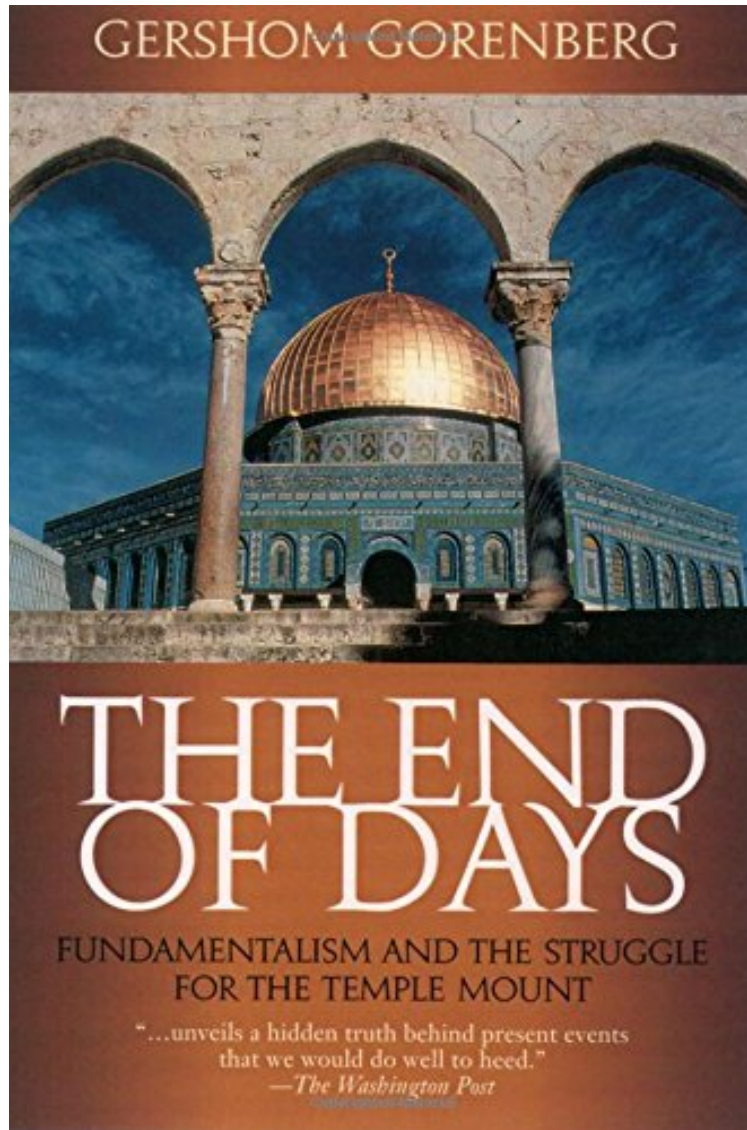


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The End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount

Gershom Gorenberg

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Gershom Gorenberg : The End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How Fundamentalist Christians and Israeli-Jewish Extremists are collaborating to bring about the Third Temple and the Apocalypse By Jack Wasson From the title "End of Days," it

would appear this is just another apocalyptic prediction of the Rapture followed by "the great wrap up." Nothing could be further from the truth. I read this book because I knew the author to be American-born Israeli historian, journalist and blogger, specializing in Middle Eastern politics who has written great books such as "The Accidental Empire" (which deals with the post 1967 settler movement of Judea and Samaria.) In fact, this book focuses on the center of three different religions Messianic aspirations--the Temple Mount. No doubt he borrows his title from Christian Pre-Millenniumists who focus on the Third Temple and the role of the Jews and Israel in the End Time. A significant portion of the book is devoted to these various Christian groups and their predictions of Israel's place and specifically, the Temple Mount. But, being both a thorough journalist and containing the natural curiosity of the same, Gorenberg looks at (what he calls) "fringe" Israeli groups such as the Temple Mount Faithful and how they are encouraging the Messianic expectations of the evangelicals. Gorenberg's own opinion seems to be that the "Christian extremists" (his idea) coupled with their encouragement for the "Israeli-Jewish extremists" could actually bring about the Temple-T3 and the subsequent apocalypse just by their focusing on it. He seems to be convinced another Temple is NOT needed; that the Jews are doing just fine without it and the "bloody sacrifices" and giving up this vision is in the long term interest of "peace and security." The book is solid investigative journalism and makes a solid contribution to examining the "players" in the Temple-T3 story, ALL the players, both Christian Fundamentalists and Israeli Jewish. Gorenberg is stingy with his own opinions, but the careful reader can see where Gorenberg is personally on this issue and it is NOT a vote for T-3, which he sees as a threat to the tenuous peace between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews. I STRONGLY recommend this book for ANYONE interested in the subject of another Temple--T3.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you want to understand the importance of the Temple ...By High HatIf you want to understand the importance of the Temple Mount to Christians, Jews and Muslims then this book is for you. It's a little slow reading at times but well worth it!11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An urgent plea for relativism and humilityBy Michael Wells GlueckDeciphering the signs pointing to all-out war in the Middle East is the passionate purpose of this book, which analyzes the motivations of fundamentalist and evangelical Christians who support Israel in its struggles against the Palestinians in general and in its often violent disputes over the Temple Mount in particular because their literal interpretations of Scriptural passages lead them to believe that these current events represent enactments of the "Endtime" in which the Messiah will reappear and perform the Final Judgment. A decidedly unbenign corollary of such beliefs, of course, is the expectation that the majority of Jews will be killed during the ensuing Armageddon, and that only the few who convert in time will join the ranks of true believers who enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In tracing these volatile beliefs, summarized under the rubric of "dispensational premillennialism," along with the parallel convictions of Jewish messianists and the unswerving commitments of Muslims to the defense of the sacred precincts on the Mount, Gershon Gorenberg contrasts the literalism with which a "political arrangement over thirty-five acres," the area of the Temple Mount, "is described as a cosmological defeat of light by darkness" - i.e., an accommodation preventing the destroyed Temple's rebuilding, an essential precondition to fulfillment of the Doomsday scripts of both Christian and Jewish fundamentalists - with the moderate evangelicals' rejection of the Crusades as a betrayal of Jesus, who "saw the image of God in every person he met." The author alternates passages of philosophical reflection with folksy descriptions of meetings with rabbis, ministers, scientists, politicians, and philosophers, and even with an analogy of the current crisis in the Middle East to the 1993 conflagration in Waco, Texas, which he interprets as a salient and pertinent example not only of the importance of understanding symbols in any dialogue or confrontation between adherents of different religions or cultures but also of the inevitable consequences of failing to heed or to speak one's interlocutor's symbolic language.

In this provocative work, seasoned journalist Gershon Gorenberg portrays a deadly mix of religious extremism, violence, and Mideast politics, as expressed in the struggle for the sacred center of Jerusalem. Known to Jews and Christians as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, this thirty-five-acre enclosure at the southeast corner of Jerusalem's Old City is the most contested piece of real estate on earth. Here nationalism combines with fundamentalist faith in a volatile brew. Members of the world's three major monotheistic faiths--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam--hold this spot to be the key to salvation as they await the end of the world, and struggle to fulfill conflicting religious prophecies with dangerous political consequences. Adroitly portraying American radio evangelists of the End, radical Palestinian sheikhs, and Israeli ex-terrorists, Gorenberg explains why believers hope for the End, and why prominent American fundamentalists provide hard-line support for Israel while looking forward to the apocalypse. He makes sense of the messianic fervor that has driven some Israeli settlers to oppose peace. And he describes the Islamic apocalyptic visions that cast Israel's actions in Jerusalem as diabolic plots. The End of Days shows how conflict over Jerusalem and the fiery belief in apocalypse continue to have a potent impact on world politics and why a lasting peace in the Middle East continues to prove elusive.

.com For the average American watching CNN, the conflict in the Middle East is a complicated affair, mired in an ancient past and an uncertain future. It also seems like a distant story, one that only remotely touches upon the temples and churches beyond the Middle East. Not so, explains Gershon Gorenberg, a senior editor at the Jerusalem Report. In

fact, the threat of apocalyptic religious violence is happening now, and it's happening everywhere. It is fueled in part, he says, by Christian leaders in America's fundamentalist churches. To help readers make sense of it all, Gorenberg centers his fascinating discussion around the Temple Mount, the world's most desired piece of religious real estate. It is where King David erected an altar, where Solomon and Herod built their temples, and where the Dome of Rock now stands. (Cain even murdered Abel, according to ancient legend, over who would own this place.) The Christian far right now stakes a future claim to the Temple Mount, where they predict (or at least hope) the "Third Temple" will be built shortly. Gorenberg offers the impressive research of a seasoned investigative journalist, yet he possesses the narrative skills of a novelist. The result is an enthralling and informative read. --Gail Hudson
From Publishers Weekly
Although Gorenberg, an Israeli journalist, does not specifically address the recent violence at Temple Mount/Al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem, anyone who seeks to understand the root of the fighting will find his thorough history of those 35 disputed acres to be indispensable. Gorenberg makes a stellar contribution to comprehending the troubled relationships among Arabs, Jews and Christians in Israel, meticulously analyzing the actions and beliefs of fundamentalist groups in all three religions. Jewish messianists and Christian millennialists insist that building the Third Temple on the site where both Solomon's and Herod's temples stood is essential for the advent of the Messiah, while Muslim apocalyptic believers fear that efforts to destroy Al-Aqsa mosque to make way for the Third Temple will prevent fulfillment of the prophecy about Islam's Meccan shrine migrating to Jerusalem at the end of time. Gorenberg writes objectively about advocates of each stance, slipping just once when he rejects the title of "martyr" for Baruch Goldstein (1994 killer of 29 Arabs in the Tomb of Patriarchs), calling that label "obscene." Gorenberg's prescience is manifest by his calling Temple Mount "a sacred blasting cap" and by stating that "any incident at the site can spin out of control." This valuable study greatly enhances readers grasp of the Middle East's religious and political complexities. (Dec.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Gorenberg...shows himself an insightful listener."--The New York Times
Book "Dismayingly good history....Gorenberg's book predicts not only the eruption but the location of each fault line."--Washington Post
Book World
"A prescient and invaluable guide to understanding the collapse of the peace process and the dangerously escalating conflict that has replaced it....Gorenberg's vivid descriptions of the setting and his well-crafted development of the characters make this book read like a millennial thriller, leaving the reader with a bone-chilling sensation about the violent events currently unfolding in Jerusalem."--Boston Globe
"Gorenberg's prescience is manifest....This valuable study greatly enhances readers' grasp of [the] Middle East's religious and political complexities."--Publishers Weekly, starred review
"Few American journalists understand evangelical theology well enough to explain the Christian Right, few Israeli journalists take messianic Zionism seriously enough to explain the right-wing settlers, and few of either investigate Islam as more than a caricature. Gershom Gorenberg has the intellectual depth and journalistic curiosity to do all three, and as a result, his warnings chill the bone."--The New Republic