

Bible Class Ezekiel's Temple study continued...

Outworking and Purpose

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During our studies of this topic over the last three years, we have examined the detailed visions given to the prophet Ezekiel and also other passages from various other prophets, and have been able to build up a better focus in our minds eye.

Taking some of these passages together, it is good to have a reminder of the outworking and purpose of this Grand Temple in the future.

What will be its function? What influence will it have on life in the Kingdom for its immortal inhabitants and mortal inhabitants?

To provide Inspiration

From the very outset, in its visualisation and planning, it has inspired much Bible Study! It has demanded the readers of Ezekiel's prophecy to ask why? Why the size, and shape, what is it to be for? Why are there 8 detailed chapters on this detailed building,, - is it symbolic or literal, and what lessons can be learned. So in this respect, this work of Ezekiel in being a faithful prophet has helped us all over the last few months and brought us together to think deeply about the Word of God, and actually start to form a personal picture of the Kingdom,

so that the reality of the Kingdom becomes very dear to us. Its visualisation through vision to Ezekiel was for a specific purpose:

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 designed to present a contrast: to show those who are truly concerned of the great difference between the corrupt rulership of men, and the Righteous rule of the Son of Man. As even the pattern was so designed to shock and awe the nation of Israel at the time of Ezekiel into repentance,

Then how much the actual edifice itself!!

Verse 11 *And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.*

It has achieved it's purpose, in that many generations subsequent to Ezekiel have been educated and learned of the caring love of God, in preplanning such an organised structure, and systems, in contrast to the chaos and violence of man left to himself.

To promote Unity among the nations

From planning to realisation, will involve maximum effort. It will not suddenly appear one morning by miracle, but will be a labour of love by many thousands and thousands of workers, being the most highly efficient construction site, with the best safety record ever. Scripture describes

Zechariah 6:15 *And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the Lord, and ye shall know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you.*

Isaiah 60:10,11 *And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought. ...*

It will be by generous donations from around the world – much in the same way as the children of Israel donated materials willingly for the tabernacle, and Hiram King of Tyre sent cedar trees, and other materials, for Solomon's temple so will the happy nations freed from war and corrupt leadership send in gifts. The foundations, walls and gates be built and fashioned by the work forces of the Gentiles. Thus in the very building of the Temple, it will form a focal point for consolidation of the nations, a common good, a common goal, all contributing and assisting in some way in the construction of this massive edifice – an international act of fellowship.

To promote Unity with God

Isaiah 56:6-7 *Also the sons of the stranger, that **join** themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keeps the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.*

Zechariah 8: 22 *Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.*

This passage endorses the teaching of how the mystery of the covenant has been revealed that Gentiles can become part of the hope of Israel, no longer strangers, but JOINED – the meaning of the name Levi! The Levites were given to the nation of Israel as a gift, to assist the nation to be JOINED to God. So the Temple of the Future

will facilitate a priestly institution. It will be the centre of the World wide Priesthood.

The Temple of the Future will be a House of Prayer for All nations – designed to promote communication with The Omnipotent Creator, through prayer – through the High Priest – The Way, The Truth and The Life.

Demand Personal Sacrifice

The location of the Temple elevated above the surrounding plains, in the location of where once Old Jerusalem stood, in Israel the land-bridge between three continents, is to be so suitably placed to provide ease of access by ships, planes, other transport and foot. There will be no excuse allowed. All nations are commanded to travel to this Divine House. Isaiah 66: 22-23: *For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.* It will mean effort is required, personal sacrifice – much as effort is required to attend Fellowship every first day in this day of small things – personal sacrifice is required to take with them burnt offerings and sacrifices in accordance to the ordinances of the House. These will have to be transported or purchased, thought will have to go into fulfilling these obligations. It will force the mortal population to think – why am I doing this, what does it mean? Each individual will be thereby familiarised with the battle over sin, victorious in Christ, who not only brought every thought into captivity, but willingly took on the sins of the world, giving his life as a ransom. And they will realise with awe and gratitude, that this same man, is there alive again, and is the World Governor, the only one qualified. As they approach the gleaming walls of the House, this gratitude will warm their hearts. Again the building will achieve another of its functions.

A centre of Law and Learning

Isaiah 2:2-4: And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

This denotes the building not just being established on literal hills and mountains, the mount of the Lord, being elevated by a great earthquake, but that Jerusalem will be so named, not in remembrance of the old corrupt evil city which exists today, but because it will be a City of Peace elevated above all the hills – kingdoms, and mountains – empires of men.

Nations will flow unto it – in other words, there will be a river of nations, a continual stream of people, from all over the world.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Nowadays, we cannot imagine one guy in the street even speaking like this, unless it was come on let's go the football match.. but for the common man to actually have a desire to want to go to Zion, to find out more about the Word of God and see it in operation, means a complete change of mindset. A complete reset of international and global relations, of societal norms and expectations. Also here can be seen the acknowledgement of a World Central Government and a centre of Global Legislation. The Temple – the Divine House will provide the space and atmosphere for such an administrative centre.

4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their

spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Politics will be replaced for the One True Religion. The religion of the God of Israel. But the House of God will also perform a centre for judgment, should politics raise its ugly head, and nation attempt to rebel in anyway, will be severely censored by the Zion based Judges headed by Jesus Christ.

The Home of the Apostolic Ecclesia of God

The temple will also be a Home.

Ezekiel 43:7 And he said unto me, Son of man, 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 for ever,...

The place where God will dwell. His divine presence will grace the building with His Glory. His Elohim in the form of the Angels will be there. But these will minister to a newly promoted rank of Elohim – the Saints, newly bestowed with eternal life – *Enter thou the joy of thy Lord*. These as the Saints of the Most High God will be commissioned to serve all over the world, but their Home will always be in Zion. They will be in the Holy Place. In the Holy Place of the tabernacle there was three pieces of furniture – the Lampstand- which stood for Witness, teaching, the Table of Shewbread upon which the Bread was placed, freshly baked, which the Priests partook as a symbol of Fellowship. There in the corner by the veil was also the Altar of Incense, upon which a sweet smell arose, representing Prayer.

So with the Temple of Zion, the Glorious Temple soon to be built, the Holy Place, the Home of the Ecclesia – the Ecclesia itself the Living Temple its function is Witness, Fellowship and Prayer. That is exactly the Outworking and Purpose of the Holy Place of the Temple.

Brother Terry