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Ezekiel 43

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Ezekiel 43.

Topics.

- A vision like the vision by the Chebar Canal.
- The glory of the LORD enters the Temple by East Gate.
- The Temple is the Throne of God forever.
- The priests' buildings are alongside the Temple.
- Ezekiel is told to describe the Temple to Israel.
- Christ's blood flows back to the foundation of the earth
- The measurements of the altar.
- The ordinances for the altar.
- Offerings for the first day and the second day.
- Offerings to be provided for seven days.
- The theme of the last nine chapters of Ezekiel.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem. After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (chpt. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem. Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins. For a greater overview of the entire book, visit the introduction to the book of Ezekiel in chapter one.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER

The focus of chapter forty-two was upon the rebuilding of the priest quarters in the outer court of the Temple of God. The primary focus of this chapter is cleanse the altar and prepare yourself for the glory of the LORD is coming to the Temple and the focus of the following five chapters continue with the rebuilding of the Temple with chapter forty-seven shining a brilliant light upon a river flowing out from the altar of the Temple of God and bringing life to everyone who enters its water.

The Glory of God coming from the East.

- **Ezekiel 43:1-2:** Then he (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) led me to the gate, the gate facing east. ²And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory.
- The glory of the God of Israel was coming echoes the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Like the sound of many waters echoes the multitudes of people with Christ when he comes (God's glory is Christ and those who are redeemed).
- The earth shone with his glory echoes the Kingdom of God on earth.

EZEKIEL 43:3

A Vision like the Vision by the Chebar Canal.

- **Ezekiel 43:3:** And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he (the LORD) came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face.

Just like the vision Ezekiel had seen when the LORD came to destroy Jerusalem and like the vision by the Chebar Canal means totally clear, seemingly real so real that Ezekiel dropped to his knees.

Visions: can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. In most cases God gives the picture or vision then the prophet speaks or writes it in their own words. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision is always under God's control and can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of the prophet or to whoever God chooses to give the vision to. The vision communicates the LORD'S will or future events to the prophet who then proceeds to tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words the LORD has spoken to them in the vision.

- The vision Ezekiel had of the destruction of Jerusalem is in Ezekiel chapter 24.
- Ezekiel's vision by the Chebar Canal is in Ezekiel chapter one.

EZEKIEL 43:4-5

The Glory of the LORD enters the Temple by East Gate.

- **Ezekiel 43:4-5:** As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

Remember the LORD told Ezekiel to declare to all Israel all the words of the last nine chapters. (Ezek. 40:4) (Ezek. 43:10-11). Israel is in Babylonian captivity at this time and Jerusalem and the Temple of God are in ruin.

Ponder for a moment: the excitement when the people of Israel hear Ezekiel telling them in enormous detail that the entire city of Jerusalem will be rebuilt, the priesthood established and when the Temple of the LORD is restored God will fill it with His glory. What a thrill and comfort these prophetic words of Ezekiel would have been for the people of Israel.

EZEKIEL 43:6-7

The Temple is the Throne of God Forever.

- **Ezekiel 43:6-7:** While the man (the man with a measuring reed) (Ezek. 40:3) was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, ⁷and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place (the Temple) (v4) of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places.

NOTICE: the one speaking out of the Temple is the LORD.

These verses refer to the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple of God at the end of Israel's seventy year captivity in Babylon when the people of Israel are set free and return to their beloved homeland under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild their homes, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple of God. But they also carry with them an echo of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

EZEKIEL 43:8-9

The Priests Buildings are Alongside the Temple.

- **Ezekiel 43:8-9:** by setting their (the priests) threshold by my (the LORD'S) threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger. ⁹Now let them (Israel) put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

Israel defiled God's Holy name and their own land by their lifestyle, deeds and actions. Following are some of the sins that permeated the land of Judah and Israel.

- Gross idolatry and Baal altars were set up throughout their land.
- Asherim worship was amongst the people, (she was a goddess of love and fertility her worship was indecent and sexual in an offensive way).
- Worship of Moloch and Israel's children were being sacrificed to him in the Hinnom valley.
- Altars were set up in the temple court for planetary worship and worship of the host of heaven (i.e., the sun, moon, stars).
- Worship of idols at altars that had been built under shady trees on their hills.
- Innocent people were killed and cheated out of justice.
- Leaders oppressed others for their own selfish gain.
- Drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality.
- The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor instead of relieving their economic distress they devised new means of depriving them of their property.

This idol worship and indiscriminate, indulgent and excessive luxurious living resulted in the decay of social unity in the land of Judah (the two tribes at Jerusalem). Is it any wonder the LORD compares Israel's ways to the uncleanness of a woman in her menstrual impurity? (Ezek. 36:17) and poured out His wrath upon both Judah and Israel.

I have consumed Israel: the LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. He used Assyria to bring judgment on Israel (the ten tribes) in the land of Samaria and Babylon to bring judgment on Judah (the two tribes) at Jerusalem. Many times, God through the prophets warned Judah and Israel of their impending doom but they would not listen.

Assyria eventually invaded the land of Samaria and took Israel captive, later Babylon's armies surrounded Jerusalem and after a bitter siege of a year and a half the city fell to Nebuchadnezzar and was destroyed. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken there with him (587 B.C.). Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time. This ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would

have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

EZEKIEL 43:10-12

Ezekiel is told to Describe the Temple to Israel.

- **Ezekiel 43:10-12:** As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and they shall measure the plan. ¹¹And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, its whole design; and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out. ¹²This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.

Son of man: means son of mortal man.

Ezekiel is told to: make known to Israel everything he has seen in the vision.

NOTICE: Ezekiel is to write down the laws in the sight of the people the idea being that it will make the people feel ashamed, regretful and embarrassed and in this remorse turn to the LORD in repentance and sorrow. This is exactly what the Bible does to anyone who has a heart that is either seeking God or already loves God.

The law of God is the perfect standard and we all fall short of it, but that is the purpose of the Bible, to reveal to us that without some kind of supernatural intervention we are undone before God and without hope, but despite our failings God loves us, and in His great love He provided a way of salvation in which we can stand washed clean before Him and experience the love He so much wants to share with all those who seek Him.

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Jesus said it this way:

- God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17).

Whoever comes to God in repentance and by faith accepts the salvation provided for them through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be granted eternal life and experience the Spirit of God dwelling in their heart by love.

NOTICE: the entire top of the mountain and all around is most holy (v12).

Christ's blood flows back to the foundation of the earth: some may think that Christ blood cleanses only those who are saved after Christ's death and resurrection, but this is not so. The power of Christ's cleansing blood flows back to the foundation of the earth so that the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and Redeemer.

In the book of Revelation, it is written:

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote:

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary doesn't just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like a spiritual invisible river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ. The faithful of the Old Testament were saved by their faith that the blood of their sin sacrifices (shadows of Christ) covered their sin and by their faith in the promised seed of the woman spoken of in (Genesis 3:15), in the prophet Moses said was to come like him, in God's promise to Abraham that from his seed a deliver would come and by their faith in the promised seed of David the Messiah and Saviour.

The faithful of the New Testament are saved by their faith in looking back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and by looking forward to the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This shines a glorious eternal floodlight on the truth that whether a man or woman is of the Old or New Testament we are all saved by the same cleansing power, the same cleansing blood and the same deliver and Saviour. This is because God in his eternal mind planned and purposed before time began that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ would be the Saviour of all mankind for all eternity.

EZEKIEL 43:13-17

The Measurements of the Altar.

- **Ezekiel 43:13-17:** These are the measurements of the altar by cubits: The cubit is a cubit and a hand breadth; its base shall be one cubit high and one cubit broad, with a rim of one span around its edge. And this shall be the height of the altar: ¹⁴from the base on the ground to the lower ledge, two cubits, with a breadth of one cubit; and from the smaller ledge to the larger ledge, four cubits, with a breadth of one cubit; ¹⁵and the altar hearth, four cubits; and from the altar hearth projecting upward, four horns. ¹⁶The altar hearth shall be square, twelve cubits long by twelve broad. ¹⁷The ledge also shall be square, fourteen cubits long by fourteen broad, with a rim around it half a cubit broad, and its base one cubit all around. The steps of the altar shall face east."

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There are varying ideas concerning the exact measurement of a cubit this is because it is not an exact measurement. A cubit is the Hebrew measure of length it arose (as did the English foot) from the simple estimating of distance in terms of the body. Farmers today measure the height of horses by hands. The word cubit comes from the Hebrew word ('ammah). Strong's Concordance states that a cubit is a unit of measure of the fore-arm (below the elbow to the hand) (approximately 12 inches (300mm)) while a long cubit is the length of the fore-arm plus the length of the hand (approximately 18 to 20 inches (450 to 500 mm)) and a handbreadth is the length of the hand (approximately 8 inches (200mm)).

NOTE: because I do not have knowledge concerning the symbolism that maybe contained in the following measurements concerning the cubit I will leave that for those who love to study such things since I am sure they will be rewarded for their efforts as they do their own enjoyable studies.

The following measurements are by a cubit and a handbreadth (v13).

- A cubit is approximately 12 inches.
- A handbreadth is approximately 8 inches.
- The total of cubit plus handbreadth is 20 inches.
- One span is 9 inches.

The following measurements have been calculated using the measure of one cubit plus one hand breath (v13) which is approximately 20 inches.

- The height of the base of the altar was 1 cubit 20 inches.
- The width of the base of the altar was 1 cubit 20 inches.
- The rim of the altar was 1 span (9 inches).

The Height of the Altar.

- The base to the lower ledge of the altar was 2 cubits (40 inches).
- The width of the altar was 1 cubit (20 inches).
- From the smaller ledge to larger ledge was 4 cubits (almost 7ft).
- The breadth of the ledge was 1 cubit (20 inches).
- The altar hearth was 4 cubits (almost 7 feet).
- The length of the hearth of the altar; 12 cubits (21 feet).
- The width of the hearth of the altar was 12 cubits (20 feet).
- The length of the ledge of the altar was 14 cubits (24 feet).
- The width of the ledge of the altar was 14 cubits (24 feet).
- The width of the rim of the altar was ½ a cubit (10 inches).
- The length of the base of the altar was 1 cubit (20 inches).
- The width of the base of the altar was 1 cubit (20 inches).

The hearth on top of the altar had four horns projecting upward one at each corner and the steps of the altar were facing east.

EZEKIEL 43:18

The Ordinances for the Altar.

- **Ezekiel 43:18:** And he (One speaking out of the Temple) (the LORD) (v6-7) said to me, "Son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: These are the ordinances for the altar: On the day when it is erected for offering burnt offerings upon it and for throwing blood against it.

On the day when the Temple is erected refers to the rebuilding of the Temple when Israel returned to Jerusalem after the seventy-year Babylonian captivity.

EZEKIEL 43:19-21

Offerings for the First Day.

- **Ezekiel 43:19-21:** you (the people of Israel) shall give to the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok, who draw near to me to minister to me, declares the Lord GOD, a bull from the herd for a sin offering. ²⁰And you shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar and on the four corners of the ledge and upon the rim all around. Thus you shall purify the altar and make atonement for it. ²¹You shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and it shall be burned in the appointed place belonging to the temple, outside the sacred area.

The priests who approach the LORD: refers to the Sons of Zadok.

After the seventy year Babylonian captivity and the re-building of Jerusalem and the Temple of God, the LORD appointed the Levites to be ministers of the Temple and do all its service and bear the oversight of the Gates, the burnt offerings and the sacrifices, but because they ministered to idols, prior to the Babylonian captivity and stumbled Israel, the LORD said they cannot come near to Him or serve Him as priests or come near the things that are Most Holy. Only the Levitical sons of Zadok were to enter the inner court and minister to the LORD and stand before Him to offer the sacrifices, because they kept charge of His sanctuary when the people of Israel turned to idols and went astray (Ezekiel 44:9-17). The people of Israel were to give the sons of Zadok a bull for a sin offering to purify the altar some of the Bulls blood was to be put on the:

- The four horns of the altar.
- The four corners of the ledge of the altar.
- The rim all around the altar.

The sin offering bull was not to be burned in the sacred area, but to be taken out to the appointed place belonging to the Temple.

EZEKIEL 43:22-24

Offerings for the Second Day.

- **Ezekiel 43:22-24:** And on the second day you shall offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering; and the altar shall be purified, as it was purified with the bull. ²³When you have finished purifying it, you shall offer a bull from the herd without blemish and a ram from the flock without blemish. ²⁴You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall sprinkle salt on them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD.

On the second day Israel was to offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering and then purify the altar by putting some of the goat's blood on:

- The four horns of the altar.
- The four corners of the ledge of the altar.
- The rim all around the altar.

Then Israel was to offer:

- A bull without blemish.
- A ram without blemish.

Then the priests would sprinkle salt on them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD.

NOTE: almost all of the sacrifices became food for the Levitical priests and their families.

EZEKIEL 43:25-27

Offerings to be provided for Seven Days.

- **Ezekiel 43:25-27:** For seven days you shall provide daily a male goat for a sin offering; also, a bull from the herd and a ram from the flock, without blemish, shall be provided. ²⁶Seven days shall they make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, and so consecrate it. ²⁷And when they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer on the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, declares the Lord GOD."

For seven days the people of Israel were to provide for a sin offering:

- One male goat without blemish.
- One bull without blemish.
- One ram without blemish.

Seven days Israel was to purify the altar then after the seven days from the eighth day onward the priests could then use the altar for the peoples burnt and peace offerings.

THE THEME OF THE LAST NINE CHAPTERS OF EZEKIEL

1. The theme of chapter forty is the rebuilding of the Temple of God starting from the wall of the outer court.
2. The theme of chapter forty-one is the rebuilding of central part of the Temple of God.
3. The theme of chapter forty-two is the rebuilding of the priest quarters in the outer court of the Temple of God.
4. The theme of chapter forty-three is cleansing the altar and preparing yourself for the glory of the LORD is coming to the Temple.
5. The theme of chapter forty-four is the ministry of the priests when the glory of the LORD fills the temple.
6. The theme of chapter forty-five is the land allotted to the LORD and the land allotted to the Sanctuary, the Prince of Israel and the priests.
7. The theme of chapter forty-six is the Prince entering the Most Holy Place and the people of the land bowing down in peace and entering the Temple with the Prince from their freewill and upon the prince providing a freewill offering and giving an everlasting inheritance to his sons forever.
8. The theme of chapter forty-seven is a river flowing from the threshold of the Temple of the LORD that begins as a trickle then becomes ankle-deep, then waist-deep, then deep enough to swim in. The river has trees on both sides and as it flows into the sea it turns the salt water to fresh water and brings life to every living creature that comes to its water.
9. The theme of chapter forty-eight is the land being divided up between the twelve tribes of Israel.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
