

Top Rabbi in Israel: We must build the Third Temple



A group of Jews, accompanied by Rabbi Yehuda Glick visit the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City. (Credit: Sliman Khader/FLASH90)

The former Rabbi of the Old City of Jerusalem and one of the leading rabbis in Israel today said in an interview: “we must do everything in our power to build the Temple”.

Rabbi Avigdor Nebenzahl is an Israeli rabbi and *Posek* (a legal scholar who determines the position of *Halakha* (Jewish law) in cases of law where previous authorities are inconclusive, or in those situations where no clear halakhic precedent exists).

He is the head of the *Yeshiva* (seminary) of Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh, a faculty member at Yeshivat HaKotel, and Rabbi of the Ramban Synagogue. Nebenzahl used to serve as the chief rabbi of the Old City of Jerusalem. Today, the post was taken over by his son, Rabbi Chizkiyahu Nebenzahl.



Rabbi Avigdor Nebenzahl (Courtesy: Facebook)

In a recent interview, the Rabbi stated that despite delays by Israel's High Court, explicitly stated that we must do everything in our power to build it and not wait for it to fall from the sky.

The rabbi emphasized that there has never been any sort of ruling from *Chazal* (Jewish sages of the Mishna) that states that the Jewish people should wait for it to fall from the sky contrary to what many ultra-orthodox Jews believe.

One piece of evidence Rav Nebenzahl submits comes from *Midrash Rabah of Parshat Toldot*, saying: “When the Roman Empire gave the Jews permission to

build the Temple, they built it. They didn't wait for it to fall from Heaven".

The rabbi added that there is a *mitzvah* (commandment) to build the Temple – even if we can't yet offer sacrifices. He added that questions surrounding the renewal of Temple sacrifices should not get in the way of the Third Temple being built.

Regarding Temple sacrifices, the rabbi states: "Indeed, regarding the sacrifices, there are some Halachic doubts and the sages of this generation should determine a plan of action".

Nebenzahl was also a faculty member of the prestigious Seminary *Yeshivat Mir* before lecturing at Yeshivat HaKotel and Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh.

Nebenzahl's scholarly works include a commentary on the *Mishnah Berura*, books about the laws of Passover, Succot, Shavuot, The Three Weeks and Shabbat (on the tractate Shabbat). He also writes weekly essays on the Torah portion.

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