

Ezekiel Part 5, Week 3, Chapters 43-44

Ezekiel's Visions of the Return of God's Glory to the Temple, the Altar of Burnt Offering, and the New Service of Worship

This week, we will begin our study on what worship will be like within the Millennial Temple, all decked out with the very presence of God Himself, dwelling with Man. Do you suppose that He will come off His throne and dance with us or to eat a meal with us? He probably will not do these things during the Millennial Kingdom, but maybe in the New Jerusalem. You know that I really have no idea. But what I do know is this: His Son, came in the flesh, and will have the scars of His crucifixion in His resurrection body for all eternity to be a reminder for you and me of His great sacrifice for us. Dr. J. Vernon McGee says that when the Glory returns to His temple in Ezekiel 43, Jesus comes with Him. So maybe, God the Son, will dance and dine with us on an individual basis.¹ I hope so.

Days 1-2 Ezekiel 43 – Ezekiel's Vision of the Return of God's Glory to His Temple and the Altar of Burnt Offering

Please mark your double-spaced worksheet for Ezekiel 43 for the following key words and phrases:

- all references to God, including the LORD and pronouns as you marked them before
- all references to Ezekiel and pronouns, as before
- all references to Israel and pronouns, as before
- all references to cardinal points of the compass with the initial letter of the direction, i.e., "E" for "east"
- all references to the city of Jerusalem and pronouns, as before
- all references to the "Temple" and all pronouns, as before
- all references to animals used in sacrifice as the same marking and all pronouns, as before
- all reference to "priests," and all pronouns, as before
- all references to the Glory of the Lord and all pronouns as before
- "a man whose appearance was like bronze," or "the man" and all pronouns, as before
- "vision" as before
- "abominations" as before
- "measurements" as before
- "altar" and "altar hearth," as same marking as before
- "offerings," as before
- "atonement," as before
- all numbers written out as actual numbers above, i.e., "one," as "1," and if it is a measurement, mark in inches or feet

¹ J. Vernon McGee, Ezekiel, page 520.

Mark all references to time with a clock out to the left-hand side of the margin, like “daily,” or “for 7 days”

Ezekiel’s Vision of the Return of God’s Glory to His Temple – 43:1-12

Where did the man, whose appearance was like bronze, lead Ezekiel after he measured the Temple grounds in chapter 42? See Ezekiel 43:1.

Why would the man, whose appearance was like bronze, move Ezekiel to the gate facing toward the East? Think about last week’s discussion on the Shekinah Glory’s movement.

Who or What did Ezekiel behold coming from “the way of the east?” See Ezekiel 43:2.

What did He look like? Did He fill the whole earth with His appearance? See Ezekiel 43:2.

What did His voice sound like? See Ezekiel 43:2.

Why would Ezekiel liken this vision of God’s glory to the vision of God’s glory when He came to destroy the city of Jerusalem and when Ezekiel saw Him at the River Chebar? See Ezekiel 43:3.

What was Ezekiel’s immediate reaction according to Ezekiel 43:3?

How did the Glory of the Lord come into the Temple? See Ezekiel 43:4.

Do you think Ezekiel was a little too shaken to get up on his own and follow the Shekinah Glory into the Temple? Who helped him into the inner court? What happened to the Shekinah Glory once He went into the inner court? See Ezekiel 43:5.

What did God say to Ezekiel about His person when Ezekiel entered the Glory-filled inner court? What did He say specifically about this place where His throne will reside forever? See Ezekiel 43:7.

How will the house of Israel be different from this time on than from what they were in the past? See Ezekiel 43:7?

How will God stop Israel from defying His holy name for eternity? What will He require of Israel to make this happen? See Ezekiel 43:8-9.

Ezekiel 43:7 tells us that God will dwell among the sons of Israel forever in this Millennial Temple. How can that be if this earth will only be around for another 1000 years during the Messiah's Millennial reign on the earth (before the New Heavens and the New Earth and the New Jerusalem)? Do you really think He means "forever?"

What does God ask Ezekiel to do in Ezekiel 43:10-11?

What will happen to the house of Israel when Ezekiel describes the Temple? See Ezekiel 43:10?

When Israel is ashamed of all their iniquities and all she has done, what will she really do then (one word here)?

What is the law of the house? See Ezekiel 43:12.

Ezekiel's Vision of the Altar of Sacrifice – 43:13-27

Describe this Millennial altar of sacrifice according to Ezekiel 43:13-17?

What specifically is the "altar hearth?" See Ezekiel 43:15-17.

What is the function of the four horns on the altar hearth?

In what direction do the steps of this altar face?

What kinds of offerings are the priests supposed to offer on this altar? Are these first 7 days of offering sacrifices consecrating the altar only?

How does this compare to the atoning of the first altar of sacrifice in the traveling tabernacle or Solomon's Temple? See Exodus 40:10, 29 and 2 Chronicles 7:8-9, respectively.

What is the purpose of the following offerings?

Sin offering: See Lev. 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30; 12:6-8.

Burnt offering: See Lev. 1; 6:8-13.

What are the requirements to be a priest who is offering these sacrifices specified here? See Ezekiel 43:19.

What will be acceptable from the eighth day and onward in respect to the offerings for the altar? See Ezekiel 43:27.

Who will God accept from the eighth day and onward? See Ezekiel 43:27.

Please record the theme of chapter 43 on the individual worksheet for Ezekiel 43 and on the Ezekiel Theme Summary Chart in the Appendix.

Days 3-4 Ezekiel 44 - Ezekiel's Vision of the New Service of Worship -

Please mark your double-spaced worksheet for Ezekiel 44 for the following key words and phrases:

All references to God as before, including "I AM"

all references to Ezekiel and pronouns, as before

all references to cardinal points of the compass with the initial letter of the direction, i.e., "N" for "north"

all numbers written out as actual numbers above, i.e., "one," as "1," and if it is a measurement, mark in inches or feet

all references to the Temple, i.e., "the house of the LORD," as you marked Temple before

all references to "priests," as before marking Levite priests separately from Zadok priests

"a man whose appearance was like bronze," or "the man" and all pronouns, as before

"gate" and all references to "gate" the same

"glory of the LORD," as before

"abominations," as before

"offerings," as before

the phrase, "thus says the Lord GOD," and "declares the Lord GOD," as before

Mark all references to time with a clock out to the left-hand side of the margin., like “then,” “when,” “on the day that he goes into the sanctuary”

What is the “therefore” there for in Ezekiel 44:2, and 44:12?

The temple ministers – Ezekiel 44:1-31

Where did the man, whose appearance was like bronze,” lead Ezekiel next? See Ezekiel 44:1.

Why was this gate shut after the presence of the Lord God of Israel entered it? See Ezekiel 44:1-2.

Who will be the only person who has the privilege of sitting in this gate and eating bread before the Lord? See Ezekiel 44:3.

Is this gate the “Golden Gate” of Jerusalem that is now sealed? The Golden Gate of Jerusalem today is not the same size as Ezekiel’s gate described here.

Where did the man, whose appearance was like bronze,” lead Ezekiel next? See Ezekiel 44:4.

What happened to Ezekiel immediately after seeing the Shekinah Glory fill the temple? See Ezekiel 44:4.

What three things were Ezekiel to mark well according to Ezekiel 44:5? Why was Ezekiel to “mark” these things well?

What does God call the Israelites in 44:4-9?

For what reason are the Jews being chastised by God here in Ezekiel 44:1-8?

Why were the foreigners given charge of God’s sanctuary?

Why did God consider uncircumcised foreigners, used as temple ministers, as an abomination in His sanctuary?

Why were the Levites, who went far from God when Israel went astray, not allowed to minister in the Temple by means of the sacrifices? See Ezekiel 44:10, 12-13.

How will these Levites be able to minister in the Temple? See Ezekiel 44:11, 14.

Who of the Levites, will God give charge of His sanctuary? See Ezekiel 44:15. Why will they be able to come near to God to minister to Him, and stand before Him to offer Him the fat and the blood? See Ezekiel 44:15.

Who are these sons of Zadok? See 1 Kings 1:32-35; 2:26-27, 35. What else will these sons of Zadok be able to do for the Lord according to Ezekiel 44:16?

What clothes will the sons of Zadok be required to wear when they enter the gates of the inner court? See Ezekiel 44:17-18. See how similar these are to the vestments worn by the priests during the Mosaic Law period recorded in Exodus 28:39-41.

Why must the sons of Zadok put off their garments and store them in the inner courts before going out into the outer court to the people? See Ezekiel 44:19.

How were the sons of Zadok to wear their hair? See Ezekiel 44:20.

What were the sons of Zadok to abstain from when entering the inner court? See Ezekiel 44:21.

Who could the sons of Zadok marry? Who could they not marry? See Ezekiel 44:22.

What were the sons of Zadok to teach God's people? See Ezekiel 44:23.

In what capacity were the sons of Zadok to serve when there was a dispute among the Israelites? See Ezekiel 44:24. On what were they to base their judgments?

What's the deal for defilement of the Zadok priest who has been in the presence of a dead person? I thought this was the temple service inside the Millennium. Does this mean there will be death during the Millennial Kingdom?

If there is death during the Millennial Kingdom, then where will the dead go after they depart life on this earth?

What inheritance do the priests have in God's Kingdom? See Ezekiel 44:28-29.

What do the Levites live on or eat according to Ezekiel 44:29-31? Also see Deuteronomy 18:1-5.

Please record the theme of chapter 44 on the individual worksheet for Ezekiel 44 and on the Ezekiel Theme Summary Chart in the Appendix.

Day 5 – Personal Reflection

What will be your immediate action when, at first, you see the Glory of God?

What about when you see that Temple for the first time? What will be your immediate action?

What does God require from you for you to be in His presence forever? Is it the same requirements for you as it is for Israel?

Do you think that the Glory is a representation of God the Father? Or God the Son? Or both God the Father and God the Son?

If Jesus tags along with the Glory of His Second Coming, then where was the Glory in His first coming? Did the Glory come along with Jesus in His first coming?

Will the sacrifices performed in the Millennial temple be for atonement of sin or will they be memorial in character?

In Herod's Temple, there was an inscription on the entrance to the Temple proper. It said, "No foreigner may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught so doing will have himself to blame for his ensuing death." Why did the Jews not want Gentiles in the sacred courts? Was it the Jews or was it God who did not want them there? What about during the Millennial Kingdom Temple period: why will God not want them in the sacred places then?

Do you wonder if God's disciplining of the Levite priests for their sins is a reversal of what Ezekiel said to us in chapters 18 and 33:12-20? Are these, the sons of Levite, to be punished for their fathers' sins? Or is God speaking of something different here: maybe the corporate sin of the Levite wayward priests, and not the individual themselves? Remember me hounding you about the difference between national and individual sin?

New Service of Worship: The Altar of Burnt Offering in the Millennial Temple- Ezekiel 43

Ezekiel 43: 6-9 -Pre-requisite for God to Dwell amongst Israel Forever - must put away their Harlotry & Corpses of Dead Kings	Ezekiel 43: 10-27 -Pre-requisite for Ezekiel to describe Millennial Kingdom Temple to Israel - Israel's Repentance
<p>1-5 The Glory of the Lord had just come into the house (the inner court) by way of the east gate east and had filled the house</p> <p>6-9 God speaks to Ezekiel from the house (inner court) while a man stands beside Ezekiel -this inner court of the Temple will be God's dwelling place among the sons of Israel forever -Israel and their kings, will not again defile His holy name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by their harlotry by corpses of their dead kings by setting their threshold by God's threshold by setting their doorpost by God's doorpost by their abominations committed 	<p>10-12 -if Israel ashamed of all they have done, make them know design of house, structure of house, exits, entrances, whole design, all statutes, all laws & do them -law of house: entire area on top of mountain most holy (set apart)</p> <p>13-17 Measurements of Altar (see Handout) -base height=1 long cubit = 1.75' -base height above ground = 2 cu = 3.5' -height to next ledge = 4 cu = 7' -height altar hearth/ 4 horns = 4 cu = 7' -altar hearth 21' square -altar hearth ledge 24.5' square</p> <p>18-27 Statutes for altar - burnt offerings & sprinkling of blood on it -Levitical priests from offspring of Zadok -offerings x 7 days Day 1: Israel to give Zadok priests bull for sin offering-to cleanse & atone for altar Day 2: Israel to give Zadok priest male goat w/o blemish for sin offering-to cleanse altar; bull & ram w/o blemish for burnt offering x7 Days: Israel to prepare daily goat for sin offerings; bull & ram w/o blemish to atone, purify, consecrate altar Day 8 & onward: Israel to give burnt offerings on altar, peace offerings for them</p> <p>Cross-reference: Matthew 23:16-19 "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the old of the temple, he is obligated.' You fools and blind men; which is more important, the gold, or the temple that sanctified the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering upon it, he is obligated.' You blind men, which is more important, the offering or the altar that sanctifies the offering? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it. And he who swears by the temple, swears both by the temple and by Him who dwells within it. And he who swears by heaven, swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.</p>
<p><i>Israel's Salvation - same as our salvation: Turn away from the old ways of sin (putting away harlotry and corpses of dead kings) Turning toward God, accepting His way of salvation, and walking in His ways</i></p>	

New Service of Worship for The Temple Ministers: the Sons of Zadok - Ezekiel 44

Ezekiel 43:1-5 The Glory of the Lord had just come into the house (the inner court) by way of the east gate and had filled the house

Ezekiel 44:1-3 Ezekiel taken back to the eastern gate into the house (the inner court) and it is shut b/c the Lord's presence had just come through it; perhaps gate is shut forever signifying God will never leave again

-only the prince shall sit in this east gate and eat bread before the Lord, but he will not enter into the inner court through it

Ezekiel 44:4-8 Ezekiel taken to north gate to front of house and the Glory of the Lord has just filled the house

-God speaks to Ezekiel to mark well, see with eyes, hear with ears all He says to him concerning:

statutes of the house of the Lord concerning all its laws

the entrance of the house

the exits of the sanctuary

Old Way of Worship for the corrupt Priesthood	New Service of Worship for the Temple Ministers
<p>Rebellious</p> <p>Abominations abounded:</p> <p>1. bringing foreigners (uncircumcised in heart and flesh) into his sanctuary to profane it while they offered sacrifices</p> <p>2. giving foreigners charge of His sanctuary and not taking the responsibilities upon themselves that He had given them</p> <p>Levites went far from God when Israel went astray after idol</p> <p>Levites ministered before the people's idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to house of Israel</p> <p>These Levites will bear the punishment for their sins</p>	<p>-no foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and flesh shall enter God's sanctuary</p> <p>-sons of Zadok will minister in God's sanctuary</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">having oversight at the gates of the house</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ministering in the house</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall stand before the people to minister to them</p> <p>-the priests who went astray after idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel shall not come near to God to serve as a priest to Him, nor come near to any of God's holy things</p> <p>-sons of Zadok will be appointed to keep charge of His house and of all its service and of all that shall be done in it</p> <p>-sons of Zakok who kept charge of God's sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from God</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall come near to God to minister to Him</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall stand before God to offer Him the fat and the blood</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall enter God's sanctuary; shall come neart to God's table to miniter to God and keep His charge</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">when they enter gates of inner court, shall be clothed w/ linen garments, no wool, linen turbans on heads, linen undergarments on loins, shall not drink wine</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">when they go out into outer court to the people, shall put off their garments & lay them in holy chambers s.t. do not transfer holiness to the people w/ the garments</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall not shave heads, locks grow long, shall trim only hair of heads</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall not marry a widow or divorced woman, but marry virgins from offspring of house of Israel or widow of priest</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall teach God's people difference between holy/profane - discern between clean/unclean</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall stand to judge in dispute a.t. God's ordinances; keep God's laws and statutes in all God's appointed feasts,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall sanctify God's sabbaths</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall not go to a dead person to defile themselves</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall offer sin offering after 7 days if defiles self for father, mother, son, daughter, brother, husbandless sister</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall have no possession in Israel as their inheritance; God shall be their possession</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall eat grain offering sin offering, guilt offering for food; firsfruits of every king and contribution of every kind</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall be given the first of the dough</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">shall not eat bird or beast that has died a natural death or torn to pieces</p>