



Just Call Me "Simeon"

*It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it **removed the regular sacrifice** from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. — Daniel 8:11*

*"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will **put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering**; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." — Daniel 9:27*

*"Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and **do away with the regular sacrifice**. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. — Daniel 11:31*

*"From the time that **the regular sacrifice is abolished** and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. — Daniel 12:11*

Regardless of one's preferred eschatology when it comes to the timing of the Rapture, there is far less tension when it comes to that seminal midway point in the final seven years unambiguously described in both Testaments as the Abomination of Desolation. The two things which are usually the most emphasized in order for this to occur is the anticipated covenant or treaty championed by the Antichrist to initiate that final week of years and allow the Temple to be built, and of course the building of the third Temple itself in Jerusalem. What is seldom discussed with any depth or enthusiasm is the third leg of the stool, this final figure putting a stop to "*the regular sacrifice*" as reiterated four times in Daniel. This is probably because it has been assumed that without the physical Temple, there can be no resumption of sacrifices. As of this very week, the prior requirement of a treaty or temple is no longer necessary

where the sacrifices are concerned; the End Times hour glass has been turned for the final time.

This past Monday, December 18, 2018, which on the Jewish calendar marks the last day of Hanukkah, the nascent Sanhedrin in Israel along with the Temple Institute [re-started the daily sacrifices](#). The Temple Institute supplied the actual altar which they had already prepared in advance in anticipation of the construction of the third Temple, temporarily erecting it just outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem.

This was not a one-time event to only celebrate Hanukkah, but initiated olive oil, wine, grain and animal sacrifices per their interpretation of the Old Testament. In this case the offered lamb was sacrificed elsewhere due to local government concerns, and just a leg offered on the altar, but the lamb was slaughtered nonetheless. However, the important point as reported in the Jerusalem Post is “...the Passover and daily sacrifices do not require a full temple...” Participating members from the Sanhedrin not only dressed in the appropriate priestly garb and used the proscribed instruments specified for the Temple and these rites, but a high priest was even appointed who carried out that crucial role as well.

Of course, this does not mean that all of the various sacrifices specified in Scripture can now be freely carried out, but what *can* be performed is now being instituted, and perhaps even more importantly, it has brought to the forefront the discussion of how to properly reinstitute the full Old Testament set of practices on the Temple Mount itself. Such a discussion will inevitably lead to that Antichrist covenant we now know is within the very foreseeable future. There has even been debate among the principals in Israel as to whether or not the full range of the Old Testament requirements can be reinstated by deploying a new Tabernacle until the anticipated Temple is authorized. So an actual transitional stage may take place wherein the full sacrifices are restored prior to the implementation of a fully functional physical Temple. All of this combines to jolt our collective consciousness into the realization that there is no longer any doubt that we have entered into the Last Days.

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Do not make the mistake that this can be leveraged into some kind of countdown wherein we can predict the date and time of the Rapture. Rather, we need to understand that although Christ's public ministry was but 3-1/2 years—the same amount of time given to the Antichrist from the Abomination of Desolation to his forced deportation into the Lake of Fire, the entire First Coming really spanned nearly 35 years. It began with what we usually refer to as the Nativity Narrative, with Gabriel making appearances to Zacharias, Mary and Joseph, and the events surrounding both Christ's and John the Baptist's birth. Yes, compared to His public ministry, the approximately three decades of angelic announcements, birth and childhood preceding it contained far fewer prophetic fulfillments, but they were no less significant. In fact, this is **exactly** the same situation that is being replayed yet again as the Second Coming has now begun, and which will culminate in a very spectacular final seven years now on the visible horizon of our lifetime.

- Like the Magi, we have now seen the sign (the restoration of sacrifices) even though the vast majority of the public have not and don't know why we're making such a fuss.
- Like the nominal religious leaders of the time, the Scriptures about such things are known, but even when it is brought to their attention by the Magi, they are spiritually incapable of properly acting on it. (Mt. 2:1-12)
- Like Simeon and Anna (Lk. 2:21-28), a single prophetic fulfillment is enough; seeing the infant Messiah caused them to proclaim by faith that they had seen the **whole** fulfillment of God's Word concerning Him. The infant Jesus was enough for them to know everything would soon follow.

In a very real sense, at this point we are Simeon and Anna. Regardless of how the rest of the timeline unfolds, a critical final jumping off point has taken place to guarantee it is now stretching out before us at this very time. When God, who is incapable of not fulfilling His every Word, provides even a single fulfillment, there can be no doubt that **everything** in that very long End Times list is now coming to fruition.

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“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. — Mark 13:30

For the first time since 70 AD, the final week of years can realistically take place because the milestone affirmed by both Testaments—the Abomination of Desolation, can take place. It was not enough to have an Antichrist personality or a new Temple, but the resumption of regular sacrifices needs to accompany them. And for the first time in Church history, we stand on the threshold of them all. It’s just that whereas countless books, articles and websites all predicted the Antichrist treaty must come first, God’s prophetic Word is being fulfilled nonetheless. And also just like in the First Coming, the fulfillment of God’s Word is not necessarily taking place exactly as the scholars and pundits predicted.

You see, it doesn’t matter if your preferred timing for the Rapture is Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, Post-Trib, Pre-Wrath, Intra-Seal or something to do with the mamba. The final sequence has begun. And like the Magi who recognized what took place and sought to worship the King, so we need to embrace all that Scripture teaches His people in order to be ready for His return, for history as we know it is about to come to an end.

“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” — Luke 21:28

For absolute certainty, I can tell you what we **DON’T** need, and that’s another “prophecy update”. When, like Daniel, we recognize that God’s prophetic Word is being fulfilled in our time, we need more than ever to embrace his example and spiritual roadmap of exactly what it is we need to do to prepare for the return of the King:

So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. — Daniel 9:3

Jesus Himself closed out the Olivet Discourse with a series of teachings hyper-directed at believers alone, letting us know the spiritual condition He expects of us upon His return:

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- In the case of the head of the house (Mt. 24:42-44), we're expected to be ready and alert for His return.
- In the case of the Faithful vs. Evil Slaves (Mt. 24:45-51), we are expected to be in a right relationship with the rest of the Body of Christ, carrying out the work of the Word where other believers are concerned.
- In the case of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Mt. 25:1-13), we're supposed to be personally prepared as Holy Spirit-filled practitioners of God's Word.
- In the case of the Parable of the Talents (Mt. 25:14-30), we're supposed to carrying out our ministry of the Word to the world.

Jesus provides overlapping examples of how the Word is supposed to be active within us, in our ministry to the Church, and in our ministry to the world. It's not a time for "prophecy updates" and more inspection and speculation of world events, but is supposed to be a period recognized as our final window of opportunity to live **by** the Word, **for** the Word, and **nothing but** the Word, placing aside all other worldly considerations and agendas. The time for spectating has come to an end, boys and girls; it's time to pay attention to all that God's prophetic Word directs at His people where His expectations of their role in the eschaton is concerned. We don't need even another hint to know what is inevitably about to come and how we're supposed to deal with it; we just need to put it into exclusive practice.

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. — 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

There are going to be the inevitable naysayers, especially within the ranks of the Church, who downplay if not outright dismiss what has taken place. That's exactly what transpired in the course of the First Coming. But a small number—a remnant, if you will, provide in the First Coming a parallel to those who will

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recognize the arrival of the earliest stages of the Second Coming. We have seen the apostasy grow with each passing day and the increasing number of church closings with each passing year that has defined the general conditions required to set the stage for when *“the man of lawlessness is revealed”*. The Rapture is going to happen when it happens regardless of our personal timing preference, as well as every single detail pre-specified by God’s Word.

I don’t know about you, but you can call me “Simeon”. I don’t have to see each and every thing to know that God has already announced it has finally begun in the very earliest stages of the shadow of His return. A single fulfillment of God’s Word is enough to guarantee them all.

In Him,

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