

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

EZEKIEL 40-43

In 1990 an incumbent judge in Oklahoma City, Frank Ogden, won 91% of the vote over his challenger, Josh Evans. Though the judge won the election handily he never served his term on the bench... *and the reason?*

Three months before the election Judge Ogden died.

It's amazing, but 91% of Oklahoma City's electorate voted for a stiff - a dead man!... And that shouldn't be a surprise; for this has been happening since the Garden of Eden. *We could all vote for God - to rule over mankind with truth and mercy.* Instead, we consistently vote for dead guys - humans who lack God's wisdom.

Yet one day, God will reign over the Earth He created and the affairs of man - and not merely from behind the scenes. He's going to take center stage. The Bible tells us Jesus will return, slay His enemies, establish His throne in Israel, and rule the planet for 1000 years.

Ezekiel has prophesied a New Covenant. God made a three-fold promise to His exiled people... He would **regather** them to their land. Breathe spiritual life and **regenerate** hearts. And **re-establish** a political kingdom to Israel that'll reign globally for 1000 years.

God's promise to David, *that a son would sit on his throne forever*, and rule the world, will finally be realized. Jesus will fulfill all God's promises to Israel.

The final period of life on Earth as we know it, is in Scripture known as **“the Kingdom Age”** or **“Millennium.”** And it’s the subject of Ezekiel’s last nine chapters...

Looking ahead, **Chapters 47-48 lay out new boundaries and new topography** for the land of Israel.

Chapters 44-46 describe a new worship for Israel.

And tonight, in **Chapters 40-43 we’re told of a new temple in Israel. We call it “the Millennial Temple.”** But before we dive in, it might be helpful to give you a brief overview of the Hebrew Temple in its different forms...

The Bible speaks of five different Temples for God, besides the NT Temple, or spiritual temple, the Church.

The first was the Tabernacle. The glory of God filled a tent. God traveled with Israel through the wilderness.

When Israel settled the land, **Solomon** built a more permanent and glorious Temple. It stood for 370 years, until it was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.

And when the Jews returned from Babylon 70 years later, Zerubbabel built a **second Temple**. It was a shack compared to Solomon’s Temple, **so when Herod wanted to court favor with the Jews he expanded their Temple. This was the Temple visited by Jesus. But it too was destroyed in 70 AD** by the Roman legion.

And for the last 1946 years the Temple Mount, *the God-sanctioned plot where the Temple is to stand* has been under Gentile control. Thus, any thought of the Jews rebuilding their holy Temple has been absurd.

Until June 1967, when Israeli paratroopers took back the Old City of Jerusalem. For the first time since 70 AD Jews regained military control of the Temple Mount.

Of course, this area is also sacred to Islam. Two mosques sit on top of the Temple Mount. Israel managed a fragile truce by giving the muslims religious control of the Temple Mount. Thus, a stand-off exists.

Yet since 1967 there's been a growing movement in Israel to rebuild their sacred Temple. Judaism is a hollow religion without a Temple and its altar. And it can only be built on its God-ordained spot. Sacrifice and blood atonement is at the heart of Jewish religion, and without a temple it's been missing from their worship.

Whenever we go to Israel we always visit [the Temple Institute](#). It's a group of Jews dedicated to the future Temple. They've already built the instruments and furniture needed in the Temple. All they're waiting on is the actual Temple. And they're only one of many groups longing and working toward a rebuilt Temple.

To me, this is one of the most startling signs we're in the last days - the prospects of a rebuilt Temple.

We know from Scripture that two more Temples will be rebuilt. Daniel 9 and Matthew 24 predict the rise of a world leader, the Antichrist, and his desecration of the Temple. He'll enter its courts and claim to be god.

It's a blasphemous act, but it assumes a Temple will be rebuilt. When this happens, it infuriates God. He pours out fierce judgments on the Earth. A time of Great Tribulation

begins - culminating with the Battle of Armageddon, and Jesus' return to rule over this Earth.

And the final Temple, or what we call the **Millennial Temple**, will be built by Messiah Himself. Zechariah 6:12-13 predicts, "Behold the man whose name is the Branch! (that's a messianic title) From out of His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the Temple of the LORD; Yes, He shall build the Temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne, so He shall be a priest on His throne."

That's unusual, for in ancient Israel there was a separation of church and state. Kings weren't allowed to be priests. That's why we know this is a new Temple, with new protocols. Jesus will rebuild the Temple on its ancient site, and rule from His Temple in Jerusalem.

This is the Temple Ezekiel sees in tonight's chapters.

Ezekiel 40 begins, "In the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was captured.." The year is 572 BC. The day is Nisan 10th.

Which was an interesting date on the Hebrew calendar. It's the first day of the Passover preparations.

This was day when priests inspected the sacrifices that were to be offered later that week at Passover.

And this was the same day that Jesus presented Himself to the nation when He rode the donkey into the city of Jerusalem at His triumphant entry. Amazingly, on that same day 600

years earlier, Ezekiel was taken “back to the future” and given a vision of this Temple.

“On the very same day the hand of the Lord was upon me, and He took me there. In the visions of God He took me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain; on it toward the south was something like the structure of a city.”

What mountain? We’re not sure. Maybe Mount Scopus, north of Jerusalem.

Scoops looks down on the Temple Mount.

But Ezekiel sees what he calls “*something like the structure of a city.*” Perhaps he's trying to describe a modern city. God takes Ezekiel to Israel in a vision.

“He took me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze. He had a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood in the gateway.” This “*man*” will be Ezekiel’s tour guide. He has measuring instruments in his hands... The standard rod was 12 feet. The line of flax was like a tape - it was for longer measurements.

This guide will provide Ezekiel exact dimensions.

Verse 4, “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.” Ezekiel is about to be blown away. Remember, he’s a priest with no temple. That’s like being a pilot with no plane, or a lifeguard without a pool. Yet God

chooses him to show him a future temple. This infuses hope in his heart.

It assures him that Israel will return to their land, and the temple will be rebuilt. This thrills the exiled priest.

Yet God warns him not to get so wrapped up in the *thrill* and *chill*, that he misses the details he's to record.

This is one problem with spiritual experiences.

At times the lessons they intend to teach get lost in the emotions they elicit. When God reveals Himself His goal is usually for more than just a divine tickle. He's communicating truth He wants us to grasp. We should enjoy *God's presence*, but never miss *God's purpose*.

As God says to Ezekiel, *"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."* What Ezekiel sees he needs to declare, so he should pay attention to every detail.

Verse 5, *"Now there was a wall all around the outside of the temple. In the man's hand was a measuring rod six cubits long, each being a cubit and a handbreadth; and he measured the width of the wall structure, one rod; and the height, one rod."* Ezekiel's rod measured six cubits. A cubit was a standard measurement in the ancient world. It was determined by the distance between the king's elbow and fingertip.

The problem was everyone's cubit varied just a little.

Ezekiel says the cubit he's using is a cubit and a handbreadth. If that's a Hebrew cubit, which was 18 inches,

and the width of a man's hand was 3 inches, then his cubit is 21 inches - which was the standard length of the Babylonian cubit. That made Ezekiel's measuring rod - which was 6 cubits - 10.5 feet long - or six inches longer the height of a basketball goal.

Here he measures the wall around the Temple. It's height and width is one rod - 10.5' thick by 10.5' tall.

Whenever we go to Jerusalem I take our group to the Wailing Wall, the last remnant of Herod's Temple.

People consider it a sacred spot. In fact, worshippers fax their prayers from around the world, and have them inserted into the crevasses of the wall, thinking God will be more inclined to hear and answer them.

Once, I was praying at the Wailing Wall, and God spoke so clearly, "Sandy, I no longer dwell in Temples made with stone. Today, I dwell in believing hearts."

And because of that truth some folks disagree with a literal interpretation of Ezekiel's vision. They allegorize these verses - and apply them to the spiritual temple, the Church. *But that's not the clear reading of the text.*

I believe when Jesus returns to Earth and sets up His kingdom a physical Temple will again serve a purpose. *If this is just allegorical; why is Ezekiel shown such technicalities, and implored to go into such detail?*

In these verses Ezekiel's tour guide gives him a verbal blueprint for a future Temple, yet to be built.

Beginning in verse 6 let's read a while...

Ezekiel will describe the three gates to the Temple's outer court - on the east, north, and south. And then their three corresponding gates within the inner court...

And as we read I'm going to throw some drawings up to help you envision what Ezekiel is describing...

“Then he went to the gateway which faced east; and he went up its stairs and measured the threshold of the gateway, which was one rod wide, and the other threshold was one rod wide. Each gate chamber was one rod long and one rod wide; between the gate chambers was a space of five cubits; and the threshold of the gateway by the vestibule of the inside gate was one rod. He also measured the vestibule of the inside gate, one rod. Then he measured the vestibule of the gateway, eight cubits; and the gateposts, two cubits. The vestibule of the gate was on the inside.

In the eastern gateway were three gate chambers on one side and three on the other; the three were all the same size; also the gateposts were of the same size on this side and that side. He measured the width of the entrance to the gateway, ten cubits; and the length of the gate, thirteen cubits. There was a space in front of the gate chambers, one cubit on this side and one cubit on that side; the gate chambers were six cubits on this side and six cubits on that side.”

Then he measured the gateway from the roof of one gate chamber to the roof of the other; the width was twenty-five cubits, as door faces door.” From the entrance to the gate to its exit was 43.75 feet. These were long gates. “He measured the gateposts, sixty cubits high (that's 105 feet), and the court

all around the gateway extended to the gatepost.” These gates are skyscrapers - the height of a 10 story building.

“From the front of the entrance gate to the front of the vestibule of the inner gate was fifty cubits.” In other words, there’s an inner gate opposite the outer gate.

“There were beveled window frames in the gate chambers and in their intervening archways on the inside of the gateway all around, and likewise in the vestibules. There were windows all around on the inside. And on each gatepost were palm trees.” This Temple had craftsmanship and ornamentation - there were *arches, beveled windows, engraved palm trees.*

Then he brought me into the outer court; and there were chambers and a pavement made all around the court; thirty chambers faced the pavement. The pavement was by the side of the gateways, corresponding to the length of the gateways; this was the lower pavement. Then he measured the width from the front of the lower gateway to the front of the inner court exterior, one hundred cubits toward the east and the north. On the outer court was also a gateway facing north, and he measured its length and its width.

Its gate chambers, three on this side and three on that side, its gateposts and its archways, had the same measurements as the first gate; its length was fifty cubits and its width twenty-five cubits. Its windows and those of its archways, and also its palm trees, had the same measurements as the gateway facing east; it was ascended by seven steps, and its archway was in front of it. A gate of the inner court was

opposite the northern gateway, just as the eastern gateway; and he measured from gateway to gateway, one hundred cubits. After that he brought me toward the south, and there a gateway was facing south; and he measured its gateposts and archways according to these same measurements.” All six gates were of the same size.

There were windows in it and in its archways all around like those windows; its length was fifty cubits and its width twenty-five cubits. Seven steps led up to it, and its archway was in front of them; and it had palm trees on its gateposts, one on this side and one on that side. There was also a gateway on the inner court, facing south; and he measured from gateway to gateway toward the south, one hundred cubits.

Then he brought me to the inner court through the southern gateway; he measured the southern gateway according to these same measurements. Also its gate chambers, its gateposts, and its archways were according to these same measurements; there were windows in it and in its archways all around; it was fifty cubits long and twenty-five cubits wide. (They were rectangular gateways) There were archways all around, twenty-five cubits long and five cubits wide. Its archways faced the outer court, palm trees were on its gateposts, and going up to it were eight steps.” Outer gates had seven steps - the inner gates eight steps.

And he brought me into the inner court facing east; he measured the gateway according to these same measurements. Also its gate chambers, its gateposts, and its archways were according to these same measurements; and there were windows in it and in its archways all around; it was

fifty cubits long and twenty-five cubits wide. Its archways faced the outer court, and palm trees were on its gateposts on this side and on that side; and going up to it were eight steps.

Verse 35, “Then he brought me to the north gateway and measured it according to these same measurements - also its gate chambers, its gateposts, and its archways. It had windows all around; its length was fifty cubits and its width twenty-five cubits.

Its gateposts faced the outer court, palm trees were on its gateposts on this side and on that side, and going up to it were eight steps. There was a chamber and its entrance by the gateposts of the gateway, where they washed the burnt offering. In the vestibule of the gateway were two tables on this side and two tables on that side, on which to slay the burnt offering, the sin offering, and the trespass offering.

At the outer side of the vestibule, as one goes up to the entrance of the northern gateway, were two tables; and on the other side of the vestibule of the gateway were two tables. Four tables were on this side and four tables on that side, by the side of the gateway, eight tables on which they slaughtered the sacrifices.

There were also four tables of hewn stone for the burnt offering, one cubit and a half long, one cubit and a half wide, and one cubit high; on these they laid the instruments with which they slaughtered the burnt offering and the sacrifice. Inside were hooks, a handbreadth wide, fastened all around; and the flesh of the sacrifices was on the tables.” It was in the north gateway to the inner court that animals were prepared

for sacrifice. Notice, there will be animal sacrifices in the Millennial Temple. *We'll talk about that later...*

Verse 44, “Outside the inner gate were the chambers for the singers in the inner court, (Apparently, the singers had a place to practice. The temple had a choir room.) one facing south at the side of the northern gateway, and the other facing north at the side of the southern gateway. Then he said to me, “This chamber which faces south is for the priests who have charge of the temple.” They handled the music and worship.

Whereas the priests that handled the sacrifices were stationed in the chamber facing north. “The chamber which faces north is for the priests who have charge of the altar; these are the sons of Zadok, from the sons of Levi, who come near the Lord to minister to Him.”

“And he measured the court, one hundred cubits long and one hundred cubits wide, foursquare.” This is the inner court - the area between the inner gates where the sacrifices were offered on the bronze altar.

“The altar was in front of the temple. Then he brought me to the vestibule of the temple and measured the doorposts of the vestibule, five cubits on this side and five cubits on that side; and the width of the gateway was three cubits on this side and three cubits on that side. The length of the vestibule was twenty cubits, and the width eleven cubits; and by the steps which led up to it there were pillars by the doorposts, one on this side and another on that side.”

And now you've just read a chapter of your Bible most Christians have never read... Congratulations!

Let's try to sort it out a bit and understand what we just read. Written blueprints aren't stimulating reading..

The outer court of this Temple was surrounded by a wall. It had 30 chambers use by the priests. In this wall there were 3 gates - on the east, north, and south.

These were oriental gates, or long corridors.

Their entranceway was 17.5 feet wide by 23 feet long. Three small chambers of equal size were on either side of the corridor. The total structure was 25 cubits by 50 cubits - 43.75 feet wide by 87.5 feet long.

The distance from the outer gates to their corresponding inner gate was 100 cubits or 175 feet.

Seven steps led to the outer gates, and eight steps led to the inner gates. In Scripture seven is the number of completion. Eight is the number of new beginnings.

It's interesting, *when you come to Christ* it's the end of your wandering, your emptiness. You've found the missing piece. You become complete in Christ Jesus.

But now that you're in Christ, you realize it's just the beginning. There's a whole new world to learn and grow and experience. In Christ there's new beginnings.

The gateposts were engraved with palm trees. A Jewish symbol for beauty, and fruitfulness, and victory.

Remember, when Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem the Jews welcomed Him by laying out palm fronds across His path - a symbol of triumph.

In the north gate were tables with hooks at the corners. They held the sacrifice as it was slaughtered. The tables were of “hewn (or hand-carved) stone.”

In Solomon’s Temple 4000 musicians ministered on a full-time basis. I’d imagine when Jesus reigns there will be so much joy and praise we’ll need more than 4000. And they’ll have a chamber in which to warm up.

And there’ll be priests who offer sacrifices to God. They’ll be called “*the sons of Zadok.*” Zadok was the priest who remained faithful to King David when David’s son, Adonijah, rebelled against him. Here, God rewards the father’s faithfulness by blessing his sons.

Now having read Chapter 40 you get the flavor of what’s happening - Ezekiel is giving architectural descriptions. And the next two chapters are similar.

So for the sake of time I’m not going to read chapters 41-42. I’ll summarize them with a few comments. And afterwards I have a video that will make it more clear.

In **Chapter 41** Ezekiel measures the doorposts and entryway into the Holy Place, or the Temple’s innermost sanctum. And it resembles what was found in both Solomon’s Temple and in the Tabernacle.

Verse 22 mentions the altar that was in the Temple and Tabernacle. This time it’s made of wood, not gold.

In essence, the Holy Place was God’s throne room.

In Ezekiel's Temple the Holy Place was 105 feet long by 35 feet wide. And within it there was the "*most holy place*" - called elsewhere, "*the Holy of Holies.*"

It was 20 cubits by 20 cubits or 35 feet by 35 feet.

Around the outside of the Holy Place were three stories of chambers designated for the priests. Each story was terraced - constructed in stair-step fashion.

There were 30 chambers per story - 90 in all. There will be lots of priests serving in the Millennial Temple.

Behind the Holy Place another building to the Temple proper on the west side. This structure will be 122.5 feet wide by 157.5 feet long. Ezekiel measures the building in verse 12, but he doesn't tell us its purpose.

The Inner Court measured 100 cubits by 100 cubits, or 175 feet by 175 feet. While the Outer Court measured 500 cubits by 500 cubits, or 875 feet by 875 feet. That's a total of 765,625 square feet. Ezekiel's Temple covered 17.5 acres. This makes Ezekiel's Temple larger than either Solomon's or Herod's...

And perhaps most interesting are the engravings in the walls of the Holy Place in Ezekiel's Temple.

Apparently, God is into wood paneling.

Engraved into the walls of the Temple's Holy Place were cherubim and palm trees. Cherubs were angels.

Recall, the prophecy of Ezekiel began with his vision of cherubim and the wheels of God's throne-chariot.

The cherubs in Ezekiel 1 had four faces - that of an lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle. And we noted how all four faces spoke of Jesus... *Jesus is the lion or king, the ox or servant, a man like us, and Jesus is like an eagle, sovereign over all things, or God Himself.*

But in this Temple the cherubs only have two faces: *of a man and of a lion.* Which is probably a reference to the two comings of Jesus... He came the first time as **a man - incarnate, in the flesh.** He comes the second time as **the lion of the tribe of Judah.** Jesus is the king of the jungle - a conqueror on His throne.

In **Chapter 42** Ezekiel continues to describe the priestly chambers that surround the Holy Place.

In verse 11 his subject are the walkways, and notice the comment he makes at the end of the verse, **“and all their exits and entrances were according to plan.”**

Here’s the big take-away from tonight’s passage - **all God does is according to plan!** The God we serve is not slap-hazard - does nothing make-shift. God doesn’t jimmy-rig His acts. God has an exact plan and purpose for all He does - *even what He does in your life.*

You might not always see His purpose. He might not choose to tell you. Informing you about everything He does, is not God’s obligation. Our duty is to trust Him.

And notice, **what God plans...** **“all the exits and entrances.”** We pray and pray for God to come to our aide, but we forget He plans when it’s best to enter a situation... At other times,

we want to move on and God says stay. Realize, He has His exits fully planned.

Learn to trust God's workings in your life. Always recall His *"exits and entrances are according to plan."*

And then in verse 15-20 Ezekiel measures the wall that surrounds not only the Temple, but the entire Temple Mount area. It measures 500 rods by 500 rods.

Remember a rod equaled six cubits or 10.5 feet.

500 rods by 500 rods makes the Temple platform almost one square mile - that's the size of what is today the Old City of Jerusalem. This will obviously require a change of topography in and around Zion.

And it's interesting, Zechariah 14 predicts just this kind of alteration. Verse 3 tells us, "Then the LORD will go forth and fight against the nations, as He fights in the day of battle... 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..."

When Jesus comes an earthquake will completely alter the topography in and around Jerusalem. And apparently, enlarge the Temple Mount.

Today people who live in apartments on the Mount of Olives will tell you of frequent tremors that shake their homes. When Pan Am tried to build the Intercontinental Hotel on top of the Mt Olives they had to revise their site plans. A fault line was

discovered running right through the Mount of Olives. It's geologically unstable.

The mountain just east of the Temple Mount is under tremendous pressure. It's waiting on the drop of a foot.

All it's going to take is the landing of Jesus' big toe, and the mountain is going to split in two, and dramatically transform the landscape of Jerusalem.

Chapter 43, "Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east." In Nehemiah's day it was known as "The Sushan Gate." In Crusader times "The Gate of Mercy." Today, it's called "The Golden Gate." Ezekiel refers to it as "The East Gate."

"And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory."

Notice the glory of God is a **He**. And His voice was like a roaring waterfall. I believe Ezekiel sees Jesus!

Revelation 1:15 describes Jesus as having "a voice like the sound of many waters." Ever stand at the foot of giant waterfall. The roar is so deafening you can't hear the person standing next to you even if they shout in your ear. Today we are surrounded by so many voices. Our world shouts lies from all directions. But when we see Jesus His voice drowns out all others.

Ezekiel continues, "It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw - like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face." What he sees

here, is like the incredible visions Ezekiel saw in Chapter 1 and in Chapter 10.

Vs 4, “And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.”

Chapter 10:4 refers to the glory Ezekiel saw by the phrase, “the brightness of the LORD’s glory.” This is provocative because this is the exact terminology the writer of the book of Hebrews uses to describe Jesus.

When Solomon dedicated the first Temple the glory of God filled the house. But Judah’s idols grieved God’s Spirit. Ezekiel 10 tracks the glory’s departure.

The prophet saw the Shekinah glory - the glory that rested in the Holy of Holies - the tangible presence of God on the Earth - rise up from the Ark and gradually, reluctantly begin to move out, through the east gate, up the Mount of Olives, and ascended back to heaven.

There’s no mention of the Shekinah ever returning to reside in the second Temple (or Herod’s Temple), until the glory came *incarnate - in the flesh*. That is, until Jesus came to walk its halls and teach in its courts.

And when the risen Christ returned to heaven He did so from the Mount of Olives. He followed the same path He took when He left the Temple in Ezekiel’s day.

And this is the path Jesus will take in the last days when He returns to Earth. As I read earlier in Zechariah 14 His feet will

touch down on the Mount of Olives. The mountain splits in two and Jesus reigns in Jerusalem.

And here in verses 4-5 Ezekiel sees Jesus entering into a new Temple, this is the final Temple. The glory of the Lord, will return to the Temple the same way that He left, through the East Gate, or the Golden Gate.

“Then I heard Him (that is, the Lord) speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me.” This must be the man who has been giving him the tour.

“And He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.

No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.” The Millennial Temple will be the last. Here, God’s feet will rest for all eternity. This will be His forever footstool.

Verse 8, “When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.” What was done that offended God, we’re not sure.

Some teachers think God is speaking to what will be done on the Temple Mount in the Tribulation. Some have suggested the way the Jews will build a Temple is if they’ll

erect a partition, or *“wall,”* on the Mount that separates the muslim mosques and the Temple courts.

This might allow the Temple to be built, but it will offend God, to share this space with the false god of Islam. When Jesus returns no one make that the same mistake. They'll put their harlotry *“far away from God.”*

This verse could also refer to the Antichrist's actions in the Great Tribulation. Daniel 9 implies He'll defile God's altar. That could be what prompts God's anger.

Verse 10, *“Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern.”*

Paul told the Romans it's the mercies and kindness of God that leads us to repentance. When Israel sees their future glory, it'll cause them to repent of their past.

Verse 11, *“And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. This is the law of the temple: The whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy.*

Behold, this is the law of the temple.”

God's plans in these chapters certainly aren't figurative. The law of the temple is to *“keep its entire designs, all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws.”*

The whole Temple compound is to be holy or special. It's a sacred space Jesus intends to one day build. Think of it, one

day our Lord Jesus will don a hard hat, and strap on a carpenter's belt, and build this Temple.

In verse 13 through the end of the chapter Ezekiel gives us the dimensions of the sacrificial altar, and the various sacrifices that are to be offered to the Lord.

It was a large elevated altar on multiple platforms. At the top where the sacrificed roasted it was 11 cubits high by 12 cubits wide - 19.25 feet tall by 21 feet wide.

It had four horns on the altar to secure the sacrifice. There was staircase on the east, leading to the top.

In verse 18 and following instructions are given for purifying and dedicating the altar. For seven days multiple animals are to be sacrificed: *a young bull, a kid goat, a ram* - all without blemish - their blood should be sprinkled on the altar. And that's just for dedication.

Chapter 43 ends, "When these days are over it shall be, on the eighth day and thereafter, that the priests shall offer your burnt offerings and your peace offerings on the altar; and I will accept you," says the Lord God."

Obviously, this altar is for ongoing sacrifices to God.

Now these are strange chapters for a number of reasons... First, there're items missing from Ezekiel's Temple that were fixtures in the first two Temples.

For one, there's no silver or gold in this Temple. Solomon's Temple was lavished with gold, not here.

Perhaps God wants nothing to distract the Millennial worshippers from the one sitting on the throne - Jesus.

Second, in Solomon's Temple *hewn* (or hand-carved) altars - and steps - were prohibited. God didn't want worshippers distracted by *a building's art* or *a priest's skill*. Worship wasn't about human ingenuity.

It's sad, but throughout history the Church has been guilty of both - *elevating preachers* and *building ornate, artistic buildings*. And both have rob God of His glory.

Yet in Ezekiel's Temple we find both hewn altars and elevated altars. Evidently the presence of Jesus in His Temple will be so overwhelming there'll be little chance of anyone being distracted by a priest or a work of art.

Also, notice there's no veil in Ezekiel's Temple because there's no separation between God and man. On the cross Jesus saw to it we were fully reconciled.

There's also no menorah since in the Kingdom Age, Jesus is the light of the world... There's also no sacred bread, for Jesus is the bread of life... And there's no Ark of the Covenant, and Jeremiah 3:16 tells us why...

“They will say no more, ‘the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.’ It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymore. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD...”

This is an unprecedented development. Throughout Hebrew history the Ark was the symbol of God's presence. It was the ultimate keepsake of Judaism.

But when Jesus resides in the Temple the symbol is no longer needed. The substance will overwhelm the symbol. The Ark of the Covenant will be a forgotten relic. **Not even Indiana Jones will care to track it down.**

And there's one more characteristic of this future Temple that's so strange... *why the animal sacrifices?*

In the NT the book of Hebrews makes it clear that the sacrifice of Jesus made animal sacrifices obsolete.

Since the blood of Jesus cleanses us fully, there's no longer a need for the blood of bulls and lambs... *or is there? Perhaps so! I believe sacrifices are offered in the Millennial Temple NOT as atonement for our sin, but as a memorial to Jesus.* The OT sacrifices were all symbolic of Christ, and spoke of His work on the cross. Perhaps these sacrifices do the same, but in arrears.

Just as communion and baptism remind us of Jesus. These sacrifices may also remind the believers in the Kingdom Age of what our Lord Jesus did for them.

The Temple sacrifices lasted 1000 years - from the first Temple to Roman demolition of the second temple.

For a millennium the Jews saw the sacrifices, but never grasp their real significance. It's ironic, that they may get a future thousand years to make up for the lost opportunity. They will see Jesus in the sacrifices.