

Ezekiel 40 – 43
The Man with the Measuring Rod
Message # 3

Chapter 1 we see God moving toward His people while riding His throne in the heavens.

Chapter 37 we saw the people restored to life in the valley of dry bones.

Chapter 40 Ezekiel is taken back to Israel in a vision.

¹ In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month in the fourteenth year after Jerusalem had been captured, on that very day the LORD's hand was on me, and he brought me there. ² In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me down on a very high mountain. On its southern slope was a structure resembling a city. ³ He brought me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He was standing by the city gate. ⁴ He spoke to me: "Son of man, look with your eyes, listen with your ears, and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for you have been brought here so that I might show it to you. Report everything you see to the house of Israel."

Ezekiel 40: 1-4 CSB

Pray

He is introduced to a man with a measuring rod in his hands. For 3 consecutive chapters the exact measurements of the temple with its inner and outer walls were revealed.

You don't measure an imaginary symbolic or spiritual building. The man was certainly revealing a structure that Ezekiel had never seen. This was the future Temple.

The temple complex was 765,265 sq. ft. or 255,208 sq. yds. or (52 acres).

The current temple Mount is about 37 acres and is the approximate size it was during Ezekiel's lifetime. It is so much larger that in 40:2 he described it as a "structure resembling a city." This is a future and greater Temple.

If you were to read all the verses in chapters 40 – 42 you would find three distinctive differences, besides the size, between this Temple and the one Ezekiel had known.

There is no curtain separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple.
There is no wall of separation to divide Jews and Gentiles in the Temple.

Inside the Holy of Holies there is no ark of the covenant. There is a literal throne where Christ rules and reigns.

We have a clue as to the time of this Temple in chapter 43. As the chapter begins an angel transports Ezekiel to the eastern gate of the Temple.

¹ He led me to the gate, the one that faces east, ² and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice sounded like the roar of a huge torrent, and the earth shone with his glory. ³ The vision I saw was like the one I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and like the ones I had seen by the Chebar Canal. I fell facedown. ⁴ The glory of the LORD entered the temple by way of the gate that faced east. ⁵ Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from the temple. ⁷ He said to me: "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites forever...

Ezekiel 43:1-7a CSB

From this text we learn that this is the Temple when Christ returns to put His throne in the Temple in Jerusalem. (v7)

This is the millennial temple where Christ will reign from Jerusalem for 1,000 years after His return to earth.

God's Throne

The throne of God in the Old Testament was symbolized as the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies. While Moses wandered with the Israelites, God led them as His glory projected from between the cherubim on the Mercy Seat.

In Chapter 1 Ezekiel sees in a vision the throne of God leaving Jerusalem. This may coincide with the literal removal of the Ark during Babylon rule over the Jews. It may have been stolen, destroyed, or hidden.

Now Ezekiel sees God return to Jerusalem in the future. His throne will again reside in Jerusalem and His glory will fill the temple.

The measuring rod in the hand of the angel indicates construction but it also denotes ownership.

In Revelation 11:1 John is told to measure the temple of God but not the outer courtyard.

¹ Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words: "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there. ² But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Don't measure it, because it is given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

Revelation 11:1-2 CSB

So while encouraging the Jews in exile God is also giving us a view to the future. This is the temple during the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

Ezekiel sees Christ coming from the east (Garden of Gethsemane and Mt. of Olives) and enters the eastern gate. His glory fills the Temple. This is immediately prior to the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. The Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, forming a huge valley, so that half the mountain will move to the north and half to the south.

Zechariah 14:4 CSB

God is reassuring Ezekiel and the Jews that He will return someday to His rightful place in Jerusalem. I believe that time is near. Here's what I know:

There is already a registry for those who are of the tribe of Levi. Only those from this tribe can serve as a priest in the new Temple.

There is a Levitical Priesthood School already established to train future priests. There has been established a red heifer farm. Cattle are being raised at this farm under the proper circumstances so that when a solid red heifer is born it may be sacrificed and it's ashes mixed with water to purify the priests for service in the Temple.

Prophecy is like standing in a valley seeing one mountaintop behind another. What you can't see are the enormous valleys between.

If you are not a believer in Christ today there has been sufficient evidence to show that Christ will return again someday. Why are you waiting?

Church: We know that Christ will return someday soon. We are not to stop and wait. The key is to remain faithful.

⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom the master finds doing his job when he comes.

Matthew 24:46 CSB