

# Ezekiel 43:1-12—The Law Of The Temple: Holiness

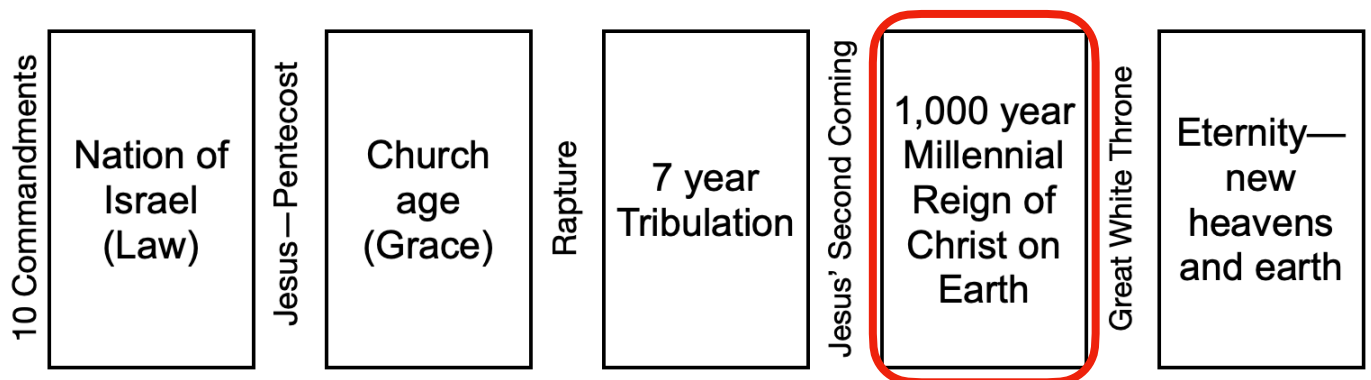
## Memory Verse

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

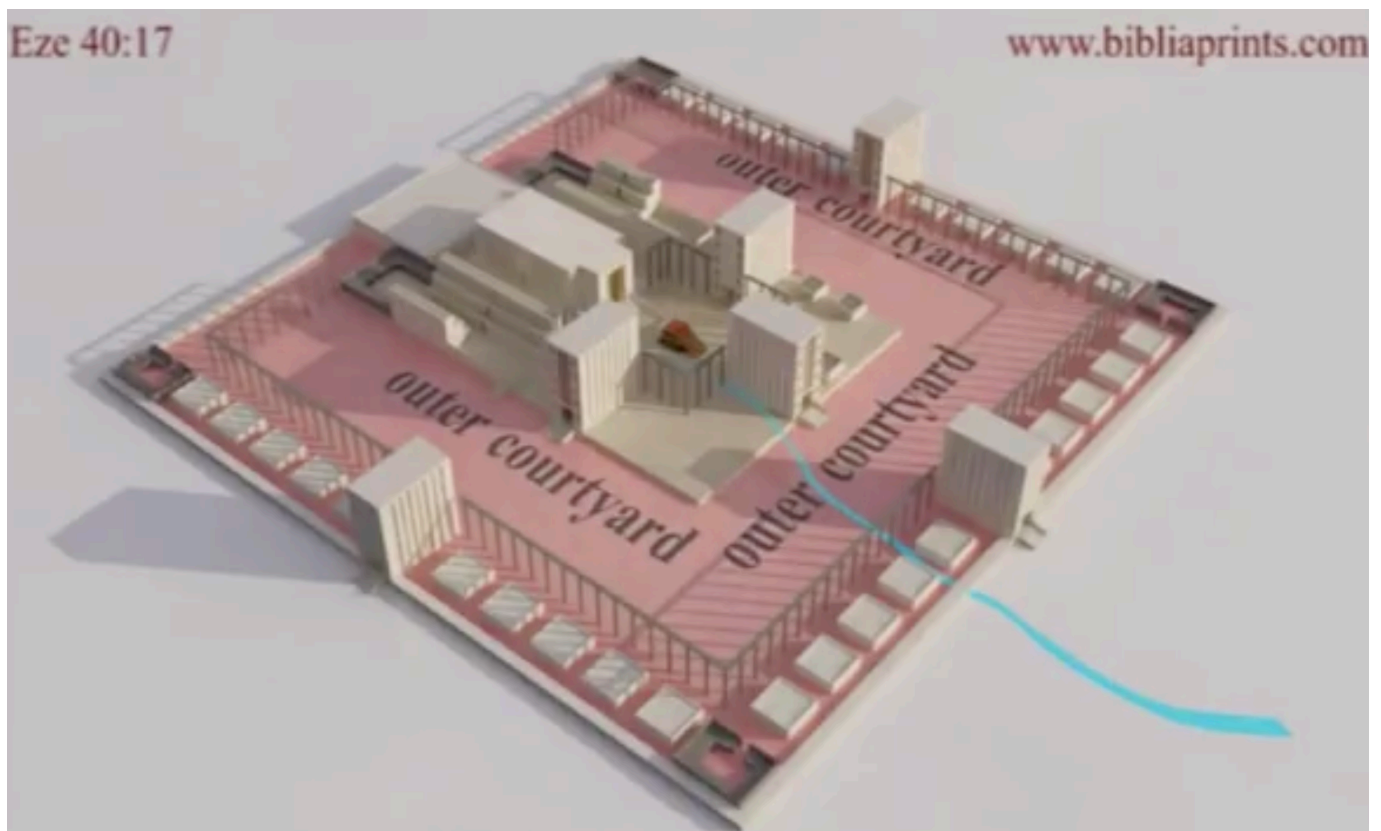
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

## Introduction

Ezekiel chapters 40-48 describe places, buildings, land allocations, and worship that are a part of Jesus' Millennial Kingdom, when He comes back to earth from heaven and He reigns for a thousand years on a beautifully renovated earth. The chart below shows when this fits in God's plan of the ages (red outline). The vertical writing represents the events that mark the transition from one time period (or dispensation) to the next.



The centrepiece of the rebuilt city of Jerusalem will be the Millennial temple, the magnificent temple that Jesus will build and where all people will come to worship Him. Jesus will rule the world from here. A diagram of what it will look like based on the detailed description given in Ezekiel chapters 40-43 is shown below.



## **Outline of Ezekiel 40-48**

Chapter 40—The measurement of the courts of the temple

Chapter 41—The measurements of the temple

Chapter 42—The outer court being described

Chapter 43—The glory of God returns to the temple

Chapter 44—Only the sons of Zadok will be allowed to go into the inner court; the other priests were not faithful.

Chapter 45—Describes how the land around the temple/city is divided up, and that the Passover will be one of the feasts observed each year.

Chapter 46—Describes the sacrificial offerings that will be made, and how the temple will be closed throughout the week and only open on the sabbath.

Chapter 47—Describes the river of living water that flows from the temple, and the boundaries of the Land of Israel.

Chapter 48—Describes the divisions of the lands given to each of the 12 tribes of Israel, and the gates of the city of Jerusalem.

## **Revision**

Last time we looked at Ezekiel 40:1-5, which is the introduction to the whole vision, and began to understand the significance of the Millennial temple, both to the Israelites and for us. We then looked at the videos which described the temple complex using a 3D animation.

## **The glory of God comes to Ezekiel's temple**

### **Ezekiel 43:1-12 NKJV**

**Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. <sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. <sup>3</sup> It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. <sup>4</sup> And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. <sup>5</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.**

**<sup>6</sup> Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. <sup>7</sup> And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. <sup>8</sup> When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. <sup>9</sup> Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.**

**<sup>10</sup> "Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. <sup>11</sup> And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they**

may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. <sup>12</sup> This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.

**Ezekiel 43:1-2 NKJV—God enters through the eastern gate**

Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. <sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

v 1-2 **Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. <sup>2</sup> The glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east:** The eastern gate was where Ezekiel's tour of the temple complex began. It's also the gate from where the glory of God departed from Solomon's temple before the temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in Ezekiel 11:23. Now Ezekiel sees the glory of God enter this new Millennial temple using this same gate, which is directly in line with the entrance to the temple, which also faces east.

v 2 **The glory of the God of Israel:** What is the **glory of God**? It's the shekinah, the visible, tangible glory or presence of God. It is seen throughout the Old Testament, and is many times described as a cloud. For example: the cloud that led and covered Israel in the wilderness and also from which God spoke (examples—Exodus 13:21-22, 16:10, 19:9, 24:15-18). It was also the cloud that was present at Jesus' transfiguration (Luke 9:34-35), and possibly the cloud of glory that received Jesus into Heaven at His ascension (Acts 1:9), and the cloud that will display the glory of Jesus when He comes back at His Second Coming (Luke 21:27, Revelation 1:7). This is also the cloud of Ezekiel's vision that filled the temple with the brightness of His glory (Ezekiel 10:4).

v 2 **His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory:** Remember that Ezekiel is seeing and hearing what is yet to happen. This is what we will also get to see and hear; it will be an amazing sight. At the start of Jesus' Millennial reign, He will enter the temple through the eastern gate. When He does, it will be glorious. His voice will be like the roar of a waterfall, and the earth will shine with His glory.

This is similar to what happened when God came to dwell in the tabernacle which Moses built and the temple which Solomon built (Exodus 40:34 and 1 Kings 8:10)

**Application: The presence of God and holy living**

In the end, it's not the marvellous architecture that makes the Millennial temple such a desirable place to be during the Millennium, but rather it's the fact that the presence of God is there—it's where we will go to meet with God, literally, in the flesh, the resurrected and glorified Jesus. However, consider that, as believers, we also have the presence of God in us. Shouldn't we be just as much in awe of the presence of God in ourselves and each other.

Colossians 1:27 NKJV

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

John 14:17 NLT

He is **the Holy Spirit**, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognise him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later **will be in you**.

John 14:23 NKJV

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and **My Father** will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him**."

This is what makes it such a privilege to be a believer in the church age—we have God living in us—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is why we are described as the temple of God, both individually, and corporately as the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NLT

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? <sup>17</sup> God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Ephesians 2:20-22 NLT

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup> We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT

Don't you realize that your [physical] body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body.

With privilege comes responsibility. Firstly, any sin defiles the corporate temple of God, the church—*"God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple"* (1 Corinthians 3:17). God is holy, so we, the church, must be holy as well, because God is living in us. The church is God's home, His temple.

On a different level, God lives in each of our physical bodies individually. This is the reason why the Bible says that sexual sin defiles the physical body of the believer, who is also a temple of God.

However, it goes beyond what we do and say—what other people notice. God sees our thoughts and motives. How many of our thoughts are not necessarily explicitly sinful, but still entirely selfish—focused on what I want and thinking how I can get what I want and make other people think well of me. God has given us the power and resources to have victory over these sinful thoughts.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Understanding that we have God Himself living inside of us should make us be much more aware of His presence. Just like God has strict rules about who can and can't enter the Millennial temple because His holy presence is there—only who and what is holy may enter; so we must also have strict rules that are in line with who we are—the temple of the Holy God. Purity and holiness in thought, word, and deed should be the mark of every Christian because God who lives inside of them is pure and holy.

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**Ezekiel 43:3-5 NKJV—Ezekiel describes glory of the Lord**

**<sup>3</sup> It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. <sup>4</sup> And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. <sup>5</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.**

v **3 It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar:** In Ezekiel chapters 8-11, Ezekiel sees the glory of God leave the temple, the reverse of what is happening in Ezekiel 43 where we see God entering His temple. In chapter 1 Ezekiel described what the glory of the Lord looked like when the Lord first revealed Himself to Ezekiel—what I call the “chariot throne”. At the base, there are the four “living creatures” or cherubim, and next to them are the four “wheels within wheels. Then, above the living creatures and wheels, was a vast platform or firmament. On top of the platform is a throne, and on the throne is Jesus, ablaze with glorious light.

v **3 I fell on my face:** “Though Ezekiel had seen this vision of the glory of God twice before (in Ezekiel 1 and Ezekiel 10–11), it was in no way a familiar or comfortable sight. In holy reverence to God, he **fell** on his **face**. The sense is that Ezekiel didn’t *choose* to do this; it was a natural response. He did the same before (Ezekiel 1:28; 3:23; 9:8, and 11:13).” (David Guzik)

“In reverence to his majesty, in admiration of his mercy, and in the sense of mine own unworthiness. The nearer any one cometh to God, the lower he falleth in his own eyes.” (Trapp)

*Understanding that, as a believer, I have the same glorious God living in me, am I falling down in reverence before God? Does my heart tremble before Him in reverent awe? If I am too comfortable around God, and with His presence within me, then it can only mean that I don’t yet understand His holiness. The degree of my reverence towards God, or “fear of the Lord”, is directly linked to my understanding of His holiness; the more I understand His holiness, then the more holy or separated from the world I will be.*

1 Peter 1:13-16 NLT

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. <sup>14</sup> So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. <sup>15</sup> **But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.** <sup>16</sup> For the Scriptures say, “**You must be holy because I am holy.**”

v **4 The glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east:** In contrast to when God departed from the temple slowly and reluctantly (Ezekiel 11:18–19), here there is no hesitation. God is looking forward to dwelling with His people.

“The Shekinah glory is never mentioned in connection with the restoration [of Zerubbabel’s] temple, so that temple cannot be the fulfilment of what is predicted here.” (Feinberg)

v 5 **Behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple:** The **Spirit** brings Ezekiel into the inner court (where the altar for burnt offering was), and Ezekiel exclaims in excitement, “hey look (**behold**), God’s glory really does fill the temple.” Ezekiel is in the moment here, where the King of Kings is being crowned, and is taking His rightful place on His throne from where He will rule the earth. This will be a high point of the Millennium, something that we will never forget. Can you imagine it, everyone in absolute awe and wonder as we fall to our faces as the King of Glory enters the temple by the outer and then inner eastern gates.

**Ezekiel 43:6-9 NKJV—The temple is God’s throne from where He reigns**

**Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. 7 And He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. 8 When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. 9 Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.**

v 6 **Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple:** God (Jesus) is now dwelling in the temple, and speaks from the temple.

v 6 **While a man stood beside me:** This is the last time the angel who gave Ezekiel the guided tour of the temple complex is mentioned. From now on Ezekiel will hear directly from Jesus.

v 7 **This is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever:** This describes the purpose of Jesus’ return to the earth: He will reign over His people Israel and be their king, dwelling amongst them.

Yet again we see God assuring Israel that His covenant promises are just that—promises, and not lies. God is faithful to keep His promises. Here are three of the promises that God made to Israel that we see fulfilled in the Millennium:

- The land of Israel—*Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.”* (Genesis 12:7 NkJV)
- The nation of Israel—*I will make you [Abraham] a great nation* (Genesis 12:2 NKJV)
- Jesus would be their King—*And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”* (Luke 1:31-33)

We will see in Ezekiel 40-48, over and over again, how the Millennium is when God will complete all that He started with regards to the nation of Israel—all His promises to them will be completely fulfilled.

“The word *forever* made this declaration more far-reaching than anything which was spoken concerning the Tabernacle of Moses or the Temple of Solomon (43:7a).” (Smith)

## **Application: Jesus' reward for His willing obedience**

v 7 **My throne**: This isn't just any throne, Jesus says, "its **My throne**". What we need to understand is that, though it is rightfully Jesus' throne, it was given to Him by the Father. It's important to also understand why. First let's see that the **throne** or right to rule the earth was given to Jesus by the Father.

Psalm 2:1-12 NKJV

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. <sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: <sup>6</sup> "**Yet I [the Father] have set My King [the Son] on My holy hill of Zion.**"

<sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree: The Lord [the Father] has said to Me [the Son], 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You [see Hebrews 1:5—this is a declaration of Jesus' deity].

<sup>8</sup> **Ask of Me [the Father], and I will give You [the Son] the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. <sup>9</sup> You shall break [rule] them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'**"

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve the Lord [the Son] with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Psalm 2:8 tells us that Jesus receives the mandate to rule the earth during the Millennium from the Father. This is the fulfilment of the promise that those who humble themselves will be exalted (see Matthew 23:12). Jesus willingly descended to the lowest rung of God's ladder of humility (death on the cross), and so the Father raises Jesus up to the highest rung—King and Lord over all creation, reigning over all the earth for 1,000 years.

Philippians 2:8-9 NLT

He [Jesus] **humbled himself in obedience to God** [the Father] and died a criminal's death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God [the Father] elevated Him [God the Son] **to the place of highest honour and gave Him the name above all other names.**

However, at the end of the Millennium, after the Great White Throne Judgement, when death has finally been defeated, Jesus will give back to the Father the position and authority given to Him by the Father, that the Father may be "all in all", "utterly supreme over everything everywhere", and the "head" or authority over all (see 1 Corinthians 11:3—the head of Christ is God [the Father]).

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 NLT

But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back.

<sup>24</sup> After that the end will come, **when He [Jesus] will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father**, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.

<sup>25</sup> **For Christ must reign until He humbles all His enemies beneath His feet. <sup>26</sup> And the last enemy to be destroyed is death [at the end of the Great White Throne Judgement when death and hades are cast into the Lake of Fire—Revelation 20:14—there will be no more death after this point].**

<sup>27</sup> For the Scriptures say, “**God [the Father] has put all things under His [the Son’s] authority.**” (Of course, when it says “all things are under His authority,” **that does not include God [the Father] himself, who gave Christ His authority.**) <sup>28</sup> Then, when all things are under His [the Son’s] authority [when death is defeated], **the Son will put Himself under God [the Father’s] authority, so that God [the Father], who gave His Son authority over all things,** will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.

The Father is the highest authority, His role in the Trinity being the *head* or *authority* over the Son, just as the husband is the head or the authority over his wife (see 1 Corinthians 11:3). However, the Father temporarily steps aside from the throne and gives Jesus the privilege of reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, as the highest authority over all creation. However, at the end of the Millennium, after the Great White Throne Judgement, Jesus steps down from His throne, and the Father once more rules as the highest authority over all creation.

This is a clear picture of how we will be rewarded for our faithfulness, love, and obedience during the Millennium. **Jesus gave up all glory and honour while on earth, but will receive all glory and honour during the Millennium.** In the same way, the extent that I am willing to die to self and carry my cross (to put God first and be willing to suffer for Christ—see Luke 9:23), will be the extent of my reward during the Millennium and beyond (see Luke 19:12-27).

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v 7 **And He said to me, “Son of man”:** **Son of man** is a humble title given to Ezekiel and others which emphasises their humanity. In contrast, when Jesus is referred to as the Son of Man in gospels, it is a reference to His deity, going back to Daniel.

Daniel 7:13 NKJV

“I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

<sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

### **Application: Be holy for I am Holy**

v 7 **No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name:** Here we see what should accompany the near dwelling of a Holy God amongst His people—their holiness. The awe and reverence for, and nearness of, His presence would cause them to live holy lives.

Don’t you think that this should be the same for us today? How is having a prideful attitude, watching worldly TV and movies, playing worldly computer games, surfing the internet, indulging in social media, reading worldly books, living for worldly gain, having worldly goals and ambitions, and enjoying worldly pleasures, compatible with living in the direct presence of the Holy God?—indeed, He lives inside of us—is there any way God could dwell closer or be more intimate or near to us? Absolutely not! Therefore, our reaction should be the same as that of the nation of Israel during the Millennium—we should be ashamed of our sin and therefore repent of our sin (see Ezekiel 43:11).



Titus 2:11-14 NLT

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> **And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures.** We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, <sup>13</sup> while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. <sup>14</sup> **He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.**

Titus 2:11-14 AMP

For the grace of God (His unmerited favour and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for **the deliverance from sin** and the eternal salvation for all mankind.

**12 It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world,**

<sup>13</sup> Awaiting and looking for the [fulfilment, the realisation of our] blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One),

**14 Who gave Himself on our behalf that He might redeem us (purchase our freedom) from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people [to be peculiarly His own, people who are] eager and enthusiastic about [living a life that is good and filled with] beneficial deeds.** [Deuteronomy 14:2; Psalm 130:8; Ezekiel 37:23.]

How gracious and forgiving is our God, who bears with us and continues to dwell in us as we watch worldly TV and enjoy a multitude of other sins. No wonder God is grieved when we sin. Who would consider watching pornography or playing a violent computer game in the temple of God (God's house) with Jesus Himself there watching you?

Ephesians 4:30 AMP

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin).

Yes, we may seem to get away with defiling God's temple (ourselves), but don't be surprised when Jesus comes along with a whip and gets rid of all those things that defile us in order to cleanse us (see John 2:13-15)

"This passage reminds us that people who frequent 'holy places' ought to be 'holy people.' The Jewish remnant that returned to their land to rebuild the temple would need to take this message to heart, and we need to take it to heart today." (Wiersbe)

It's also interesting to notice the differences between the rules and regulations during the Millennial reign and the Old Testament law. One of the differences is that in the Millennial temple there will be no distinction between or separate court for Jew and gentile or even male and female, as there was in the Old Testament temple. In the Millennial temple, there is only the holy and profane.

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v 8 **When they set their threshold by My threshold ... they defiled My holy name:**

The nation of Israel thought that they were close to God, but they weren't—the reality was that their sin had separated them from God and that they were defiling His holy name because they were not obeying Him fully. Yes they were still going through the motion of offering sacrifices and singing the songs, but they were also offering sacrifices to idols and sinning in many other ways. I must seek God with my whole heart, giving God everything, and not half-hearted obedience. God wants every part of me!

Psalm 119:2 AMP

Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are they who keep His testimonies, and who seek, inquire for and of Him and crave Him with the whole heart.

v 9 **I will dwell in their midst forever:** "The plain and clear meaning of these words challenges all who believe God is forever finished with Israel as Israel." (David Guzik)

**Ezekiel 43:10-12 NKJV—God's main purpose for the vision: repentance**

**"Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. <sup>11</sup> And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. <sup>12</sup> This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.**

v 10 **Describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities:** These great and precious promises of a grand future for the nation reveal the depth of God's love and grace for the people. Once again, when they were at their lowest and most underserving state, God gives them promises that they obviously don't deserve. Why? So that they will repent—*Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?* (Romans 2:4)

v 11 **Make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement ... its entire design:** God wanted every detail recorded. Why? Because this was real. This temple will be built exactly as planned.

"The greater message for Ezekiel and the exile community was, *God isn't finished with you yet. He will gather, rebuild, restore, and bring His glory.* Yet this message wasn't communicated with fairy tales and wild stories, but with the prophetic declaration of real things that would *surely* happen." (David Guzik)

### **Summary and Conclusion: Be holy for I am holy**

v 12 **This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy:** What is one of the main points or principles that God is communicating? Holiness. WE MUST BE HOLY (SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD) IF WE ARE TO EXPERIENCE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Psalm 24:3-6 NLT Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies.

<sup>5</sup> They will receive the Lord's blessing and have a right relationship with God their Saviour. <sup>6</sup> Such people may seek you and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob.

v 11 **And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple:** Here God clearly shows the path to a closer walk with Himself—repentance. Will I choose to see my sin as God sees it—revolting and disgusting—and so be ashamed and repent of it? Or will I justify myself, harden my heart, and continue on in it. Here Ezekiel is told that only those who were willing to humble themselves were to know the design of the temple. In the same way God will not reveal Himself to us if we harden our hearts—"without [holiness] no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).