The History Of The Temple In The Time Of Jesus

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Origin of the Temple

In the 10th century BCE, King Solomon constructed the first temple in Jerusalem. In 586 BCE, the Babylonians destroyed it, and the Jews were banished to Babylon. Cyrus the Great issued an order allowing the Jews to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple following the Persian conquest of Babylon. When the second temple was finished in 515 BCE, it became the main place of prayer for the Jews for many years.

Origin of the Temple : Continued

The Temple in the time of Jesus was built by Herod the great in the first century Bce. The temple was a large complex the that covered about 35 acres. It has several courtyards including the Court of the Gentiles, the Court of Women, and the Court of Israel.

Religious Life at the Temple

The Temple was the core of Jewish religious life during the time of Jesus. Jews from judea and and others would travel to Jerusalem to give sacrifices and participate in religious festivals. Only in the temple were sacrifices permitted, and numerous significant religious rites took place there.

Religious Life at the Temple : Continued

The function of the priesthood in the temple's religious activity was significant. They were in charge of offering sacrifices and looking after the temple. The High Priests are the most significant Priests and are in charge of the entire temple.

Religious Life at the Temple : Continued

The two dominant religious groups in Judea at the time of Jesus were the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees, a movement, emphasized popular Jewish law and tradition of strict observance. They accepted both the presence of angels and demons as well as the resurrection of the dead. A more conservative faction that disapproved of these ideas was the Sadducees. They disapproved of the Pharisees' oral customs and held that the Torah should be read literally.

Political life at the Temple

Judea's political scene at the time of Jesus was greatly impacted by the temple. Judea had been taken over by the Roman Empire in 63 BCE, and the Jews were now governed by a succession of Roman-appointed governors. The high priest, who was also chosen by the Romans, was in charge of maintaining law and order in Jerusalem and surrounding areas.

Political life at the Temple : Continued

A group of Jewish nationalists known as the Zealots challenged Roman control. They thought that armed insurrection was the only viable option for achieving independence. Several violent uprisings in Jerusalem were started by the Zealots, who were active during the lifetime of Jesus.

Political life at the Temple : Continued

The temple became the center of conflict in Judea between the various political and religious groups. The Zealots were an ongoing threat to Roman control, and the Pharisees and Sadducees frequently disagreed with one another. Jesus engaged in a number of disputes at the temple with the religious leaders.

Jesus and the Temple

Jesus connection with the temple was problematic. He was a devoted Jew who frequently went to the temple because of his upbringing. He did, however, also take issue with the leadership of the religion and the temple's marketing.

Jesus and the Temple

Jesus purification of the temple is one of the most well-known events surrounding the temple. Jesus reportedly went into the temple and expelled the money changers and vendors who were offering animals for sacrifice. He charged them with converting the shrine into a hideout for criminals.