

Calling them Brethren and Being Their
High Priest

HEBREWS 2:10-18

This Weekend in History

- Martin Luther posts his 95 Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences on the church door at All Saints Church in Wittenberg



A Boy's Discovery Rebuts Temple Mount Revisionism

By Jerold S. Auerbach

A 10-year-old Russian boy, Matvei Tcepliaev, recently made an extraordinary discovery in Jerusalem. Working as a volunteer in the Temple Mount Sifting Project, he found a 3,000-year-old seal—engraved limestone about the size of a thimble, with a hole at one end so it could be hung from a string—from the time of King David.

The artifact was nestled in the hundreds of tons of earth and rock that had been illegally excavated from below the Temple Mount in the late 1990s by the Muslim Waqf,

a trust that retains authority over the contested site. The Temple Mount is sacred ground for Jews, Muslims and Christians, but Jewish historical claims are denied by many Muslims.

The sifting project in Emek Tzurim National Park in Jerusalem, started in 2005 and has uncovered several historically significant objects, but the seal may be the most important. Dating from the era of King David's conquest of Jerusalem and the building of the Jewish First Temple by his son and successor, Solomon, the seal confirms the ancient Jewish presence in Jerusalem—more than a millennium before the Muslim Dome of the Rock was built above the ruins of the ancient temples.

If it is ironic that the Muslim excavation, undertaken to build an underground mosque, ultimately confirmed Jews' historical claims, it is no less ironic than the fact that the Waqf came to rule the site at Israel's instigation.

Following Israel's extraordinary victory over its Arab foes in the Six-Day War in June 1967, which included capturing the entire city of Jerusalem, Israeli Col. Motta Gur proclaimed: "The Temple Mount is in our hands." Joyous Israeli soldiers gathered at the Western Wall below and sang Hatikva, the national anthem. Shlomo Goren, a brigadier general and future chief rabbi of Israel, exultantly blew his shofar.

But Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had other ideas about Jewish sovereignty on the Temple Mount. A secular Israeli, he relied on a rabbinical consensus that Jews were forbidden

to set foot on the Mount lest they risk desecrating the unknown site of the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary of the Jewish temple that housed the Ark of the Covenant.

After declaring that "we have reunited the city, the capital of Israel, never to part it again," Dayan met with Muslim leaders inside the Dome of the Rock. An agreement

Palestinians deny Jewish roots at the holy site, but a newly unearthed artifact confirms historical truths.

was reached: The Waqf ban on Jews visiting the Temple Mount would be ended—even if many preferred to continue to observe the rabbinical prohibition—but Jews wouldn't be allowed to pray there.

Shakespeare, not the Bible or Quran, proclaimed: "What's past is prologue." Dayan's concession prepared the way for conflict on the Temple Mount that continues today. The Palestinians' Second Intifada erupted in September 2000 after Likud leader Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount—not to pray but to assert the legitimacy of a Jewish presence at the most ancient Jewish holy site. He was widely castigated for asserting a historical truth.

A similarly tragic scenario is now unfolding in Jerusalem, and throughout Israel, as Palestinians attack Jews with bullets, knives and rocks. Although Secretary of State John

Kerry absurdly attributed the blood rampage to Palestinians' frustration with Israeli settlement-building, informed observers note that an outbreak of violence has been stoked by false rumors that Israel is on the verge of rewriting the Temple Mount rules, including allowing Jews to pray there.

This may or may not be a prelude to a third intifada. What is clear is that for years the Muslim Waqf continued to oversee excavations below the surface of the Temple Mount, with callous disregard for what archaeologists could learn about the Mount's Jewish history and antiquity.

That policy is of a piece with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's dismissal of any Jewish connection to the Temple Mount. "Aksa is ours and so is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. They have the right to desecrate them with their filthy feet," Mr. Abbas told activists at an Oct. 14 meeting in his Ramallah office, the Jerusalem Post reports.

Not that Jews ever doubted their religious roots at Temple Mount, but now they have a 10-year-old boy to thank for providing them with a three-millennia-old artifact that refutes modern propaganda designed to rewrite history. Just as the seal was used long ago as evidence of authority, so today it puts its stamp of approval on Jewish claims to their history at the holiest site in Jerusalem.

Mr. Auerbach is a professor emeritus of history at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.





Article II: Scripture and Tradition

- ***We affirm*** that the Scriptures are the supreme written norm by which God binds the conscience, and that the authority of the Church is subordinate to that of Scripture.
- ***We deny*** that Church creeds, councils, or declarations have authority greater than or equal to the authority of the Bible.

The Example of the Berean Church

- 10 The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed, along with a number of prominent Greek women and men.... (Acts 17:10-12)

Hebrews 2: 10-13

- ¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying,
- “I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE.”
- ¹³ And again,
- “I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM.”
- And again,
- “BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME.”

Becoming Like Us – Becoming Like Him

- Jesus was perfected through His sufferings – He became fully human
- Not morally or ethically “perfect” in His essence or being, He was already perfect -- He was and is God incarnate.
- But he was made perfect in the sense of being brought to a certain “completeness” associated with **the fulfillment of God’s plan.**

Becoming Like Us – Becoming Like Him

- Through His suffering and death we obtain:
 - Salvation
 - Glory
- “the author of their salvation through suffering”
- **Jesus became like us so that we may become like Him.**

Christ – the Author of Salvation and of Faith

- It is important to note that verse 10 declares that Christ is “the author of their salvation”
- This is the sense of being the originator or founder of salvation and the word here can be translated “captain.”
- “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,” (Hebrews 12:2)

One with Christ as a Member of One Family

- Verse 11: “For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified [or “*are being sanctified*”] are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,”
- His (Christ’s) Father is now referred to as Our Father, we are therefore called the brethren (or of one family) with Jesus.

Messianic Reference - Conversation of the Trinity

- This quote in v. 12 is from the same Psalm (Psalm 22) as the quote that Jesus utters on the cross: *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?”*
- These words are being attributed, in this writing of Hebrews, to Christ himself

Messianic Reference - Conversation of the Trinity

- “I will proclaim Your name to My Brethren”
(Verse 12)
- Your name -- whose name?
- Who are the pronouns referring to?
- If this is the Psalm of the suffering Messiah, then He, Christ, is proclaiming to His brethren (those who are being sanctified) Your Name!
- This is a conversation in heaven between God the Son and God the Father

Messianic Reference - Conversation of the Trinity

- Just as the first verse uttered by Christ on the Cross: “My God, My God, why hath your forsaken me?” (Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?) (Mark 15:34)
- This is God the Son addressing God the Father and God the Holy Spirit from the Cross: That is why it is uttered twice: My God, My God...
- And why was Christ forsaken on the Cross?

Messianic Reference - Conversation of the Trinity

“I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob.

I will put my trust in him. Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.” (Isaiah 8:17-18)

God the Father Brings Men and Women to God the Son

- “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.” (John 17:6)
- This is what the Father does for the children, He brings them to the Son. (John 6:44 and John 6:65)
 - “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

Hebrews 2:14-16

- 14 “Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. 16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.”
(Hebrews 2:14-16)

Death Is Overcome

- And, death is also taken away with the receipt of a new existence, a new reality, where these bodies are exchanged for bodies that will last for eternity - ---- reformed bodies, spiritual bodies that will exist forever (I Cor. 15)
- Therefore there is no final victory for death, even physical death.
 - But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”

Hebrews 2:16-18

- “For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

Like Us to be A High Priest For Us

- He had to be made “like His brethren” SO THAT
- Jesus could become a “merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (this is how Jesus is “perfected.”)
- He has been tempted (or “tested” as in the New English Bible) in that which He suffered