

**Quick Review**  
**Discussion of Ezekiel 43-45**

**Lesson 25**

# Review

- Ezekiel is shown in a vision a grand and glorious temple (chapters 40–48).
- It CANNOT be any of the previous temples built for God's people (pattern, dimensions different).
- It CANNOT be a future, literal temple (so much suggests a symbolic, spiritual fulfillment).
- Terminology used throughout this section is also used in the N.T. to describe God's spiritual temple.

# Theme Verse for This Week

- “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (1 Corinthians 3:16–17).
- Note the warnings given in this section about defiling the temple (43:7–8; 44:7, 25).

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- Ezekiel sees the glory of the LORD fill the temple (43:1–5).
- Ezekiel hears the LORD speaking from the temple: My people shall no longer defile My holy name; they will put off their abominations and I will dwell in their midst forever (43:7–9).

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- Ezekiel is instructed to **describe** the temple to Israel, to **write** it down in their sight, and to let them **measure** the pattern. This would have two purposes: (1) “that they may be ashamed of their iniquities”, and (2) “that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances.” The law of this temple? “The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy” (43:10–12).

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- Dimensions for the altar of burnt offering are given (43:13–17).
- Before this altar could be used for sacrifices, **atonement** had to be made for it, and it had to be **cleansed**. Various offerings would be made by the priests (descendants of Zadok) for **seven days**— “thereafter...the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you” (43:18–27).

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- The outer gate of the sanctuary which faces east—it shall be shut; no man shall enter by it, because the LORD entered by it. However, “the prince, because he is prince, may sit in it to eat bread before the LORD” (44:1–3).
- In contrast to the past, “No foreigner...shall enter My sanctuary, including any foreigner who is among the children of Israel” (44:4–9).

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- The Levites who went far from Me shall bear their iniquity; they shall not come near to Me to minister as priests. The sons of Zadok, who remained faithful when others went astray, will come near Me to minister to Me. They will follow my commandments carefully—in the way they minister, in their personal lives, and in the way they teach others (44:10–27).
  - Think it possible to find sons of Zadok to serve in a future literal temple?

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- The priests will not receive an inheritance, because God is their inheritance. He will provide for them through the offerings made by the people (44:28–31).
- Central portion of the land for the LORD, reserved for temple and priests. To the north an area for the Levites, to the south an area for the city. On east and west sides equal portions assigned to the prince (45:1–7).

# Outline of Ezekiel 43-45

- My princes shall no longer oppress My people, as they have done in the past (45:8–12).
- Offerings for the prince (45:13–17), for the sanctuary (45:18–20), and for the Passover and Feast of Tabernacles (45:21–25).

# Spiritual Themes

- “Mark well who may enter the house...” (44:5).
  - Through **whom** must we enter? John 10:9; Hebrews 10:19.
  - May the “uncircumcised” enter God’s spiritual house? Colossians 2:11–13.

# Spiritual Themes

- Those who enter become priests in the new spiritual temple:
  - Hebrews 10:19–22
  - “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).
  - See also 1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:5; 5:10.

# Spiritual Themes

- Speaking of a HOLY priesthood (recall 43:12).
  - The word holy is used 17 times in chapters 43–45.
  - “In whom [Christ] the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a **holy** temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a **dwelling place of God** in the Spirit” (Eph. 2:21–22).
  - “But as He who called you is **holy**, you also be **holy** in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be **holy**, for I am **holy**’” (1 Peter 1:15–16).

# Spiritual Themes

- Holiness demands that we put away, put off, or lay aside certain things (43:7–9).
  - “The old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” (Eph. 4:22); “the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3:9); “anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth” (Col. 3:8); “bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking” (Eph. 4:31); “all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking” (1 Pet. 2:1); “every weight” (Heb. 12:1).

# Spiritual Themes

- The garments of the priests (holy, linen garments—42:14; 44:17–19).
  - Made white by blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:13–14); but must be kept clean (Rev. 16:15).
  - Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, love (Col. 3:12–13; 1 Pet. 5:5); righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24); a meek and quiet spirit (1 Pet. 3:3–4); the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11); the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:14).

# Spiritual Themes

- The “measuring rod” used in this new spiritual temple. What is it, or more precisely, WHO is it?
  - “Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the **measure** of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).
  - Does this measurement make us ashamed?
  - Next week: another sense in which measurement is used in the N.T. Hint: **Revelation 11:1–2**.

# Spiritual Themes

- Faithfulness required of God's ministers, His priests. Remember the contrast between the Levites who went astray, and the sons of Zadok who did not (44:10–16).
  - N.T. speaks of **faithful** ministers, **faithful** brethren, etc.
  - Must be faithful to “keep its whole design and all its ordinances” (43:11). “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me” (2 Tim. 1:13).