

Chuck Smith:

"THE WALL OF SEPARATION"

I. EZEKIEL IS HERE MEASURING THE WALL AROUND THE REBUILT TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM.

- A. The temple is to be rebuilt.
 - 1. Desire of most orthodox Jews.
 - 2. Many want to re-institute the sacrifices.
- B. It would appear from the prophesy of Daniel that permission will be granted by the leader of the European community.
 - 1. Once temple built - he will come and stand in the holy place and declare himself to be God.
- C. The major obstacle is the Dome of the Rock Mosque.
 - 1. The large temple mount is still under Moslem control.
 - 2. Two mosques: Dome of the Rock - El Aksa.
 - a. Dome of the Rock - second most holy place to Moslem faith.
 - b. Their tradition has it that Mohammed, after a night long journey from Medina on his horse ascended into heaven from the spot covered by the Dome of the Rock.
- D. Most people have assumed that this was site of Solomon's temple - so that the Mosque must somehow be destroyed so that temple can be rebuilt.
 - 1. To destroy the mosque would bring on a holy war, and the 700 million followers of the Moslem fail would come with guns and sticks.
- E. New evidence is being revealed that would indicate that Solomon's temple was north of the Dome of the Rock Mosque.
 - 1. Dr. Ashur Kaufman's research was printed in the Jerusalem Post - March 28, 1980 issue.
 - 2. He sought to prove the site of Solomon's temple north from Dome of the Rock.
- F. In Jerusalem today - north of the Dome of the Rock - is a large, flat, empty area of perhaps 10 acres of ground. Ample room to rebuild the temple.
 - 1. In the Book of Revelation, John is given a reed and told to measure the temple and altar - but not to measure outer court.
 - 2. Here Ezekiel refers to a wall to separate the sanctuary from the profane place.
 - 3. The ideal, simple solution to a complex problem.

II. GOD'S DESIRE TO SEPARATE THE HOLY FROM THE PROFANE.

- A. Your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. We need to build a wall of separation from the things of the world.
 - a. "Come ye apart from them and be ye separate."
 - b. "Love not the world, neither the things..."
 - c. I Cor. 3:16 - "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy."
- B. This is not always an easy task.
 - 1. Some things are very obvious.
 - a. Lists of works of flesh - Galatians 5.
 - 2. Other things matter of personal conviction.
 - a. Some feel that eating meat is a sin.

Ezekiel 42:20

- b. Some feel that to wear gold is sinful.
- 3. Some people try to draw the line between the right and wrong. God wants you to build a wall.