

Week 42

Ezekiel 38:23 I will display My greatness and holiness, and will reveal Myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I AM the LORD. HCSB

Last week we read about the glory of the LORD departing the temple. There is no record in the Bible that the glory of God ever resided in either of the next two temples; Zerubbabal's temple or Herod's temple. One day His presence will fill the temple again. Many Bible scholars agree that there are two more temples in Israel's future; the one in the tribulation that will be ruined by Antichrist and the millennial temple that Ezekiel describes in great detail. Ezekiel 37:27. "My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever." It is true that Jesus himself ministered in Herod's temple (John 1:14). So in a way God's glory was in the temple in Jerusalem in the presence of Jesus. But He did not dwell in the temple. In the New Testament it appears that Jesus abandoned the temple in favor of teaching in homes & in various locations in the outdoors and had a habit of praying on the Mount of Olives.

Ezekiel cleverly presented twelve judgment messages against Judah describing the coming destruction and captivity in chapters 6,7,14, 18, & 20. He told six parables describing the same thing in chapters 15-23. Although punishment is certain God repeatedly promised to preserve a remnant. Ezekiel described God's judgment against other nations in chapters 25-31. Jerusalem fell in the eleventh year, fourth month, and ninth day of the reign of Zedekiah. On August 14, 586 the Babylonian army set fire to Jerusalem and about 5 months later a messenger came to proclaim this news to the captives in Babylon. Since Ezekiel's prophecies had been so accurately fulfilled the people took a great interest in him. They liked hearing his prophecies against the other nations and the future restoration of Israel.

Day One: The Destruction of Jerusalem

1. What occurred in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar's reign? 1 Kings 25:8 – 10 (also in 2 Chronicles 36:15-21 & Jeremiah 52:12-27).

2. What happened to the metal in the temple? 1 Kings 25:13-15

3. Describe Jeremiah's lament over this destruction. Lamentations 1:1,

4. What message did God give Ezekiel? Ezekiel 24:25-27

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5. What happened in Ezekiel 33:21 & 22?

Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Day Two: Prophecies & Promises

6. What was the true attitude of the people in regard to Ezekiel? 33:30-32

7. What does Jesus have to say about this type attitude? Matthew 6:24

8. Describe the characteristics of the shepherds of Israel. Ezekiel 34:1-6

9. Describe the characteristics of the true shepherd. Ezekiel 34:11-16. See also Psalm 23; John 10:11, Hebrews 13:20; and 1 Peter 5:4 for more information about the true shepherd.

10. Who are the sheep and what will God do for them? Ezekiel 34:25-31

Prayer: The LORD is my shepherd. Use Psalm 23 as your prayer thanking God for his tender care.

Day Three: Israel Failed; the Gentiles Are Called

11. Why had Israel been driven from the Promised Land? Ezekiel 36:18-21

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12. In Ezekiel 15, he compares Jerusalem to a useless vine. Isaiah compares the nation of Israel to a vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-8). Vines were not useful for fuel because they burned too rapidly. The wood was not strong enough for building purposes. The only duty of the vine was to produce fruit. Israel had refused to perform its only duty; to lead others to God. What does Paul tell us about ingrafted branches? Romans 11:11

13. What should be the attitude of ingrafted branches to the broken off branches? Romans 11:17-21

14. When will Israel be restored? Romans 11:25b

The remainder of the book of Ezekiel is prophecy about the Israelites.

15. What did God promise in Ezekiel 37:20-23?

16. Who will be king? 37:24

Prayer: Psalm 100

Day Four: In the Future

In chapter 37 Ezekiel describes the restoration of Israel at some future date. Their people will return from all over the world and they will be a strong nation (Ezekiel 38:8). After that time there will be a battle that is described in chapters 38 & 39. Scholars do not agree on the timing of this battle. Some say it is the final battle described in Revelation 20, but many do not consider this the battle of Armageddon as there are many differences between the events described in the two chapters. Some scholars say this battle takes place three and one half years after Israel signs the treaty with antichrist at which time antichrist reveals his true nature. What matters is that God has ultimate control and His plans for Israel will unfold according to His will. This conglomerate of nations will set out to destroy God's people, but will be unable to stand before His power.

17. What nations are involved in this battle and who is their leader? Ezekiel 38:2, 5, 6

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18. Who will bring this army against Israel? Why? Ezekiel 38:16

19. What will be the result of the battle? Ezekiel 39:3-6

20. How long will it take to bury the dead from this battle? Why was this done? Ezekiel 39:12

Prayer: Psalm 24

Day Five: The New Temple

Ezekiel goes into great detail describing the new temple in last chapters of his book. He saw a renewed land and a glorious temple. The man (colored like bronze) gave Ezekiel a guided tour of the entire temple area and told him to pay attention because he would have to tell everything he saw & learned to the exiles in Babylon (and to us).

21. Describe the wall of the outer court in Ezekiel 40:5. _____

This outer court contains about 400,000 square feet and unlike the former temples it had no separate court for Gentiles or one for women.

22. How large was the inner courtyard and what was there? Ezekiel 40:47

23. Who was to minister before the LORD at the altar? Ezekiel 43:19 & 44:15.

There is no mention of a veil, Ark of the Covenant (mercy seat), or golden lampstand in this new temple. There is mention of a wooden altar or table 3 cubits high & 2 cubits wide (Ezekiel 41:21-22).

24. When Israel entered the Promised Land, the land was divided among the 12 tribes; what was different about the division of the land this time? Ezekiel 45:1 & 48:8 & 9.

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25. What was the reason Ezekiel fell on his face again? Ezekiel 43:2-4.

26. What will this land resemble? Ezekiel 36:35 & 47:1 & 12.

Prayer: Praise be to the name of the LORD for ever and ever. Praise be to Him who testifies to all these things and who says “Yes, I am coming quickly”. We all say, “Amen, come quickly Lord Jesus”.