

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

#44 Lessons From Ezekiel's Millennial Vision

Solomon's Temple was designed to house God's presence and to illustrate God's plan of personal redemption. However, Israel was rebellious and chose instead to retain their sin so God withdrew His presence and His glory. [Ezek. 10]

1. Even after the Temple was destroyed, the people remained unchanged.

God remained absent during the 2nd temple period [Herod's]

Before the final destruction of this temple, God came in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, "the temple made without hands." [Matt.12:6]

1. He then chose "another people" [the church] to carry out His plan of salvation.

2. By placing the Holy Spirit in believers' hearts, they became living representatives of what God's physical temple was originally designed to do and to communicate.

I Cor. 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

The Millennial Temple is a literal temple where Jesus Christ will rule for 1000 years. Many OT prophets, including Isaiah, Daniel, Joel and Haggai spoke of this temple and its significance.

1. Called Ezekiel's Temple because God gave the plans and dimensions to Ezekiel in a vision. [Ezek. 40-48]

2. It will function as Christ's dwelling place, His throne room, for His 1000 year earthly reign.

a. Provides a place for His glory which will be a visible sign of God's presence among His people.

3. It will be the focal point and the worship center for the entire kingdom.

a. The Temple will demonstrate Christ's holiness and purity. [Ezek. 43:12]

b. Holiness will permeate everything that is connected to this Temple.

4. Jerusalem will be the center of world government.

Ezekiel's Temple : Haggai 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isa. 2:2-3 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Micah 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Zech. 6:12-13 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the LORD: ¹³ Even He shall build the temple of the LORD; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. [Office of King & Priest will be joined.]

Luke 1:32-33 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Ezekiel & His Vision:

- God strengthens
- Watchman for the house of Israel
- Born into the priestly line [Ezek. 1:3], but served God as a prophet.
- He knew the law and taught it to the people.
- True prophet = all his predictions came true in every detail
- He predicted the city of Tyre would be destroyed [26:1-14]. Every detail happened!
- He was living in exile in Babylon when he had this vision. [~573 BC]
- He was supernaturally transported to a high mountain in Israel where he saw the glorious temple that God would establish in the Millennium.
- He was told to record in amazing detail so he could present it to the Jewish people in captivity in Babylon. This would encourage them not only about the coming temple, but about their restoration and their glorious future.
- God wanted His hurting people to know that His judgments are always redemptive and His purpose was not to destroy them but to restore and reconcile them.

Ps. 94:15a But judgment shall return unto righteousness:

Note: This was God's purpose for them and for us also.

- This vision was to convict the Jews of their past unfaithfulness and to demonstrate, by this future hope, God's unconditional Love. [Ezek. 43:10-11]
- God was forced to judge them in the past, but in the future He will re-gather them, cleanse them, and ultimately bless them.

Ezek. 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:

and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

In Ezekiel 40-48 Ezekiel sees a detailed vision of a grand and glorious temple.

Ezek. 40-44:3 describe the temple complex in unbelievable architectural detail.

Ezek. 44:4-46:24 spells out the return of the Lord to the temple and the new organization that He will establish.

Ezek. 47:1-48:35 tells of the incredible changes and blessings that will come to the Promised Land from the temple.

The Millennial Mountain of Jehovah's House

The land will undergo some tremendous geographical and topographical change at the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.

Zech. 14:4,10 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.

[Large plateau on top will be 50 miles in each direction. Outer court = 400,000 sq. ft.]

Isa. 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

In Israel: The rise of a very high mountain that will become the highest mountain of the world. The Millennial Temple and Millennial Jerusalem will be on the top of the mountain.

Isa. 2:2-4 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be EXALTED above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³ And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

1. The Law of the Millennial Kingdom will emanate from this mountain.

2. This will result in worldwide peace. Differences among the nations will be settled by the Word of the Lord that will come from the Mountain of Jehovah's House.

Isa. 27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Ezek. 20:40-41 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. ⁴¹ I will accept you with your sweet savor, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

1. The High mountain will become the center of Jewish worship.

Isa. 56:6-8 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; ⁷ Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

⁸ The Lord GOD, which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

1. High mountain will become a place of prayer for all peoples - Jews & Gentiles

Ezek. 17:22-24 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a tender one, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent: ²³ In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it: and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell.

²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it.

1. This highest mountain is a place of lush greenery and vegetation.

Ezekiel provides details of this very high Mountain of Jehovah's House.

Ezek. 40:1-4 In the five and twentieth year of our captivity [April 28, 573 BC], in the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after that the city was smitten, in the selfsame day the hand of the LORD was upon me, and brought me thither.

- 25th year of the 70 years of captivity: 10th Day of Month

a. Passover: Remind them of Israel's deliverance from Egypt

b. Beginning of Religious Year

Ezekiel is given a special revelation of Israel's future in the Messianic Kingdom.

40:2 In the visions of God brought He me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.

- He saw a very high mountain which had the skyline of a city on its southern side. [v.2]

This city is the Millennial Jerusalem.

³ And He brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

Rev. 1:15a And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;

Note: "Bronze speaks of God's righteous judgment that is perfectly just and tempered, wisely administered with precision and perfect timing to get the results He desires and motivated by love."

Sin and uncleanness were dealt with at the bronze altar.

Only then can a person enter the pure and holy presence of God.

40:3b with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

Note: To measure property is symbolic of claiming it for yourself;
"shows ownership and defining the parameters of God's possession" [MacArthur]

When the Jewish remnant was trying to rebuild their temple, Zechariah saw a man measuring the temple.

Zech. 2:1 I lifted up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line in his hand.

The remnant that returned to Judah was concerned about rebuilding the temple and restoring the city, but their work was extremely difficult. In this vision, God assured His people that He planned future glory and honor for them and their city when He would come to dwell with them. This is a sign the temple and the city would one day be restored. Jerusalem will enjoy future expansion and glory such as the city has never experienced. The remnant of Jews were helping to keep alive a city that would one day be greatly honored and blessed by God.

Rev. 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and Them That Worship Therein.

God commanded John to measure the temple in Jerusalem before it was trampled down by the Gentiles. This gave evidence that no matter what happened, Jerusalem and the temple belonged to God and would one day be restored and sanctified.

Before the "brass man" gives Ezekiel a guided tour of the temple precincts, the guide gave Ezekiel some solemn counsel.

⁴ And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and SET THINE HEART upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

- He is to declare this message to the House of Israel.

Two Instruments Of Measurement:

A. The Rod Of Measurement - Measure the details of the House of God

The Man of Brass with His measuring rod: the object in view is Christ. He governs everything. Jesus Christ will judge our lives, our walk, our works.

His standard is The Word of God, Jesus Christ.

Question: Is He the Fullness of the Godhead bodily? [Col. 2:9] Is Jesus Christ in me? [Col. 1:27]

I Corinthians is an example of the fullness of Christ being diminished within the church by the intrusion of the fleshly or carnal man. Paul held up the measuring rod against the church when He said: "I determined to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." [2:2]

Paul brought in The Righteous Man to correct the things that were unrighteous.

By bringing in the Righteous Man, he put out the unrighteous man.

By bringing in the Man of the Spirit, he put out the man of the flesh.

B. The Linen Cord Of Measurement - Line Of Flax - The Measureless Measure

1. No measurement is given: Linen Cord was used for the greater measurements.

2. Bronze Man with the Line of Flax shows us there is great fullness of Christ.

- a. He is God's standard of measure. God measure everything by Jesus Christ.
- b. The Letters to the 7 churches: Jesus Christ is measuring them according to His Fullness. He shows them where they are failing to overcome and to attain unto His Fullness!
- d. We all will be measured by His Fullness and whether we have gained it!

Phil. 3:10-14 That I may know him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Ps. 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD: and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Ezek. 47: When Ezekiel is shown the river that flows out from the Temple, the bronze man uses the linen cord for measurement. The river becomes too deep for man.

47:2-5 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

³ And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

⁴ Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

⁵ Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

47:8-10 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that everything that lives, which moves, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

Consider: We are in the presence of something far greater than human measurement.

There is no measuring the Holy Spirit or the fullness of Christ in us.

Paul spoke of the "love of Christ, which passes knowledge."

Eph. 3:17-19 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be Filled With All The Fullness Of God.

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

²¹ Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.