

# Temple Institute Reveals Why the Red Heifer Isn't Blocking the Third Temple

For many watching events in Israel unfold, there is confusion over the red heifer, the building of the Third Temple and what role these elements play in biblical prophecy. The Bible describes the red heifer as part of purification rites in Numbers 19, while Jewish tradition holds that its ashes are necessary for restoring full ritual purity in Temple service. Many Christians are watching closely, seeking to understand what is happening from a biblical perspective.

The Temple Institute, which has been preparing vessels, garments and other requirements for the rebuilding of the Temple, addressed growing questions about whether the ashes of the red heifer are required before construction or offerings can begin.

Though believers understand the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Jewish people do not accept this truth. Yet, prophecy points to a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem that will play a central role in end-times events. Many believe God may use that time of tribulation to open the eyes of His people so they will see that Jesus is truly the Messiah.

## Signs Aligning with Scripture

The world stage is aligning with biblical prophecy at an unprecedented pace. Israel is becoming a "heavy stone" to the nations, with global hostility toward the Jewish state increasing. Wars and rumors of wars rage across the globe. Freedoms are being stripped away, replaced by systems of government control that echo Revelation's warnings about a one-world system regulating commerce.

Other signs Jesus warned of—lawlessness, earthquakes, pestilence, famine and widespread deception—are evident today. The West has largely abandoned its Christian foundation, while Israel remains the central focus of end-times prophecy.



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The Temple Mount, the epicenter of biblical prophecy, has now witnessed both the blowing of silver trumpets in 2024 and the shofar being sounded twice in recent memory. The first took place in secret during Rosh Hashanah 2024 before police intervened. The second, more recent instance, happened openly in daylight without interference.

Israeli leaders such as Itamar Ben-Gvir are voicing strong support for Jewish prayer rights on the Temple Mount. Thousands ascended the mount during Tisha B'Av, while tens of thousands more gathered at the Western Wall to mourn the destruction of the first and second temples. These moments reveal a growing hunger for a renewed temple—a development that would send shockwaves across the globe.

For those of us watching the Middle East with biblical lenses, the unfolding events are not simply political maneuvers but prophetic signposts. The Bible repeatedly warns that in the last days nations will rage against Israel and turmoil will swirl around Damascus.

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Today, reports from Jerusalem confirm that what the prophets spoke of is lining up before our very eyes.

## Turkey's Rising Influence in Syria

Middle East analyst Jonathan Spire highlighted the troubling role Turkey is playing in shaping the future of Damascus on a special edition of The Watchman Newscast with Erick Stakelbeck. "The victory of Hayatam and Ahmed Ashara in Damascus back in December of last year was, of course, their victory, but it was also the victory of Turkey," Spire said. He explained that the new regime "owes everything to Turkey," and with Ankara now pledging to build an airport, military, and police structure, "what you will have is a fully fledged client state of Turkey, a Sunni Islamist client state of the Islamist regime in Ankara down there in Damascus."

For Israel, the implications are chilling. As Stakelbeck noted, this means "a dangerous thing at Israel's doorstep. A regime in Turkey that is hostile to the Jewish state for sure."

## Damascus and the Prophetic Pattern

The city of Damascus has always carried spiritual weight in biblical prophecy. The prophet Isaiah declared, "Damascus will cease from being a city" (Isa. 17:1). With Turkey entrenching itself, the specter of Damascus becoming a launching point for hostile Islamist forces against Israel brings that prophecy into sharper focus. Spire warned that despite Western optimism, "this is not the first time that we have had the experience of Sunni Islamists in government ... and up until now, we have a 100% rate of complete catastrophe as a result of that."



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From Egypt's brief Muslim Brotherhood rule to Hamas in Gaza and ISIS in Iraq and Syria, the pattern has always ended in destruction and violence. Yet, as Spire added, "some people in

the West think, 'No, no, this time it's all going to be different.' Well, I have news for them. It generally isn't going to be all that different."

## **Israel's Vigilance and Iran's Weakness**

Israel, aware of what is taking shape across its northern border, has already mobilized. Stakelbeck explained that Israel "has acted militarily recently, just as recently as July, to prevent Shah's new Syrian army from coming down there into Suwayda province." These moves show a determination to keep hostile forces from pressing too close.

At the same time, Iran, long the patron of chaos in the region, has been weakened. "The Iranian regime is in a very low point domestically," Spire said, citing widespread shortages in water and electricity. Still, he warned that "Iran is determined to begin the long process of rebuilding both its own military capacities and indeed the capacities of its proxies. It wants to get back in the game."

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## **A Global Spiritual Picture**

Chris Mitchell of CBN News added a sobering reminder about the spiritual battle at the heart of all this. "After Oct. 7th when the world is turning against the Jewish people, the world is turning against Israel, when lies are being told, when deception is really spreading globally ... anti-Semitism has just exploded globally. So totally irrational."

What Scripture prophesied is unfolding, nations aligning, Israel standing alone and the city of Damascus becoming a flashpoint once again.

## **A Call to Prayer and Readiness**

As Christians look at these events, the call is not to fear but to discern and act. Jesus said when these things begin to happen, “look up, for your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28). Now is the time to pray for Jerusalem, stand with Israel and prepare our hearts.

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May believers everywhere commit themselves to prayer, discernment and action—becoming true watchmen on the wall, preparing the way of the Lord as the days of fulfillment draw ever closer.

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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## **End-Times Prophecy: Why Hatred and Division Are Signs of the Last Days**

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Christians looking on should recognize that this moment is profoundly significant for the Jewish people. While we believe the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promises is found in Jesus Christ, the shofar still speaks to the covenant God made with Israel and the prophetic future we read about in Scripture.

## The Roots of the Tradition

The Temple Institute recently highlighted on Facebook the ancient reasons why the shofar is blown, drawing from the teachings of Saadia Gaon, a rabbi from the 10th century. His list of 10 explanations provides insight into why the shofar has remained such a powerful part of Jewish worship, especially around Rosh Hashanah and the Days of Awe leading up to Yom Kippur.

The Bible teaches that serving others is central to the Christian life. Jesus Himself declared in Mark 10:45 that He came “not to be served, but to serve.” That same spirit of compassion was on display as Regent University’s incoming freshman class joined Operation Blessing for its third annual service project.

Excitement filled the air as hundreds of students packed hunger relief bags, hygiene kits and disaster relief supplies to bless those in need. “Very excited. I am very grateful to be here,” one student said as they worked alongside classmates.

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Operation Blessing and Regent University partnered to combine their missions of service and leadership. “They have a passion to raise up Christian leaders to change the world. And we have a passion to help provide help and hope to a hurting world in tangible acts of love in times of crisis,” Dan Moore of Operation Blessing explained.

Some 500 students prepared 1,100 hunger relief bags for local residents, while also assembling nearly 3,000 hygiene kits and 2,000 disaster relief kits for Operation Blessing’s response teams. The timing was significant, as hurricane season is predicted to be active this year. “It makes a huge

difference,” one staff member said. “They’re going to be packing these hygiene kits, these disaster relief kits full of cleaning supplies that will go into communities that are impacted by disasters.”



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Students said the effort not only gave them a sense of purpose but also showed them how serving can be a powerful witness. “We don’t just seek to provide physical help, but through that physical help, we can then extend spiritual help and show these people the love of Christ,” one volunteer said. Another added, “It just shows you that your purpose is more than just yourself.”

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As Regent celebrates the largest freshman class in its history, leaders noted how service is built into the school’s mission. “Giving of yourself is actually the best thing you can do. And that emulates the life of Christ, which we’re trying to do here as we create Christian leaders to change the world,” a Regent representative said.

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Service like this echoes the heart of Christ’s teaching. For believers everywhere, it is a reminder that when we lend a hand to those in need, we reflect His love to a hurting world. May we all seek opportunities to serve others in the name of Jesus.

***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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# Heroic Pastor Remains in Warzone to Shepherd His Flock Amid Gunfire

Scripture tells us that “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). Around the world, countless believers endure trials for their faith, standing firm in the midst of danger. In the war-torn city of El-Fasher, Sudan, one pastor is living this reality daily, embodying courage and faith under fire.

## A Pastor Who Refuses to Leave

As two militias battle for control of the region, the Rev. Daramali Abudigin has chosen to remain when many others fled, reports Religion News Service. The 44-year-old priest of St. Mathew, Anglican Church of Sudan, continues to minister in a city besieged by hunger, bombs and stray bullets. “I didn’t leave the church,” Abudigin told Religion News Service. “In a while, I considered leaving, but I changed my mind. I am still staying with my flock. Whenever we lose a person, it makes me very sad.”



Rev. Daramali Abudigin

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In May, he lost five church members who were living with him after armed men randomly fired into the church compound. Despite the personal grief, Abudigin’s resolve only deepened. He lives in the city with his wife and three sons, refusing to abandon the Christians left in El-Fasher.

## Standing Alone Amid Devastation

El-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, has been under siege since April of last year. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have carried out relentless assaults, shelling homes, markets and refugee camps. At least 57 people were killed in one August attack, with many more dying from hunger and disease. “The bombs and the bullets strike homes,” Abudigin said. “The markets are very dangerous. One can lose their life anywhere and any time.”



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When his fellow pastor, the Rev. Luka Jomo, was struck by a stray bullet in June, Abudigin rushed him to the hospital, but it was too late. Two young men staying with him were also killed. Even in tragedy, he continued to open the doors of his church to any who would come. “There are no other pastors in Darfur in general,” he explained. “I am the only one in El-Fasher, and I usually combine worshippers in one church to save them from random bombings and shootings.”

## Hunger and Hardship

Beyond the gunfire, starvation is claiming lives. “Many children have malnutrition, and we are going to see many of them dying if they do not get help urgently,” Abudigin said. Though food can be found in the markets, few can afford it. The priest himself struggles to survive, as what little the church sends for his upkeep is “not enough. They used to send me 200,000 Sudanese pounds (USD 330) per month, but now this cannot feed me for two days,” he admitted.

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Despite his own need, Abudigin's heart is fixed on the community. "Food is urgently needed because hunger is killing people every day. As I am talking to you about hunger, we have lost a child because of it, and another two because of disease, since there are no medicines," he said.

## **A Call to Prayer**

The Rev. Daramali Abudigin stands as a light in one of the darkest places on earth, serving God's people with courage few could imagine. His example reminds us of the early church, where believers risked everything to remain faithful.

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As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to remember them in prayer. Let us pray for Pastor Abudigin and all Christians in Sudan who are enduring persecution, hunger and danger. May God grant them strength, peace and endurance, and may His comfort cover all who suffer for the sake of His name around the world.

**James Lasher** *is staff writer for Charisma Media.*