

# Ezekiel 44-46– 22 May 2025

## “Why Sacrifice In The Millennium?”

### Introduction

\*Outline of the 5<sup>th</sup> section

\*Eze 40-43 describes the Temple itself (House)

\*Eze 44-46 describes rituals & practices (Habits)

\*Eze 47-48 describes the new holy land (Homestead)

\*So chapter 40-43 – described the Millennial Temple

\*Different than the temple described in Revelation that is used during the Tribulation

\*Modern Temple Mount in Jerusalem isn't even big enough for this temple

\*Today we get into much of the sacrificial system & activity occurring at the Temple & surrounding area

**We'll see 4 reasons why there even is a sacrificial system in the Millennial Kingdom**

\*But 1<sup>st</sup> we look at the rituals surrounding the priests, a mysterious prince and the calendar

# #1 – Levitical Priests Choosing, Quals, & Duties (Chap 44)

Read Chap 44:1-3

1. It appears the outer Eastern Gate will only be used for the presence or glory of God to enter
  - a. The rest will use the N & S Gates
2. This prince is the leader of Israel for the Millennium, there are 3 possibilities for who this is
  - a. Glorified David – Many places in Ezekiel call the prince David by name
  - b. Israel's human leader at the time – We'll see this prince offering Sin Offerings (chap 45)
  - c. Jesus Himself – Often called "David", some say this can't be David b/c He does Sin Offerings, but remember NO ONE needs these offerings at this point

Read Vs 4-5

1. Chap 40 began w/ a warning to listen closely regarding the Temple, now the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we're told
  - a. This time it's regarding rituals & practices

## Read Vs 6-9

1. This Temple is only for believers
2. This will be 1<sup>st</sup> time we've seen right worship

## Read Vs 10-14

1. Which group of idolatrous priests is unclear, but it seems to be priests in Ithamar's line like Eli
2. These Levites will be gatekeepers & servants
  - a. It's better than having no chance to serve
  - b. Yet they can't bashfully hide in anonymity
3. As they were an example of evil, they'll be an example of good
4. *There will end up being rewards & consequences for our life's actions*

## Read Vs 15-19

1. Linen clothes only are mentioned, not ornamentation at all
  - a. Service to the Lord should be "no sweat"
  - b. Jesus said, 'My yoke's easy & burden light'
  - c. All heavy laden should come & find rest

2. Notice the call to not *transmit holiness*
  - a. In a fallen world we pass on contamination
  - b. In the Kingdom we can pass on holiness

### (Don't) Read Vs 20-24

1. Lists the priest's qualifications
  - a. These are the same as in the Torah
  - b. Must cut their hair, but not shave it (Vs 20)
  - c. Must not drink wine (Vs 21)
  - d. Standards for choosing a wife (Vs 22)
2. Lists the priest's duties
  - a. Lead the people in religious matters (Vs 23)
    - i. They show what's holy & what's unholy
  - b. Judge for the people in civil matters (Vs 24)

### (Don't) Read Vs 25-31

1. Speaks of the priest's lifestyle choices
  - a. Can't go to dead bodies w/ few exceptions (25-27)
  - b. They don't inherit land, God sustains them (28-31)

## **#2 – The Prince: His Land, Civil & Ritual Service (Chap 45)**

(Don't) Read Chap 45:1-6

1. This is a 8 mile x 8 mile space for the Temple Complex, residences for Levites & Priests as well as the city and its gardens of food

Read Vs 7-8

1. The prince in these days get the land E & W of the holy portion
2. He shouldn't consider the rest of it as his land

(Don't) Read Vs 9-12

1. These are commandments for the princes to judge the people with justice

(Don't) Read Vs 13-17

1. These are commandments for the prince's offerings for the people from his own supply

Read Vs 18-20

1. Annual Sin Offering to purify the Temple & to cover for the mentally infirm at the Temple

Read Vs 21-25

1. Holding the Annual Passover Feast
  - a. Prince offers many Sin Offerings for self & people
  - b. Prince also offers Burnt & Meal Offerings
2. During Feast of Tabernacles the prince does same

### **#3 – The Planning: Temple Rituals Around the Calendar (Chap 46)**

Read Chap 46:1-8

1. Inner Eastern Gate's only opens on Sabbaths & new moons
2. Details the Burnt, Meal & Peace Offerings for Sabbaths & new moons
3. All are same as Mosaic Law, but Sabbaths offerings are all much greater

Read Vs 9-10

1. Flow of traffic through one side to the other

Read Vs 11-12

1. Details the Feasts Meal Offering and Burnt & Peace freewill Offerings

Read Vs 13-15

1. Details daily Burnt & Meal Offerings

Read Vs 16-18

1. Maintaining the prince's land w/ the Year of Jubilee Law – the year of release

Read Vs 19-20

1. Placement of the priest's kitchen (northside)

Read Vs 21-24

1. The people's kitchens were in the 4 corners of the outer court for the people to prepare offerings

Let's make application; I believe there're 4 reasons why there is a sacrificial system in the Millennium

**1<sup>st</sup> Reason:** As a remembrance or commemoration of sins and the provision made to atone for them.

1. Turn to Heb 10:1-4
  - a. 1400 yrs of Jewish offerings to the Lord for atonement where not meaningless, even though they didn't ultimately atone for sins
  - b. 1000 yrs of offerings to the Lord "after the fact" or after the substance (of Christ) isn't meaningless either.
2. Think of uplifting Christ by looking 1 by 1 at His attributes seen thru each of the offerings and sacrifices!
3. It is consistent w/ our Lord to use an item to both shadow (before) & commemorate (after) something that's fulfilled in Christ
  - a. Passover shadows Christ the Passover lamb & then it's used again as "The Lord's Supper to commemorate afterward the work of Christ.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Reason:** Death isn't nearly as common in the Millennium, so the "wages of sin" needs to be seen

1. Life spans will be much longer with the curse largely removed
2. When something dies, the question should be asked, "Why did that have to happen?"
  - a. This question should be traced back to the original cause & the answer is...our own sin
  - b. The reality of our own sin being the cause of death would never have been seen easier than in the case of Adam and Eve

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reason:** Mortals will need ceremonial cleaning to come to the pure holy temple.

1. Those of us from the church age will be in our glorified bodies, but morals will live into the beginning of the Millennium & populate it
  - a. You say that "if someone is saved then they're already clean and have no need of anything further." Really?

- b. Jesus washed the disciple's feet & Peter asked for a bath, Jesus said, "He that is washed needs not but to wash his feet, but he is clean every whit..."
- c. While anyone is on the flesh or moral, even if they've had a bath, they still need to have their feet washed regularly

**4<sup>th</sup> Reason:** So we can finally see what proper worship looks like

1. Read again Eze 44:6-7
2. Today the earth is 'full of God's mercy' (Psm 33:5, 119:64), but there is that prophecy in Isa 11:9 that one day 'the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea'