build it up. As old Dizzy Dean used to say, '*it ain't braggin' if you can do it'.* So that would have been the first fulfillment.

Since the scribes and pharisees did not tear down the temple, therefore that prophecy was not fulfilled because Jesus had already been resurrected 35 years or so by the time the Roman General Titus did destroy the temple in 70 AD.

The second fulfillment would be a near times fulfillment; that is, the temple which Jesus was referring to was actually his own body and you, my subscribers, who commented, got that right. In fact, I think everybody understands that Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection from the dead, from Good Friday through Easter Sunday, those are the three days Jesus was referring to. And of course resurrecting his own body from the dead would actually be a greater miracle than rebuilding a torn down temple.

Incidentally, whenever you hear the false prophets claim that 'replacement theology' is bogus, just point them to this chapter and verse because the temple is a substitute for Jesus' own body and that is the first example of replacement theology in the Bible and Jesus Himself gave it to us. But now let's look and see if this prophecy is also an End Times prophecy because if it is, not only will the temple refer to something else, but the number of three days, will symbolize

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something else: either three weeks, three months, three years or some other length of time but not three days because, as I said in the first program in this series, the symbolic interpretation always precedes the literal interpretation in End Times Prophecy.

And it's interesting that there are not only three days mentioned in this prophecy of our Lord but also three different ideas: 1- 'destroy this temple', 2- 'in three days', 3- 'I will raise it up'. That is a very good indication this must also be an End Times Prophecy. Now, three is not as common a number as 4, 7, 12 or 28 in End Times prophecy but it is nonetheless significant and in fact it often refers to Mary's Rosary and the three Mysteries: the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries and remember, much End Times Prophecy does predict Mary's Rosary as the weapon Jesus will use to defeat the Antichrist.

So now, is there a length of time in End Times Bible Prophecy that corresponds with the number 3? And yes, there is. We have, for example, '3 and 1/2 years of Great Tribulation' and John also refers to this as '42 months' or 'a time, two times and half a time' or '1260 days' but, 3 and 1/2 years is not exactly 3 years. However, in Daniel chapter 10:3, we find that 3 weeks, in other words, 3 years, also symbolizes 1290 days or 1335 days both of which are longer than 3 years.

And what Daniel is prophesying about is the 'taking away of the Daily Sacrifice from the Prince', the first of the Abominations of Desolation of the End Times and it is a prophecy which afflicts the Roman Catholic Church. And it is the same as John's prophecy in chapter 11:2 of Revelation where the 'holy city is trampled underfoot by the Gentiles for 42 months'. In other words, the End Times fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy is that the temple is his body, the Church, and the current trampling under of the Catholic Church by the Gentiles will last for 3 years but in the End, Jesus will raise it up even more glorious than before after the Battle of Armageddon.

Now, I got several responses from my subscribers so I thought I would go over these with you. Tubbytaylor got the first one right. He said the three days represent Good Friday to Easter. 100 percent right, Tubby, but now when he's talking about the End Times fulfillment, I think he's mistaken because he said it refers to the three days of darkness but as I just explained, in the End Times, the three days must symbolize something other than three days. The other End Times fulfillment he got right, he said it represents Daniel's days, the abomination of desolation. So, okay, you got 2 out of 3 right Tubby, that's pretty good.

Now TigerDragonCrane said he was speaking off the top of his head, number 1 refers to Christ's crucifixion, 100 percent right, and he said it refers to the physical Church, His Bride in the End Times, again, that is correct as we have seen. But now let's look at what I consider the fourth fulfillment of this amazing prophecy and as I say, if it's End Times Prophecy the three days must signify some other length involving the number 3. And it's interesting that at the end of the Millennium, that will be 3 thousand years since Christ made this prophecy. Could it be that the coming down of the new Jerusalem from Heaven at the end of the Millennium, as you can read about prophesied in the Book of Revelation, will that be the fourth fulfillment of this prophecy? When the new Jerusalem comes down, John specifies that there will be no temple but, there will a temple in that the Lord God Himself will be the Temple.

So now, let's review the seven rules as they apply to this prophecy of Our Lord and we see that most of them do apply. First of all the symbolism; both the temple and the number of days symbolize something else. Second, numerology; and, of course, we saw that in the 3 days and in the three elements of the prophecy and third, you need a Co-Prophet to understand the prophecy. I don't know anyone else who has ever discovered the End Times significance of Our Lord's Prophecy about rebuilding the temple after three days.

Regarding the dual meaning, in this case, we saw there were actually four meanings. As far as chronology goes, that would not apply; as I said, these four prophecy rules sometimes apply. Mary's Rosary, that partially applies. Normally the number 5 indicates Mary's Rosary. As I said before, David chose five, smooth pebbles to throw at Goliath and that symbolized Mary's Rosary, in other words, just as David used 5 smooth, pebbles against Goliath, Jesus will use Mary's Rosary against the Antichrist. And of course there is a lot of mystery in this prophecy which is why, of course, it was not too easy to decipher.

And so, in conclusion, I am very serious about teaching you how to understand End Times Bible Prophecy because after all of the plagues and events of the Book of Revelation occur, there won't be any way to reach many people. That's one reason why Jesus said 'wars and rumors of war'. The reason there will be 'rumors of war' is because there won't be any factual information for you to access and you will also have to tell the people in your community what the prophecies in Scripture mean and how they have just recently been fulfilled and people will be in shock. They will not believe that our Lord could allow the terrible death and devastation so you will have to explain it to them.

And that leads me up to your next assignment. I would like you to read the book of Tobias. For many years I have been trying to understand Tobias as an End Times Prophecy and we are getting so near o the end, I don't have time without help. Denis Fleury in France is already helping me on this. He's given me a lot of good ideas but I would like to have you read this book also. You can find it in the Catholic Bible or you can find it on the Internet. Some translations call it the book of Tobias, some say the book of Tobit, but either way, following the seven Rules, I would like to have you explain what you think the book of Tobias is talking about and I'll you give you a hint: I believe it is a prophecy to the Jews especially in these End Times.