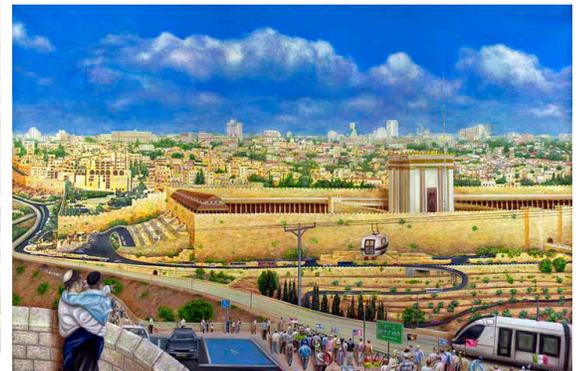
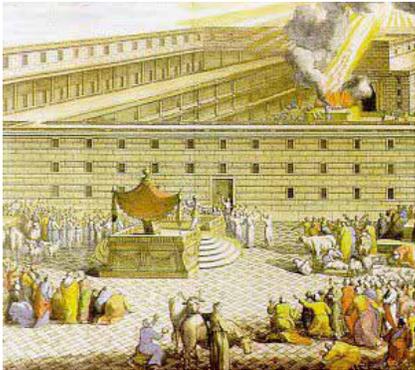


# THE FOUR CIRCLES

A Spiritual Journey from the  
*Holy Land*

## CIRCLE FOUR: THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Gospel is being proclaimed to the ends of the earth as never before. Israel became a nation again after nearly 1,900 years. Jerusalem was reclaimed 20 years later. The Temple Mount was also reclaimed during the retaking of the city, but it was relinquished to maintain peace. To this day, Jews are not allowed to pray on the Temple Mount. It is the last piece of real estate, the final circle. You have a final circle too.



### ***For further understanding***

#### **Timeline of the Temple Mount** (some dates are approximate):

- 1000 BC King David establishes an altar to God (2 Samuel 24:18–25)
- 960 BC The First Temple is constructed by his son, King Solomon (1 Kings 6)
- 586 BC The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, destroys the First Temple (Jeremiah 52)
- 516 BC Zerubbabel, governor of Judah under Persian rule, builds the Second Temple after the Babylonian exile (Haggai 1; Ezra 5)
- 19 BC King Herod (appointed by the Romans) restores and expands the Second Temple
- AD 30 Jesus warns that the Second Temple will be destroyed (Matthew 24:1–2)
- AD 70 The Second Temple is destroyed by Titus, son of the Roman emperor
- AD 691 The Dome of Rock is constructed by Muslims on the Temple Mount
- AD 1967 Israel reclaims the Temple Mount, but cedes control to Jordan
- AD ??? Israel gains control of the Temple Mount, builds the Third Temple\*

\* There are different convictions among believers as to the actual site of the previous temples in Jerusalem and whether a Third Temple even needs to be built. These differences don't need to divide us, nor detract from the purpose of this study.

### ***The final circle***

The Muslim world would be up in arms should Israel try to reclaim the Mount and/or attempt to build another temple. Yet, somehow it seems that the Jewish people will hold this central piece of real estate in Jerusalem once more.

Read Revelation 11:1–2. The Apostle John wrote this a few decades after the Second Temple was destroyed.

- How might this passage be fulfilled literally one day?
- Some view this as figurative. How might it be fulfilled figuratively or spiritually?
- When the Lord returns to establish His kingdom forever in the New Jerusalem, a temple will not be needed (Revelation 21:22). Why is this true?

### ***What about you?***

Which viewpoint about the Third Temple turns out to be correct is not crucial to this study. God will reveal the truth in His time and in His way. Our aim is not to get caught up in these differences, but to look at the temple of our heart. We are each the final circle. So, it would be good for us to end this final session with another practical and personal application that we can all agree on.

Read Ephesians 2:19–22 and 1 Corinthians 6:19.

- What are the two different comparisons to the temple made in these verses?
- How can you specifically become a proper temple for the Lord, both personally and as part of the worldwide church?

### ***Things to pray for***

- That you would honor God with your body as His temple
- That the worldwide Body of Christ would be united, instead of divided, by denomination and differences of opinion and practice over nonessential matters
- The Lord returning soon to establish His kingdom forever

# THE FOUR CIRCLES

A Spiritual Journey from the  
*Holy Land*

## CONCLUSION

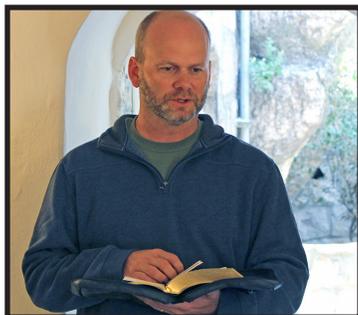
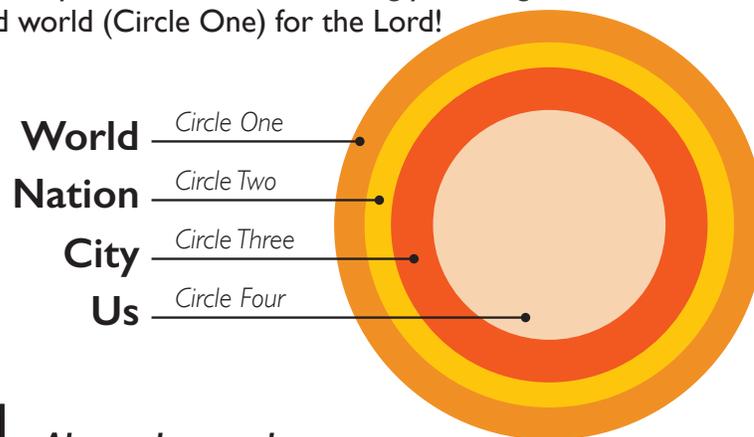
*“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”*

Acts 17:26–27

The Bible was clear—Jesus declared it—that the Gospel is to go to the ends of the earth. Whether or not you believe in the prophetic significance of Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple Mount, we can all agree that God cares for this nation and city just as He does for America and your city.

He loves the Jews, Palestinians, Americans, and every other people group on earth. He loves the whole world so much that He gave His Son as a sacrifice so that we might be saved. That is cause to celebrate—and to live a life of purpose and meaning for God’s glory.

May you (Circle Four) dedicate yourself afresh to reaching your neighborhood and city (Circle Three), state and nation (Circle Two), and world (Circle One) for the Lord!



### **About the teacher**

Joseph Williams serves as CEO of Feed the Hunger, an evangelical mission organization based in North Carolina. He is ordained and has been in full-time ministry for well over 20 years, traveling for the sake of the Gospel to nearly 40 countries. He has written numerous books and devotionals for the sole purpose of helping followers of Christ grow in their walk with the Lord. All available materials are free upon request.