

EZEKIEL 40 - 48 - PART 3

Remember last 13 chapters are prophetic. Some have been fulfilled and many have not.

36 - 37 - Israel's Restoration

38 - 39 about events leading up to Battle of Armageddon.

40 - 48 = Kingdom age and the Millennial Reign of Christ. Ezekiel is given this vision that is way past his life and past ours as well.

So we're looking at future events and looking forward to the imminent return of Christ.

However, unlike His first coming, the second coming is going to be much different.

Not as a LAMB but as a LION . . .

Fire in His eyes, riding a white horse, makes war with all the nations.

Once He defeats and finishes those nations, what then?

After defeating those enemies, He will make His way to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and enters through the East Gate and will sit on the throne and establish a rule and reign for 1000 years.

“Kingdom Age” or the “Millenial Reign”. It is this 1000 year period.

43:1-5

Ezekiel sees this day that the Lord returns and when He returns “the GLORY of the LORD returns”.

King David had written something very similar that the Lord had shown him this day.

Ps 24:7-10

Back in chapter 10:18 of Ezekiel, he was given a vision of when the glory of the Lord departed.

Ezekiel saw it leave the Temple but now is given the privilege way into the future of the Glory returning and filling the earth.

Easterns Gate also called Golden Gate.

It's a double arched gate and it's been blocked up since 810 A.D. when Muslims walled it up.

It was briefly opened in 1102 A.D. by the Crusaders and was then shut up again by “Solidean” - the first Sultan of Egypt after regaining Jerusalem in 1187 A. D.

The Eastern Gate was then completely sealed and barricaded by the Muslims in 1541 A.D. by the Ottoman sultans, “Suleiman”.

He walled it up cause the Jewish scriptures said - a Messiah would come through the Eastern Gate.

He knew Jewish scriptures said a Jewish Priest would never defile Himself and walk among dead bodies.

He thought he could keep out the Messiah with some rocks and a cemetery.

Presently there is no Jewish temple there and actually 2 Muslim sanctuaries are there.

1) Dome of Rocks

2) Another Mosque = Al-Aqsa

Nothing and no one will stop Him from setting up and establishing His throne in Jerusalem.

The temple Jesus will occupy is presently not there. It will in fact be the 4th Temple.

1 - Built by Solomon in 900's B.C.

It stood about 500 years.

2 - It was rebuilt after they finished captivity and God brought them back under Ezra and Nehemiah.

It was the second and was not as glorious as first.

Then King Herod the Great, several centuries later, would come along and refurbished it as a way to ingratiate himself to the Jewish people.

So really it was still the second temple cause only refurbished.

3 - There will be a third temple built and it will be occupied by the Antichrist. The Book of Daniel teaches us there will be a Peace Agreement for a period of 7 years when a very charismatic Global Leader will come onto the world stage and will convince Muslims, Jews & Gentiles to get along and divide up the Temple Mount.

4 - When the Lord returns, I believe great earthquakes and all others will be destroyed and a 4th Temple will be built and Jesus will occupy it.

Ezekiel is very detailed and meticulous about the measurements and design and he writes all this down.

He uses the Ancient Babylonian Cubit which was a royal cubit of 21 inches.

I'm going to teach it from this perspective.

3 Aspects

1: Different

2: Absent

3: Present

1) Different

Rev 20:6 - says Saints will be Priests of God and we will reign with Him for 1000 years.

Ezekiel 44:15 - the actual Priests that serve during the millennial time are only Jewish Believers.

Specifically through the tribe of “Levi” descendants of Aaron.

It appears when the Lord returns that Jewish believers will serve as Priests to serve the Lord and that other believers (Gentiles) will help in administrating the rest of the world.

So what will be different here . . .

Ezekiel doesn't spend much time talking about life during the millennium but does spend lots of time talking about the temple.

But other Prophets do talk about how different life will be during the Millennial Reign.

Isaiah has more to say about this than any other Prophet.

1 - Time of Unprecedented Peace

Is 11:7-8 - Even children could play with snakes and not be bitten.

2) Longevity - people will live much longer.

Is 65:20 - he who dies at 100 will be a mere youth.

3) Also during this time, Rev 20 tells us Satan will be bound for 1000 years.

It doesn't mean it will be a world without sin, because people who survived tribulation and come into millenium will still have sin natures and they will have children.

4) Old Testament sacrifices re-instated.

Ez 43:18-21

Why in the world would we revisit the O.T. sacrifices?

When the people were doing that in O.T., they were looking ahead to the cross, forward to cross.

During the millennial reign when sacrifices are brought back, it will not be for looking forward but for looking backwards.

It's going to be a reminder looking back to the cross.

It was and will be a tangible reminder of what He did do!

5) Another thing here is that the dead sea will become fresh water. (Ezekiel 47)

Here in Ezekiel, as well as in Zechariah, there is a fresh water river that starts in Jerusalem under south side of the Temple and flows south into the dead sea.

Ezekiel 47:8-12

The great Salt Lake in Utah 17% salinity. The Dead Sea is 37% salinity. 10 times salty as ocean.

II - What's Absent

The Lord shows Ezekiel a vision inside the temple, there are some things missing.

41:3-4

One of the things that is most notable about what is absent in the new temple is “NO CURTAIN”!

Heb 10:20

No silver or gold.

David contributed 100,000 talents of his own gold to line the walls.
3750 tons of gold.

50 billion in today's money.

No silver or gold . . . why? Cause Jesus and His Glory is what
adorns the sanctuary.

No table of showbread because Jesus is the Bread of Life.

No lampstand cause Jesus is the Light of World.

No Arc of Covenant cause Jesus is the Mercy Seat.

III - What will be present

The very presence of the Glory of the Lord!

Ezekiel 44:4

It's a statement to the Mercy of God. He will return to the place He was not honored.

It's a terrible thing when presence of God leaves a place.

Even in Omnipresence, God can choose to withdraw His presence in a place He is not honored.

His Glory departed because His people had defiled Himself and God will remove His presence when there is unrepentant compromise.

Great illustration was Samson. He was a man of great physical strength but terrible moral weakness. He loved women more than he loved God. His love for women mastered him more than the Lord.

Judges 16:20 - When he awoke he thought he would go out subdue Philistines just like always done before “but he did not know that the Lord had departed from him”.

If you feel the absence of His presence the good news is that in His Mercy He doesn't stay angry forever.

Micah 7:18 - “Does not stay angry forever, God delights to show MERCY”.