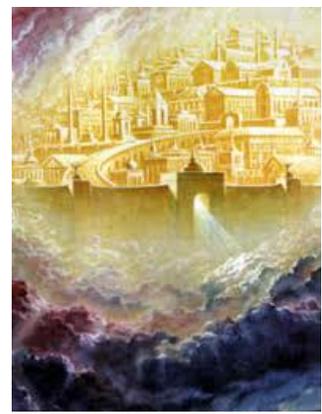


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JEWISH APOLOGETICS (116)  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Jewish-Apologetics-116.pdf>

**Objection #99: Jesus cannot be the Messiah because the Messiah has to rebuild the Temple, yet the Temple was standing in Jesus' day.**

Brown's short response to this objection:

There is a fatal flaw to your objection, since we know for a fact that many religious Jews in Jesus' day were expecting the coming of the Messiah in their lifetimes. This means that they were not expecting the Messiah to rebuild the Temple; the Temple was already standing! As for the prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures associating the rebuilding of the Temple with the work of the Messiah, we should point out that these prophecies were delivered during the time of the Babylonians exile and pointed to the rebuilding of the Second Temple—and that Temple was destroyed more than nineteen hundred years ago. This means that we must reinterpret these passages if we are to apply them to a future rebuilding of the Temple. In that case, it can be argued that these prophecies await the return of the Messiah, when he will establish his kingdom on the earth and build the Third Temple.<sup>1</sup>

After Brown discusses the New Testament concept of the Temple, he notes:

Having said all this [the spiritual temple in the New Testament], there is still the third possibility that our Messiah will rebuild a physical Temple in Jerusalem when he returns to earth to destroy the wicked and establish his Father's kingdom. As I stated previously, this view is held to by some Christians, who see this as the culmination of God's promises to the house of Israel. If that is the case, then we can be sure that when Yeshua sets his feet on the Mount of Olives (see Zech. 14:1-5) and brings cleansing to the land (see Zech. 12:10-13:1), he will soon order the building of the final Temple (or else, in keeping with some traditional Jewish thought, that Temple will descend to the earth).<sup>2</sup>

Regardless of the details of the Third Temple, all believers have a New Jerusalem to look forward to in the eternal state. In Revelation 21 John described the new world, which will include the new earth and New Jerusalem. The first thing mentioned is that God will dwell

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<sup>1</sup>Michael L. Brown, *Messianic Prophecy Objections —Volume 3*, (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003), 170-79. In his book, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response which is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in this series).

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 178.

intimately in the city with His people (21:3). Because of *His presence*, grief and pain will pass away. “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, from the old order of things has passed away” (21:4) and everything will be new (21:5). And all of us believers are one day closer to that day. *What a deal! What matchless Grace!*

Advancing in the Logos,

*Pastor Don*