

# Lessons from Ezekiel: A Vision of the Millennium<sup>1</sup>

## Ezekiel 40–48

“Ezekiel 40–48 describes the millennial reign of Christ on earth and gives more details than all other Old Testament prophecies combined. In many ways, these chapters are the most important in the book, as they form the crowning climax of Ezekiel's prophecy and Israel's restoration.” – John MacArthur.

### The Temple (Ezekiel 40–44)

- **40:1–2.** c. 573 BC; vision is of the city of Jerusalem and the land of Israel. Therefore, the vision of the temple in these chapters cannot refer to the heavenly temple. It cannot be the Zerubbabel's temple, because the glory of the Lord was not present at that time, nor can it be an eternal temple since the Lord and the Lamb are its temple (Revelation 21:22). Therefore it must be an earthly millennial temple. What's more, these chapters are replete with very precise measurements. To view all of this as simply symbolic of something else renders such details and precision meaningless.
- **40:38–39.** Other OT passages also refer to a sacrificial system in the Millennium (Isaiah 56:7, 66:20–23; Jeremiah 33:18; Malachi 3:3–4). How do we reconcile a sacrificial system during the Millennium with the once for all finished work of Christ on the cross, especially as explained in the Book of Hebrews?
  - The Memorial View:
  
  - The Ceremonial Cleansing View:
- **43:1–5.** In earlier chapters of Ezekiel's prophecy, emphasis was given to the departure of God's glory from the temple (See Ezekiel 8–11). The Lord abandoned his people to destruction and dispersion. But here in the millennial temple, the glory of God returns to dwell (MacArthur, 118).
- Note: “forever” (43:7) = “as long as this world exists”!
- **43:10–11.** The reason for this vision of the future Millennial temple was, on the one hand, to offer hope to the captives that someday all would be restored and even improved. But also, as described here, they might be ashamed of their sin and repent. God wants His people to acknowledge their sin and return to him!

“A clear vision of God's ideal plan would remind the people of the sins that had led to the destruction of the old temple.” – Charles Dyer, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:1309.

### The Land (Ezekiel 45–48)

- **45:1–6.** 25K cubits = 8.33 miles; 20K cubits = 6.67 miles; 10K cubits = 3.33 miles
- **47:1, 6–12. cf. Joel 3:18; Zechariah 14:8; Revelation 22:1–2** = conflation of Millennium and New Earth?  
“As this new river enters the Dead Sea, the water there will become fresh. The Dead Sea, now some six times saltier than the ocean, will become completely salt-free—truly a miracle of God! This now-lifeless body of water will then support life so that where the river flows everything will live.” - Dyer, *BKC*, 1:1313–15.
- **48:35.** Jehovah Shammah!

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Ezekiel: Redemption for God's People* (2024) by John MacArthur.