

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

### THE ESCHATOLOGICAL ROLE OF THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE: AN EXAMINATION OF JEWISH WRITINGS DATING FROM 586 BCE TO 70 CE

Name of researcher: Eric W. Baker  
Name of adviser: Roy Gane, Ph.D.  
Date completed: March 2014

#### *Topic*

This research investigates the relationship between eschatology and the Jerusalem temple within the second temple period.

#### *Purpose*

The research investigates the role of the Jerusalem temple within the second temple Jewish writings to establish whether the Jerusalem temple has any role to play in relation to the end of the exile and the beginning of the *eschaton*. Previous analyses of second temple Judaism have not focused on the role of the Temple in eschatology.

#### *Sources*

The primary documents investigated in this research were the proto-canonical, deuterocanonical, Qumran writings, and the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha.

#### *Conclusion*

The Jerusalem temple has been found to have an eschatological role in some second temple period Jewish writings. This research has investigated the Jerusalem temple in the Hebrew Scriptures as well as later writings. This research reports that in some second temple period Jewish writings, the Jerusalem temple plays an eschatological role in the sense that it is expected to hasten or speed up the conclusion of the present age and commencement of a new age. Such a role is indicated in *1 Enoch*, *Jubilees*, Pseudo-Philo, Tobit, Sirach, 2 Maccabees, and the Temple Scroll.