

**Matt. 21:12-13 DEN OF ROBBERS** (see also Mark 11:17, John 2:14-16, Luke 19:46 and Jer. 7:11) *“And Yeshua entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and **overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.** And He said to them, **‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER’; but you are making it a ROBBERS’ DEN.**”* It’s obvious here that Yeshua was very upset, but the reason is misunderstood by most. It was not acceptable for Jews to use coins with pictures on them (idols such as Ceasar) in those days, so all people that came from foreign lands had to exchange their idolatrous coins into Temple shekels, which were silver coins that had



nothing on them. The money exchangers here were not just exchanging foreign coins for shekels, they were charging a fee to do so. This is also what got Yeshua so upset. They were charging usury. They were profiting from others for no reason.

King Herod took all the credit for the Temple and people (tourists) came from all over the country to see this incredible structure that Herod had built. Herod had a Temple tax of 1/2 shekel for tourists to enter it. I would like to also note that the merchants were to stay back from the Temple, yet they kept getting closer and closer, another reason Yeshua made it clear the Temple was a house of prayer not a marketplace (Isa. 56:7), (not a place to make money...den of robbers). Malachi prophesied this to happen back in **Mal. 3:1** *“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts.*” (Mar 15/16) Jerry Hennig