

Lesson 7 Notes – 02/07/2008

PROJECT: The Temple, Part II

This session continues the application of the principles of interpretation that we have been talking about. Last session we tried to amass the information the Bible itself supplies us concerning the Jewish Temple in Jesus' time. Today we consult the dictionaries and Bible background books to flesh out the picture that is emerging.

Temple Project: Goal

Develop a sense of the physical aspects of the Temple in Jesus' time, and the role it had in his mission and ministry.

Temple Project: Accessing the Background Resources

1. The *New Bible Dictionary* and the *Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* both have lengthy, detailed articles on the Temple in the New Testament period.
2. The challenge for most Bible students:
 - a. Take the time to find and read the resources
 - b. Take notes and actually apply the information gained to the subject at hand
 - c. Integrate information from all the available resources together to develop a cohesive whole
 - d. Learn how to verbalize what has been gained so as to create a compelling word picture suitable for helping others grasp the subject matter
3. Some resources provided artist's sketches and reconstructions of the Temple and Temple Mount areas circa A.D. 30. These help us imagine the Temple's magnitude and beauty, and the events that transpired there as mentioned in the Gospels and Acts
4. A book like Alfred Edersheim's *The Temple – Its Ministry and Services* is invaluable for its detailed description of almost all subjects relating to the Temple (even though somewhat dated).
5. Finally, a unique computer program called *Ilumina* (www.ilumina.com) by Tyndale House Publishers provides a 3-D animation "walk-through" of the Temple area.

Effective Bible Study

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