

Gates And Buildings

This is a continuation of the Bible Study looking at the details given by the Prophet Ezekiel in his prophecy in chapters 40 – 48. The prophet was Divinely inspired to write down these words, and the purpose was to give a vision to the people. Without a vision the people perish: Proverbs 29:18: *Where there is no vision, the people perish...* Additionally, the vision was designed to make them feel ashamed when spending all of their time dreaming of worldly pleasures. Ezekiel 43: 10 *Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.*

It was the purpose of God to ensure that the vision of the Kingdom he had promised was a reality to his people. There has been no change despite the passing of time; why should it be any different with His people today? Do we claim to be His people? If so, what interest do we show in the vision and glory to come?

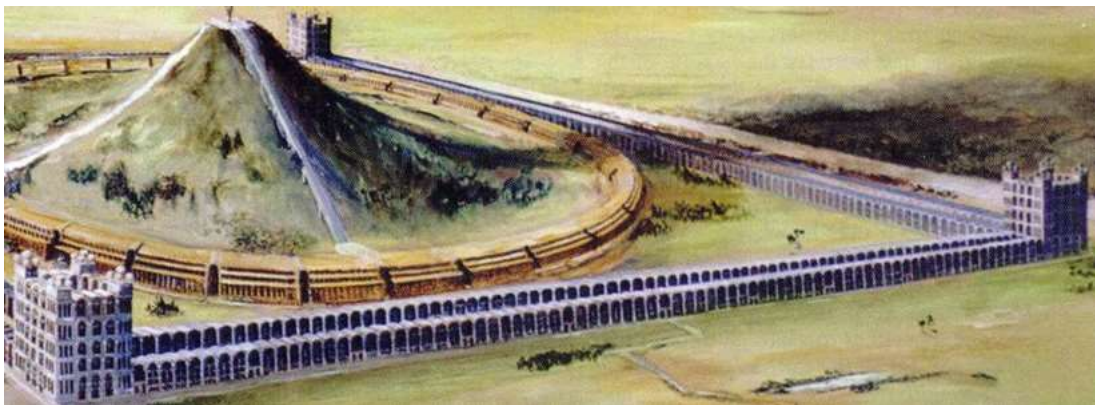
This Study is an effort with our brothers and sisters to examine these verses a littler closer.

The general appearance

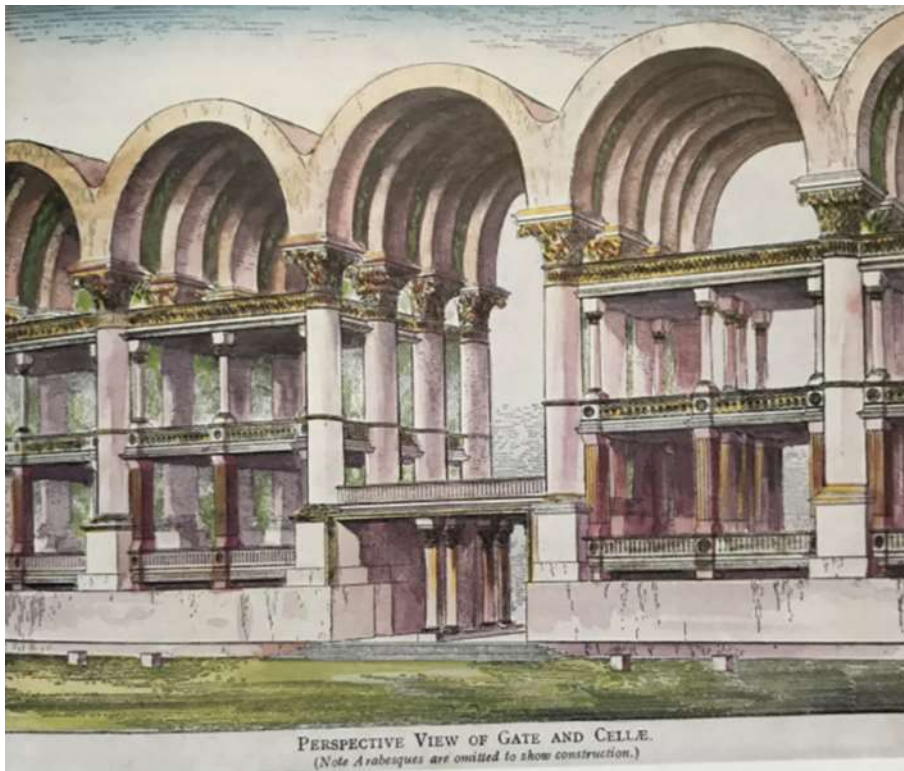
Is described in Chapter 40, as is written down by the prophet as he is taken around, and taken on a tour of the Temple. As he traverses the whole building, he describes exactly what he sees in front of him. Clearly the impression given is that of a vast colossal complex, which is not easy to put across in words.

One clue is in verse 2 where he says he could see a structure like the frame of a city. Enormous dimensions then for one edifice. Clear and concise proofs were presented to show that a large temple is described here in Ezekiel and not a little one. See https://www.bible-truth.co.uk/bible_study/672/ezekiels-temple--large-or-small

In chapter 42, after being shown the interior, Ezekiel was asked to go on a long walk, 15 *Now when he had made an end of measuring the inner house, he brought me forth toward the gate whose prospect is toward the east, and measured it round about.* So starting from the east side of the building he had to measure the length of the wall, including all of the entry gates, then the northside, then strangely he had to measure the south side, and lastly the west side, he discovered that each side measured 500 reeds – (3000 cubits, or 1740 metres) which is over a mile long. This shows the sheer scale of this enormous square shaped building complex for administration and worship. It sat four square around a mountain, the peak of which he would just about see over the top of the high archways of the outer buildings.



The long walls either side were punctuated by many gates. (Even the symbolic temple in Revelation 21:21 had 12 gates, so those who suggest that this Temple of the future will just have a few seem to be forgetting that this building will be designed for the administration and worship of not just one nation but the whole world, and as Isaiah 2:2 points out, *all nations will flow unto it...* There were many gates (40:38) to allow free flow access and egress of vast controlled crowds. Ezekiel was given access to the complex via one gate in particular.

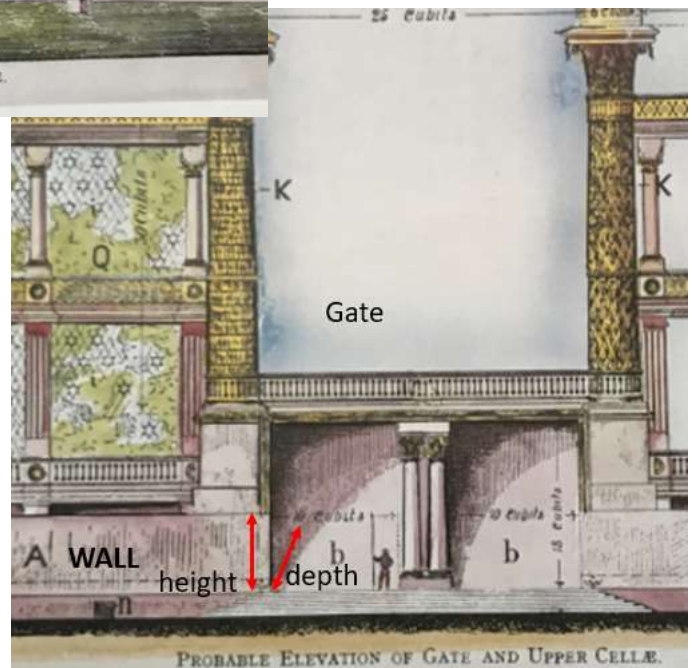


Gates

As Ezekiel approaches the building, being led by an angel in his vision, he describes the first imposing wall, and a gate through the wall.

He (v5) measures the height and depth of this wall and it is 6 x 6 cubits (3.5 x 3.5m) To give you an idea of what he measured see the red arrows on the right here:

Verses 6 – 15 is describing what Ezekiel saw in his vision as he walks through a gate, and



everything he sees he measures, as he walks through the gate, through a series of rooms and antechambers, right through to a courtyard the other side. The picture on the right here gives a rough idea of what it might have looked like.

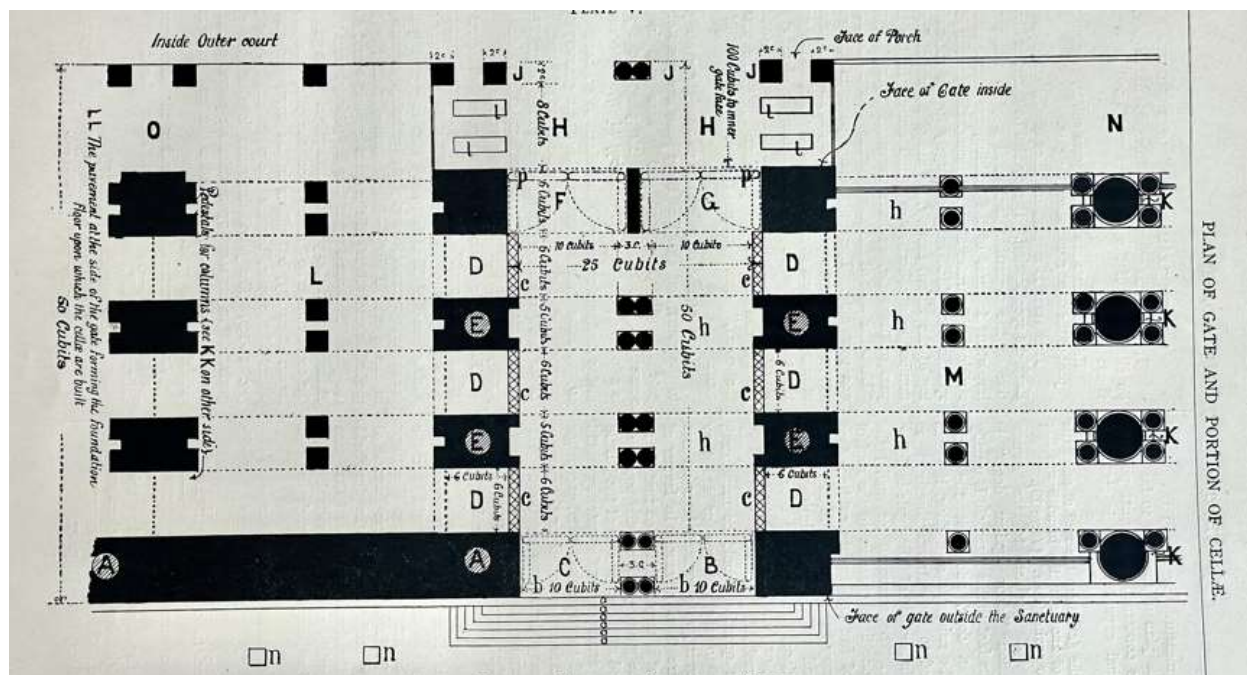
Notice the little blue man designed to give a sense of scale

The black windows at the back is the gate at the other side of the building... he is walking right through the building in these verses, measuring as he goes...



These gates are very detailed in constructions and description, a complete chapter being dedicated to the detail. They consist of posts, thresholds, chambers, pedestals

porches... after careful study, it can only be agreed that Ezekiel is shown a double gateway, two entrances and two doors in each

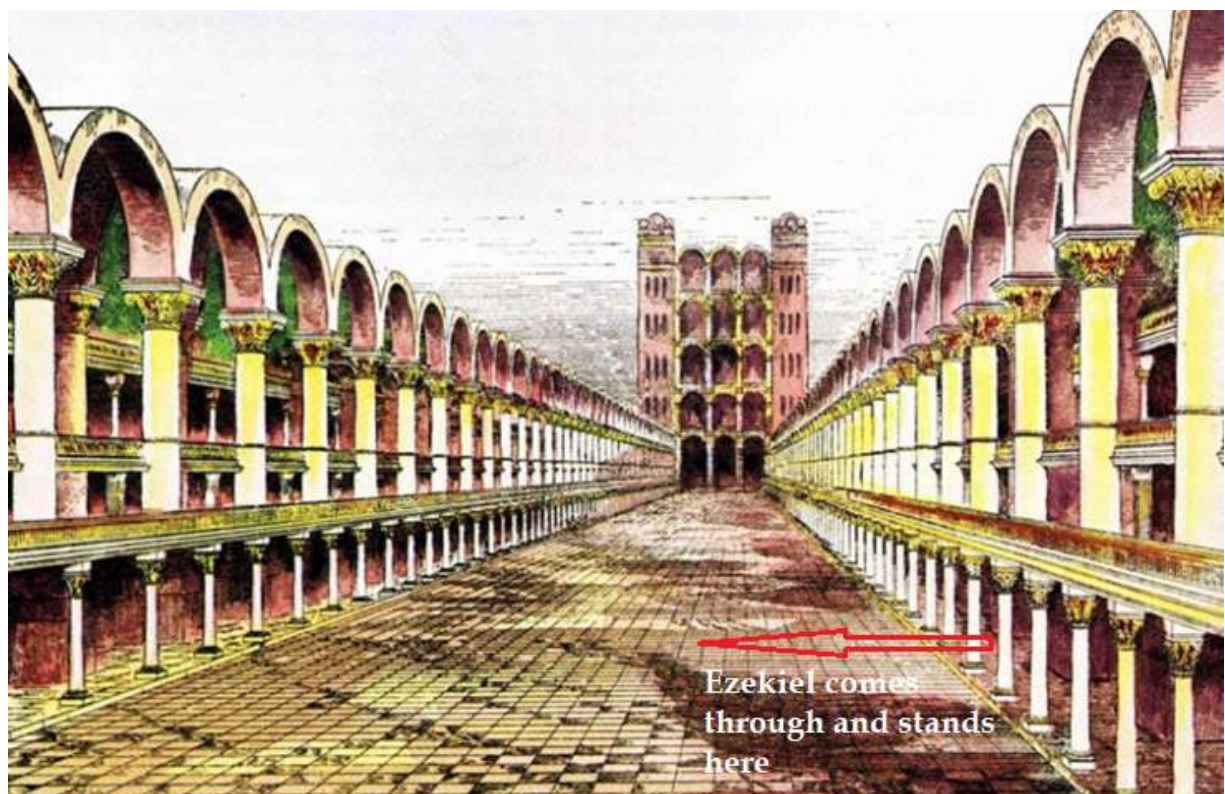


gateway. That the house of the Lord will be highly organised without the shambolic lounging around that seems a feature of most government or council offices, instead a specific direction of travel will be enforced upon all visitors to the temple. They will have to exit the opposite gate to which they entered – see Chapter 46:9. Thus to manage large steams of people there will be one-way systems, and the double gateways are in fact one for exit and one for entrance, at least it seems that way. In designing the flow of pedestrians this way,

it means that everyone gets to walk along and through the temple precincts, there is no way anyone can make a hasty offering and leave quickly.

High above Ezekiel's head as he walked through one of the many imposing entrances were towering columns looking like palm trees supporting great arches spanning across the gateways to connect with chambers either side. There is evidence to suggest at least three stories, or floors in those chambers either side, with capacity for lifts, meeting rooms, for Bible study or lodging. Lattice or fretwork supporting vines, creepers foliage and other plants will ensure this building will be as environmentally friendly as required, and an atmosphere designed to enhance the spiritual man, to provide a calm and serene background, to meditation, worship and service. It is suggested that there are 11 gates in each side of the building, with ten main blocks of chambers in between.

This arrangement was not all that Ezekiel was shown. Not by far. Much to his wonderment, as he came out of the far side of the gateway, going through to the building he came across a courtyard,



where opposite stood a building of the same design and structure disappearing in both direction left and right a half a mile into the distance. This long courtyard separated the two. It was about 60 metres across and approaching a mile long, a beautiful, paved boulevard, a splendid open-air walkway, which would be used by the hundreds of thousands of daily visitors, to go around the temple.

This would be the same architectural arrangement on all four sides, as Ezekiel would find out as he walked around. These two sets of four square buildings describe the outer court.

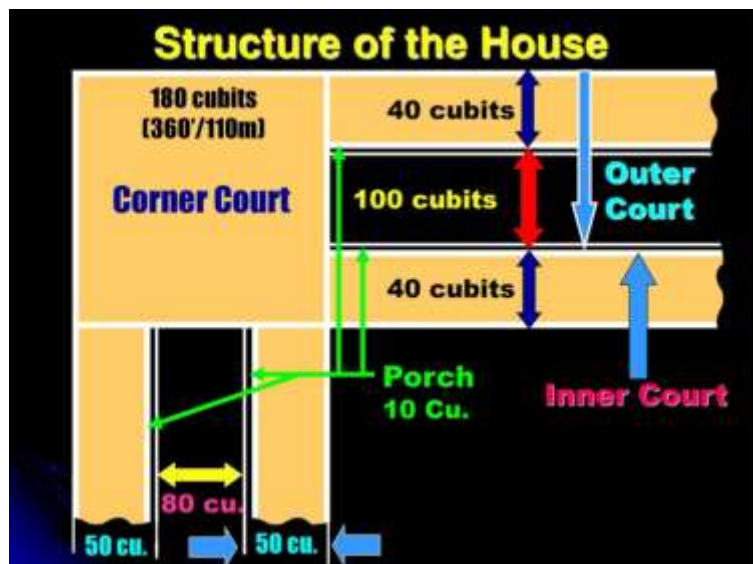


Ezekiel would have been pretty impressed with this vision, but it only increased his amazement, as at the end of the long walkway, there was a massive tower block, and turning around one at the other end.

Here is another artist's impression showing what formed the four corners of the House. These are described in chapter 46:22 as 40 cubits long and 30 cubits broad. However this has been shown to have been an incorrect translation, and it should read 40 reeds high, and 30 reeds broad – and as it is a corner, it would be 30 x 30. These measurements then fit the measurements already given in previous chapters with regards to the outer court. This diagram here is designed to show the scale of the corner courts, or towers, compared with Solomons Temple, and also what many today call the Dome of the Rock.



Chapter 46:23 &24 explain the purpose of these huge corner blocks. They are chiefly to provide lodgings for those who boil, or prepare the sacrifices of the people, and also *boiling places*. That these vast kitchens (100 m² about 2.5 acres) are in fact about the same floor size as the O2 building in London, says a lot about the immensity of the whole structure.



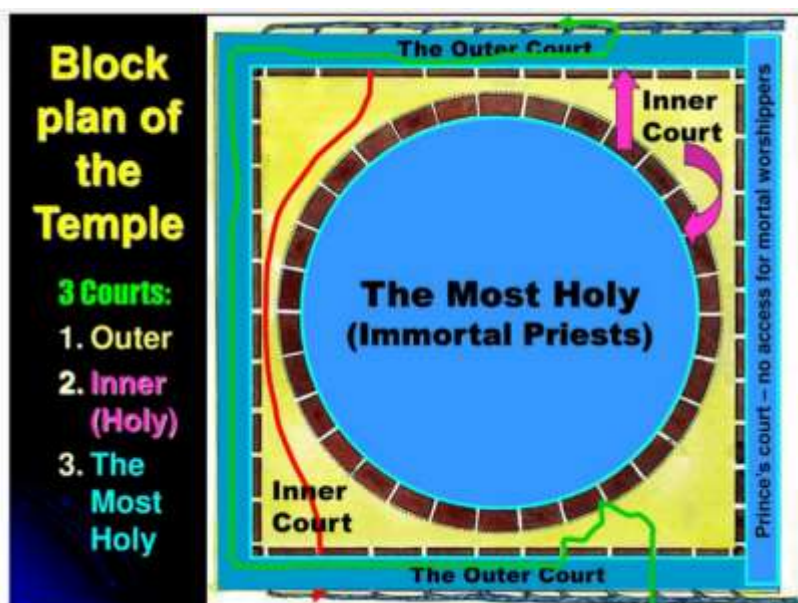
180 cubits = 30 reeds.

Now we can begin to see why Ezekiel was shown this in vision, - its sheer organisation and design shows it is a building with a purpose in mind.

For all nations to bring offerings and sacrifices

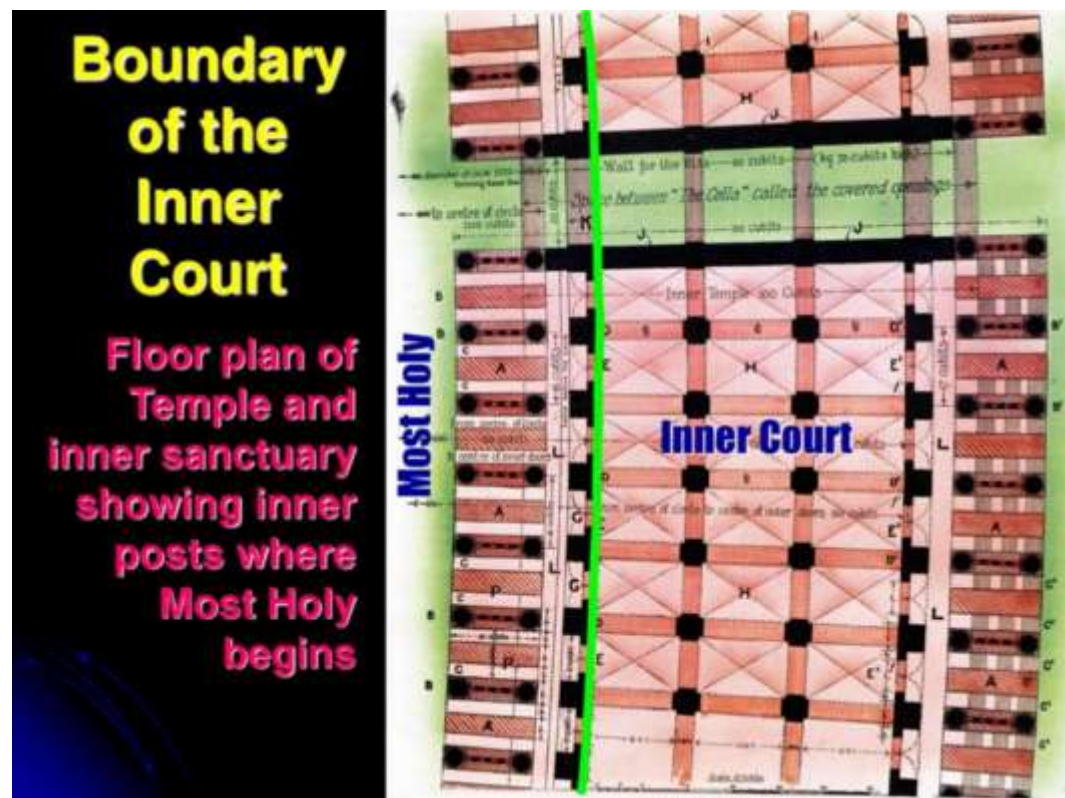
to show gratitude and thanks, to give reverence and allegiance. This building is supremely well designed for such a purpose.

Ezekiel was not shown much about the four corner towers, instead he had to cross the long courtyard into the buildings opposite, and



then he would have seen a large area of grassland or flower meadows, but there before him yet another large building, encircling a small mountain rising up in the centre. As he was led towards it, he

would see that it too, was constructed of arched multi storied chambers intersected by gates or entrances at regular intervals. This is described in 40:44 as the chambers of the singers. Singers does not just mean those who sing, but those who are in charge of worship, see for example Nehemiah 11:22. In fact the verses describe how these buildings were to be used also for lodgings for those given duties to manage and administer worship. Those on the northern half to be keepers in charge of the alter, and those on the south to be keepers in charge of the house.



The observant will have noticed that like the tabernacle, and the temple built by Solomon, that here also reading through the chapters of Ezekiel there are an Outer Court, and Inner Court and a Most Holy.

With the tabernacle the building was designed to be approached in one direction only. There was one gate. Those seeking to be at one with God could not approach without the shedding of blood, and then a washing in the laver. Even then it was only those who were priests who were allowed in the Holy Place, and only the High Priest was allowed in the Holiest of all the Most Holy. The Outer court represented the current mortal condition, the Holy Place the role of the Ecclesia, having been covered by the shed blood and washed to purge away the evil conscience, putting on the robes of righteousness. But the Holiest of all signified the state of everlasting life of atonement with God.

Comparing this with the structure of the building in the Kingdom of God. This building will no longer be in an era where the earth is ruled by man. But by God. All the earth will know God from the least even to greatest. There is not just one gate but many. There will be an abundant entrance provided in the time of God's Kingdom for all nations to be at one with God. The throne of God can be approached from any direction and will be visible, as the Altar the Most Holy will be seen, the smoke ascending as a sweet savour. The mortals will not be allowed in the inner court, but will interact with the immortal priests. They will see the work going on, and will learn from it. The design and structure of the buildings reveals the promise and purpose of God to draw ever closer to man, when harmony is brought about by the control, and eventual abolishment of sin.



This presentation has been drawn from the works of others: Henry Sulley from his wonderful study in 1887, the compilation known as Divine Worship in the Age to Come, previous studies of the subject, and various power-points in the public domain which have reasonable artwork which hopefully can enhance our own personal vision of the great time to come.

Brother Terry