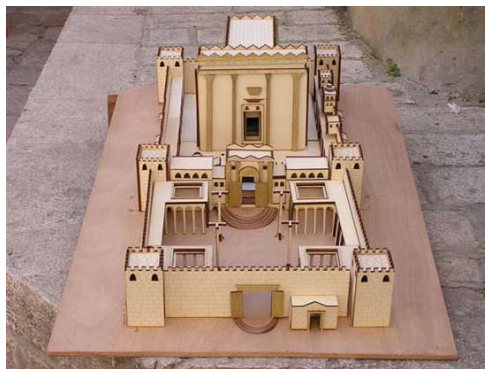




THE OLD COVENANT VERSUS THE NEW COVENANT

#2 of New Covenant series

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ISRAEL'S SANHEDRIN CALLS FOR A BLUEPRINT FOR TEMPLE

IN OUR March 2005 issue we reported on the restoration of Israel's ancient Jewish Sanhedrin, a 71-man assembly of rabbis that convened adjacent to the Holy Temple

before its destruction in 70 AD, and after that, outside Jerusalem until about 400 AD.

The new assembly was established in October 2004, in Tiberias - the place where the ancient Sanhedrin's last meeting was held 1,600 years ago. Since then it has been meeting in Jerusalem on a monthly basis.

A recent report tells of the election of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz as temporary president of the Sanhedrin which aspires to become Judaism's highest-ranking legal-religious tribunal.

Steinsaltz is best known for his translation and commentary on the Talmud, but he has also served as resident scholar at Princeton and Yale Universities. He heads a network of Israeli educational institutions called *Mekor Chaim*, and outreach programs in the U.S., the former Soviet Union, Great Britain and Australia.

The Israeli rabbinical council which is restoring the Sanhedrin, is calling upon all groups involved in Temple Mount research to prepare detailed architectural plans for the reconstruction of the Jewish Holy Temple.

The Sanhedrin will establish a forum of architects and engineers to begin plans for rebuilding the Temple. It is also calling on Jewish people to contribute toward the cost of materials for the rebuilding of the Temple. They plan to prepare prefabricated portions and to have them ready for rapid assembly, "in the manner of King David."

This development raises religious and political tensions in Israel, but it's like a red rag to a bull in the Arab world.

Rabbi Steinsaltz's involvement gives important rabbinic legitimacy to the Sanhedrin, but there are other leading rabbis who refuse to lend support to the body.

A seven-man committee, headed by Rabbi Steinsaltz, has been chosen to campaign for the wider acceptance of a Sanhedrin.

Included on the committee is Rabbi Nachman Kahane, brother of murdered Rabbi Meir Kahane. Kahane heads an organized study of Temple rituals and ceremonies, as well as cataloging all known kohanim (priests) in Israel.

Others are Rabbi Dov Levanoni, an 83-year-old Chabad-Lubavitch rabbi and expert on the Holy Temple; Yisrael Ariel, founder of the Temple Institute in Jerusalem; and Rabbi Yoel Shwartz who has authored about 200 books on a wide variety of subjects in Jewish law and theology.

Rabbi Hillel Weiss, spokesman for the growing Sanhedrin, said, "The increasingly anti-Jewish decisions handed down by the Supreme Court prove the need for an alternative legal system based on Jewish sources. More and more people, including Torah scholars, are beginning to understand this."

"Rise and measure the sanctuary of God, and the altar, and those worshipping in it. Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the gentile nations; and they will trample the holy city under foot *for* 42 months." (Revelation 11:1-2)

**FEEDING SHEEP
OR
AMUSING GOATS**



By C H SPURGEON

ALTHOUGH C.H. SPURGEON SPOKE AND WROTE IN THE 19TH CENTURY,
HIS WORDS ARE ON TARGET FOR TODAY.

AN EVIL is in the professed camp of the Lord, so gross in its impudence, that the most short-sighted can hardly fail to notice it.

During the past few years it has developed at an abnormal rate, even for evil. It has worked like leaven until the whole lump ferments. The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the Church that part of their mission is **to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them.**

From speaking out as the Puritans did, the Church has gradually toned down her testimony, then winked at and excused the frivolities of the day. Then she tolerated them in her borders. Now she has adopted them under the plea of reaching the masses.

My first contention is that providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the Church. If it is a Christian work why did not Christ speak of it?

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

(Mark 16:15)

That is clear enough. So it would have been if He had added, “and provide amusement for those who do not relish the gospel.” No such words, however, are to be found. It did not seem to occur to Him

Again, providing amusement is in direct antagonism to the teaching and life of Christ and all His apostles. What should be the attitude of the Church to the world?

“Ye are the salt,” not the sugar candy — something the world will spit out, not swallow . . . I do not hear Jesus say:

“Run after these people, Peter, and tell them we will have a different style of service tomorrow, something short and attractive with little preaching. We will have a pleasant evening for the people. Tell them they will be sure to enjoy it. Be quick, Peter, we must get the people somehow!”

Jesus pitied sinners, sighed and wept over them, but never sought to amuse them. In vain will the Epistles be searched to find any trace of the gospel of amusement . . .

Lastly, the mission of amusement fails to effect the end desired. It works havoc among young converts.

Let the careless and scoffers, who thank God because the Church met them half-way, speak and testify. Let the heavy laden who found peace through the concert not keep silent! Let the drunkard to whom the dramatic entertainment had been God's link in the chain of their conversion, stand up! There are none to answer.

The mission of amusement produces no converts. The need of the hour for today's ministry is believing scholarship joined with earnest spirituality, the one springing from the other as fruit from the root.

The need is biblical doctrine, so understood and felt, that it sets men on fire.

Selah !

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