



The Temple Vision (Ezekiel ...45–46...)

Nov 25

RECAP: [Ezekiel](#)

CONTEXT: Well done! You're almost finished the 4th longest book in the Old Testament. If you thought Ezekiel could be a challenge, today we come to the hardest chapters in the whole Bible☺! There has been a lot of judgement and woe, however, as Ezekiel concludes there are a series of hopeful visions expressing hope for Israel (chs. 36–7), over the nations (chs. 38–39) and over all creation (chs. 40–48).

Earlier in Ezk, through a vision, the Lord had shown him what was transpiring back in Jerusalem at the Temple. The pervasive idolatry was far from ideal, judgement was coming (chs. 8–11). As a counterpart to these chapters Ezekiel now has a vision of the ideal Temple (chs. 40–48).¹

Genuine Christians have debated whether this vision is to be understood literally or symbolically (i.e. the New Heavens and New Earth).² Though I am a literalist (I affirm the crossing of the Red Sea and that Christ rose from the dead) I am not a strict literalist (e.g. Isa 40:31 doesn't mean we will fly!). We need to extract the truth being presented to us, whether that is being conveyed in a literal or symbolic way. This study will see these chapters through this lens, however, like the Bereans (Acts 17:11) feel free to explore any alternative with gentleness and respect. Let's wrestle with the word and be rewarded!

¹ Remember, under the OC the Temple represented God's presence, the place of worship and teaching and the system for the atonement of sins. After the Tabernacle there were three Temples, Solomon's, Zerubbabel and Herod's, which was destroyed in AD 70 in fulfilment of Jesus' prophesy. Christ is now our Temple sacrifice and the Holy Spirit His presence with us. Christians too are a spiritual temple. Ultimately, God's presence will be restored when we walk with Him in the New Heaven's and New Earth (Note: There will be no temple in the New Jerusalem in the New Heavens and the New Earth? (Rev 21:22). God progressively is restoring His lost presence.

² Some have seen this as a prophesy of a millennial kingdom (Rev 20:1–6), others of the New Covenant Age, others of the New Heaven's and New Earth and still others believe these chapters may need to be understood in a layered way.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Ezk 37:1–14)

- If you preached over a grave, could you cause the corpse to come alive?
 - Can a human cause the spiritual dead to become spiritually alive?
- Why should we view conversion as a miracle?
- Have you ever experienced a revival (large or small)?
- Are revivals prayed down or worked up?
- Why do we need a revival in our own hearts, our churches and in society at large?
- In fulfilling the Great Commission why then is it imperative that we rely on the last phrase, "behold I am with you to the end of the age"?

READ: Look up verses that participants might mention.

Note: Given the difficulty of these chapters and the breadth covered tonight its ok not to know. Focus on gaining a general and introductory understanding.

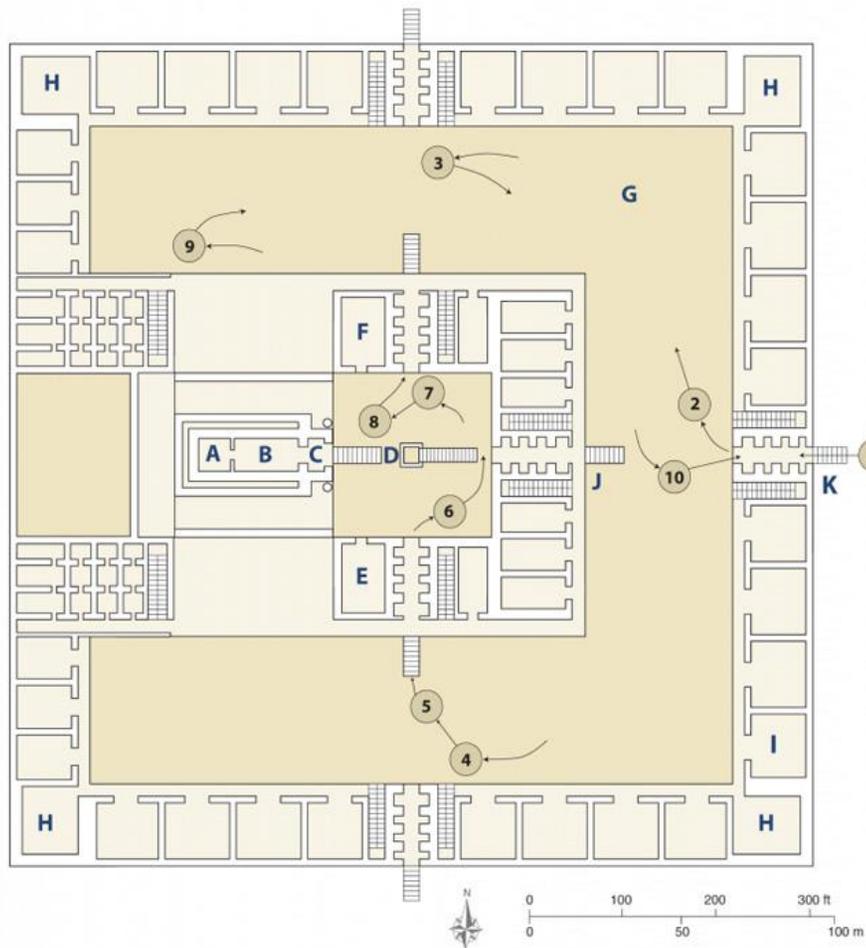
QUESTIONS:

1. **How do we know when the Bible is speaking literally or symbolically?**
2. **Progressively, after the Fall, how did/will the Lord restore His presence among His people?**
3. **(Think Symbolically; Think Big picture) Ponder *one* ideal that might be expressed in each chapter of Ezekiel's vision:**
 - Ch. 40-
 - Ch. 41-
 - Ch. 42-
 - Ch. 43-
 - Ch. 44-
 - Ch. 45-
 - Ch. 46-
 - Ch. 47-
 - Ch. 48-
4. **Are there any specific questions? What about verses that stood out?**

NEXT WEEK: Daniel's Prayer for the People (Dan 9)

Ezekiel's Temple Vision (Tour):

For more see: [here](#).



Big Picture Structure of Chs. 40–48

- V. Vision of Restoration (40:1–48:35)
- A. Vision of the new temple (40:1–42:20)
 - 1. The vision begins (40:1–4)
 - 2. The outer court and its gates (40:5–27)
 - 3. The inner court, gates, and chambers (40:28–49)
 - 4. The temple interior (41:1–26)
 - 5. Chambers of the outer court (42:1–14)
 - 6. Exterior measurements (42:15–20)
 - B. The return of God's glory (43:1–5)
 - C. Regulations for renewed Israel (43:6–46:18)
 - 1. New people for new temple (43:6–12)
 - 2. The altar regulations (43:13–27)
 - 3. The prince's gate (44:1–3)
 - 4. Temple access and rules for priests (44:4–31)
 - 5. The temple districts (45:1–8)
 - 6. Legal measurements (45:9–12)
 - 7. Offerings and gatherings (45:13–46:15)
 - 8. Rules for inheritance of the prince (46:16–18)
 - D. The river flowing from the temple (46:19–47:12)
 - 1. The temple kitchens (46:19–24)
 - 2. The temple's river (47:1–12)
 - E. Dividing the land: allotment and access (47:13–48:35)
 - 1. The outer boundaries (47:13–23)
 - 2. Territories of the northern tribes (48:1–7)
 - 3. The central territories (48:8–22)
 - 4. Territories of the southern tribes (48:23–29)
 - 5. Access to the city (48:30–35)