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A Temple Studies Bibliography

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Danel W. Bachman

Background and Creation of the Bibliography

Believe it or not, this is the fifth symposium on temple themes held in various venues around the world *this year*, and two are already scheduled for next year!¹ With this growing interest in temples, it is my pleasure this afternoon to announce the publication of a new online tool that it is hoped will facilitate temple studies research. A bibliography on temples containing approximately 7,000 entries is now on the website for The Academy for Temple Studies located at the following URL: <http://www.templestudies.org>. The purpose of this brief presentation is to give you some background and description of the project.

About six years ago, I began an extensive study of the temple, and one of the first things I did was begin compiling a bibliography of available information. With the help of the Internet the bibliography grew rapidly. Well into the process I discovered that Jack Welch and two BYU colleagues, Don

Parry and Steven Ricks, had published a temple bibliography in 1991. It contained approximately 2,700 entries.² Jack graciously sent me electronic versions of the book, and we discussed the possibility of putting a combined new version online. Last fall I formatted and proofread the collection as it then existed and sent it to him.

Extent of Temple Studies Included

At present the bibliography is limited to the following areas of temple studies: (1) Near Eastern and Mediterranean temples in general. That includes pre-Israelite temples in the Near East, and Greek, Roman, and Egyptian temples. (2) Israelite temples in the Old and New Testament periods. (3) Mormon Temples. The bibliography includes books, articles, chapters in books, pamphlets, talks, and entries in various types of reference works. The matter of including book reviews in the bibliography is yet to be decided. Most items are in English, but there are also entries in Hebrew, German, French, and Spanish.

Selection of Items for the Bibliography

The process for selecting sources for this bibliography has evolved with experience; however, throughout the work I have tried to be more inclusive than exclusive. Many factors are involved in finding suitable references. I quickly learned that certain words in titles may signal that the publication is temple related, such as: "cult," "cultus," "sanctuary," "sacred space," "ritual," and "liturgy." Doctrinal and theological matters possibly related

1. In March 2012, sixteen individuals gave presentations at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute conference entitled "Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, & Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World." In May the Irish Society for the Study of the Ancient Near East held its first annual symposium. Twenty-four presenters, three of which were from BYU, addressed the topic "The Other Temples." Also in May, Margaret Barker's Temple Studies Group held its annual symposium in London; papers addressed the topic "The Temple in the Johannine Writings." In September a symposium held in Provo, Utah, considered "The Temple of Mt. Zion"; and of course, this one. Symposia scheduled so far for 2013 include Mrs. Barker's Temple Studies Group, and the annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium held each fall at BYU with the topic "Temple, Worship, and Praise in the Text of the Old Testament."

2. Donald W. Parry, Stephen D. Ricks, and John W. Welch, *A Bibliography on Temples of the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean World* (New York: Edwin Mellen Press, 1991), xi.

to the temple are also looked at carefully, such as publications dealing with “sacrifice,” “the presence of God,” “heavenly ascent,” “ablutions,” “anointing,” “festivals,” “purification laws,” “priesthood,” “Levites,” “high priest,” and others. In the Bible the priesthood was almost exclusively related to the temple, so materials dealing with the priesthood during Bible times are carefully considered. The names of personalities closely associated with the temple and temple themes are also important keys to potentially relevant materials, as are temple-related place names in the titles of works on history, archaeology, and architecture. Titles with references to scriptures or to passages in apocryphal and pseudepigraphical literature generally have to be looked up to confirm that a source is related to the temple. Sometimes a word in Hebrew or Greek in a title is related to the temple in some way. Determining the suitability of all these materials is often labor intensive and time consuming.

The Online Version

The entries are formatted according to the 16th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* for bibliographies. Where *Chicago* gives some latitude or options, those used in the bibliography are explained in the introductory material. The online version will be a “preliminary listing” and the software used to access it is also in its initial stage of development. If possible, we want the online version to be interactive in several ways. We encourage people who know about references which are not in the bibliography to share them with us, and when verified they will be put in proper format and included in the collection. We would like to have a drop-down menu for each entry that will take you to abstracts, reviews, and perhaps even personal summaries or notes that may be contributed. Links to online versions and reviews are difficult to maintain given the ephemeral nature of the Internet, so whether to include links has not yet been decided. In addition to normal word searches, we have included a list of key words associated with each entry to facilitate a variety of topical searches. We also hope to build in the capability to create, save, and print sub-topic bibliographies based on one or more searches.

As you use the bibliography you may find an item that is really not about the temple. That is because many references are included on the basis of *apparent* relevance based on my best judgment at the time, without reading them all. When they are brought to our attention they will be reviewed and eliminated when warranted.

Much Left to Do

As large as the bibliography is, there is still much left to do. New sources of references continually surface. For example, in May 2012, I learned that the sanctuary (i.e., tabernacle/temple) and the Atonement are at the heart of Seventh-day Adventist theology,³ and that scholars of that faith are producing a growing literature about both subjects.⁴ Another example relates to doctoral dissertations. Some months ago I went into the ProQuest website for the University of Michigan dissertation project and was pleased to learn that they are digitizing many of the dissertations they have collected over the decades.⁵ A search on the word “temple” brought forth over 39,000 hits! I culled out of the first 1,000 about 160 dissertations and a few theses relevant to the bibliography, complete with abstracts for most of them. A month ago I did additional searches which illustrate the growth of this one source. The word “temple” now produced 44,477 hits, and the phrase “the temple” yielded 71,095 hits. I found 9,125 hits

3. Roy Adams, *The Sanctuary: Understanding the Heart of Adventist Theology* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1993).

4. I found online a 2003 bibliography thirty pages in length of about 300 entries by Gary Shearer, reference librarian for the Pacific Union College Library. I do not know what has been published since that time. From what little I have read, it appears that Seventh-day Adventist scholars competent in Hebrew, Greek, and ancient history are producing some interesting studies regarding their views of the Tabernacle, sacrifice, priesthood, atonement, and the heavenly temple, to name a few relevant topics. They also have a special interest in Daniel chapters 2, 7–9, and the books of Hebrews and Revelation, all important temple texts. See as examples the interesting collection of essays in Arnold V. Wallenkampf and W. Richard Leshner, eds., *The Sanctuary and the Atonement: Biblical, Historical, and Theological Studies* (Washington, D.C.: The Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1981).

5. Of course, most recent dissertations are already in electronic format.

on the “Jerusalem Temple,” 2,400 on “Mormon temple,” 22,181 on “Greek temples,” 22,609 on “Roman temples,” and 9,212 on “Egyptian temples.” The bibliography now includes 260 dissertations and a few theses. In addition to the 43,000 hits left unchecked, each dissertation has an extensive bibliography which when searched always produces new references for the project. However, I have searched the bibliographies of less than two dozen of those dissertations.

Also, much, much work needs to be done in non-English sources. As recent as Thursday of last week I learned through the Internet of a collection of Bible-related bibliographies prepared by the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. The bibliography was initially an annual part of the journal *Biblica* from 1920 until 1968, when it was then published as a separate yearly volume and since 1985 has been titled *Elenchus of Biblicus*. According to one user, this collection is “a broad, comprehensive, international, ecumenical, annual listing of books, dissertations, reviews, and articles on the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, intertestamental Judaism, the early patristic period, biblical theology, archaeology, and other related topics.”⁶ This will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable source, especially for foreign publications.⁷

6. William H. Shepherd, “Elenchus Explained,” http://www.pitts.emory.edu/services/tools/Shepherd_Elenchus_Explained.pdf, accessed October 25, 2012.

7. Another helpful resource for foreign language references which I encountered this year is the massive three-volume work of Professor Paul-Emile Langevin, *Biblical*

One resource that is not represented in our bibliography and which we are still discussing includes a large number of items published only on the Internet. The quality of this material ranges from research found in blogs, newsletters, and collections of papers, to online books and peer-reviewed journals. I maintain a list of these resources, but they are not yet included in the general bibliography.⁸ The Internet is a vast and ever expanding resource. In May I Googled the phrase “Jerusalem Temple,” which produced 4,060,000 hits! If a person could search the Internet every day for a 70-year life of 25,550 days, he would have to look at 159 items a day to review all 4,060,000 items. One can only speculate about how many new items would come online during that life span.

I trust this brief review has given you a sense of the potential of this tool and of its strengths and weakness. I hope it has also given you an idea of how much is yet to be done. If you have suggestions or would like to help with the project, please contact me at DanBachman@comcast.net. Thank you.

Bibliography, 1930–1970 (Quebec: Les Presses de l’université Laval, 1972).

8. I also have lists of sources which still have to be checked because they either have incomplete reference information or I am uncertain about their relevance. I add something from those lists to the general collection only when the reference is complete or after I have read it or found additional evidence that it is likely suitable. However, there are so many items that are suitable and obvious that have not yet been discovered and/or tracked down that I devote very little time to the “uncertain” list.