



The Temple of Jerusalem in Contemporary Israeli Society

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Campus | Spitalgasse 2–4, Hof 7.3

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From ancient times onward, the Temple of Jerusalem served as a central focus of national identity. Even after its destruction in 70 CE by the Romans, a yearning for the destroyed Temple and a hope for its reconstruction in eschatological times continued to beat in the hearts of Jewish believers for centuries until modern times. From the 19th century onwards, belief in the "Third Temple" underwent a fundamental mutation. While in secular Zionist circles this belief, while still significant and relevant, was emptied of its sacred-religious nature, in religious-nationalist circles it went from being an eschatological hope to an immediate and concrete one.