

Ezekiel



The glory departs and the glory returns to the temple

Ministry Profile



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Preface

Ezekiel had a vision of the throne. He saw the throne as a chariot throne with wheels that are on fire Yes, the throne of God is mobile and transporting the Lord are four cherubim each having a wheel. It's a wheel within a wheel; they can go in any direction at any time like flashes of lighting. The rims of the wheels are full of eyes. These are the eyes of the Lord that is running to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards him.

Ezekiel had a vision of the glory of the Millennium temple. Jesus will reign over all the earth headquartered in this temple. He will reign on a throne in this temple. God told Ezekiel make known the design of the temple to the house of Israel ,make known to them the whole design, its arrangement, it's exit, its entrances, all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws that they may keep the whole design and all its ordinances and perform them.

The temple is that what is most precious to God. It is His eternal dwelling place. We study the millennium temple because our worship is linked to the worship of the heavenly temple and with the worship of the millennial temple. They are both the same reality but with two dimension: one is heavenly the other is earthy.

Study of the temple and its design, understanding all its ordinances and laws and keeping them, there is a special blessing. We have the same promise of great reward in Revelation

Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3)

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The millennium temple

- Why study the millennial temple
- Context of the vision
- Design of the temple
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- The Prince
- Feast of the LORD: the centre of millennial worship
- Land divisions
- Releasing Prophetic Oracles

Book of Ezekiel

Introduction

The book of Ezekiel is the most neglected book in the OT. It is most difficult to most people. Yet the book itself is arranged in a chronological order and can easily be understood compared to some of the other prophets which can be quite difficult.

The reason the book of Ezekiel is most neglected is because many Christians find the prophet's behaviour bizarre and the language too extreme to deserve any serious attention. You need to read the book within the context of its prophecy: Ezekiel is sent to a rebellious and obstinate nation; therefore he uses a great deal of drama, visions, and allegories to convey his message across. *I have multiplied visions and used similitudes by the ministry of the prophets* (Hosea 12:10) .When God wants to gets his message across, He uses drama, visions, allegories (an earthly story to teach a spiritual truth). A picture can paint a thousand words.

Then we have the sins of God's people. They are described here in gory details. The language is extreme because it is intended to shock the people into realising what they have become. And in the second part of the book we have the millennial temple, with its cryptic design and animal sacrifices, so the book remains a mystery to most Christian. It's too much for them to search it out.

Yet the book of Ezekiel is a life transforming book for those who would care to study its contents. The theme in the book of Ezekiel is the temple: God's eternal dwelling place. The temple is seen in its perversion .God leaves His own people as a last resort, the Glory departs from the temple. The temple is restored in the millennial as the glory then returns to the temple

In Genesis God gave us only two chapters on man's dwelling place but fifty chapters on his temporary dwelling place in Exodus. Now in Ezekiel he has given us eight chapters on his eternal dwelling place. We need to value and put emphasis on that which God values and emphasis: His dwelling place. Jesus will reign on a throne headquartered in this temple.

God told Ezekiel make known the design of the temple to the house of Israel that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Make known to them the whole design, its arrangement, its exit, its entrances, all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws that they may keep the whole design and all its ordinances and perform them.

This is the law of the temple: the whole area surrounding the mountain top is most holy. Behold this is the law of the temple. (Ezekiel 43:10-12)

The temple is that what is most precious to God, it is His eternal dwelling place. Study of its design and understanding all its ordinances and laws and keeping them, there is a great reward. We have the same promise of great reward in Revelation

Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3)

Ezekiel claims the highest degree of divine inspiration. The word of the LORD came to me occurs 49 times, the hand of the LORD was upon me, the Spirit of the LORD lifted me up occurs 7 times, then you shall know I am the LORD occurs around 70 times throughout the book

We are dealing with a supernatural book. Ezekiel had all these visions by the Spirit of God upon him. Without the Spirit of God upon him, we will have the devils' counterfeit to what is known as clairvoyance and astral travelling.

Ezekiel: A Prophet and a Priest

Ezekiel was the son of Buzi, the priest. Many believe that he belonged to the much honoured priestly family of Zadok. Ezekiel is taken in the second invasion to Babylon, at the age of 25. At the age of 30, he is commissioned to the ministry as a Prophet Priest. Jesus started his ministry at the age of 30, that's when a priest begins his ministry.

In Babylon, Ezekiel lived in Tel-abib, on the banks of the Kebar River (Grand Canal off the Euphrates River). The name Tel-abib means hill of corn ears and perhaps indicates the fertility of the district. It was there at the river Kebar that he had an encounter with the Chariot throne of God. Yes, the throne of God is mobile; it's a chariot throne with wheels. The wheels are on fire, the throne is on fire, the Lord himself is engulfed in flaming fire. Our God is a consuming fire.



An encounter with the Chariot throne of God

Transporting the Lord are four cherubim each having a wheel? It's a wheel within a wheel; they can go in any direction at any time like flashes of lighting. The rims of the wheels are full of eyes. These are the eyes of the Lord that is running to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect towards him.

Here is the Lord in his majesty. He is riding over the heavens like flashes of lighting. It's like the noise of a many waters. His eyes are running to and fro, he is searching the earth. He is looking for those who are imperfect but they want to be loyal, steadfast and wholehearted to him .Why? He wants to strengthen them and gives them the strength to love him with a perfect heart.

It is important that Ezekiel encounter God in this way. The name Ezekiel means God strengthened. Ezekiel is being sent to a rebellious and stubborn people. This very encounter equipped him for the task set before him.

As an adamant (a very hard stone) harder than flint have I made your forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house (3:9)

The holiness of God cannot tolerate rebellion especially in his own people; he has to bring judgment .But God does not bring judgment on the rebellious without first sending his prophets to warn them and giving them plenty of time to repent. Ezekiel is commissioned as a prophetic watchman.

Son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel: therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them a warning for me (3:17)

Commissioned as a Prophetic watchman

A watchman is a guard, a sentinel who keeps watch on the wall of the city. He is watching the horizon, peering into the distance .His job is to warn the city of the enemy approaching. If the sentinel did not keep watch, he would forfeit his life.

In Mathew 25:13, Jesus links this watchfulness of the watchman to the bridegroom king. The bridegroom is coming, go and meet him. Go and stand in his presence .Develop the oil of intimacy, lean to hear his voice and know his heart. This needs to be the posture of the prophetic watchman.

Ezekiel had to arise and go in the plain; there he would minister before the glory of the Lord. Then he had to go and shut himself inside his house and eat the scroll: the word of God day and night. The watchman call is one of great commitment: he must live a lifestyle of standing before the presence of the Lord and eating the word continually .He must be watchful in prayer at all times. He must watch in all circumstances and weather conditions, whether it's hot or cold raining not raining, whether you feel like it or not, whether it's convenient or not. Then he must be diligent to study to show himself approved unto God as a workman that needs not be ashamed but rightly dividing the word of truth.

Ezekiel has a mandate. God says I am bringing the sword upon the land, and if you as a watchman do not give the wicked any warning, then their blood will be upon you. But if you warn the wicked and he turns not from his wickedness, he will die in his iniquity but you have delivered your soul.

What an awesome responsibility. 1 Corinthians 9:6 Paul cries out woe is me, if I preach not the gospel. Paul has a mandate to preach the gospel. So did Jeremiah. When he said: I will not speak anymore in his name, then his word was like a fire shut up in my bones.

This is the man Ezekiel. He was a priest, a prophet and a prophetic watchman. What a vessel in the hand of the Lord.

Jewish tradition says that at the age of 58, he was murdered and buried in Babylon (Iraq) along the Euphrates River near Baghdad



The role of the prophetic watchman at the end of the age

A prophetic watchman is one who is also a prophetic worshipper and intercessor. The role of a prophetic watchman and intercessor has more to do with **position** than it does with prayer. It may include prayer or petition as an expression of intercession but intersession is first of all about **position**. We see this in the example of Jesus: because Jesus has been exalted and given the highest position in heaven, it is from that position that he lives forever making intersession for us.

An intercessor takes the **position** of standing between two opposing forces i.e. between light and darkness, between life and death. He stands in the gap. By his very position of standing before the presence of the LORD, their worship opens the heavens over the region and spheres they are given responsibility for.

John 4:23 The Father is seeking for such worshippers, for those who will worship him in spirit and in truth. Isaiah 42 we see the place of prophetic worship before the Lord's return.

Sing to the LORD a new song and His praise from the end of the earth, you that go down to the sea and all that is therein, the distant lands and the inhabitants thereof (Isaiah 42:10)

As the praises of God's people rises up across the earth, this is what will happen:

The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, He shall arouse His zeal like a man of war: He shall cry, yea roar (shout aloud), He shall prevail against His enemies (Isaiah 42:13)

The Lord will march forth like a warrior. He will release signs and wonders like no time in history as lovesick worshippers lift up their voices in unison releasing the cry of war throughout the land.

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders ... these are they which were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb wheresoever He goes And in their mouth was find no deceit for they are without fault before the throne of God. (Revelation 14: 3-5)

Again notice their position before the throne. It is from that position that they are releasing the new songs of the lord. Oh the power of a consecrated vessels and living a life of full surrender.

Historical context

Nebuchadnezzar's three invasion of Judah

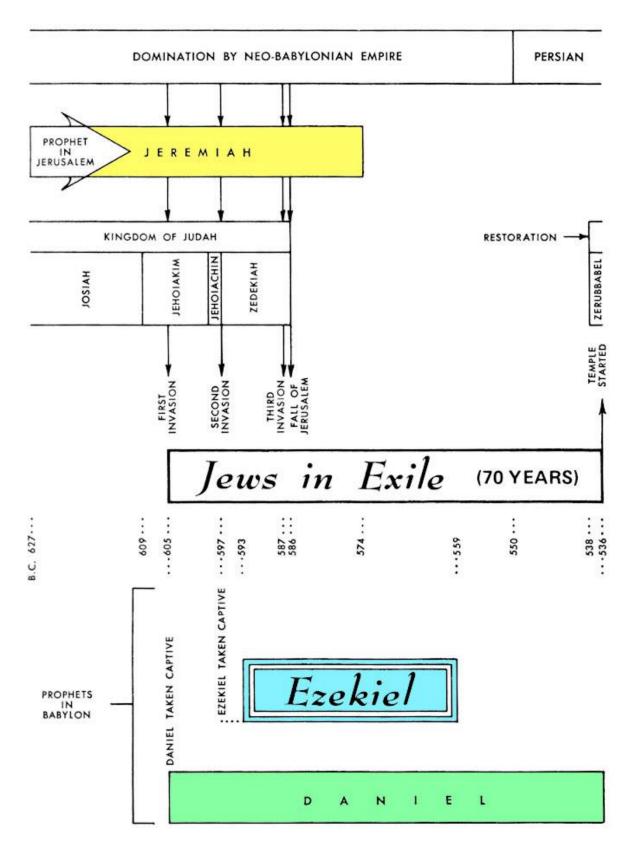
605 BC	597 BC	586 BC

Jehoiakim	Jehoiachin	Zedekiah
Daniel and those of nobility	Ezekiel, warriors 7000, craftsmen 1000, Artisans 10,000 Nebuchadnezzar took all the cream of society leaving only the poor of the land behind.	Remnant of the people, Jerusalem and the temple destroyed.

Ezekiel is taken in the second invasion to Babylon

Ezekiel is contemporary with Daniel. They both prophesised from Babylon, but there is a great difference between their prophecy. Ezekiel ministry was to the Jews in exile, Daniel ministry was to the kings in the courts of Babylon.

Daniel is more concerned with how to conduct your heart when God is about to transition the world into the new age to come. How do you prepare for this evil ruler and his regime so that you will be victorious in love? Ezekiel is more concerned with temple worship, its deterioration and the restoration of worship in the temple during the millennial age.



His prophecy is during the Babylonian age.

Chronology of the book

The book is arranged in a chronological order. He gives 13 specific chronological references.

reference	Visions	From 597 BC(second deportation)
1:2	Chariot Vision	5 th year
		,
8:1	Temple vision	6 th year
20:1	Discourse with elders	7 th year
24:1	Siege of Jerusalem	9 th year
26:1	Judgment on Tyre	11 th year
29:1	Judgment on Egypt	12 th year
29:17	Judgment on Egypt	27 th year
30:20	Judgment on Egypt	11 th year
31:1	Judgment on Egypt	11 th year
32:1	Lament over Pharaoh	12 th year
32:17	Lament over Egypt	12 th year
33:21	Fall of Jerusalem	12 th year
40:1	Restoration of Jerusalem: the Millennium temple	25 th year

Outline

The temple

Section one (1-33:21)	Section two (33-48)
The Glory departs from the temple	The Glory returns to the temple

The call: Chariot vision

Judgment of Judah	Dry bones: Physical resurrection of the dead and spiritual restoration of Israel
Judgment on the neighbours of Judah: Jordan, (Ammon, Moab, Edom)Gaza strip(Philistia) southern Lebanon (tyre, Sidon) and Egypt	Gog and Magog destroyed: end time war against Israel
Fall of Jerusalem	Millennium temple. Jerusalem becomes a governmental centre and a worship centre, restoration of natural waters and vegetation, the land re-inhabited

The theme in the book of Ezekiel is the temple. The temple is seen in its perversion .God leaves His own people as a last resort, the Glory departs from the temple. The temple is restored in the millennial and the glory then returns to the temple

The first part of the book, the sins of Israel is described in gory details. The language here is extreme and is intended to shock the people into realising what they have become. Because of Israel sins, God scattered them among the nations. The second part of the book deals with end time's prophecies when Israel is restored. Israel will be restored within the context of a global war. There is a physical resurrection of the dead and a spiritual resurrection of Israel, a global war in which all nations attack Israel, there is supernatural intervention by God. The physical resurrection of the dead, the restoration of Israel and the global war, all this is happening all at the same time. Then, we have the millennial temple.

Jerusalem gets established as both a governmental centre and a worship centre with the temple as the centre of the nation. The glory returns to Jerusalem. Jesus will rule all nations, on a throne headquartered in this temple

The second section of Ezekiel is too apocalyptic to take place before the Second Coming. It is too literal and detailed to be taken just figuratively . These events will actually take place at the time of the Second Coming of Yeshua.

Key verse

Ezekiel 43:10-12

God told Ezekiel make known the design of the temple to the house of Israel that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Make known to them the whole design, its arrangement, it's exist, its entrances, all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws that they may keep the whole design and all its ordinances and perform them.

This is the law of the temple: the whole area surrounding the mountain top is most holy. Behold this is the law of the temple. (43:12)

The Glory of the LORD departs from Solomon's temple?

Ezekiel is brought by the Spirit of God to Jerusalem to witness why the Glory of the LORD departs from Solomon's temple. It was the glory of the LORD that led Israel out of Egypt and all through their wilderness journey. It was the glory of the LORD that dwells among them in the tabernacle, and later on in Solomon's temple. Now the glory of the LORD is departing from the temple not to return again until in the millennial temple. Why?

God brought Ezekiel to the temple in Jerusalem and showed him all the perversion taking place in the temple:

At the entrance of the North Gate of the inner court was the image of Jealousy. Israel was worshipping the goddess Ashtoreth. Ashtoreth is the fertility goddess; you worship Astarte by committing fornication. They were fornicating right at the entrance of the inner court with temple prostitutes.

Son of man, do you see what they do? The great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary .But turn again, you will see greater abominations (8:6)

Inside the walls of the temple, a group of 70 men (they were the elders of Israel, later became known as the Sanhedrin), they had idols images of abominations painted on the inner walls of the temple. Son of man do you see what the elders of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols (8:12). The elders of Israel were viewing phonography in the dark and they say the Lord does not see us.

Turn you again and you shall see greater abominations than they do (8:13). At the north gate of the temple; the women were weeping for Tammuz. Tammuz is a Babylonian God; he was celebrated first with weeping, then with rejoicing followed with obscene immorality.

The Spirit then took Ezekiel to the inner court, at the entrance of the temple between the porch and the altar: 25 men, the rulers of Israel with their back to the holy of holies were worshipping the sun. They were into the occult worshipping the host of heaven.

The whole nation had become corrupted: the elders of the people, their political rulers, the men and the women had fallen into the sins of idolatry and harlotry. Jeremiah who prophesies at the same time also confirms the apostasy of the whole nation.

Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood and the father kindle the fire and the women knead dough to make cakes to the queen of heaven and to pour out drink offerings to other gods that they may provoke Me to anger (Jeremiah 7:17-18)

The sins of idolatry and harlotry

An idol does not have to be a carved image. Idolatry is affection that has been misplaced Instead of finding satisfaction in God and him alone, we seek to find satisfaction in other things: you adulterers and adulteress, know you not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? Harlotry is even worse: it is prostituting high privileges for the worship of other gods. This is what Israel has done.

God has taken Israel to Himself to be a special people of inheritance. He has delivered them out of bondage, carried them into his arms. He gave them the Torah, the covenant and the priesthood. But Israel prostituted their high privileges; they forsook God to go after other gods of wood and stones.

Ezekiel then describes Israel's harlotry in the most graphic terms. The purpose of this parable is to cause Israel know the depth of her abominations and how far she has fallen. The language here is extreme and is intended to shock the people into realising what they have become.

The story of a deserted baby girl: naked, bare and still struggling in her blood from birth. When God saw her, He had compassion on her. God took Israel to be a people of inheritance unto himself. He entered into a covenant with them, gave them the Torah and the priesthood. God then washed her with water, anointed her with oil and clothed her with fine linen, adorned her with precious jewels silver and gold. She became a queen exceedingly beautiful.

Then Israel turns her back on God and became a prostitute with other gods. Moreover, you took your sons and your daughters and burned them alive on the red hot arms of the god Chemosh (our modern day child sacrifice today is called abortion)

And in all your abominations and your whore doms you have not remembered the days of your youth when you were naked and bare and were polluted in your blood. (16:21)

Such was our state: we were dead in sins and trespasses, without hope, without God. We were heading for the lake of fire. But God when he saw us in this state had compassion on us. He came and rescued us and made us alive in Christ. Then he washed us with the washing of water of His word, he sanctified us with his blood, he clothed us with the robe of righteousness. He adorned us with precious jewels with silver and gold; he put a chain of gold around our neck so that we walk in kingdom authority. He causes us to mount up on wings as eagles and suck honey out of the rock.

He gave us his covenant, a better covenant with better promises and he said to us: if you shall hearken diligently to the voice of the LORD your God to observe and to do all His commandments which I command you this day...all these blessings shall come on you and overtake you (Deuteronomy 28:1).

To be given such high privileges then we turn around and forsake God to go and fornicate is but spiritual adultery and harlotry. God considers such iniquity to be exceedingly great (Ezekiel 9:9)

The reason Israel forsook the Lord: Desecrating the Sabbaths:

The main reason why Israel forsook the LORD is because they did not keep the Sabbath day holy. This led to a total breakdown of the moral structure of the nation. Ezekiel spent a whole chapter on how Israel went about profaning the Sabbaths.

Ezekiel 20:12-13

I gave them the Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them that they might Know that I the LORD made them holybut the house of Israel rebelled against me...and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned.

This is repeated again in verse 19-20 for emphasis

I am the LORD your God, walk in my statutes and keep my judgments and do them. And hallow my Sabbaths and they shall be a sign between Me and you that you may know that I am the LORD your God

In the NT we feel that because we are not under the old covenant, we do not have to keep the Sabbaths. However the concept of the Sabbath is not based on the Law. The Sabbath exited long before the nation Israel.

Genesis1: God created man on the 6th day and on the 7th day, God rested from all the work He has done. Then God blessed the 7th day and sanctified it. This means that the 7th day was set apart from the beginning of time as holy. Later on, God incorporated the 7th day in the 10 commandments so that His people would be reminded to keep it holy.

The Sabbath day is not Jewish .The Sabbath originated with the creation of man. Everything belongs to God for He is their creator. God has always claimed the first fruits for Himself. Exodus 13:2 God claimed for Himself the first born of man and beast. Leviticus 23:10-14 God claimed the first fruits of the harvest. Leviticus 27:30-32 God claimed tithes of all man possessed. Joshua 6 God claimed the first city Jericho to be dedicated to him by fire

Here God is claiming one day in seven. Under the OT He demanded it, under the NT He still expects it. The Sabbath is a sign of being God's people. The 7th day is to be a holy convocation, a holy assembly, a day set apart for the worship of Yahweh, not a holiday nor a day for recreation after church and doing your own pleasure.

The Sabbath is God's gift to us for the purpose of honouring Him. Israel as a nation was to spend that day in the study and meditation of scripture and the worship of Yahweh together as a family. And as they did so, this is what would happen:

The Sabbath greeting: Shabbat Shalom. Shabbat means to cease from work. Shalom means to be made whole or complete, to be in a state of wholeness. When Shabbat Shalom is put together, it means may you become whole during your ceasing from work or may your wholeness be restored as you cease work on the 7th day.

It is not a matter of us keeping the Sabbath. It is the Sabbath keeping us on fire for God. If we failed the keep the Sabbath holy, then we have failed God and we have failed ourselves.

Ezekiel 20:12 the **Sabbaths** is in plural .There are numerous Sabbaths that God called holy convocation or holy assemblies for extended corporate worship in addition to the weekly Sabbath:

	Holy convocations or holy assemblies with no work	References	
1	The weekly Sabbath	Leviticus 23:3	52 days
2	The first day of unleavened bread	Leviticus 23:7	
3	The last day of unleavened bread	Leviticus 23:8	
4	The feast of Pentecost	Leviticus 23:21	
5	The feast of trumpets	Leviticus 23:24	
6	The day of atonement (a fast)	Leviticus 23:26	
7	The first day of the feast of tabernacles	Leviticus 23:35	
8	The eight day at the end of feast of tabernacles	Leviticus 23:36	
9	The 7 th year Sabbath	Leviticus 25:1-7	
10	The year of Jubilee Sabbath	Leviticus 27:17-24	
,	Total in year		60 days

The remaining Sabbath falls during the feasts of the LORD. In the Millennial reign, we see that the feasts of the LORD are at the centre of millennial worship. The feasts of the LORD are both eternal and universal; they have not been done away with. The nations that will not worship during the feasts of tabernacles will have no rain upon their land.

Isaiah 58:13-14: We have this promise

If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD

Honourable and shall honour Him not doing your own ways nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words,

Then you shall delight yourselves in the LORD and I will cause you to ride on the high places of the earth and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Glory departs from the temple.

The results of Israel sins: the Glory of the LORD departs from the temple not to return again until the millennial reign. A holy God cannot tolerate sin especially in His own people called by His name.

The Glory of the LORD was in the temple. Then it moved from the temple to the doorway of the temple. (9:3)

The Glory of the LORD departed from the doorway of the temple and stopped at the east gate of the temple (10:18-19)

From there the Glory of the LORD departed out of the city of Jerusalem and stopped upon the mountain east of the city. (11:23).

Do we know which Mountain is to the east of Jerusalem? It is the Mount of Olives. That's where Jesus departed, they have rejected Him and He departed in the same place where we last see the Glory of the LORD departs in Ezekiel's vision.

Notice the moving of the Glory of the LORD: it is in stages and it is hovering before it moves away. It seems to indicate the hesitation of God in leaving His people. God never leaves His people willingly and cheerfully. It breaks His heart. He leaves them as a last resort

The Glory of the LORD departed. The sad fact was that the people did not even know it or care that it happened. The nation was doomed for judgment. They will go into exile as captives and Babylon will be God's sword of judgment. What an indictment on God's people. The gentiles' nations were morally better off than them.

She has changed my judgments in doing wickedness more than the nations and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her.... (5:6)

Questions from Israel and reply from God

The people were saying that they are being made responsible for the guilt of their fathers' sin: the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge.

In Ezekiel 18:20 God sets out the principle (also Jeremiah 31:30)

The soul that sins, it shall die.
The son shall not bear the guilt of the father
Nor the father bears the guilt of the son

God will not punish you for the sins of your parents. Everyone is responsible to God for his own sins. This truth is illustrated in three successive generations:

A just father: he has walked righteously before God and kept his statutes, he shall surely live The just father then has an ungodly son: the ungodly son is not spared for his wickedness because of his father's righteousness.

The ungodly son then has a son who lives in righteousness: the righteous son is not punished for his father's sins .You can be raised in a sinful environment but you don't have to go that way. You have a free will and you can choose the way of life instead of death.

Each person is responsible to God for his own sin. When you stand before God you will give an account for your own life, not of the messed up lives of others. You can't say to God, the woman you gave me, she gave me the fruit from the tree and I ate it. No, you are responsible for taking charge of your own life.

Identification repentance

How do you reconcile this truth with the process of identification repentance in which you confess the sins of the people as your own?

Daniel 9:5 we have sinned, we have committed iniquity Moses Exodus 34:4-9 Pardon our iniquity and our sin The Lord prayer: Forgive us our debts

In the ministry of intersession, the intercessor takes the position of standing between two parties. He stands before the presence of God to identify with his heart. There is the process of your heart being wounded with the same sorrow that God's heart is wounded. The intercessor first identifies with the heart of God and then he identifies with the sins of the people in order to intercede for them. You are crying out on behalf of a people who cannot cry out for themselves.

God's justice requires that he has to deal with the sins of his people, he can't just ignore it but his heart of compassion does not want to judge. Therefore he sought for an intercessor, one who would stand in the gap, identify with his heart and then identify with the sins of the people and then cry out on their behalf. But if he could not find any; judgement would came on the land.

Ezekiel 22:30

I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it but I found none

When you stand in the gap in identification repentance on behalf of a people who can't cry out to God for themselves, it does not mean that their sins is imputed on you. A fallen human being cannot atone for the sins of another human being.

The soul that sins, it shall die (18:20). Everyone is responsible to God for his own sins. If that person has stolen anything, Leviticus laws as well as the law of the land states that he is the one responsible for making restitution, not someone else.

What about generation's sins?

The LORD, the LORD God....by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the father's upon the children and the children's children to 3rd and 4th generation (Exodus 34:6-7)

Ecclesiastes 10:8 whosoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent. Regarding the iniquity of the parents, they have made a breach in the wall giving access to the serpent to harm their children up to the 3rd and 4th generation. God in His mercy put a limit to the number of generation that the serpent can bite.

This is where the intercessor comes in and stands in the gap as a repairer of the breach. The intercessor identifies with the sins of the parents and then cries out to God for forgiveness: we have sinned, we have committed iniquity, forgive us our iniquity and our sins. In so doing becomes a repairer of the breach causing the generation curse to be broken over the children to the 3rd and 4th generation.

Exodus 28:38 the Holy crown upon Aaron's head

It shall be upon Aaron head that he may bear the iniquity of the people of Israel

Aaron is a fallen human being. He cannot provide atonement for the people. He needs to make atonement for his own sins. But in his priestly ministry of intersession, he needs to stand in the gap in identification repentance on their behalf.

We have the same thing in the New Testament.

If any man sees his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask and he shall give him life (1 John5:16)

The question the people then asked is: if our transgressions and our sins are upon us and we rot away in them, how shall we then live?

God's reply:

I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways for why will you die, O house of Israel? (33:11)

Then God gave an example of a wicked man who radically turn away from his sins and choose to walk his statutes. None of his transgressions which he has committed will be remembered against him, his righteousness will preserve him alive. Oh the power of living a life of godliness, God provides us with a way to life.

But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commit iniquity, all his righteousness will not be remembered but for his iniquity he has committed, he shall die for it.

It's the people that choose death, God does not .He provides them with a way of escape.

Oracles of Judgment on the neighbours of Judah

Ammon.	North West Jordan.	
Moab.	Central Jordan.	
Edom	Southern Jordan,	
Philistia.	Gaza strip.	
Tyre and Sidon	Southern Lebanon.	
Egypt.	Egypt.	
Byblo Beirutc Sidonc Tyreo	Damascuso	
Mediterranean Sea KINGDOM OF ISRAEL		
Ashdodo Ashkeloro PHILISTIA Gazao Ashkeloro PHILISTIA Gazao ORabbath-Ammon ODibon ODibon OHebron KINGDOM OF JUDAH OBeersheba		
AMALEK	OM ISHMAELITES OPetra	

Edom

When Jerusalem fell, Edom (Jacob's twin brother) joined with Nebuchadnezzar in the slaughter of Judah. Psalm 137:7 they cried out to Nebuchadnezzar: raze it raze it to the ground. Obadiah describes how at the fall of Jerusalem, they stood at the crossroads to capture those that are escape and hand them over to their enemies. How they entered into Jerusalem and took their possessions. This is one of the lowest kinds of theft, taking advantage of another's one calamity to take their possessions.

The reason for the judgment on Edom: you have a perpetual hatred towards your brother (Ezekiel 35:5). The hatred that is towards Israel in the Middle East is not something new; it has always been there from the very beginning. This hatred is coming to a crescendo at the end of the age as all the Arabs nations joined together to come and wipe Israel off the map (Psalm 83)

Tyre

The modern city of tyre today is a few miles from the ancient city. Ancient tyre has never been rebuilt. As the prophet Ezekiel addresses the city of Tyre, his prophecy switches to the power behind the city of tyre: Satan. Satan is the Spirit that motivates the city of Tyre

Ezekiel 28:17 here is the sin that caused Lucifer to fall and be transformed into Satan:

Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. Lucifer fell because he became lifted up in Pride

Ezekiel 28:5 here is the sin that caused the judgment of God to fall upon tyre:

Your heart is lifted up because of your riches.

Tyre fell not because it had an abundance of riches. Tyre fell because she became lifted up in Pride because of your riches

God's faithfulness to the covenant

The first part of the book deals with Israel sins. Because of Israel sins, Jerusalem fell and God dispersed them among the nations. The second part of the book deals with end time's prophecies when Israel is restored.

When Israel was in the land, they profaned God's name. God then dispersed them among the nations. When they went to the nations, they profaned God's holy name there also. What we have in chapter 36, is God's total commitment to the covenant. If you break my covenant I will take you out of the land, but I will always bring you back. I will is a covenant word.

For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of the countries and will bring you into your own land (36:24)

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean from all your filthiness and from all your idols will I cleanse you (36:25)

A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you a heart of flesh (36: 26)

And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and you shall keep My judgments and do them (36: 27)

This is the new covenant that God will make with the house of Israel and the house of Judah (Jeremiah 31:31). Theirs is the new covenant and we have been made partakers of that covenant. Notice the progression:

Sprinkle clean water Give you a new heart Put My Spirit in you Cause you to walk in my Statutes.

I will yet be inquired of the house of Israel to do it for them (Ezekiel 36:37)

God's promise: unless we seek Him and ask him to do what He has promised, it will not happen for us. The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, only the violent will take it by force.

The context in which Israel will be restored

Israel will be restored within the context of a global war. There is a physical resurrection of the dead and a spiritual resurrection of Israel, a global war in which all nations attack Israel, there is supernatural intervention by God. All this is happening all at the same time. Then, we have the millennial temple.

Jerusalem gets established as both a governmental centre and a worship centre with the temple as the centre of the nation. The glory returns to Jerusalem. Jesus will rule all nations, on a throne headquartered in this temple

The Millennium temple: Ezekiel 40-48

Why study the millennium temple?

Jesus will reign over all the earth headquartered in this temple. He will reign on a throne in this temple in Jerusalem. This is why the city is called Yahweh Shamah (the LORD is there). In Genesis God gave us only two chapters on man's dwelling place but fifty chapters on his temporary dwelling place in exodus and eight chapters on his eternal dwelling place in Ezekiel. We need to value and emphasis that which God values and emphasis: His dwelling place

Jesus will reign on a throne headquartered in this temple. He will also rule and reign on a throne in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:3). Does Jesus have one throne or two thrones? He has but ONE throne but with two distinct expression. The earthly and the heavenly realm will converge together forming a unity. We have a convergence of two thrones, two gardens, two rivers, two trees, two highways. The millennium earth and the heavenly Jerusalem are the same reality but with two distinct expression. Ezekiel sees a temple within the earthy city Jerusalem. John sees a temple within a heavenly city: the New Jerusalem.

Our worship is linked to the worship of the heavenly temple and with the worship of the millennial temple. We study the earthly millennium temple to better understand the heavenly pattern of worship in the New Jerusalem. It is the same reality but with two distinct expression. Look at the similarity between the two temples:

Ezekiel's vision	John's Revelation
An earthly temple within the city Jerusalem	A heavenly temple within the New Jerusalem

Ezekiel is taken to a very high mountain (40:2)	John is carried in the Spirit to a great and high mountain (21:10)
A man uses a rod to measure the dimensions of the temple (40:5)	An angel measures the city with a rod (21:15-17)
The entire temple area is measured as a perfect square (42:15-20)	The entire city is measured as a perfect square (21:16)
The presence of the glory of the Lord enters the temple (43:3-4)	There is no need of sun or moon because the Lord illuminates the city (22:5)
No foreigner is admitted to the temple (44:9)	Nothing unclean and no unbeliever is allowed into the city (21:8,27)
A river of water flows out of the temple (47:1)	A river of the water of life comes from the throne of God (22:1)
There are a total; of 12 gates to the city (48:30-34)	There are 12 gates to the city (21:21)
The name of the city shall be :the Lord is there (48:35)	The throne of God shall be there (22:3)

Ezekiel 43:10-12 God told Ezekiel make known the design of the temple to the house of Israel that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Make known to them the whole design, its arrangement, it's exist, its entrances, all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws that they may keep the whole design and all its ordinances and perform them.

This is the law of the temple: the whole area surrounding the mountain top is most holy. Behold this is the law of the temple. (43:12)

The temple is that what is most precious to God, it is His eternal dwelling place. Study of its design and understanding all its ordinances and laws and keeping them, there is a great blessing. We have the same promise of great blessings in Revelation

Blessed is he that reads and they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3)

Animal sacrifices in the millennium temple

The first thing that you will notice in the millennium temple is all the animal sacrifices. In the millennial, the temple with its offerings and appointed feasts, will not be any different than first tabernacle God gave to Moses.

The heavenly pattern of worship

Why all the rituals and animal sacrifice in the earthy tabernacle? Israel was called to be a holy nation, a holy priesthood. A priest has access into the presence of God in the holy of holies. God's purpose for redemption is always to have a holy people, a people of inheritance a treasured possession. A people among whom He can dwell.

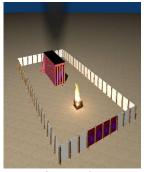
How can fallen man dwell the presence of God in the holy of holies? There has a cleansing and sanctification. Without holiness no man can see the LORD. God has a protocol that must be followed if you want to access his presence in the holy of holies.

God revealed the heavenly pattern of worship to Israel through these five natural visual aids to explain a spiritual reality to them. The rituals and animal's sacrifices were not given to set forth how an Israelite can be saved. They were already saved in Egypt by faith in the blood of the Passover lamb

God's visual aids



Five offerings



tabernacle



The book of the Law

7 God's appointed feast

How can you understand a heavenly reality? We must first look at the natural visual aid in order to understand the things that are not seen. Jesus often taught in the same way. He would often use parables, a natural story to teach a spiritual truth.

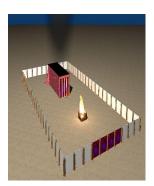
What is the pattern of worship God gave to his OT people? What is the pattern of worship God wants for his NT testament believers? It is the same pattern. Truth is eternal. God's pattern for dwelling with man has not changed. The pattern of worship is the same but Israel has both the spiritual and physical dimension

God commanded Israel to keep his covenant, if they would build their lives according to the heavenly pattern then the glory will fall in their midst and they will be known as a holy nation. This is what would set apart from all the surrounding nations. That's why the first five book of the OT are rather special. They contain the heart of the Torah: the Covenant the giving of the Law and the temple service with its priesthood and the promises.

Ephesian 2:18 for through Him we both have <u>access</u> by one Spirit to the Father.

The Greek word access means an introduction; it's a technical word meaning a formal presentation into the royal court. In all the royal court, there is a procedure and a protocol if you want to be introduced to the Queen. You would not just turn up at Buckingham palace chase down the queen and shake her hand. There is a proper protocol to follow to be introduced to the queen. The same is true in accessing the throne room of God; there is a protocol, a pattern to follow.

The tabernacle and its furnishings



The Psalmist cries out, your way O God is in the sanctuary (Psalm 77:13). God has a protocol that must be followed if you want to access his presence in the holy of holies.

In the outer court, you know Christ as in the days of his flesh Lord Saviour healer, the 30 fold anointing. In the outer court, it's all about sense knowledge. The holy place you know Christ in the power of his resurrection, the 60 fold anointing. It's all about revelation knowledge, which can only be revealed by the Holy Spirit through the light of the golden lampstand.

In the holy of holies, you know Christ in his ascension, the 100 fold anointing. We are seated with Him on the throne ruling and reigning with Him as King and priest. You are a royal priesthood. It is the hidden life within the veil that gives you access to the throne.

You are feeding on the hidden manna and out of that union with Christ will come forth Aaron's rod that budded, resurrection life and divine authority.

Three levels of intimacy. As you draw near to God pass the outer court, pass the holy place into the holy of holies you are bowing lower and lower to the will of God as it were to kiss.

In the tabernacle and its furnishing, God gave to Israel the heavenly pattern of the WAY into the holy of holies. We look at natural visual aids through the various furniture of the tabernacle to understand a spiritual reality. There is a WAY into the holy of holies and this way is revealed to us in the earthy sanctuary which is a pattern of the heavenly sanctuary.

The five offerings

Now that we have been saved, we are to offer our lives as living sacrifice of worship to God to be sanctified by blood and fire. Without blood and without incense you cannot access the presence of God in the holy of holies. What is the heavenly pattern of offering your life as a living sacrifice of worship? This is revealed in the five offerings. The pattern is the same for both OT and NT believers.



The priestly garments



A priest cannot function without a garment. The heavenly pattern for priestly garments are still applicable for us today. However for the church they are no longer physical garments.

They are spiritual ones. There is a garment we must put on in order to minister to God in the inner sanctuary where the beauty realm is. The garments were for glory and beauty. What are these garments? We look at the physical in order to understand the spiritual. Israel had both the spiritual and the physical garments

The feast of the LORD



Although our entire lives should be an expression of worship, there are special times that scripture has ordained for corporate celebrations of extended worship in honour of Yahweh. These appointed Feasts are for the purpose of divine encounters in the presence of God to change us more into his image from glory to glory.

Man is enslaved in sin; only the power of God can set us free. God has made his power available to us through his appointed feasts- the weekly Sabbath, the 1st day of the month, the Passover Pentecost and tabernacle. When we fail to keep them, we are failing ourselves.

The 10 commandments



God's unchanging Laws written on two table of stones and then it was placed in the ARK. God's law in the Ark. Then the Ark in you -Christ in you the hope of glory. This is the mark of God's; I delight to do your will Oh God for your law is written within my heart.

In the NT God does not explain the heavenly pattern of worship again. Everything is in an abstract form. Romans 12:1 present your bodies as a living sacrifice. God does not explain the pattern because He has already revealed it in the 5 offerings in Leviticus.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood. It's all in an abstract form. You will have to go to the Torah to know what the heavenly pattern is.

Greater impact

Israel had both the spiritual and physical dimension to their worship. For example, when Solomon dedicated the temple, the people first worshipped the LORD with spiritual worship saying he is good and his mercy endures forever, then the king and all the people offered animal sacrifices to the LORD (2 Chronicles 7:3-4). The animal sacrifices are to be a reflection of what was already in their heart, like the ritual of water baptism that we do today. It's an external symbol of what is already internal in the heart.

The church has the spiritual dimension, but if she throws away the all the heavenly pattern as "ritual" and as being abolished it will produce much shallowness in your Christian walk. The glory will fall only if you built according to the heavenly pattern.

When a physical reality is combined with a spiritual reality it has a greater impact on the heart. The physical sacrifice is a constant reminder that if we desire to be like Jesus then there is a sacrifice we need to make: the burnt offering a grain offering a peace offering a sin offering and a trespass offering. If Jesus is our example, how can we expect to be transformed in His image and yet ignore the daily sacrifices that it takes to be like Him?

An ordinance forever for Israel

When Solomon built the temple, 2Chronicles 2:4 declared that it was for the purpose:

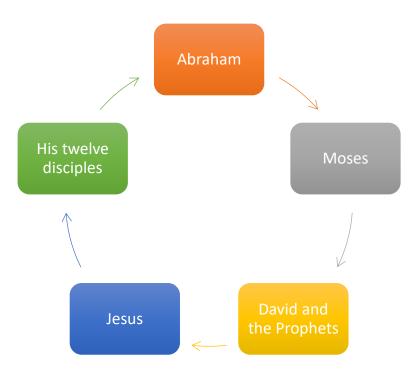
- 1) burn sweet incense to the Lord,
- 2) put continual showbread before the Lord,
- 3) offer the morning and evening sacrifices ,and on the Sabbaths, the new moons and appointed feasts

This Scripture then proceeds to declare, *this is an ordinance FOREVER to Israel*. Forever means forever. In the millennial, the temple, with its offerings and appointed feasts, will not be any different than previous temples in its eternal purpose. In the millennial temple, the priest, the sons of Zadok will be resurrected. They will be teachers of righteousness. They will teach the nations through these rituals the heavenly pattern of worship: this is the way into the holy of holies. This is how you can access the presence of God within the veil and dwell there.

The nations will cry out in the last days: Come you, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3)

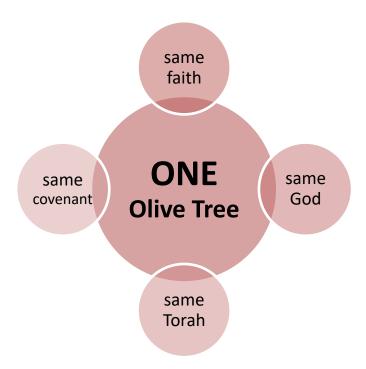
Consistency in the bible

Consistency of faith



In this bible there is a consistency of faith from Abraham to Moses to David to the prophets of Israel, then from Jesus to his twelve disciples and to the nations in the millennial age.

One Olive tree



There is but ONE olive tree and it's a Jewish olive tree. We the gentiles have been engrafted into the olive tree. We share in the same faith and in the same God: the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, the same Torah and the same Covenant.

God does not violate covenant. He made the old covenant with the house of Israel. He also made the new covenant with the house of Israel. But in the new covenant, He is adding new dimensions to the previous old covenant he made with them. Making it a better covenant with better promises. It is the same covenant made with the same people, the house of Israel but with a whole new dimension to it so that they will be able to keep it.

The Torah which was written by the finger of God on table of stones, the same Torah is now written by the Holy Spirit on the table of the hearts of NT believers. The Torah is not abolished. It is God's unchanging Law .The Holy Spirit now writes the Torah on the heart and mind of believers. Romans 8:4 God send his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. For what purpose? That the righteousness of the law (Torah) might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The new covenant is made with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not with the church. Theirs is the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises. It is the same old covenant but with a new dimension to it. God does not violate covenant. We the gentiles have been engrafted into that covenant and be made partakers of the blessings of that Covenant.

The context of the Vision

It is a literal temple and it will be built at the second coming of Jeshua

The Millennium temple

Section one (1-33:21)	Section two (33-48)
The Glory departs from the temple	The Glory returns from the temple

The theme in the book of Ezekiel is the temple. The temple is seen in its perversion .God leaves His own people as a last resort, the Glory departs from the temple. The temple is restored in the millennial and the glory then returns to the temple

The second section of Ezekiel is too apocalyptic to take place before the Second Coming. It is too literal and detailed to be taken just figuratively . These events will actually take place at the time of the Second Coming of Yeshua. Israel is resurrected both physically and spiritually to become a holy nation unto God once again. This will happen in the context of global war.

This is the size of Israel

Israel is 1/800 the size of the Arab's world. Israel can fit into Australia 369 times.



Ezekiel 38-39: Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations. A leader will arise from the land of Magog (turkey). He will bring with him, the Islamic nations surrounding Israel to invade Israel: from the north, **Turkey**, from the south, **Sudan**, from the east, **Iran**, from the west, **Libya**.

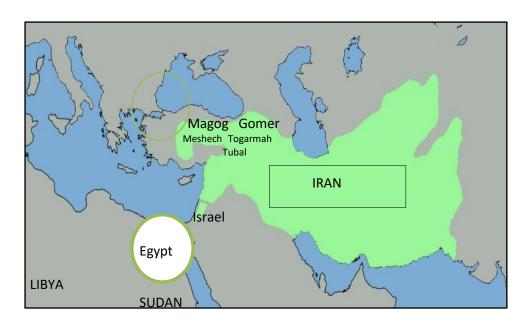
Psalm 83: the neighbours of Israel unite against them: Jordan (Edom, Ammon, Moab), Gaza strip, tyre (southern Lebanon) Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia

Psalm 2:1 the nations of the earth unite against Israel. All nations are gathered together to make war against the LORD and against His anointed. In Revelation, the Euphrates is dried up to make way for the king of the east to also come to the battle for Jerusalem.

The battle for Jerusalem will be the greatest military conflict. The story will be recounted over and over again in the new age to come in the arts, in drama, in education .God is going to glorify His Great Name and on that day, Israel will know, the Arabs nations will know and all nations will know that Yahweh is the Most High God ruling over all the earth and not Allah.

1Chr 29:11-13 Thine O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty. For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom O LORD and you art exalted as head above all.

The invading nations of Ezekiel 38-39



Leader is Gog in the land of Magog. Gog is a title for a ruler, just as Pharaoh is a title for the rulers of Egypt

Ancient name	Modern Name
Magog: the head of Meshech and Tubal	Turkey
Mechech(27:13 trading partners with tyre, unlikely to be Russia, it's too far away from Tyre)	West Turkey
Tubal	East Turkey
Persia	Iran
Cush (29:9-10,Cush bordered Egypt, Isaiah 18:1, its identified by its rivers. In Sudan 5 rivers merge to feed the Nile to the north)	Sudan
Put: west of Egypt	Lybia
Gomer :Asia minor	Turkey
Togarmah: Asia minor	Turkey

Similarity between the invading nations of Ezekiel 38-39 and the battle for Jerusalem

The former prophets have all prophesised of Gog and his armies invading Israel (Ezekiel 38:17)

- I will gather all nations to battle against Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:2)
- A people great and strong, the like of whom has never been nor there ever any after them, even to the years of many generations (Joel 2:2)
- The kings of the earth and the rulers are gathered together to make war against the LORD and His Anointed (Psalm 2:2)
- And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse and against His army (Revelation 19:19)

Gog of the land of Magog and many nations with him invading Israel (Ezekiel 33-39)	Former prophets and Revelation
The invasion comes from the north	The Northern army (Joel 2:20)
You shall come from your place out of the North parts , you and many people with you ($38{:}15)$	Out of the North, an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land (Jeremiah 1:14)
The armies consist of the same nations Persia, Ethiopia, LibyaGomer and all his bands, Togarmah and all his bands and many people(38:5)	King of the North (Turkey and the middle east nations)Lybya and Ethiopia (Daniel 11:43)
They come to plunder at a time Israel feels secure under the false peace treaty(38:10-13)	Daniel 9:27 in the middle of the 7 year period, he breaks the covenant Isaiah 28:18 your covenant with Sheol shall not stand Zechariah 14:1-2 the city will be taken, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city will go into captivity
They are destroyed by a great earthquake and plagues On that day, there shall be a great earthquakeand the mountains shall be thrown down(38: 19-20) And I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains, great hailstones, fire and brimstone (38:22)	And there was a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth And every island fled away and the mountains were not found (Revelation 16:18) And great hailstones, about 100 pounds each, fell from heaven on men and they cursed God for the plagues of hail because the plagues was exceedingly great (Revelation 16:21)
They attacked each other (38:21) Every man 's sword shall be against his brother	A great panic from the LORD shall be among them and they shall lay hold everyone on the hand of his neighbour and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour (Zechariah 14:13)
They are devoured at the great feast by birds and beast (39:17-20) Assemble yourselves and come to my sacrifice that I do prepare for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israelyou shall eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the princes of the earth	Come and gather yourselves together to the supper of the Great Godto eat the flesh of kings ,the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men(Revelation 19:17-18)

When the vision received

In the beginning of the year (the Jewish civil year which is celebrated on the 1st day of Tishrei), in the 10th day of the month (the 10th day of Tishrei is also the day of Yom Kippur). When the Jewish civil year also falls on the 10th day, the Rabbi says it's a Jubilee year. God choose this day: a Jubilee year, on the day of Yom Kippur to show Ezekiel the design of the millennial temple. The Jubilee year is the year Jewish slaves are freed and the land in Israel that had been sold during the previous 49 years is returned to its original tribal owners.

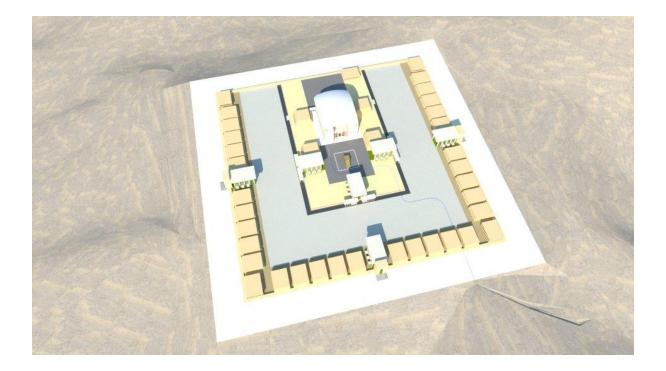
Ezekiel is brought to a very high mountain to Jerusalem by the Spirit of God and he is given a grand tour of the Future Millennial temple: the outer courts, the inner courts, the Ministers of the temple, the restoration of central worship in the temple, restoration of natural waters and vegetation and the land re-inhabited.

The Rabbis believe that this temple actually exist in heaven, that was the city that Abraham and all the heroes of faith was looking for: a city whose builder and maker is God. Many believe that the temple has already been built in heaven and it will come down to earthly Jerusalem at the second coming. Just as we also believe that the heavenly Jerusalem has already been built in heaven and that it will come down and rest above the earthly Jerusalem at the second coming. The Jews are looking for an earthly kingdom; we are looking for a heavenly kingdom: the New Jerusalem.

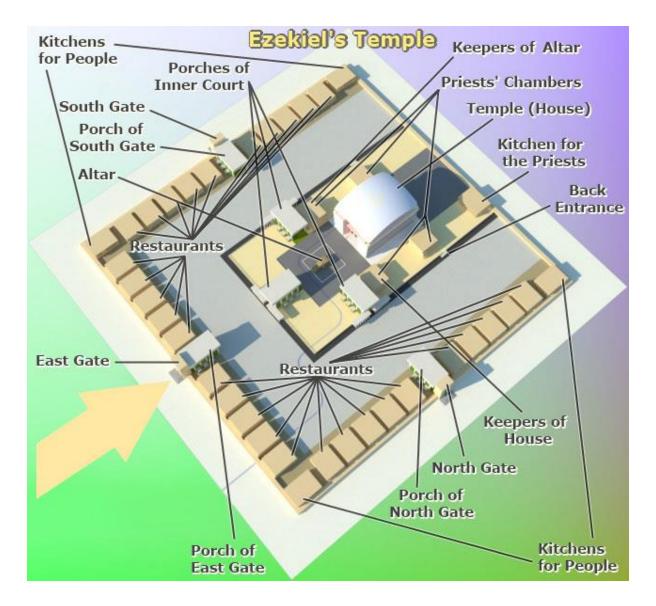
I personally believe that the millennial temple has already been built and exist in heaven. The earthly millennial temple and the heavenly New Jerusalem are but **one** reality with two distinct expressions. Beside it will take a long time to build and that's too long for the nation to be waiting for a rebuilt temple. The priestly Levites and the priestly sons of Zadok will be resurrected and millennial worship will commence straight away.

The design of the temple: an overview

Some have attempted to reconstruct the design of the temple but because of its cryptic design, I prefer the design constructed by http://ezekiel-temple.narod.ru/. You can visit their website and download their 3D images for free



The temple is in the form of a man. The sanctuary is the head; the inner courtyard is its heart and belly, the upper two chambers its arms and the lower two chambers its legs.



- The outer court, it has three gates (East North South gates) with palm trees on its gates post, four large kitchen one in each corner of the outer court, 30 outer chambers (restaurant??)
- The inner court, it has three gates with palm trees on its gates post
- The sanctuary or temple, the entire interior walls and doors of the sanctuary is decorated with a palm tree between two Cherubim, one with the face of a man, the other with the face of a lion. There were side chambers in the temple for the priests. The priests had to change their garments, put on other garments when they approach the people
- Wall around the outside of the temple
- The temple mount 36 times bigger than Solomon's temple, laying 1½ square miles large enough to hold two million people.

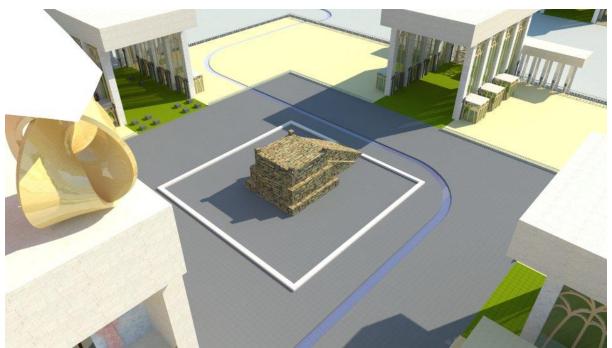
The whole temple along with its services speaks of the depth of His sufferings and the heights of His Victory. Psalm tree is a symbol of conquest: the height of His victory is proclaimed in the outer courts, it is proclaimed in the inner courts. He is the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David (the face of a man, the face of a lion) who has prevailed.



Porches of the outer court-North gate decorated with palm trees



Porches of the outer court- East gate decorated with palm trees



The altar



It is facing the temple

And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east" (Ezekiel 43:4).



The east gate

Because the Lord enters the temple by the eastern gateway, no man shall enter the temple by this gate, but it shall be closed (44:2). The "prince" is the only one who is allowed at certain times (the celebrations of each weekly Sabbath, monthly New Moons, and all the yearly appointed feasts of the Lord) to enter into this eastern gateway by the vestibule of the gateway to sit and eat bread before the LORD.

From under the portal of the Holy of holies, living waters will flow through to the temple courtyard and out to Engedi to enter the Dead Sea. Engedi is the place where David hid from Saul in the caves, it is half way down the West Bank. The trickle will become a stream, and the stream a great river on whose banks trees will grow that produce new fruits every month. The leaves of the trees will be for healing of the nations.

The river will transform the land of Israel into a Garden of Eden. The river of life in mentioned only in two other places in scripture: Genesis 2 and Revelation 22. In Genesis we have a description of the river of life before the fall where God once walked with man. This is a picture of paradise before it was lost. In Revelation we have a description of the river of life after the fall. This is a description of paradise regained.

What Ezekiel foresee is that paradise will be regained. The LORD Himself will be with His people forever. The LORD spoke to Ezekiel and said to him:

the place of My throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of Israel for ever and My holy name shall the house of Israel no more defile....(43:7)





02-Ezekiel's (Third) Temple. New Jerusalem..mp4

In the vision of the temple, I will only address what was shown to Ezekiel, there may be furniture in this temple similar to what was in the other temples (such as the lampstand, Table of Showbread, Ark of the Covenant.). However, since these details were not shown to Ezekiel but only a very high table (altar of incense) I will not address it in this study.

Likewise Ezekiel is not shown a veil separating the holy place from the holy of holies but a door, neither is there a wall of partition in the outer court forbidding the gentiles to enter into the inner court area as in Solomon's temple.

It may well be that in Christ; the middle wall of partitions has been broken down between Jews and gentiles believers and the veil has now been torn to enter in the most holy place, but these are not the things that the Holy Spirit wants to emphasise. I will only address what has been revealed to Ezekiel.

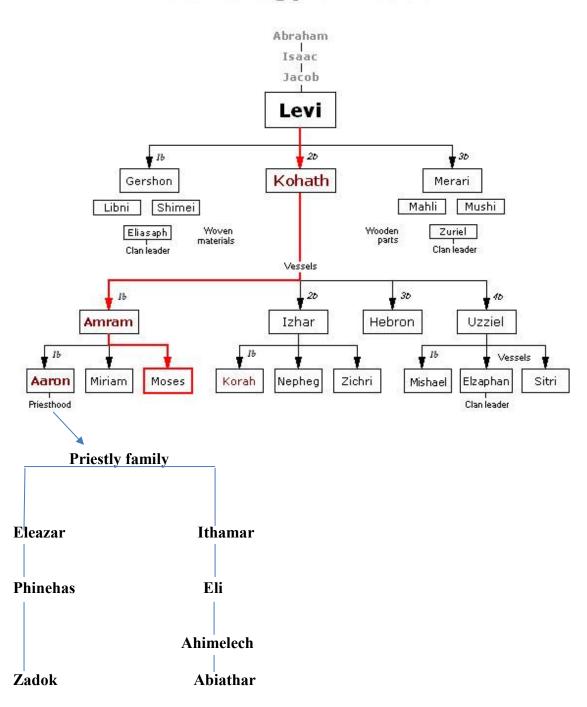
The Ministers of the temple

If there is a temple, then there must be priesthood: those who would serve in the temple. Ezekiel 44 speaks of two companies of priest. There will be a physical resurrection of the priests and of the Levites at the second coming, as well as a spiritual restoration of Israel.

The priestly sons of Zadok:

Zadok were the descendants of Aaron through Phineas.

Genealogy of Moses



God puts a difference between the Priesthood. The priestly Levites who taught the people wrongly to worship before their idols will be the gatekeepers of the temple; they will be responsible for all the work of the temple and for all that has to be done in it. They will slay the burnt offerings and the people's sacrifices. They will stand before the people to minister to them, but they will not be allowed to enter the Holy of Holies or come into the inner sanctuary.

"they shall **not** come near to Me to do the office of a priest to Me, nor to come near to any of My holy things, in the most holy place but they shall bear their shame and their abominations which they have committed" (44:13).

A priest is called to minister in two areas: to stand in the holy place before the presence of the Lord and offer incense to him day and night. Then, he would go out from the presence of the Lord and then stand before the people.

For the lips of the priest should keep knowledge and they should seek the law at His mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts (Malachi 2:7)

In Malachi days, the priests were profaning the covenant of Levi. They were not living with a fascinated heart. Their hearts were dull. They were offering lambs with blemishes on the altar. If they had stood in my presence and keep the charge of my sanctuary and all my appointed feasts, they would have turned my people from their iniquities. Oh priest, because you have despised your calling, I will remove you from office as unclean.

The priestly sons of Zadok who were faithful to Yahweh in keeping the charge of His sanctuary when Israel went astray, they will enter into the inner sanctuary to come near to the Lord and minister to Him. They will stand before the Lord and offer the fat and the blood. Fat speaks of passionate worship arising from a heart sanctified by blood and fire. Blood speaks of a life laid down.

The sons of Zadok, they are the burning ones. As a result of ministering to the Lord in the inner sanctuary, in close proximity to Him, they are able to discern between the holy and the profane, between the clean and the unclean. They are the ones who will be teachers of righteousness in the millennial age.

Ezekiel lists several laws and ordinances which the sons of Zadok have to observe:

- They shall wear linen garments when entering the inner sanctuary. They shall not wear any wool or anything causing them to sweat.
- They shall leave these garments in the holy chambers when leaving the sanctuary and put on other garments so as not to sanctify the people with their garments
- They shall wear turbans on their heads (holiness unto the Lord) and linen breeches on their loins (sexual purity)
- They shall keep their hair well-trimmed (not shaved or long).
- They shall not have a wife who is divorced or widowed but rather take virgins of the descent of Israel
- They shall teach people the difference between the holy and unholy and discern between the clean and unclean.
- They shall stand as judges in controversy.

They shall not defile themselves by coming near a dead person, (except for father, mother, son or daughter, brother or unmarried sister). After he is cleansed, count 7 days and offer a sin offering for him in the sanctuary and then he may continue to minister before the Lord.

They shall not eat any bird or beast that died naturally or was torn by wild animals.

They shall have no land possession in Israel "for I am their inheritance."

They shall keep my laws and my Statutes in all my appointed feasts and they shall hallow My Sabbaths. To hallow means to respect, to honour greatly, to revere, to set apart as Holy.

The Sabbaths

	Holy convocations or holy assemblies with no work	References	
1	The weekly Sabbath	Leviticus 23:3	52 days
2	The first day of unleavened bread	Leviticus 23:7	
3	The last day of unleavened bread	Leviticus 23:8	
4	The feast of Pentecost	Leviticus 23:21	
5	The feast of trumpets	Leviticus 23:24	
6	The day of atonement (a fast)	Leviticus 23:26	
7	The first day of the feast of tabernacles	Leviticus 23:35	
8	The eight day at the end of feast of tabernacles	Leviticus 23:36	
9	The 7 th year Sabbath	Leviticus 25:1-7	
10	The year of Jubilee Sabbath	Leviticus 27:17-24	
	Total in year		60 days

There are numerous Sabbaths which God called holy convocations or holy assemblies in addition to the weekly Sabbath, in which we are to cease from work and spend that time with the Lord in extended corporate worship

The priests who ministers in the inner sanctuary, had to live a higher standard of holiness and ritual purity, than the priests who ministers in the outer court. To be fit to serve at the altar of incense and at the table of shewbread, the priests needed to be unblemished as the sacrifices they were offering. They were prohibited from marrying a woman who is not a virgin, contact with any unclean thing makes one ritually unfit for 7 days. They have to watch the way they are dressed, and what they do eat.

They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire and the bread of their God, they do offer; therefore they shall be holy (Leviticus 21:6)

If the earthly priesthood had to live according to these higher standards because they were set apart for the service of the inner sanctuary, how much more the NT priesthood.

1 Peter 2:5 You also as living stones are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ

The priesthood of earthly millennial temple gives us a glimpse of the priesthood of the heavenly New Jerusalem. In the kingdom age, Jesus will reward faithfulness by giving us proximity to His throne. Those who overcome will rule as kings and priests to him.

Revelation 2:7, to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Every believer will eat of the tree of life, but not all believers will eat of the tree of life in the **midst** of the paradise of God. It has to do with proximity to the throne. Not every believer will receive the victor's crown, only those who overcome and are faithful even to the death.

Revelation 3:12, him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God and he shall go no more out

Those who overcome will receive the 100 fold reward and gets to serve God in his inner sanctuary, face to face and His name shall be on their foreheads. God will make a difference between the priesthood of NT believers. The highest honour in the millennial age will be ministering before Yahweh in his temple and then from that place of close proximity, ruling and reigning with him.

If your ministry is in the outer court in this age, do you think that in the kingdom age, you will stand before the Lord in his inner sanctuary and serve him in his temple day and night?

A special blessing: when you financially support the priestly sons of Zadok

The **best** of all the **first fruits** of all things and every offering of all, of every sort of your offerings, shall be the priest's: you shall also give the priest the first of your dough that you may cause the blessing to rest in your house (Ezekiel 44:30)

First fruits

The first fruits is not the tithes. The tithes is given after your harvest. You get paid and you bring $1/10^{th}$ to the LORD. The first fruit is before your harvest. There is a difference between the two. Numbers 18: the tithes went to the Levites who kept charge of the temple. The first fruits went to the High priest and the sons of Zadok who kept charge of the inner sanctuary.

At the time of the harvest, Israel would go through their fields and glean the 1st ripening heads of their produce and they would bring that to the LORD. God required *first fruits* whether its livestock or produce of the land (*Leviticus 2:14*)

Gleaning the 1st ripening head was not just for Israel. Every nation would glean the 1st ripening head of their corn, wheat barley. But then instead of giving it to the LORD, they would store it in their barns in case something destroy their harvest like fire or hailstorm, they would have an amount to replant with. But with Israel because they have given it to the LORD, now they have to trust Him to protect the rest of the harvest.

Honour the LORD with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your increase: So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9)

The LORD is saying here because you have honoured me in giving me the 1st fruit, I will put a supernatural blessings on the rest of your harvest. The 1st fruit has the power to determine what kind of harvest you are going to reap.

The blessings of Deuteronomy 28: blessed in the city, blessed in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your basket. Blessed coming in, blessed going out. This level of blessings does not just happen. It happens because you practice certain principle that God has set. Giving 1st fruit is one of these principle.

Because Israel gave the 1st city Jericho to the LORD, they were then able to conquer the whole land. No man was able to stand before them. You give to God the 1st and the best of your harvest. You are saying to God you are the 1st in my life and watch God command His blessing upon you.

The heave offering

The heave offering was not really a separate offering but the portion of peace offering and meal offering that was reserved for Aaron and his sons. The Hebrew word for heave offering *terumah*, comes from the verb stem *rum*, which means "exalted" or "lifted up." The heave offering was the part of a sacrifice "lifted up" for a higher purpose to the LORD.

When you give these offerings to the priests the sons of Zadok, those who are building the house of prayer, you're offering is like a memorial a reminder before the LORD continually. (Zechariah 6:14)

The Prince

The prince is given many privileges and a duty in the Millennial Temple. Who is the prince? The context of the book of Ezekiel implies that the resurrected king David will be the prince in this temple.

"David my servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. My servant David shall be their prince forever.... (Ezekiel 37:24-25)

I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken it (Ezekiel 34:23-24).

Jeremiah 30:9 also speaks about David reigning as king of Israel at the time when God brings back His people from captivity saying:

They shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will RAISE UP for them

Hosea 3:4-5 further states that King David of old will be the eternal king over the nation of Israel:

For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod and teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.

Jesus will be ruling over the entire earth, while David will only be the king of Israel. David, the prince, will be responsible for giving special burnt offerings and peace offerings at the celebrations of each weekly Sabbath, monthly New Moons, and all the yearly appointed feasts of the Lord (Ezekiel 45:13-17):

These are the prescriptions for these grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings for the prince in Israel:

- 1/6th of an ephah(6 gallons) from a homer(60 gallons) of wheat
- 1/6th of an ephah(6 gallons) from a homer(60 gallons) of barley
- 1 bath(6 gallons) of oil from a cor (60 gallons)
- 1 lamb from a flock of the flock 200 of well watered pastures

When the Lord returns to this temple, He will enter through the inner court eastern gate and then it will be shut where no man can enter through it. But the prince is granted this special privilege: he may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord. He shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way." Ezek. 44:2-3. David will worship at this gate and eat bread before Yahweh and then leave by the same vestibule.

Ezekiel also gives details for the land inheritance laws for the prince. The prince will inherit all of the land on the east side and the west side of the Holy Portion. This land stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to the west side of the Holy Portion and from the Dead Sea to the east side of the Holy Portion.

Trading measurements

Measurement of:	Smallest Unit	Small Unit	Large Unit	Largest Unit
Liquid products: milk, oil	Log (1/3 quart)	Hin (1 gallon)	Bath (6 gallons)	Cor/Homer/Koros (60 gallons)
Dry products: grain, wheat	Xestes (1 1/6 pints)	Omer (2 quarts)	Ephah (6 gallons)	Cor/Homer/Koros (60 gallons)
Precious Metal :gold, silver	Gerah (1/50 ounce)	Shekel (2/5 ounce)	Mina (1.25 lbs.)	Talent (75 or 88 lbs.)

The feasts of the LORD at the centre of Millennial worship

Ezekiel is shown the manner of worship in the Millennial Temple; The Feasts of the Lord outlined in Leviticus 23 are the very heart millennial temple worship. Below is a list of the days that Ezekiel specifically mentions to honour with special sacrifices and worship:

1st day of 1st month: Cleanse the Sanctuary with a young bull. The priest puts the sin offering blood on: temple doorposts, four corners of the altar, and gateposts of the inner court gateways.

7th day of the 1st month: Do the same as day one above for everyone who has sinned unintentionally. This will make atonement for the temple.

Passover: on the 14th day of the 1st month prepare a bull for a sin offering.

Feast of Unleavened bread: from the 15th-21st of the 1st month prepare each day 7 bulls and 7 rams for a burnt offering and a kid of the goats for a sin offering. And prepare a grain offering of one ephah (6 gallons), with one hin (1 gallon) of oil for each bull and one for each ram.

Feast of Tabernacles: from the 15th-21st of the 7th month do the same sacrifices and offerings as the Feast of Unleavened bread listed above.

Sabbath: Once a week on the Sabbath the prince shall offer:

6 lambs: with the grain offering (as much as desired) with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil per ephah (6 gallons)

1 ram: with the grain offering of 1 ephah(6 gallons) with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil.

New Moon: Once per month at the beginning of each month (at the new moon) the prince shall offer:

1 young bull: with the grain offering of 1 ephah(6 gallons) with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil.

6 lambs: with the grain offering as much as desired with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil per ephah(6 gallons).

I ram: with the grain offering of 1 ephah(6 gallons) with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil.

And the people shall worship like they do on the Sabbath day.

Festivals & Appointed Feast Days:

for bulls: the grain offering is 1 ephah (6 gallons) with 1 hin (1 gallon) of oil.

for lambs: the grain offering is as much as desired with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil per ephah(6 gallons).

for rams: the grain offering is 1 ephah (6 gallons) with 1 hin(1 gallon) of oil.

Voluntary Offerings: The prince may offer voluntary burnt or peace offerings whenever he desires. The offerings will be prepared just like on the Sabbath day.

Daily Morning Sacrifice: Every morning a burnt offering shall be prepared "as a perpetual ordinance" which includes:

One year old lamb: with 1/6th of a ephah (1/6 gallons) of grain offering and 1/3rd of a hin (1/3 gallon) of oil to moisten the flour.

The Feasts of the Lord outlined in Leviticus 23 will never cease, they are God's eternal laws forever. Four times in Leviticus, the LORD repeats, it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings (Leviticus 23:14, 21, 31, 41).

The feasts are universal, not just for Israel; the nations that do not worship and keep the feast of tabernacle from year to year will have no rain on their land. (Zechariah 14:18) .The resurrected saints will also be keeping the feasts in the temple at the New Jerusalem. The earthly millennial temple is linked with the heavenly temple in the New Jerusalem. These are two dimensions of the same reality. Revelation 15:2-3 we see the sea of glass mingled with fire and the saints are standing upon the sea having the harp of God. The sea of glass is the place of corporate worship. The fragrance, the sounds of music, the fire ,the thunders and lightings speaking of the manifests presence of God proceeding from the throne being released upon that sea permeating your whole being. Intimacy will reach its heights as the earthly Jerusalem and the heavenly Jerusalem joined together in the worship of Yahweh

Revelation 21:24-26 the kings of the earth shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into the New Jerusalem. They will be bringing an offering to the house of the Lord during the feasts seasons. Deuteronomy 16:17 When you appear before the Lord during the appointed feast season.

You shall not appear empty; every man shall give as he is able. Leviticus 23:22 you should also allow some handful to fall on purpose for the poor and the widows of the blessing the Lord has given you

Although our entire lives should be an expression of worship, there are special times that Scripture has ordained for corporate celebrations of extended worship in honour of Yahweh. These appointed Feasts are for the purpose of divine encounters in the presence of God to change us more into his image from glory to glory.

Ezekiel 46:9 tells the Millennium worshippers at the appointed Feasts not to leave by the same gate that they entered. Likewise, every time we come in worship to offer our lives as a sacrifice to the Lord we will be changed from glory to glory and not leave the same way that we entered.

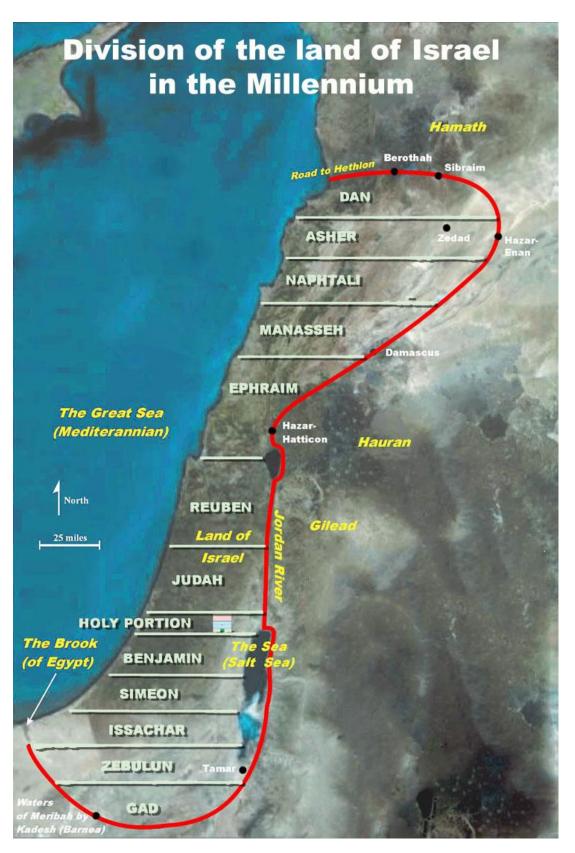
In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious (Isaiah 4:2).

Millennial worship will centre on the beauty of the God-man Christ Jesus and on the depths of His suffering, the heights of His victory and on the riches of grace he has bestowed upon us. God is going to stun the nations with the beauty of His Son.

To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood and has made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. (Revelation 1:5-6)

The land divisions

The land is divided between the tribes but in a way different to that prescribed in the book of Joshua. This is how the land is divide



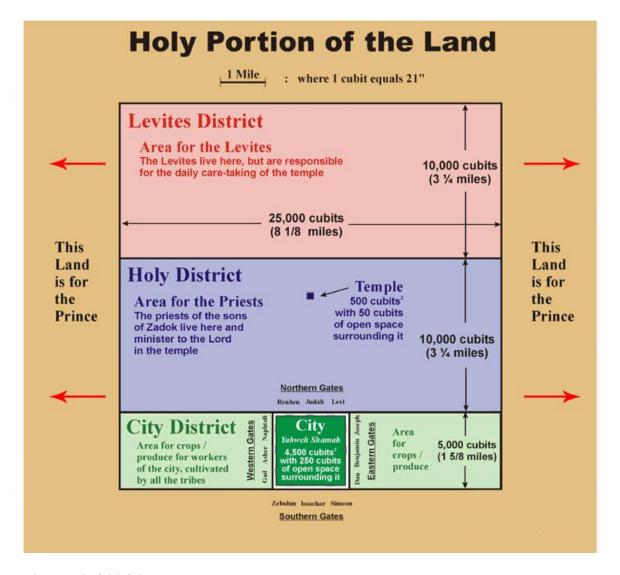
North: Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuban and Judah

Center: Holy Portion

South :Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulin, Gad

The 12 portions are to be exactly the same amount of land area. No preeminance will be given to one tribe over the other. The temple will be the holy portion, with the temple at the heart of the nations just as it had been in the past.

Ezekiel 47:15-21 lists 17 landmarks to explain the boundary lines of Israel. In numbers 34:1-12, Moses was shown almost the same boundaries as was shown to Ezekeil



God rewards faithfulness

In allocation of the land, God will reward faithfulness. Judah and Benjamin is given proximity to the center of the temple because of their faithfulness to the Davidic dynasty. The priests, the sons of Zadok will also be honoured with proximity to the temple. They will live in this area of the holy portion of the land. The levites who are responsible for the daily caretaking of the temple will live in this area, a little further away from the temple.

This portion of the land is for the prince. The city district will be an area for crop produce for the dwellers of the city

The gates to the city

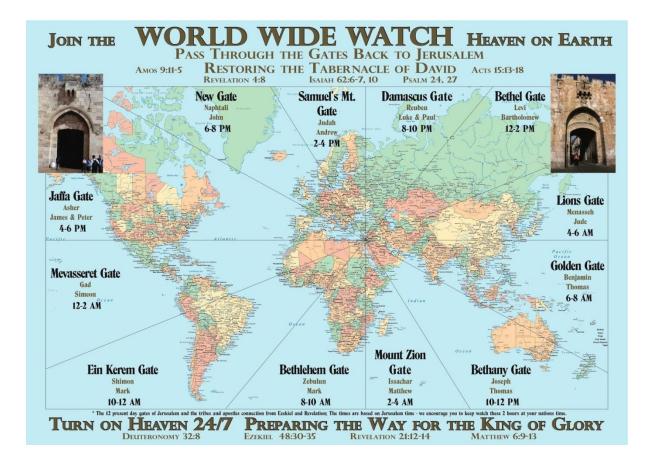
There are 12 gates: **north**: Reuban Judah Levi,

East :Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, south: simeon,Issachar, Zebulin, West :Gad, Asher, Naphtali

Each of the 12 gates is named after the 12 tribes of Israel. This is the millenial Jerusalem. What John saw in the New Jerusalem is the same Model. The new Jerusalem have 12 gates, each gate is named after the 12 tribes of Israel.

12 gates and 12 partitions of the land

There is a connection between the 12 gates of the city and the 12 partitions of the land of Israel and there is a connection between the 12 tribes and all the nations of the earth. The Messianic kingdom will be all be build into a perfect unity, with Jerusalem as the center of the earth and Jesus ruling over the earth headquarted on a throne in a temple in Jerusalem..



The Name of the city from that day shall be: The LORD is there: Yahweh Shammah

Releasing of Prophectic Oracles

Several times God commands Ezekiel to prophesy (34:1, 35:2, 36:1, 37:5, 38:2) .Set your face against Gog and prophesy against him.Behold I am against you O Gog, Prophesy to the dry bones and say to them: O you dry bones, hear the word of the LORD, I will cause breathe to enter into you and you shall live

The fulfillment of all these events will take place when you prophesy. Just as God commanded Ezekiel to phophesy, Today God is calling the prophetic church to prophesy for these events to come to pass: the resurrection of the dead, the restoration of Israel, the destruction of Gog, the coming of Jeshua and the establishment of the Millenium

Jerusalem, I call you forth into your prophetic destiny. You shall be called the Holy city, the city of Righteousness, the throne of the LORD, the mountain of the LORD of hosts. Your people shall be called the Priest of the LORD, the redeemed of the LORD, the holy people.

I declare and decree that the trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised immortal

We are to write and sing prophetic songs about the second coming:

See the heavens open, behold the Lamb of God, he's riding on a white horse, his eyes ablaze with fire, he is the Word of God and his robe is dipped in blood, thundering across the heavens, in righteousness he comes

And your glory shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea and the earth will sing your praises, for evermore your kingdom shall be