



# Beyond the Dome of the Rock

According to many Evangelical Christians a mysterious scenario is brewing: at the end of time, that is very soon, the third temple of Jerusalem will be rebuilt and by implication the mosque of Omar, with the so called “Dome of the Rock,” which stands on the premisses of the temple, is bound to disappear in the process. This thesis is defended by so called “Dispensationalist” Christians on the basis of their interpretation of biblical prophecies. No need to say that this scenario is of gigantic proportions in regard to the fate of Israel. And people are trembling, or hoping?...

In this special issue of *Shabbat Shalom* we are discussing Dispensationalist views about Israel. The reason for this interest is that Dispensationalism has not only become popular among many Evangelical Christians in North America, but also and more importantly for us because of the particular relationship Dispensationalists have developed towards Israel: Dispensationalists love Israel. But behind this passion a whole theology is hidden which deserves the attention of those who are interested in the relation between Israel and the Church. Therefore, beyond the loud voice of the Dispensationalists, it is important indeed

that we also hear the voice of other Christians and even of Jewish theologians, that we may balance our views and clarify our minds.

Thus on this platform of *Shabbat Shalom* we will hear voices from the outside, Jewish theologian Dr. Ariel Yaakov who personally knew Dispensationalists in Israel, and Dr. Hans LaRondelle who analyzed their theology from the point of view of Christian theology; these views will also be joined by a voice from inside, Steve Wohlberg a former disciple of Dispensationalism. Is it enough to love Israel to be right on theological matters? And what is the quality of that love if it is determined by a whole theological agenda? Not only the theological truth, but also love should be tested. Then we will understand, and perhaps see beyond the golden Dome...



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