

# Isaiah and Ezekiel

## 13 Ezekiel 40–48

The final main section of Ezekiel, that is, chapters 33–48 begins with the report of the destruction of Jerusalem. There the second phase of Ezekiel's ministry begins, where he looks forward to a day of hope for his people. He dedicates several chapters to setting the stage for that hope (34–39), but now we have finally reached the climax of the drama of the book: the return of Yahweh to his city.

Two moods are intermixed throughout these chapters. (1) A heightened concern for purity permeates the chapter. Yahweh's regulations for his dwelling place are on balance stricter or perhaps Ezekiel would say safer. Defilement of God's sanctuary is ruled out. (2) The mood of celebratory homecoming cannot be escaped as the festivals and marvels of this final earthly temple, its city, and its land are revealed.

1. Ezekiel 40–42: Ezekiel's guide describes the new temple precincts.
  - 1.1. 40:1–47: Ezekiel's guide shows him the temple courtyard with several functional rooms.
  - 1.2. 40:48–41:26: The floor plan and some structural elements of the temple itself are revealed.
  - 1.3. 42: Priests are assigned rooms for eating their designated portion.
2. Ezekiel 43:1–12: Yahweh enters his holy temple, "They will never again defile my name."
3. Ezekiel 43:13–45:17: Yahweh prescribes regulations for the altar, the gates, and the temple personnel.
  - 3.1. 43:13–17: Yahweh gives the dimensions of the altar and instructs the priests on its consecration and use.

- 3.2. 44: Yahweh assigns duties to Levites, restoring their original position and elevating the Zadokites.
  - 3.3. 45:1-17: The prince is allotted land near Yahweh's and is to supply sacrificial animals.
- 4. Ezekiel 45:18-46:24: Yahweh outlines the new festival calendar.
- 5. Ezekiel 47-48: Yahweh dwells in his beautiful city in his renewed land.
  - 5.1. 47:1-12: A river from the temple restores the land to productivity.
  - 5.2. 47:13-23: Yahweh assigns new boundaries to the promised land.
  - 5.3. 48:1-29: Yahweh equitably divides the land for the tribes and includes the foreigner.
  - 5.4. 48:30-35: Yahweh will rename his city and abide in it.