

EZEKIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Ezekiel chapter 40 as we continue our study through the Word of God. These last nine chapters of the book of Ezekiel focus on the Temple and as we will see, there is a lot of speculation and some controversy regarding what this is all about, if it is even real or just symbolic of something else. I am not sure why God would spend some nine chapters describing the Temple, the worship in the Temple and the land around the Temple if it was not real, but nevertheless, some believe that way. Let me show you what I mean. In one commentary we are told,

There is much in these chapters that can seem tedious to the modern reader. Even though the long descriptions of Jerusalem, its temple, and its surrounding countryside are intended to be understood as symbolic of the important realities of the eschatological age which began to be fulfilled with the arrival of Christ, they are nevertheless so detailed and have such a dull “story line” that Ezekiel 40-48 has never been a very popular part of the Bible.

Of course, had we lived in the Jerusalem of old and known the temple, city, and land like Ezekiel and his contemporaries knew it, we could have better appreciated the descriptions. So we must work to understand and evaluate what is happening in these chapters, and as communicators we must take pains to be sure that the real message of hope is highlighted in the midst of these detailed visions accounts.

- Douglas Stuart, The Preachers Commentary, Ezekiel p. 358

Now let's think this through. If this Temple is symbolic then what about Jesus ruling and reigning from Jerusalem, is that symbolic too? You see, there is nothing in these chapters that say this is symbolic of something else. They are very detailed and thus, I believe that this Temple will be built in the Millennial Kingdom and the Lord will do the building, I don't believe this is the work of man. And this is not tedious because this is the place we will be with the Lord and we should know what this is all about!

And keep in mind that this is not the Temple that will be rebuilt during the Tribulation Period. That one is not acknowledged by the Lord, the sacrifices that are made will not be accepted by the Lord because they are being made for the atonement of their sins and the blood of bulls and goats can never take away your sins, only the shed blood of Jesus can. Also, this Temple here in Ezekiel is much larger than any Temple that has ever been built in Jerusalem and the Temple Mount area is not even big enough to hold it today but the Lord will enlarge it!

Now another thing that seems to throw people is that in these chapters we will see the sacrifices start up again. That is another reason why some say that this has to be symbolic. You see, Hebrews 7:26-27 says, **“For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”**

Thus, if Jesus paid in full the penalty for our sins on the cross of Calvary, if the work is finished, why are there sacrifices being offered in this Temple? As we go through this I hope to answer those questions and keep in mind that this is not the only Old Testament book that speaks about sacrifices in the Millennial Temple. We see them mentioned in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah and Malachi. And as we go through these chapters, we will look at some of those texts. (Isaiah 5:6-7, 66:20-23, Jeremiah 33:18, Zechariah 14:16-21, Malachi 3:3-4).

Again, to see this as only symbolic you have to ignore the great detail that Ezekiel goes through in describing the Temple and all that is associated with it. There is nothing that suggests that this is symbolic but it is very real and God wants us to take it very literally. And so as we go through this portion of Scripture I will try to explain what I feel is going on.

These last nine chapters can be broken down as follows. In Ezekiel chapters 40 through 43 we see the description of the Temple. Then, in Ezekiel chapters 44 through 46 we see the worship that takes place in the Temple. And lastly, in Ezekiel chapters 47 and 48 we see the description of the land around the Temple.

One more point and this will lead us into our study this evening. Keep in mind that in Ezekiel chapter 37 we saw those dead bones come to life as the Lord raised up the nation of Israel once again. They would be one nation and we see that today as they are in the land of Israel once again. During their time in this land a confederacy of Muslim nations, with Russia being drawn into this battle will come down upon Israel to destroy her and God will miraculously deliver them. We saw that in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39.

Sometime after this war the Tribulation Period begins and as we get to the end of the Tribulation Period we see the nation of Israel coming to Jesus and repenting of their sins asking Him to be their Lord and Savior. It is after this, after the Battle of Armageddon that the Millennial reign of Christ or the thousand year reign of Christ will begin and this is when the Temple here in Ezekiel will be built.

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Ezekiel chapter 40 beginning in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we look at the description of the Temple!

EZEKIEL 40

VERSES 1-4

1. We are given the timeframe of this vision; it is 14 years after the Southern Kingdom of Judah was taken into captivity. We are now some 25 years since Jehoiachin was taken captive by the Babylonians and this vision occurred around 573 B. C.

Think about how devastated, how hopeless the Jewish captives in Babylon were. Their city was destroyed, their Temple was destroyed and now they are in captivity. But we see here God giving to Ezekiel a hope for the future, that this Temple that will be built will be far glorious than all the others combined and the Lord Himself will be there!

Thus, through this vision they will find hope in the Lord and His promises to them. Look at verse 4 once again, “**And the man said to me, ‘Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your mind on everything I show you; for you were brought here so that I might show them to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything you see.’**”

This angel tells Ezekiel to do four things with this message. First of all he is to **LOOK** at what is being shown to him, this glorious Temple. Then he is to **HEAR** all the words that this angel will speak to him regarding this glorious Temple. Not only is he to look and hear but he is also told to **FIX HIS MIND ON EVERYTHING THAT IS SHOWN TO HIM**. He is to take this information and let it sink deep down into his heart and become part of his life.

What I love here is that the Lord is doing this for Ezekiel to encourage him but that is not where it is to end. You see, the last thing this angel tells Ezekiel to do is that he is to **DECLARE** all that was shown him to the house of Israel! He was to encourage them with the promise from God that there is a glorious Temple that will be built and it will be the Lord who dwells in this Temple, not just His glory the Shekinah glory but Jesus will be there! And we will see that as we read through these chapters over the next few weeks.

I think this is an important lesson for us as well. You see, you can't give to others what you yourself don't have. You have to **LOOK, HEAR, FIX YOUR MIND** so that you may then **DECLARE** to others what God has shown you! How important that is for us to follow.

2. I want to take a couple of minutes to go over the Tabernacle and then the various Temples that have been built in Jerusalem and then two future Temples that will be built.

First of all we will deal with the Tabernacle or that portable worship structure that Moses built in the wilderness and traveled with the children of Israel into the Promise Land. And keep in mind that Moses put together this portable worship structure according to the blue prints he received from God.

From there we move to the permanent worship structure that was built by Solomon in Jerusalem. This Temple was built around 950 B. C. and it was the first Temple in Jerusalem and it was glorious. The gold, the stones that were used to build this structure, it must have just shined brightly for all to see. But that was the Temple that was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 B. C.

Then, in 515 B. C., as the captives were returning home under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the second Temple was built. And the young men, never seeing the glory of Solomon's Temple shouted for joy. But the old men cried because this Temple was nothing compared to Solomon's.

Let me say this, may we never bring the young down in what they are doing for the Lord by saying things like, "This is nothing. You should have seen the way it was when I was young!" That is not encouraging to them and as far as I can tell, God is still in control and He can do amazing things with very little! We should be encouraging the young and joining them in their shouts of joy for what God is doing instead of being a wet blanket, being negative about everything. Let us stimulate them to continue on, to encourage them in the work they are doing for the Lord.

Then, in 20 B. C., Herod the Great came on the scene. And Herod was trying to get in good with the Jewish people so he expanded and beautified this second Temple, which was completed in 64 A. D. Many times this is referred to as Herod's Temple but it really is just an upgrade from the second Temple project, which again was a low budget project and Herod added much to this Temple, it truly was a sight to behold. Not as beautiful as Solomon's but it was beautiful. But then it too was destroyed in 70 A. D. by the Romans. And since that time there has been no Temple standing, even though it seems there have been a few attempts.

As you read the news, as you see what some of the Orthodox Jews are doing as well as organizations like the Temple Institute they are preparing to build the third Temple on the Temple Mount. They have the implements ready and the priests ready, they just finished the altar of sacrifice.

But this Temple will not be rebuilt until the Tribulation Period. You see, Revelation chapter 11 we read of a third Temple that will be built during this period of time and at the 3½ year mark of the 7 year Tribulation Period the Antichrist will stop the sacrifices, go into the holy of holies and demand to be worshiped as god. I believe it is the Antichrist who will make this deal with Israel to rebuild their Temple!

Now it is possible that this third Temple will eventually be destroyed by the time we get to the end of the Tribulation Period, but that is speculation.

What we do know is that in the Kingdom Age the Lord will build a new Temple, this one not made by man but by God. And this fourth Temple or the Millennial Temple will outshine all the others and it will be in existence for 1,000 years until a new heavens and a new earth are created. And then, in the eternal state, there is no need for a Temple any longer!

VERSE 5

1. First of all we see the wall around the Temple being measured. Now this is not measured in feet and inches of course but in the measurements of their day. A cubit was about 18 inches or the distance from fingertips to elbow. A handbreadth, the width of the hand across the widest part, was approximately three inches.

Both a long cubit (a cubit of around 21 inches) and a short cubit (the standard 18 inches) existed. Based on these measurements, the measuring rod was six long cubits in length, about 126 inches or 10.5 feet, the height and width of the wall around the Temple.

As we read on we will see that this whole Temple area is one mile square. (Ezekiel 42:15-20). The problem with that is the Temple Mount is not that big today. That means the lands topography will have to change to fit a Temple this size in there.

Do the Scriptures support that? Zechariah 14:4 tells us, “**And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.**” It is possible that this will create an area for the Temple and all that will encompass this area.

VERSES 6-37

1. In Ezekiel 40:6-37 we see the description of the east gate, the porch, the outer court and the inner court. So the picture here is from the outside of the eastern gate and we are working are way inward.

Now we did not read through those verses, you can read through them on your own but I like what Dr. John Walvoord wrote as he describes this Millennial Temple. He wrote,

The temple to be built in the millennium will be much larger than any historic temple of Israel, being a square 875 feet (500 cubits) in width and length. Like previous temples, it will face east and will have an outer wall on the other three sides. The temple will have thirty rooms built on three levels. Except for the western wall, the other three sides will have a large outer court that will surround the temple itself with gates in each of these walls . . .

So that kind of gives you a description of what this will look like and I have given you some drawings to help you see what this is like. I don't know about you but for me, reading how this is put together is hard for me to picture, I need a picture to see it for myself so hopefully these pictures will give you an idea what this Temple will be like, how big it is.

VERSES 38-43

1. First of all let me give you an overview of what is going on here from James Smith who wrote,

Inside the northern gateway that led to the inner court was a special chamber where the burnt offerings were to be washed (v 38). The intestines and legs of the burnt offering had to be washed before being brought to the altar (Lev 1:9).

Eight tables on which sacrifices were slaughtered were situated in the northern gateway. Four were within the porch or vestibule (v 39), and four beyond the porch and within the gateway (vv 40-41).

Four smaller tables of hewn stone were also found in the northern gateway. These tables held the sacrificial instruments, i.e., knives and receptacles for collecting the blood (v 42).

Within the northern gateway, slabs or hooks were fixed to pillars to allow the animal carcasses to be suspended while being flayed. The sacrificial meat, once cut from the carcass, was placed on tables previously mentioned (v 43).

Three types of offerings were prepared in the work areas. In the burnt offering (vv 38, 39, 42), the entire animal was consumed on the altar. This offering symbolized the consecration of the worshiper. The sin offering made atonement for unintentional sin (Lev 1:3-4). The trespass offering was a restitution offering (Lev 5:14-6:7).

2. Now we need to deal with the problem of what is taking place here because this seems to be out of place, it does not make sense that there are sacrifices being offered in this Millennial Temple. That is one of the reasons people see this as a picture, symbolic and not a real Temple. But I think this is very real and yes there are sacrifices being offered.

Now in the New Testament we are told that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. His sacrifice took away our sins, something that the animal sacrifices could never do. And when He paid in full the penalty for our sins on the cross of Calvary and rose from the grave on the third day, when the work was finished He sat down at the right hand of the Father! No other sacrifice was or is needed!

And keep in mind that it is not just Ezekiel that speaks of these sacrifices in the Kingdom Age. We are told in Isaiah 56:7, **“Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”** And there are others as I have said. So what is going on here? Well, there are two explanations which may both apply to what we see taking place in the Millennial Temple

First of all it may be a memorial to the Lord, looking back at His finished work on the cross of Calvary. We do see memorials in the Old Testament Scriptures to remind people of what God has done. In Joshua chapter 4, as Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land, crossing the Jordan River on dry land, they set-up a memorial of stones to show their children what God has done. Keep in mind that in the Old Testament they looked ahead in faith to the coming of the Messiah by offering the various sacrifices until the perfect sacrifice would come.

It is as Dr. Jerry Hullinger said,

According to this view the sacrifices offered during the earthly reign of Christ will be visible reminders of His work on the cross. Thus, these sacrifices will not have any efficacy except to memorialize Christ's death. The primary support for this argument is the parallel of the Lord's Supper. It is argued that just as the communion table looks back on the Cross without besmirching its glory, so millennial sacrifices will do the same.

- Dr. Jerry Hullinger

But I believe it goes even beyond that because it does speak of sacrifices for atonement. Keep in mind that there will be a large number of people that make it through the Tribulation Period and they will enter into the Kingdom Age. They will have physical bodies and they will have children during this time.

Also during this time Satan is bound in the Abyss for those 1,000 years. And during this time people will still rebel even though the Lord will deal with that immediately. Keep in mind that the Lord Himself will be present before these people and they can't approach a holy God in their sins. And yes, Christ paid in full the penalty for our sins, but keep in mind that during the Millennial Reign the people have no choice until Satan is loosed for a season. And then, those who follow Satan will be cast into outer darkness and those who follow Jesus will get their glorified bodies and enter into eternity with Him.

Dr. Jerry Hullinger put it this way. He said,

. . . a solution that maintains dispensational distinctives, deals honestly with the text of Ezekiel, and in no way demeans the work Christ did on the cross. This study suggests that animal sacrifices during the millennium will serve primarily to remove ceremonial uncleanness and prevent defilement from polluting the temple envisioned by Ezekiel. This will be necessary because the glorious presence of Yahweh will once again be dwelling on earth in the midst of a sinful and unclean people. . . . Because of God's promise to dwell on earth during the millennium (as stated in the New Covenant), it is necessary that He protect His presence through sacrifice. . .

It should further be added that this sacrificial system will be a temporary one in that the millennium (with its partial population of unglorified humanity) will last only one thousand years. During the eternal state all inhabitants of the New Jerusalem will be glorified and will therefore not be a source of contagious impurities to defile the holiness of Yahweh.

- Dr. Jerry Hullinger

Again, not an easy section but you can't ignore it! I think that both probably do apply and without a doubt it is a memorial to the Lord for the finished work that He has done.

VERSES 44-47

1. Make no mistake about it, heaven is filled with the worship of God and when Jesus comes and rules and reigns from Jerusalem, worship will be sung out to Him. We see that even in the Millennial Temple as there is a place for singers. In fact, we are told that they will be in the chambers and my guess is that they will be singing chamber music! Sorry.

2. Now we see the chambers for the priests and the court. And the descendants of Zadok will be the ones ministering unto the Lord. Zadok was the High Priest during the reign of Solomon.

(I Kings 1:26-27)

Zadok was a descendant of Phinehas, the son of Aaron and according to Numbers 25:13 God gave to them a covenant of an everlasting priesthood!

3. Here we see a division of these priests, two categories. One group deals with the maintenance of the Temple while the other group manages the more important sacrificial worship.

VERSES 48-49

1. This is the porch of the Temple and seems to be similar to Solomon's Temple with the two pillars on each side. If you remember one was named Jachin, which means, "***He shall be established.***" And the other was named Boaz which means, "***In Him is strength.***"

So as you came to the Temple and looked at these pillars you were reminded that God has established this nation and it is only by His strength that it will continue on. And I think each of us, if we were honest, would have to admit that is exactly the way we stand. We have been established by Him and we continue on because of Him and when we lose sight of either one of those things we are in trouble!

EZEKIEL 41**VERSES 1-4**

1. Here we see the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies described. The outer room is 70 feet long by 35 feet wide and has an entrance that is 17½ feet wide. The inner sanctuary is 35 feet square and has an entrance of 10½ feet wide.
2. What I find interesting here is that Ezekiel was only allowed into the Holy Place but the angel went into the Holy of Holies or the inner sanctuary. That should remind us of the restrictions of entering the Holy of Holies. Remember, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only once a year, on the Day of Atonement after a long ceremonial cleansing.

But as we see Jesus pay in full the penalty for our sins that has all changed and we can now enter into the presence of God, not in our righteousness but His! We are told in Hebrews 10:19-22, **“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”**

What is interesting to me in that in the Millennial Temple there is no veil separating man from God. When Christ died on the cross of Calvary the veil was torn from top to bottom signifying that God has opened the door for us to come to Him through Christ, we can't enter in on our own.

3. Now as we go through these chapters you will see that some of the things, some of the articles that were in the Tabernacle and Temple are not found in the Millennial Temple. One writer put it like this,

There is no veil in this millennial temple because when Jesus Christ died, the veil was rent as a sign that the way was open to come into His presence. Previously, in Old Testament times, that veil separated the people from moving into the presence of God and experiencing His glory. Only on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, could the high priest go through the veil into the Holy of Holies and there see and experience the visible glory of God. But if he wasn't completely cleansed, he could die in God's presence. Only one day a year could one person go in - and then only if he was properly cleansed. But when Jesus died, the veil was rent from top to bottom as a sign that all were welcome. The price was paid. Sins past, present, and future were gone, forgiven. There were no more barriers.

There is also no table of showbread in the millennial temple because Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, will be in Jerusalem as well at that time. There is no golden candlestick because we are told in Ezekiel that His glory will fill the whole world. The whole place will glow, so there will be no need for artificial light. And there is no ark of the covenant. The glory of the Lord that had dwelt over the ark will fill the whole earth, not limited to that little space.

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary Old Testament, Volume 2, p. 680

VERSES 5-11

1. The Temple will have 3 stories with 30 chambers in each story. It will be massive. Here is a description of what this will be like. We are told,

Next the dimensions are given for the **wall** surrounding the **temple**. Its width is 10.5 feet. Running along the inside of the western, northern, and southern walls (but not attached) are three levels of ten rooms (90 total; perhaps these are storerooms), each 7 feet square with an outer wall 8.75 feet thick. They sit on a foundation 10.5 feet high. A space of 35 feet is apparently between these rooms and the priests' **chambers** north and south of the temple (42:1–14). A **terrace** that is 8.75 feet wide is on all three sides.

- Radmacher, Earl D.; Allen, Ronald Barclay;
House, H. Wayne: Nelson's New Illustrated Bible
Commentary, Ezekiel 41:5-11

VERSE 12

1. There is a separate building facing the western end of the Temple complex. What this is for we are not told, some feel it is a storage area but we do not know for sure. This is the description of this building,

Behind the temple, between its western end and the western wall of the outer court is a **building** 122.5 feet wide and 157.5 feet long with walls 8.75 feet thick. Its purpose is not given.

- Radmacher, Earl D.; Allen, Ronald Barclay;
House, H. Wayne: Nelson's New Illustrated Bible
Commentary, Ezekiel 41:12

VERSES 13-26

1. In these verses we see the Temple measurements, and the interior decorations and furnishings for the Temple. And again, there is no Table of Showbread because the bread of life, Jesus Christ will be among them, feeding them. Also, there is no seven-branch oil burning lamp for the light of the world, Jesus Christ has come and will dwell among them.

2. Now you may be wondering what this has to do with us? First of all look at how detailed God is in the plans for this Temple and the surrounding structures. I like that because what God does with this Temple He is showing us that is what we are to do with our own lives, in the things we are building. Think about it, we are called the Temple of God for God dwells in us. That means our families, our relationships, our occupations, our ministries are all to be done according to the pattern that God has set in His Word.

You see, if we deviate from what He has said our structure, our lives will be unstable and may fall apart and probably will. Make things according to His pattern, and don't cut corners, for it will cost you in the end.

EZEKIEL 42VERSES 1-14

1. The priests will have quarters to live in that will be located both in the north and the south of the Temple. And in this area the priests will eat the most holy offerings. And the garments they wear will be changed as they leave, for their garments are to be sacred or set apart for ministering unto the Lord.

2. Here is a description of this courtyard. We are told,

To the north and south of the courtyard separating the temple and the western building (41:12–14) is a building for the priests 175 feet long and 87.5 feet wide, with three stories (vv. 5, 6) and a door along the length facing the outer courtyard. The entrance has a **walk** 17.5 by 1.75 feet. Mainly the northern building is described, but apparently the southern building is the same or very similar. Parallel to the eastern wall (the width) and its door is a wall 87.5 feet long (vv. 7–9). These are places for certain priests (“sons of Zadok” in 40:46) to eat and change clothes, indicating that the rooms also provide storage facilities for the holy food offerings and priestly garments.

- Radmacher, Earl D.; Allen, Ronald Barclay;
House, H. Wayne: Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible
Commentary, Ezekiel 42:1-14

VERSES 15-20

1. Here we see the size of the Temple complex and it is one mile square, it is massive! And we see this separation from that which is sacred and that which is secular. You might look at it this way, worship unto the Lord and the common activities of everyday life.

EZEKIEL 43**VERSES 1-3**

1. Keep in mind that some nineteen years earlier Ezekiel witnessed the glory of God leaving the Temple through the eastern gate and up and over the Mount of Olives. (Ezekiel 10:18-22; 11:22-24). But now we see the return of the glory of God or I should say the Lord Himself as He enters through the east gate. You see, this is not just the Shekinah glory or the pillar of fire or the cloud but the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is coming back to rule and reign from Jerusalem just as the Old Testament Scriptures promised.

And yes, He is coming in glory! The Hebrew word for “**glory**” is KABOWD, (kaw-bode’) and it speaks of worthiness, weighty. And thus, the appropriate response to the Lord coming in all of His glory is worship, bowing down before Him!

VERSES 4-5

1. Here we see the Lord Himself enter through the east gate of the Temple. What I find interesting is that when the Turks controlled Jerusalem they knew of this prophecy and to prevent it from happening they sealed up the east gate with bricks and placed a graveyard in front of this gate back in 1517 A. D.

But this of course is not going to stop the Messiah from coming and it seems that He will not be entering the third Temple or the Tribulation Temple but this fourth Temple or the Millennial Temple He will enter!

VERSES 6-12

1. Notice Ezekiel didn't hear "*it*" speaking to him but "**Then I heard Him speaking to me . . .**"

And as the Lord speaks Ezekiel hears his voice and it sounded, "**like the sound of many waters.**" And the glory of the Lord will return just as He had departed from the Temple back in Ezekiel 10:1-11:23 as I have said and He returns in response to the children of Israel turning back to Him.

VERSES 13-17

1. So this altar of burnt offerings ascends upward and has four horns, one in each of its corners, and this is where the animal sacrifices will take place. And as we are going to see, this area needs to be cleansed before the sacrifices can begin, before they will be accepted by the Lord. We are told,

The cubit described here is the long cubit - a **cubit and a handbreadth**, or 21 inches. The altar has a base 1.75 feet (21 inches) wide and high. A rim around the edge of the base is **one span**, or about 9 inches, wide. On top of the base is a lower section 3.5 feet high, having a 1.75-foot ledge.

The distance between the smaller and larger ledges is 7 feet. The **altar hearth**, the top section of the altar where the sacrifice is offered, is 7 feet high. The **four horns** are on top of the corners (1 Kin. 1:50, 51). Overall the hearth is 21 feet square. Apparently the middle section is 24.5 feet square with a rim about 10.5 inches wide; and the lower section extends 3.5 feet beyond the middle one, 28 feet square (vv. 14, 16, 17 where - assuming the symmetry of the altar - the middle section extends two cubits beyond the top).

The height of the altar is therefore about 11 cubits or 19.25 feet. Assuming an 18 cubit square (hearth and middle section in vv. 16–17) and one-cubit-high base, the foundation is 31.5 feet square. **Steps**, previously forbidden for an altar (Ex. 20:26), are necessary for this altar because of the great size of the structure. The huge altar is positioned in the center of the inner court in front of the temple entrance.

- Radmacher, Earl D.; Allen, Ronald Barclay;
House, H. Wayne: Nelson's New Illustrated Bible
Commentary, Ezekiel 43:13-17

VERSES 18-27

1. Here we see the 7 day ritual for consecrating the altar and then on the eighth day the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings will be offered up on this altar. And performing these offerings are the sons or descendants of Zadok.

2. I love the way that this chapter ends, where God says that He will accept them! That must have been a comfort to a people who had turned their backs on God and where now in captivity in Babylon. But how are they accepted? In the beloved, in Christ!

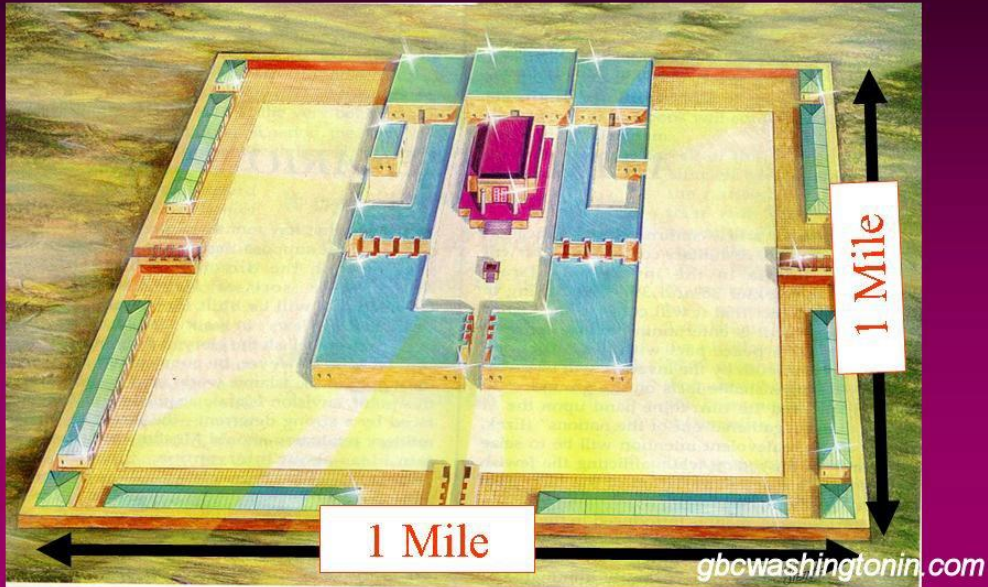
They are not accepted by the shed blood of bulls and goats but with the sacrifice of the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world, Jesus!

It is as Hebrews 9:11-14 says, **“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”**

That means that these sacrifices during the Kingdom Age are more of a ceremonial cleansing so they can come before the Lord, but ultimately it is the blood of Christ that cleanses them from all their sin and one day, those who are living through the Kingdom Age, those born during this time will have a choice to make. To either accept Christ as their Lord and Savior or to reject Him. It is then God creates a new heavens and a new earth and sin will be wiped away as we move on into the eternal state with our God!

Let me close with these words from Paul in Hebrews 9:22-28 where we are told, “**And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another – He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**” Praise God that He is faithful and He has paid the penalty for our sin, once for all and as the Lord these glorious words to Israel He is saying to us, “**. . . and I will accept you . . .**”

The Dimensions of the Millennial Temple



The Millennial Temple

