

EZEKIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Ezekiel chapter 44 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Keep in mind that these last nine chapters of Ezekiel can be broken down as follows. In Ezekiel chapters 40 through 43 we see the description of the Temple and we covered that last time. Then, in Ezekiel chapters 44 through 46 we see the worship that takes place in the Temple and we will cover that tonight. And lastly, in Ezekiel chapters 47 and 48 we see the description of the land around the Temple and we will conclude our study in Ezekiel next time. With that said, let's begin reading in Ezekiel chapter 44 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

EZEKIEL 44**VERSES 1-3**

1. Back in Ezekiel chapter 43 we saw the glory of the Lord return to the Temple through the east gate. Keep in mind that during Ezekiel's day he saw the Lord depart from the Temple, out the east gate, through the Kidron valley and over the Mount of Olives, but now He is returning through this east gate.

The interesting thing about this prophecy is the Turks were aware of it and they sealed the eastern gate back in 1517 and put a graveyard in front of it. Now all the other gates have been opened but not the eastern gate. And the reason they placed a graveyard in front of the east gate was to prevent the Messiah from coming. Now do you think anything is going to stop the Lord! Of course not!

Now I hope I don't disappoint anyone tonight but keep in mind that this passage is dealing with the Millennial Temple and not the Third Temple or the one that is to be built during the Tribulation Period. This Millennial Temple is much larger, larger than the Temple Mount area today and thus the topography will have to change and I believe that it does as the Lord will rebuild this Temple! So He will not enter the east gate of the Tribulation Temple but the east gate of the Millennial Temple!

2. Now let me say this because we are going to be dealing with some very difficult and controversial subjects here and I don't want any of you to be offended by what I am saying. I am not going to be dogmatic on some of this because I am not absolutely sure but I will tell you what I feel the Lord is saying to us.

Also, you need to keep in mind that chapter's 40-48 of Ezekiel are a very difficult portion of Scripture to understand. And like I have said, many have differing views but I will share with you what I believe the Lord is saying here.

And the Talmud, which is a body of Jewish tradition, the Rabbis claim that this portion of Scripture will not be understood or be able to be explained until Elijah comes and explains these things to them. I do agree that this is a difficult portion of Scripture to understand as you will see.

3. The first big issue that many have a hard time with is this "**prince**" who is spoken of often in these chapters, some seventeen times, and right here in verse 3 of Ezekiel chapter 44. Who is this prince? Some believe it is David and it could be but I don't think so!

Others say that this is an earthly prince who will represent the Messiah. That also could be but I don't think so!

I believe that this is speaking of the Messiah. But again, this is not without controversy. Jewish commentators feel that this is speaking of the Messiah but again, there are some issues that we will need to deal with. And for these Jewish commentators, they still believe the Messiah will be a man and not God and thus, the description does fit. But for us, we know the Messiah is God and that makes it a little more difficult to see Him in these verses but I don't think impossible.

First of all we see in Ezekiel 45:22 that this prince offers a sin offering for himself and if this was Jesus that would make no sense because He is without sin. Secondly, in Ezekiel 46:15 we see that He had sons and again, that does not fit with what the Scriptures teach us.

So is this Jesus or is this David or is this someone who is just representing the Messiah? Again, I think this is Jesus and we will cover those controversial points as we get to them. But again, I am not going to be dogmatic about this but I do believe it is speaking of the Messiah, of Jesus!

VERSES 4-9

1. Notice what happens when Ezekiel has an encounter with God, he fell on his face before the Lord. When you have an encounter with God this is always the result, worship or bowing before Him! Maybe the reason so many people today don't enjoy worship is because they have not had an encounter with God, that relationship is not rich and deep like it should be! If it is, your encounter with God will produce worship in your life!

2. Now we read of Ezekiel telling the Jewish people or reminding them of where they were at, living in rebellion against the Lord. And He is to warn them not to travel down that path again. And as ministers of the truths of God we are to do the same. We are to warn people of the path they are traveling on, to remind them they are living in rebellion against God so they may turn and not travel down that same path again.

As we do many times people don't want to hear what we have to say but don't let that stop you. And as you share make sure you are doing it in love!

3. Is it possible for people to turn from the Lord during the Kingdom Age? You bet and please understand that I am speaking of those who have been born during this period of time. I am not speaking of His Bride or necessarily those who have come out of the Tribulation Period and have entered into the Kingdom Age. Then who am I speaking of? Those who were born during the Kingdom Age I see as a people who could turn from the Lord.

We see that at the end of the Kingdom Age in Revelation chapter 21 as Satan is released for a short time and he is able to gather people to himself and rebel against the Lord. So this is a real warning for those who are born during the Kingdom Age, don't forsake the Lord!

4. Now in verse 9 when it speaks of being "**uncircumcised**" in the heart and flesh that idea is being sensitive to the things of God. That as you read the Word of God, as you hear the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is able to cut away that hardness of your heart by the sword of the Spirit.

VERSES 10-14

1. Now these Levites, because they caused Israel to sin, led them into idolatry when they were supposed to be the spiritual leaders of the nation, they will have to pay the price for their actions. They will have to bear the burden for what they did, how they led the people.

One writer put it like this,

The demotion of the Levites in the new temple was a punishment for previous transgression on their part. They had gone far away from God (v 10). They had ministered at idolatrous shrines, and thus had become stumbling blocks to the people of God. God had taken an oath (lifted up my hand) against the Levites that they bear the consequences of their iniquity in the new temple age (v 12).

In effect, the penalty against the once wayward Levites was reduction in status to that of lay servants in the temple. They are not allowed to come near the Lord, i.e., enter the inner courtyard, nor minister at the sacrificial service, nor come near any holy thing in the temple (v 13).

The Levites are keepers of the charge of the house, i.e., they are restricted to functions in the outer court (v 14).

- James E. Smith, *An Exegetical Commentary on EZEKIEL*, p. 253

The Lord is telling us that in the Kingdom Age they will offer sacrifices unto the Lord, minister before the people, but they won't come near the Lord to serve Him. They will serve the people. Now you may wonder how that can be a punishment when you serve the Lord. It sounds pretty good. Well, if we read on we will see that it truly is a punishment.

VERSES 15-16

1. Zadok was the High priest in the first Temple during Solomon's reign, (I Kings 1:32-35, 2:35). And he was a faithful servant as were his descendants, even when the rest of the Levites went astray, they remained faithful. And now, in the Kingdom Age they are being rewarded for their service, for their faithfulness.

2. What is amazing here is how gracious and merciful the Lord is with these other priests who were not faithful to the Lord. They would stand before the people and serve them instead of standing before the Lord and serving Him! But they still get to serve the Lord.

3. Let me say this because I believe it does relate to us. You see, I don't think you can minister to people until you first worship the Lord. It is out of the worship of God that ministry flows. We see that played out for us in Acts 13:1-3 where we are told, "**Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'** Then, **having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.**" You see, you first minister unto the Lord and then for the Lord! You can't give what you don't have. First worship Him and then see what He will do through you!

VERSES 17-18

1. I know, why do we care about what the priests will wear? The best answer I can give you is that God cares and thus, so should we. They were not to wear anything that would make them sweat, no wool only linen garments. How can we apply this to our own lives? I think there are two points here that can help us as we serve the Lord.

First of all when we minister to the Lord it should be cool, easy, refreshing, no sweat you might say! Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30, **“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”**

Now too often we think of perspiration as a sign of holiness, spiritual superiority, but it isn't. Where there is sweat, when you have to work so hard that you are overwhelmed, that is not a sign of inspiration but perspiration! I am not saying that if you have to put forth work then you are doing something wrong. That would be foolish and it is not what we see in the Scriptures. But if what you are doing has you overwhelmed, sweating on getting things done, you are not resting in the Lord but in your own efforts.

Not only that but these priests were to wear linen turbans on their heads and I think the idea for us is that we are to have cool heads, an even temper. Someone who blows up all the time, has to argue all the time, is not spiritual, but carnal.

It is as Paul warned Timothy in I Timothy 6:3-5, **“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”** It isn't worth dealing with people like that. They argue for the sake of arguing and that is not of the Lord!

VERSES 19-27

1. This is interesting to me because when they went out of the Temple area they were not to wear their holy garments. I realize that sounds very strange and yet, the idea here is when they went before the people they were not to wear their holy garments because it would draw attention to them. They are to come before the people in humility, not better than anyone else.

Today people wear various religious garments and it draws attention to them and it feeds the flesh. Don't parade around in your holy garments; do like the Levites did, put on your Levi's!

Peter reminds us in I Peter 2:9-10, **“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”** So it does have application for us, we are a Kingdom of priests as Peter tells us and thus, don't walk around drawing attention to yourself, bring glory to God!

2. Now verse 20 is not some kind of doctrine on hair length. But I do think it speaks of moderation. But again, don't draw attention to yourself. Think of it like this. If your church is made up of biker dudes with leather jackets and chains, don't come in on a Sunday dressed in a 3 piece suite, it will blow them away and draw attention to you. And the same is true on the reverse side.

3. As you look at verse 21 it deals with wine and I do think this is something we need to look at. Obviously drunkenness is a sin before the Lord but that is not what is being spoken of here. The idea here is that if you want to be a leader, or just serve the Lord, you are not to drink while you are serving Him. Don't use things that will cloud your mind and make you insensitive to the things of God.

In fact, in Proverbs 31:4-5 we are told, **"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted."** To me, I have no desire to drink alcohol, and you can read in I Timothy 3:3, as a shepherd, I am instructed not to drink. And the idea here is that we are to be wise in all that we do!

4. Verse 22 is just speaking of a purity that we are to have within the bond of marriage. And that goes in regards to how we treat our spouse for I Peter 3:7 tells men that our prayers can be hindered if we don't honor our wives. That is what God said!

5. Today our society calls for tolerance and what that means is that we are to tolerate whatever sin is in style today. We can't come against it or we are hateful, unloving and that is crazy. We are to be salt and light in a world that is in darkness and rotting away in sin. And when you rub elbows with people and salt gets into their wounds, it will rub them the wrong way. But it may also bring healing to their lives. When you shine for Jesus you will expose their sin and they may not like it. But they may see their sin and repent and turn to Jesus!

We are to teach people what is right and what is wrong, but if we stop there we have not fulfilled the task that God has before us. We are not only to teach people those things, but we are also to help them to discern for themselves.

You see, we are not just to teach them what to think, but how to think! Discernment in the church today is lacking at an alarming rate. People don't know what is right and what is wrong and they can't discern for themselves because they have not been taught how to discern.

You learn by searching the Scriptures and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. I hope I stimulate you to search the Scriptures. I hope that you would seek the Lord in difficult matters, because if you do, I have fulfilled my task and you are growing.

6. Not only are we to teach people, saved and unsaved the things of God but even when the world is coming against us, even when they reject what we are saying, we need to bring forth the truths of God found in the Word of God!

Today in many churches they minister according to the latest therapies, philosophies, worldly ideas, and God is saying that should not be. When we minister it must be according to the Word of God. I am not interested in what other people have to say, but what God has to say.

Do you really think all that psychotherapy works? If you had some kind of neurosis, a study showed that if you went in for therapy you would have a 65% chance of getting better. Not bad until you realize that if you had no therapy you would have a 70% chance of getting better!

They screwed up 5% of the people in therapy! God's Word is sufficient to meet our spiritual needs, to heal our mind. It is as Paul said in Colossians 2:8-10, **“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”**

7. Now verse 25 is another strange verse, not defiling yourself by coming in contact with a dead person. I think we can apply this to our lives like this. I think this goes beyond the physically dead and is speaking of the spiritually dead. The only exception is for family.

What does that mean? In other words, if you are ministering to sinners to bring them into the family of God, that is okay. You are not to hang out with sinners. They are not to be your closest friends. They will bring you down. Let me ask you this, when you are alone with nothing to do, who do you call, a brother or sister in the Lord or those that are spiritually dead? Be careful!

And you can try this on your own. If you were to stand on a chair and have another person on the ground representing an unsaved person, it would be very difficult to pull them up to you. But the unsaved person would have no problem pulling you down to their level. And tragically, that is what often happens, the believer is pulled down. Again, be careful, be wise!

Not only that but as you spend time with the spiritually dead you need to be cleansed and you do that by spending time in the Word of God, spending time with the Lord!

VERSES 28-31

1. These verses are dealing with their inheritance and people are concerned about what they are going to get. I remember some 10 years ago or more there was a question on a Christian radio program, *To Every Man An Answer* and this person had a concern. He was wondering if he will be rewarded more in heaven because he has lacked so much in this life, while others have done very well.

The answer is right here, “**I am their inheritance.**” And the same is true for us. The Lord is our inheritance. What more do we really need? As the Lord said to Abraham in Genesis 15:1, “**. . . Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.**” We should rejoice in that fact!

EZEKIEL 45

VERSES 1-8

1. Here we see the portions of land distributed in the Millennial Kingdom. One portion is given to the prince or the Lord, and we will look at that portion more in a minute.

So from east to west we have an area of 8.3 miles long and 8.3 miles wide, north to south. It is a square.

Then this area is divided into 3 sections. In the center section, 8.3 miles long and 3.3 miles wide are where the Temple is located and where the priests live. Those serving the Lord will always be closest to the Lord.

Then above that is another area 8.3 miles long and 3.3 miles wide where the Levites lived. They did not serve the Lord like the priests but helped in the work.

On the bottom was an area of 8.3 miles long and 1.75 miles wide, which is like the suburbs, where some of the Jews will live.

Now we see the princes' portion of land that extends eastward toward the Jordan River and westward towards the Mediterranean Sea. And the Prince, the Lord, will require from His people honesty in leadership, good government. These other princes will assist with the work.

VERSES 9-14

1. The Lord is speaking to the princes and He is telling them that they are to serve the people with honesty, with justice; they are to have fair work ethics. You see, they are representing the Prince, the Lord! And that is something we need to take to heart. When we are out in this world we are representing the Lord and when we deal with the world or even with our brothers and sisters in the Lord we are to do so with fairness, equity! That should just make sense but that is not always what takes place.

VERSES 15-17

1. First of all we see these priests giving an offering to the Prince, a sacrifice. Now some have a problem with that because the sacrifice has already been made. Jesus has come as the Lamb of God and has taken away the sins of the world! So why do we see these sacrifices in the Millennial Kingdom? It is possible that it is looking back on the finished work of Christ, as a memorial and not as a cleansing act!

2. Not only are they giving to the Prince an offering but we also see the Prince doing this. And here is another problem. Why would Jesus need to make sacrifices? Why would He need to give offerings? Of course He would not need to make any sacrifices for Himself, and thus, is this really Jesus or is it David or someone representing the Lord in the Kingdom Age?

I again think this is the Lord. Let me show you what I mean. Did Jesus need to be baptized? No! Did Jesus need to spend time with the Father to seek direction from Him? No!

I believe that what we see here is Jesus identifying with the people, being an example to them. You see, Jesus would never ask us to go or do anything that He Himself has not done or gone through. It is as Paul said in Hebrews 4:15, “**For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**” I still believe this Prince is none other than Jesus! But again, I don't think I can be dogmatic about this. I will say this, we will find out one day!

VERSES 18-20

1. Here we see the cleansing of the Temple and the ceremonial cleansing of the people during the Millennial Kingdom.

VERSES 21-25

1. The Jew's celebrated 3 main feasts that every Jew that was above 21 and was able to attend, was to go to Jerusalem to celebrate. They were Passover and Unleavened Bread, which were counted many times as one feast as one ran into the other. Passover occurred in April and it spoke of what Christ has done for us, He was our sacrificial Lamb.

Then 50 days later was Pentecost.

And then in October was the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths, which was a reflection of how God sustained His people during their wilderness wanderings. And we see the Feasts of Passover and Tabernacles celebrated in the Kingdom Age. But, why isn't the Feast of Pentecost mentioned or celebrated in the Kingdom Age?

The Feast of Pentecost was a celebration of the harvest, thanking God for the bountiful harvest that He has given to them. In the New Testament we see the fulfillment with the birth of the Church in Acts chapter 2 as the Holy Spirit came upon those in the upper room and as Peter spoke 3,000 got saved. The harvest has begun.

Now with the start of the Kingdom Age that harvest is over, the Church or the Bride of Christ is with the Lord. So in the Kingdom Age there is no need to celebrate this Feast. That is a possibility.

EZEKIEL 46**VERSES 1-8**

1. I, once again, believe that this prince is Jesus Christ. Some say it is King David, others say it is a descendant of David who is representing Christ. But I can't see anyone but the Lord entering through the eastern gate.

Then why does He make offerings to the Lord? Great question! Again, I believe that Jesus is identifying with the people, being an example to them. So we see here the prince, Jesus Christ, offering worship.

2. Also, we see here the prince go in and go out of the Temple the same way. He does not use another gate, but the east gate is used to enter and to leave the Temple area for this prince, and only Him. Why? Doesn't that seem strange? Why even mention that?

Well, if this prince is Jesus Christ then it does make perfect sense. In Hebrews 13:8 we are told, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**" You see, He never changes, He is God! His ways are perfect! Now we will see the contrast to this as we look how the people enter and leave the Temple area.

VERSE 9

1. Notice here that if the people enter by the north gate then they are to leave through the south gate. If they enter by the south gate then they are to leave through the north gate.

Now what in the world is that all about? I believe the Lord is showing us that we should never leave a worship time with Him the same way as we came in. There should be a change in our lives. God should have spoken to our hearts. He should have challenged us.

Too often, in churches today, people come in and do their time; they fulfill their obligation and leave the church as they came in, unchanged! That should not be!

Paul said in Romans 12:1-2, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”** God wants to transform your life if you will let Him! You should not leave His presence the same way you came in!

VERSES 10-15

1. This is interesting because we see some changes from what they did in the Temple before. You see, in the Old Testament they offered the burnt offering every morning and every evening. But here in the Kingdom Age we see just the morning burnt offering. Why? Maybe because the night of sin is over, the evening of darkness has come to an end, the Kingdom Age has begun.
2. We also must understand that in the Old Testament the burnt offerings, the sacrifices could never take away your sins, but it was like a covering, it made you, in a sense, ceremonially clean.

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 10:3-4, **“But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”**

You see, they were looking towards the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would take away their sins completely, to be remembered no more! It is as Isaiah 53:6 says, **“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

Now that Jesus Christ has come, as He has paid the penalty for our sins by the shedding of His blood, no more sacrifices need to be offered. Again in Hebrews chapter 10 we read, **“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . . . But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God . . . Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”** Hebrews 10:10, 12, 18.

Then why are sacrifices being offered in the Millennial Temple? Like I have said, I believe it is for a ceremonial cleansing and a look back to what Christ has done. Remember, there will be people born in the Kingdom Age that will need to know these things.

3. J. Vernon McGee summed it up like this for us. He wrote,

The Passover definitely refers to Christ: we are told in 1 Corinthians 5:7, “. . . For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”

At this point we must answer a major question: Since all the sacrifices of the Old Testament were fulfilled in Christ, why are they restored again during the Millennium? This is a major argument that amillennialists have against the premillennial position. I personally find no conflict here. I feel that the sacrifices offered during the Millennium are going to look back to the coming of Christ and His death upon the Cross in the same way that in our day the Lord’s Supper looks back to them.

Someone will ask why the *literal* offering of sacrifices will be necessary. My friend, the human family has a great deal of difficulty learning a lesson. For the same reason, I believe that the literal blood of Christ is going to be in heaven. It will be there to reveal to us the horrible pit out of which we were digged. Our salvation from sin and hell unto heaven was a pretty big job, one that only God could undertake. The blood of Christ will be in heaven to remind the church of this, and the sacrifices will also be restored here on earth to reveal to the people of Israel how they were redeemed.

- J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible*, Vol. III, p. 521

VERSES 16-17

1. Now here is a problem. We see that this prince has sons and whatever He gives to them it is theirs. On the other hand, if He gives anything to His servants, they may keep it until the year of Jubilee which took place every 50 years and then it would be given back to the prince. Now the objection here is that Jesus Christ doesn't have any sons, or does He?

Let me share this with you and you can pray about it and decide for yourself if this prince is Jesus or David or just a representative of the Lord.

First of all we are told in Romans 8:13-14, "**For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**" We have been adopted into the family of God. We are sons of God!

Also, we are told in II Corinthians 6:17-18, **“Therefore ‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’ I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”** Once again we are called sons!

And in I John 3:1-2 we are told, **“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”** We are sons of God and we are in the Kingdom Age!

And so as sons of God we have an eternal inheritance. We see in Revelation 5:9-10 this relationship, what the Lord has for us, **“... ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’”**

Thus, I think this is speaking of believers as sons of God or sons of this prince.

2. Well, if we are the sons of God or sons of this prince, then who are the servants? I believe that these servants are those who were saved during the Tribulation Period and have made it through that period of time into the Kingdom Age.

We see this spoken of in Revelation 7:14-17 regarding those who have been saved during the Tribulation Period. We read, “**... ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’**” You see, servants not sons!

VERSE 18

1. The prince, Jesus Christ, will not rule as some kind of dictator. The things that Jesus gives will come from His own possession!

VERSES 19-20

1. Adjacent to the Temple proper were the kitchens of the priests located on the western end.

VERSES 21-24

1. In the outer court, in each of the corners, were the kitchens for the sacrifices of the people.

2. We will finish up the book of Ezekiel next time but before I close let me share this words with you regarding this issue of animal sacrifices in the Millennial Kingdom. We are told,

There are several passages in the Old Testament that clearly indicate animal sacrifice will be re-instituted during the millennial kingdom. Some passages mention it in passing as the topic of the millennial kingdom is discussed, passages like Isaiah 56:6-8; Zechariah 14:16; and Jeremiah 33:15-18.

The passage that is the most extensive, giving the greatest detail, is Ezekiel 43:18-46:24. It should be noted that this is part of a greater passage dealing with the millennial kingdom, a passage that begins with Ezekiel 40. In Ezekiel 40, the Lord begins to give details of the temple that will exist during the millennial kingdom, a temple that dwarfs all other temples previously built, even Herod's temple that was quite large, which existed during the earthly ministry of Christ.

After giving details concerning the size and appearance of the temple and the altar, the Lord then begins to give detailed instruction as to the animal sacrifices that will be offered (Ezekiel 43:18-27). In chapter 44, the Lord gives instructions as to who will be offering sacrifices to the Lord. The Lord states that all of the Levites will not be offering blood and fat to the Lord due to previous sin; it will be those from the lineage of Zadok (verse 15). Chapters 45 and 46 continue to mention that animal sacrifices will be made.

The primary objection made to the idea of animal sacrifices returning during the millennial kingdom is that Christ has come and offered a perfect sacrifice for sin, and there is therefore no need to sacrifice animals for sin. However, it must be remembered that animal sacrifice never removed the sin that spiritually separated a person from the Lord.

Hebrews 10:1-4 says, “For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never by the same sacrifices year by year, which they offer continually, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins” (NASB).

It is incorrect to think that animal sacrifices took away sins in the Old Testament, and it is incorrect to think they will do so in the millennial kingdom. Animal sacrifices served as object lessons for the sinner, that sin was and is a horrible offense against God, and that the result of sin is death. Romans 3:20 says, “Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”

Most premillennial scholars agree that the purpose of animal sacrifice during the millennial kingdom is memorial in nature. As the Lord’s Supper is a reminder of the death of Christ to the Church today, animal sacrifices will be a reminder during the millennial kingdom. To those born during the millennial kingdom, animal sacrifices will again be an object lesson. During that future time, righteousness and holiness will prevail, but those with earthly bodies will still have a sin nature, and there will be a need to teach about how offensive sin is to a holy and righteous God. Animal sacrifices will serve that purpose, “but in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year” (Hebrews 10:3).

- <http://www.gotquestions.org/Printer/millennial-sacrifices-PF.html#ixzz3VPBrMNwL>

Not an easy section to deal with but an exciting one as one day the Lord will rule and reign from Jerusalem and we will be there with Him!