

GNITN

#357

Prophecy Update: Holy Cow!

Art Imitates Life

The last edition of the famous movie series which involved a seemingly boring archaeology teacher who led a daring and swashbuckling life as he searched for and preserved relics, premiered in 2023. In the opening scenes a fight over a mythical spear that pierced the side of Jesus while He was on the cross is seen, but it was a fake. In the first movie the focus was on a much more tangible relic, one that actually matters if you are lover of the Bible and of Bible prophecy: The Ark of the Covenant. That movie had all the elements of a successful adventure film replete with a 1930's setting, a brave hero, vile villains and a larger than life artifact. It was a true cinematic classic if there ever was one. However, like Hollywood itself it was more fiction than fact, more embellishments than essentials about the real Ark. As history would reveal, Hitler actually did try and find religious artifacts that could help him win a world war and the Ark would fit that bill since it did give the armies of Israel a distinct advantage when going against an enemy army (see **Joshua 6** and **Num 10:35-36**). Unfortunately Hitler didn't read that just having the Ark guaranteed a victory as we see in **1 Samuel 4**. But it will play a huge role in prophecy as a third temple must exist for the Antichrist to desecrate it by wanting the sacrifices to be to him and not God (see **Dan 9:27** and **Matt 24:15-16**) at the half way point of the Tribulation.

Timing Is Everything: They Have The Furniture

My wife used the idiom that timing is everything a lot as we were getting to know each other and it has now become a part of my personal lexicon. As it would turn out, my passion for end times prophecy and that phrase are fitting linguistic dance partners and as we get closer and closer to the fulfillment of so many eschatological events we see many pieces of the prophetic puzzle fitting together. Two big ones are the aforementioned third temple being rebuilt and the necessary elements to start the temple sacrifices again, sacrifices that the Antichrist will twist to worship him and not God. According to an [article](#) from *The Temple Institute* they have the furniture built:

THE SACRED VESSELS AND VESTMENTS, their purpose, their nature, and the specific dimensions and materials from which they are to be made, were all related to Moshe by G-d, at Mount Sinai. The construction of the vessels and the priestly garments was overseen by Betzalel, a master craftsman, chosen by G-d to fulfill this task, as it is said: "And HaShem spoke unto Moshe, saying: 'See, I have called by name Betzalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and I have filled him with the spirit of G-d, in wisdom and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to devise skilfull works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in cutting of stones for setting, and in carving of wood, to work in all manner of workmanship.'" (Exodus 31:1-5) Assisted by Ohaliav the son of Ahisamach, Betzalel oversaw the construction of the Tabernacle, and of the vessels used in the worship, and the garments worn by the priests, and the high priest. Betzalel assembled a team of craftsmen and artisans for this purpose.

The Temple Institute has likewise called upon Israel's finest craftsmen and artisans, and enlisted them in the historical task of recreating the sacred vessels and vestments. Every vessel produced by the Temple Institute is done in accordance with the precise instructions that were first handed down by G-d to Moshe. The vessels you are about to view are all fit and ready for use in the Holy Third Temple, may it be built speedily, and in our days!

Timing Is Everything: They Have The Priests

You can't have the temple up and running without priests to serve in it. And we read in an [article](#) from [free.messianicbible.com](#) detailing preparations of the third temple that such priests are trained:

In keeping with the tradition established by Chief Rabbi Kook to view with expectation God's speedy fulfillment of His prophecies regarding the Temple, the Temple Institute along with the Third Temple Academy has begun such preparations for the Third Temple.

In 2009, a field school was built in Mizpe Yericho to prepare Kohanim (priests) and Levites for service in the Third Temple.

In 2010, uncut stones were collected from the Dead Sea for the construction of the Temple altar. Such pristine stones are believed to fulfill the injunction that such building material be free from contact with metal tools. (Deuteronomy 27:5)

The Third Temple Academy in Mitzpe Yericho is about a 20-minute drive from Jerusalem on the road that leads to Jericho and the Jordan Valley.

By building a replica of the Temple, the school has been able to give the priestly students a hands-on experience of Temple sacrificial worship.

Kohanim are also being trained to perform the regular Temple duties or the daily Tamid service that is performed in the Holy Temple.

According to an [article](#) from CBN.com the priests are in place:

He (Rabbi Yitshak Mamo) says the ceremony needs priests who have not been defiled by touching anything dead.

"The Temple Institute actually have, nine pure priests," the rabbi explained. "They didn't born in hospital, okay? They born at home. Because they are priests. So anyway, they don't go to any cemetery. And the parents keep them in a situation that they will not get to any cemetery, not going to other, any problematic place."

He added, "And they are pure, and they are waiting."

So now you have the priests and the furniture in place.

Timing Is Everything: They Have The Red Heifers

Up until recently, another one of those pieces was having a red heifer whose ashes were needed for the purification process of the temple. Going back to the CBN [article](#) we read this:

The book of Numbers explains that ashes of the red heifer are used to purify priests for their service in the Temple:

"Now, the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 'This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord has commanded, saying: Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come. You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him ... its offal shall be burned ... for the water of purification; it is for purifying from sin.'"

(Numbers 19:1-5)

These red heifers are now between 1 ½ and 2 years old. To replicate the ceremony mentioned in the Bible, they need to be at least 3 years old. And within that time span, they cannot have a blemish or anything that would disqualify them for the ceremony, even one white or black hair. According to those working on the project, the ceremony of the red heifer needs to be performed on the Mount of Olives, and in a place that would have looked directly into where the Temple stood. The land directly east of the Temple Mount, purchased 12 years ago, meets both of those standards.

And they have had red heifers since September of 2020, provided by Byron Stinson from Boneh Israel who found them on a farm in Texas. Five of them fit the initial criteria and were delivered to Israel. Now it is waiting game to see if any of the red heifers is without blemish. If one of the heifers is without blemish then it is possible the offering described could happen as early as Passover of 2024 according to Stinson:

So we believe that it's very likely that the ceremony would happen somewhere in the area of Passover, 2024, out to the possibility of Shavuot, 2024," Stinson said. "Somewhere in that timeline, the cows would be old enough and it would be the proper timeline for that ceremony." Rabbi Mamo agrees:

Rabbi Mamo recalled the writings of the Jewish sage Maimonides, who counted nine red heifers from Moses to the time of the Second Temple.

"It's not his way to write, but suddenly he said that the tenth (heifer) will make the (coming of) Messiah," he said. "So maybe – not maybe, we know – that the Messiah will make the tenth. Maybe we have the privilege to be one of these people that help the Messiah to do it. That's it. So, we're waiting."

The CBN article obviously is from 2023 so if the timing is correct 2024 could be the year these cows are ready. One of the five did develop some white hairs so we're down to four cows, but that's enough as we read in an [article](#) from [allisraelnews.com](#):

Last month, the journalist tweeted about an experiment conducted by Bar Ilan University Prof. Zohar Amar who attempted to determine how many people could be ritually purified by one red heifer.

In the study, Prof. Amar said that one red heifer would provide enough ashes to purify 660 billion purifications.

Did These Cows Cause The October 7th Attacks?

Interestingly enough, the news of these red heifers coming to Israel may have played a part in the timing of the October 7th attacks as we read in another [allisraelnews.com article](#):

Back in January, a story flew under the radar that's well worth discussing: the relationship between the Oct. 7 massacre and five red heifers.

Yes. You read that correctly.

At the 100-day mark of the war, Abu Obeida, the military spokesman for the Hamas Al-Qassam Brigades, gave a televised speech about the Hamas efforts, as well as a reminder of the purposes of the war.

Here is a portion of that speech:

We look back 100 days to remember the educated, the complicit, and the incapacitated among the world powers governed by the law of the jungle, reminding them of an aggression that reached its peak against our path (Al-Quds) and Al-Aqsa, with the start of its actual temporal

and spatial division, and the “bringing of red cows as an application of a detestable religious myth designed for aggression against the feelings of an entire nation in the heart of its Arab identity, and the path of its prophet (the Night Journey) and Ascension to heaven.”

The author of the report went on to note this:

Right there, amid a very wordy discussion of perceived Israeli aggression against Al-Quds, the Muslim name for Jerusalem, and Al-Aqsa, the black-domed mosque on Temple Mount, lies a curious and telling statement: “The ‘bringing of red cows...”

The article connects the dots for us:

Despite great interest in some spheres, the story barely made the news in Israel. It’s highly unlikely that secular Israelis are aware of – or interested in – the presence of the heifers in Israel. Yet, the Hamas terror organization apparently followed the events closely enough to use this as a stated reason to launch the surprise invasion and attack they called the “Al-Aqsa Flood” on Oct. 7.

The author is concerned that if the religious ceremony using the red heifer’s ashes were to occur, it would reverberate all through the terrorist world as well:

If the heifer ceremony does, indeed, take place this Passover, we very well could experience another shift in events in the near future. While the idea and reality of the ceremony may continue to grow in anticipation for many, history indicates that it could come at a high price. Therefore, watchfulness should be tempered with this understanding and met with true intercession for Israel in the coming weeks and even after.

Whether or not the Temple Institute moves forward with plans, it has become clear that the arrival of the heifers was more than an engaging human interest story involving Texas livestock and a growing friendship between Christians and Jews. It was a story of profound geopolitical and even spiritual consequence – and much of the world missed it.

A Very Mooving Experience

All bad puns aside, all of this talk of a third temple does create an atmosphere of excitement for Jews and Christians alike. And as we just learned, it is creating an atmosphere of apprehension for Muslims. How should we as believers react to all of this? In an [article](#) from *Prophecy News Watch* we get some advice on that:

While many Israelis are unaware of these developments, so too is much of the Church. Just as He promised, Jesus is soon returning to this earth to rule and these developments point us to the nearness of His coming. Following the example of the Temple Institute, we too should be preparing ourselves for the soon fulfilment of prophecy, doing everything in our power to be ready for that great day.

And we need to pray:

Let us also remember to pray not only for the fulfilment of Bible prophecy and the coming of the Messianic kingdom, but also for the eternal destinies of Jews and Arabs caught up in the current and future waves of conflict. Days of great tension lie ahead, but God's purpose in the midst of these shakings is to bring many people into His Kingdom. May we all play our part at this significant time in history.

Amen to that!