

The Millennial Kingdom

According to the Prophet Ezekiel

While we rehearse the Thousand Year Kingdom of God on Earth in our minds, There are Profound and Detailed Descriptions of the Millennial Temple Complex and its Services found in the Book of Ezekiel that we should also Examine!

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Not an insignificant component in the Theology of God's Church, the hope for Christ's Return and the anticipation of the end of humanity's incessant injustices is regarded as essential. In most cases, a concept is patched together in the minds of believers from indistinct passages, here a little and there a little. Few in this world would look at the way things are done in societies today and say, this is the way we want things to be. All can see the desperate need for a totally new world order, one, hopefully, oriented to justice and founded upon righteous principles.

While most living Christians look forward to being taken off to Heaven at the Second Coming, we all see a world that's becoming increasingly complicated, locked in a down-spiral into an inescapable morass of troubles like the world has never seen. It just can't go on this way forever. At some point in time if things don't change, we will see the end of society on Earth as we know it, perhaps even the extinction of the human race.

Those who are aware of the prophesied world-ruling Kingdom of Christ and His Spirit-born Saints, as described in numerous places,¹ see the salvation of physical humanity in a literal way, not simply the removal of all the 'righteous' off to Heaven, being dis-involved from events on Earth.

Lions Cuddling Lambs

On the other hand, many entertain little more than a superficial conception of what the Kingdom will be like. Lambs lying down with lions being a

common picture. But it isn't the change of the nature of such natural predators that is the essence of the changes needed. The real change needed is to the natures of we human beings. Until we have that, we will never see a substantive change in the world condition. Until the natures of individuals AND the natures of whole societies are changed, we will never see a world anything different than the one we see today! We must recognize that the administration of the Kingdom of God will fundamentally change the way people think as well as how we act. We need to recognize that aspect of the world order to come.

Not All to Change Overnight

Much as we'd like to see, such changes will not be instantaneous. Granted, the shock of the reality of the existence of the One True God (or the existence of A God, in the case of secularists and agnostics) will in itself be a head-spinner. A whole lot of back-pedaling from that quarter will be the first manifestation from rebellious society. But simply acknowledging the existence of God is only a first step. Something deeper is in order, and the political and religious order of that time will be what makes all the difference: That together with another life-altering element, the availability of God's Spirit, something available to only a select few prior to the millennial age. (John 6:44)

A Graphic Presentation

The question is, is there a detailed description of how the millennial Kingdom will be set up and will be administered? Beyond the fact of the Kingdom, are there any places which describe it in greater detail than we typically consider?

¹ Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 20:6, 2:26, 5:9-10; Luke 22:30; Daniel 2:44, & 7:14; Isaiah 65:25, 66:18-23, etc.

In the minor prophets, the Book of Micah, to be exact, in chapter 4, we read, *"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*

The Mountain of the LORD

That passage introduces very well the subject of this article. The mountain of the Lord. Did you ever stop and think what is going to be on that mountain? We tend to presume. There's a little detail in Zachariah that you might be interested in just checking out. It's in chapter 14. These verses are so familiar you could probably quote it yourself. But it's that verse that says *"...and his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of olives shall cleave in the midst thereof towards the east and towards the west. And there shall be a very great valley. Half the mountain shall remove north, And half toward the south."* Down to verse 10: *"And all the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem"* That's presently the desert hill country where it's very dry and very unpopulated. *"and it shall be lifted up"*, speaking of Jerusalem, *"and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate unto the corner gate and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's wine presses."* Jerusalem is going to be elevated even more than it is now. It's going to be raised up. But what's going to be on that mountain? Wouldn't it be interesting if we could know?

As you read your bible, you've probably come across passages from time to time that didn't seem to make as much sense as you would have liked. It isn't hard to find a scripture that doesn't make sense to us. A lot of times when we watch a movie either on television or if you walk into the theater and it's already started and you've missed the first five or ten minutes, a lot of times it's difficult from that point on to get the real full gist of what the story is. The same is true of the bible. There are many

passages that if we don't understand their time-frame, and if we don't understand their context, it's hard to get the point of what it's really about.

There's a lengthy passage in the bible, in fact it's at least thirteen whole chapters, that describe the millennial kingdom AND the millennial worship system. In fact, in great detail! And the religious world reads right over it, rarely quoting from those sections because of it being hard to place what they're really talking about. We're going to look at those thirteen chapters. Some people start back earlier. I'm going to start with chapter 36.

These passages in their time setting are millennial all the way. But you wouldn't necessarily know that reading the message, because Ezekiel wrote to what he calls the whole house of Israel. Now when the religions of our day read that word or read that title, they think, Oh this is talking about the Jews. Well in fact it's not. This isn't talking about just Jews. We'll see that when we get into chapter 37.

The WHOLE House of Israel

We at least understand, what "the whole house of Israel" is. We understand that after the days of King Solomon, Israel split into two separate and distinct nations with different kings. And they even went to war with one another on occasion. But one of these two houses, the **northern kingdom**, called the house of **Israel**, were taken captive by the Assyrians 125 years before their brothers to the south, the house of Judah, were taken captive. Those in the northern kingdom never returned to their homeland. But those in the **southern kingdom**, called Judah, taken captive by Babylon, were allowed to return to the land 70 years later. So we need to make the distinction in our minds between these two houses of Israel. One called Israel and one called Judah. But Ezekiel was writing to the House of Israel. The small problem is the house of Israel never got the message. They were long gone about 150 years before the book was even written. Can you imagine that?

What if our former president Kennedy were to have written to the leaders of the southern states of America and say if you people secede from the union, there'll be a civil war. We'd think that rather odd because there already was a civil war more

than a century and a quarter before. Why would he warn the Confederacy about it so long after the fact?

To understand the later part of the book of Ezekiel, we need to realize that the people to whom it was written never got the message. Now it's a message of **hope** for them. It's a message that they would be restored as a nation, but yet, historically, it never has happened. They never were reunited! The two houses of Israel are still two distinct and separate peoples to the present time. Ezekiel was one of the captives of Judah, in Babylon. He didn't get to travel. And even if he did, where would he go? Those people were long gone and had dispersed. The people to whom these chapters were written never got the message. So what do we make of that? What are we to conclude?

Well the conclusion is that it wasn't for them in their day. It was for their descendents in a later day. These chapters are talking about the near future. And once we realize that it's a later time context, it's not applied anciently, we can see we shouldn't take these verses and apply them anciently. They may seem to be talking about ancient times, but the things that they predict haven't happened to this day. So then, when we understand that the general context is the **millennial age**, that should doubly confirm that this is a message not to them, but rather it's a message to our peoples today. But even they don't get it.

A Message to Modern Israel

Even though they have it, they can hold it in their hands and they can read it, they don't get it because they don't understand something very important. They don't understand two things. They don't understand the millennial kingdom. They have no place for it in their theology. Most modern protestant and catholic religions have no use for the millennial kingdom.

I was talking with a church pastor not long ago, a man from a large well known denomination, and I wanted to find out what his organization understood about the millennial kingdom. And he said, plainly, "The scriptures are silent about that!" Can you imagine? And I'm sure that's exactly what he believes. They can look right at these verses and read right over them and don't understand a thing

because they don't get two major things. They don't get the **timeframe** and they don't get the **people** to whom it's addressed. And that's the priceless gift that we have, with the understanding that we have about the two houses of Israel – about the coming millennial kingdom – about the resurrections from the dead which are essential to God's Plan.

Now we observe the days that we call the Feast of Tabernacles, and if you think about it, most of our realizations or most of our perspective on this period of time is in the context of rejoicing for the coming age. And that's appropriate for us. But for these people to whom it's addressed, it's a whole different world. So in this we're going to walk through some of that world because God has given us incredible detail about His coming kingdom, how it will happen, how it will be set up, even to what the buildings are going to look like and how they're going to be laid out and how the services are going to be conducted and how Israel is going to be reapportioned sections of their ancient lands.

Most of our conceptions about the millennial kingdom tend to be a little bit ethereal, even whimsical. We think of the lion lying down with the lamb and we think of everybody sitting under their vine and their fig tree. I mean how many lions and lambs are going to lay down together? Is there going to be one in every town? How many people are going to grow both vines and fig trees? What if you live in a city, or what if you live in a climate where they can't both grow together? What are you going to do? I mean those are fine. Nothing is wrong with that, but the point is that there is a lot more to the story, and God has given it to us. That's what I want us to carefully consider here.

God's Saints Will Govern with Him!

Let's consider God's millennial kingdom not necessarily from **our** point of view. We're looking forward to being a part of that system as far as being its government, and we understand about its government that Jesus Christ is going to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He's going to rule over all nations. And then under him, as far as Israel is concerned, He's going to raise up King David to be king over the reunified nation. And we can read in Matthew 19:28 and Luke 22:30, where the twelve Apostles are going to be raised up with each of

them ruling over one of the tribes of Israel. Christ promised them that assignment. And I'd suspect that the 144,000, twelve thousand of each of the twelve tribes, are going to be serving under the Apostles. So we've clearly been given the top echelon of leadership in God's kingdom.

But let's look at Ezekiel's message, because it's extremely interesting and extremely informative. And as we do, keep in mind that this is written to the as yet **unconverted** house of Israel – the whole house of Israel. This isn't talking to God's called, God's elect, so much. It's talking to those who are in the present state, who've been blinded to God's truth, but who are going to look into this once they realize that it represents their hope. These passages contain and expose the **hope of salvation** of all mankind. We'll see that particularly as it relates to God's model nation. Ezekiel is only writing to the whole house of Israel. He's not writing to the whole world necessarily, but I think we can realize, by implication, that once the model nation is up and running, then that will splay-out into the whole world. Ezekiel focuses his mind more on the condition of the house of Israel after the 'end time'.

Israel's End-Time Condition

In Ezekiel 36, about the first 6 verses, we find that Israel, at this point in time, is in ruin. It's desolate. How is that going to happen? It's despised in the world. Ezekiel 36, beginning at verse 1: *"And also you son of man prophesy unto the mountains of Israel and say you mountains of Israel hear the words of the Lord. Thus said the Lord God, because the enemy has set against you, aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession".* (Notice: Israel here is represented by 'mountains' which represent several 'nations'!) Are our enemies going to have possession of our capitols, of our prominent buildings? *"Therefore prophesy and say thus said the Lord God because they have made you desolate and swallowed you up on every side that you might be a possession unto the residue of the heathen and you are taken up in the lips of talkers and are in infamy of people. Therefore you mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God. Thus said the Lord God to the mountains and to the hills and to the rivers and to the valleys and to the desolate wastes and the cities that are*

forsaken which became a prey and a derision to the residue of the heathen that around about, therefore thus said the Lord God surely in the fire of my jealousy I have spoken against the residue of the heathen and against all Idumea which have appointed my land unto their own possession with the joy of all their heart with despiteful minds to case it out for a prey. Prophecy therefore concerning the land of Israel and say unto the mountains and to the hills and to the rivers and to the valleys, Thus said the Lord God, behold I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury because you have born the shame of the heathen." And at this point in time, he begins the message of hope to Israel. We see Israel in a ruined condition, in a captive condition. We see its cities destroyed, and in ruin. We see late day Israel being laughed at in derision, being held in contempt by the world. Can we imagine such a thing? Just listen to our own news media. The peoples of Israel, at the point in time when this prophesy beings to come into application, are in a destroyed and subjugated state. But God has other plans. Here's where He's going to intervene on their behalf.

Ezekiel 36 presents the first phase of Israel's restoration. The first phase is going to include those people who survive through the troubled times at the end of this age. There will be survivors. They and their children, for the next thousand years, are going to be the people who we read of in the latter part of Ezekiel 36. Verse 7: *"Therefore, thus said the Lord God, I have lifted up my hand. Surely the heathen that are about you they shall bear their shame."* God is going to intervene and reverse their condition. *"But you O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches."* They're going to re-sprout. *"And yield your fruit to my people of Israel, for they are at hand to come, for behold I am for you and I will turn unto you and you shall be tilled and sown and I will multiply men upon you all the house of Israel. Even all of it. And the cities shall be inhabited and the wastes shall be builded and I will multiply you man and beast and they shall increase and bring food and I will settle you after your old estates and will do better unto you than at your beginning and you shall know that I am the Lord."* This describes the beginning of the conversion of the peoples of Israel after the Second Coming.

Down to verse 15: *“Neither will I cause men to hear in thee the shame of the heathen anymore, neither shall thou bear the reproach of the people anymore, neither shall you cause thy nations to fall anymore, says the Lord God.”* Notice, Israel has nations. It's composed of nations at that point in time. *“Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land they defiled it.”* This is why it all happened. It was no accident. *“They defiled it by their own way and by their doings. Their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land and for their idols where with they had polluted it. And I scattered them among the heathen and they were dispersed through the countries, according to their ways and according to their doings, I judged them.”*

A Reversal of Fortune

Let's move ahead to verse 24. This is where He reverses that condition. *“For I will take you from among the heathen and gather you out of all countries and will bring you into your own land.”* In verse 22 He says *“Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus said the Lord God, I don't do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy namesake which you have profaned among the heathen wherever you went.”* God is going to restore the nation of Israel after the Second Coming.

Given the Holy Spirit?

Verse 25: *“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be cleaned from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will cleanse you. A **new heart** also will I give you and a **new spirit** will I put within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you a heart of flesh and **I will put my spirit within you** and cause you to walk in my statutes and you shall keep my judgments and do them.”* The Old Testament commandments with its judgments and statutes are going to still be applicable in that time. They're going to be given God's spirit. They never had that before.

Verse 28: *“And you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”* In verse 31 he says *“they*

will loathe themselves”. Which is suggestive of a heart-felt repentance. Verse 33 *“And thus saith the Lord God, in the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your impurities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities and the waste shall be builded.”* Then verse 38, *“As the holy flock, as the flock of Jerusalem and her solemn feasts so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of men and they shall know that I am the Lord.”* This talks about the **opportunity** for conversion, for those people who come through the Great Tribulation and who survive on over into it. Notice also, God's Feasts will be observed!

A Massive Resurrection

Then we come to chapter 37. This one should be very familiar to everyone. This is the prophecy of the **valley of dry bones**. In this amazing chapter, we see another group of people that are going to be dealt with. This is **the rest** of the house of Israel. Not the surviving house but now the **deceased** house – Phase 2 of God's plan for conversion as it involves them. He's going to give them a chance, too. This is where the hope comes in as it applies to the people to whom this book was originally addressed, but who never got it. Some had died, before it was even written. But their hope is contained in it, also! Chapter 37 presents that hope to them. In this chapter we look into the post-millennial age. This describes what we know as the **second resurrection** era. In verse 6 he describes their resurrection very graphically and he does so in a way that leaves no question as to the fact that this is a **physical** resurrection. He says in verse 6: *“And I will lay sinews upon you and will bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you and you shall live and you shall know that I am the Lord.”* That particular phrase, and you shall know that I am the Lord, is contained 62 times in these passages. Perhaps that's the key element here.

Down in verse 9. *“Then said he unto me prophesy unto the wind, prophesy son of man, and say to the wind, thus said the Lord God, come from the four winds O breath and breathe upon these slain that they may live.”* These aren't to be spirit beings. Verse 11: *“Then he said unto me, son of man, these bones are the **whole** house of Israel. Behold they say our bones are dried and our hope is lost we are*

cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them thus said the Lord God behold O my people I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves and bring you into the land of Israel." Obviously, this describes a resurrection: What we could call Phase 2 of God's Plan in dealing with His model nation of Israel.

The Nation Restored

And in verse 14, they're not even asking for this. He says, *"I shall put my spirit in you and you shall live, and I shall place you in your own land, then you shall know that I the Lord have spoken and have performed, said the Lord."* And then in verse 16 and on, we read that section that relates the reunification of the two houses of Israel. That hasn't happened yet. That remains in the future. They were the ones that caused it. And their two houses were never brought back together. God has kept track of where they are, what nations they currently are. But in the end time, these two houses with their various nations are going to be reunited. Verse 22: *"And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel. One king shall be king to them all. And they shall be no more two nations"*. Verse 24: *"My servant David shall be king over them."* Verse 27: *"My tabernacle also shall be with them, yea I will be their God and they shall be my people. And the heathen..."* whoops... **the heathen?** Is there still heathen around at this point in time? *"And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them forever more."* So we have unconverted "heathen" nations living with and among these people at that point in time. But that's a later phase of God's plan to restore, and to save all of Israel. I won't go any further with that aspect other than to point out the fact that God has a plan to save all who can be. There are those who are saved during the millennial age who survived over, physically, into that era of time, and there are those who are to be saved when the opportunity is brought to them in and by the second resurrection.

Satan's Release from Restraint

Ezekiel 38 is interesting because out of the blue we've got a battle forming and we have to wonder what does that have to do with the millennial age? If you'll hold your place and just flip over to

Revelation chapter 20, we'll see. We know this. Again, these are verses that are very familiar. Starting in verse 7: *"And when the thousand years are expired..."* so we know the timeframe of this event, *"when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison."* You see, Satan is going to be restrained from activity during the thousand years.

Have you ever wondered why Satan has to be loosed at the end of the thousand years? (See that explained in chapter 7) But continuing in verse 8: *"and he shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth"...* and his primary source of troops are going to be: *"Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle the number of whom is of the sand of the sea. And they went out upon the breadth of the earth and compassed the camp of the saints about and the beloved city, and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."* At the end of the millennium, there is going to be a rebellion. Satan is going to inspire a rebellion. He's going to call together vast numbers of malcontents. They are going to come down and surround Jerusalem with the intent of taking it and taking its spoils. Jerusalem is going to be an extremely wealthy world capitol at that point in time. That's what we find in chapter 38 of Ezekiel. This is the final battle against the forces of evil. This is Satan's post-millennial army.

Now, here's an interesting thing, there are only two places in the entire bible that talk about Gog and Magog - what we just read in Revelation 20 and right here. Does that place this in that timeframe? I pose to you that it does. Verse 2 of Ezekiel 38: *"Son of man set thy faced against Gog the land of Magog the chief prince of Meshech and Tubul and prophesy against him. And say thus said the Lord God behold I am against you O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubul and I will turn you back and put hooks into your jaws and I will bring you forth and all thine armies horses and horsemen and all of them clothed with all sorts of armor even a great company."* Verse 8: *"And after many days you shall be visited in the latter years,"* How far back? How far later? *"In the latter years you shall come into the land that is brought back from the sword"* This is a land that has no longer

experienced wars for how long? *“And is gathered out of many people against the mountains of Israel which have been always wastes but it has brought back forth out of the nations and they shall dwell safely all of them.”* Is the Middle East a safe place to dwell right now in this world? Satan is going to come against a place that is safe to dwell in. *“You shall ascend and come like a storm. You shall be like a cloud to cover the land. You and all your bands and many people with you.”* There are going to be allies with Gog and Magog. *“Thus said the Lord God that shall come to pass that the same time shall things come into your mind and you shall think an evil thought and you will say I will go up to the land of unwalled villages.”* There's no reason for them to have walls in the millennium. *“I will go to them that are at rest.”* Is that the millennial rest? *“And dwell safely. All of them dwelling without walls and having neither bars nor gates.”* No need for them. And his intent in verse 12 is, *“to take a spoil and to take a pray. To turn your hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations which have gotten cattle and goods and dwell in the midst of the land.”* Verse 14 talks about Israel dwelling safely. Verse 16 tells us that this event is going to be in the latter days, not necessarily the latter days as we now would see it, but the latter days from a millennial perspective.

And then in chapter 39, we can read of the defeat of this northern army's invasion. Verse 1: *“Therefore son of man prophesy against Gog and say thus said the Lord God behold I am against you O Gog the chief prince of Meshech and Tubul and I will turn you back and leave but the sixth part of you.”* Now that's different than other battles that we might have read about. One in six is going to survive and go back to their lands. And verse 2 says *“In the north parts.”* And those that are killed in verse 4 are going to be consumed by ravenous birds of prey. Down to verse 9, this is interesting: *“And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth.”* Now that tells us that there are going to be people still living in the land after this battle takes place, for years. *“They that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth and they shall set on fire and burn the weapons both the shields and buckers and bow and arrows and handstaves and spears. They shall burn them with fire seven years.”*

Now, in this day of high technology, why would they revert back to such crude weaponry? Well, for a thousand years, there will have been no arms industry. They're going to forget how to make those things. There'll be no war colleges. There'll be no high tech weapons. And if the opposing side doesn't have high tech weapons either, then why would they need them anyway? So they logically **could** revert back to the simplest of weapons, just like it says here. That's another indication that this would be after the millennium, not before. Let me just pose that to you.

These Slain are Buried!

Verse 11: *“And it shall come to pass in that day that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel.”* Now that's different also from some of the other age-ending battles that we might read about. The slain are going to be buried there in place. *“The valley of the passages on the east of the sea and it shall stop the noses of the passengers and there they shall bury Gog and all his multitude and they shall call it the Valley of Hammon Gog. And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them that they may cleanse the land.”* So these slain warriors are going to be scattered all over the place, **not** concentrated in one locale. These are going to be scattered and it's going to take months to find all the remains and to get them all buried. In verse 14 you can see it takes seven months to search them all out and to get them buried.

Verse 17: *“And you son of man, thus saith the Lord, speak unto every feathered fowl and every beast of the field, assemble yourselves and come gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.”* Verse 21: *“I will set my glory among the heathen and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed and my hand that I have lay upon them, so the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward.”* Now keep in mind, this is that segment of the house of Israel that has just been resurrected. The others would have learned it beginning a thousand years before. But this is the next group He's dealing with because that's when the second resurrection occurs, after Satan commits his rebellion and gathers the armies and comes against

Jerusalem and is defeated. And then the second resurrection occurs and people come up into a world now completely absent of Satan and his influences. This tells us that people are going to continue live on, on Earth, after this period of time.

Dropping down to verse 29: *“Neither will I hide my face anymore from them for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel saith the Lord God.”* He's going to do that both with the surviving group and he's going to do that with the resurrected group.

God WILL Be Seen!

Now beginning in chapter 40, we get into some very interesting stuff, and I'm going to skim over much of this. I'm just going to hit the high points. It's very detailed.

God has given us incredible detail, almost unfathomable detail. There are those who have attempted to graphically picture what he's describing here. But this is the Complex that's going to sit upon 'the mountain of the Lord'. Not only a Temple. But actually a walled campus. We see many different structures. Chapter 40, verse 2: *“And the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel and set me upon a very high mountain.”* And Zachariah 14:10 tells us that that mountain is going to be even higher than it is now. *“on it which was as a frame of a city on the south.”* In verse 4 he says *“And the man said unto me, son of man, behold with thine eyes and hear with thine ears and set thine heart upon all that I shall show you, for to the intent that I might show them unto you are you brought here.”* I brought you here to show you this, he's saying. *“Declare all that you see to the house of Israel.”* Ezekiel didn't actually have that opportunity. Guess what. You do! When you understand this, we are going to be among the instruments to open the understanding of these chapters of Ezekiel to those people at that time.

In verse 5 he talks about a wall and the outside of this house or structure and he measured it. In verse 7 we see it has all kinds of little chambers. In verse 9 we see it has porches and gates. I'm going to move very quickly through this. In verse 19 there's a lower gate. There's an inner court. In verse 20 there's an outward court.

What!! Sacrifices?

Now moving down to verse 41 we see tables. *“Four tables were on this side and four tables on that side by the side of the gate eight tables, whereupon they slew the sacrifices.”* That stops a lot of people cold! *“And the four tables were of hewn stone for the burnt offering of a cubit and a half long and a cubit and a half broad and one cubit high where-upon they also laid the instruments wherewith they slew the burnt offerings and the sacrifice.”* He's describing some of the physical millennial services.

Now we would say why would those be necessary? Keep in mind this is written, not to the converted at that point in time, this is written to those people who are receiving their **opportunity** to become converted. You know that verse that talks about the law was our schoolmaster? God didn't invent those ritual laws and those sacrifices and those ceremonies to be a burden. Just something you've **got** to do. Pain in the neck. You have to kill some animal, you get blood all over the place, you have to go bathe yourself... get the blood all off. It stinks! If you've ever slaughtered an animal and smelled the fresh blood, I mean it's **not** a lot of fun.

Well, God didn't invent all that without good reason. Everything that's in those activities presents lessons. When someone has been put through that system, as ancient Israel was, yet they came out of it unconverted because they weren't really paying attention. But when someone is put through that system, they become **readied** to become converted. I mean truly converted. Not converted as the world does it, but **truly** converted. There are lessons in there. And when those people have been immersed in the 'schoolmaster system' for a while, they're going to be ready for conversion. So that's why we're going to see these things restored in the millennial kingdom.

In verse 46: *“And the chamber whose prospect is toward the north is for the priests the keepers of the charge of the altar. These are the sons of Zadok among the sons of Levi which come near the Lord to administer to him.”* There's going to be a system and an order and an acceptable Priesthood, unlike what we have this age..

Surveying the Temple

In chapter 41 is where we begin measuring the millennial Temple. The Temple is just one of the buildings within this complex. Verse 1: *"He brought me into the temple."* And in verse 4: *"And in the temple there is another most holy place not unlike what had been before."* Down to verse 15: *"And he measured the length of the building over against the separate place which is behind it and galleries".* And it talks about an inner temple. It talks about there being three stories in verse 16. Verse 20: the wall of the temple. Verse 21: the Sanctuary. There are all kinds of rooms. All kinds of chambers. All kinds of purposes. We see several different buildings. God has given us all kinds of detail. It'd be too much to fathom in a brief sitting, but you can look into those when you have time. Verse 23 talks about the Temple and the Sanctuary having two doors.

And in verse 25 there's something interesting. It tells us something about the décor. And like with anything with God, the décor is not meaningless. We have **cherubim and palm trees**. That's repeated on many of the features of the building. What does that represent? The heavenly realm? The heavenly system? Those that serve in the heavenly temple? And palm trees represent the millennial kingdom. That's what palm trees are known to represent. When Christ came into Jerusalem, they strawed palm branches in his path, reminiscent of the coming kingdom. They were recognizing him as the coming Messiah. That's why they chose and spread palm branches in His path, even though it was out of season. It represented the coming millennial kingdom. That's why they chose those particular kinds of branches.

In chapter 42, we walk into the priestly sanctuary. This is another structure within the campus. This is where the priests live and eat. In verse 1 it talks about an outer court. And then separate places. Drop down to verse 13. There were north chambers and south chambers. *"Where the priests that approach unto the Lord shall eat the most holy things."* Verse 14 talks about a holy place and talks about the garments wherein they administer. Verse 20 talks about a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place.

God's Earthly Throne

Chapter 43 – describes another area within this campus. Verse 2: *"And behold the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east and his voice was like the noise of many waters and the earth shined with His glory."* God Himself is going to dwell in a separate place within this campus. Verse 7: *"And he said unto me son of man the place of my throne and the place of the souls of my feet where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever and my holy name shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they nor their kings."* Verse 9: *"I will dwell in the midst of them forever".* Verse 10: *"Now son of man, show the house to the house of Israel that they may be ashamed of their iniquities and let them measure the pattern."* What he's telling us is there's something represented in the dimensions that conveys a message. *"And if they be ashamed of all that they have done show them the form of the house."*

Now many of you might have heard of or read of the great pyramid of Egypt. Many people have written about the fantastic things that are contained in that structure dimensionally. There are things in the dimensions that reveal truths. No less so the house of God. He says *"Let them measure the pattern"* if they don't get it. *"And if they be ashamed of all that they have done"*, (verse 11) *"Show 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 of the forms of the ordinances and all of the laws thereof and write it in their sight that they may keep the whole form and all of the ordinances thereof and do them."* There's a message contained not only in the dimensions of the structures but in practicing the ceremonies and the laws. They all teach important truths in a physical way, but it's intended for a physical people who are beginning to receive their opportunity for salvation.

In the second resurrection era, there'll be no fooling around. That is the **last chance** that anyone will ever have to become converted. There can be no false conversions during that time and there is no opportunity afterward. The second resurrection era provides the last chance that anyone will ever have

to become converted. That's why it's that important that they learn the lessons. That they learn, that they come to understand, and all of those lessons are built into God's patterns. These aren't just involved unconnected rituals that they do which give them no understanding or have no meaning. No. They're very important. God says *"let them examine all of the ceremonies all of the buildings all of the dimensions"* because they contain the message.

A Focus on the Altar

Verse 12: *"This is the law of the house upon the top of the mountain. The whole limit thereof around about shall be most holy. Behold this is the law of the house."* Reading down thru the rest of the chapter, in verse 13, we see reference to the altar. The same in verses 15 and 16. Verse 18: *"These are the ordinance of **the altar** and the day when they shall make it to offer **burnt offerings** thereon and to sprinkle the blood thereon"*. Keep in mind this is for the **physical** people, not God's converted Saints. Verse 19: *"And you shall give the priests, the Levites that shall be of the seed of Zadok, which approach unto me to administer unto me, saith the Lord God, a young bullock for a sin offering."* It tells us something: that they, also, are going to still be the physical people, offering these sacrifices. In verse 26, we see where it talks about them consecrating themselves.

Circumcision Requirement

Chapter 44, he begins to talk about the service of the priests. Verse 1 refers to an outward sanctuary, it looks toward the east. Verse 4 talks about a north gate. Verse 7 includes something interesting. For those that want to come into the Temple area, either of two preconditions have to be met. There are prior conditions. Verse 7 says: *"In that you have brought into my sanctuary strangers uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh to be in my sanctuary to pollute it even my house."* Verse 9: *"Thus saith the Lord God no stranger uncircumcised in heart nor uncircumcised in flesh shall enter into my sanctuary of any stranger that is among the children of Israel."* In order to come into the campus area, in order to approach God's Temple, a person has to be either physically circumcised or circumcised of heart. These show

people that are either **being** converted or **are** converted. The rest are going to be excluded, and you'll see some of that in the concluding verses of Revelation where God relates that same condition.

Verse 10 poses something interesting. I find this one ironic! Verse 10: *"And the Levites that are gone away far from me when Israel went astray which went astray from me after their idols they shall even bear their iniquity."* And how? Verse 11: *"Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary having charge of the gates of the house and ministering to the house they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people and they shall stand before them to minister to them."*

Picture this: All of those ministers that have been teaching all of their people all of their lives that "God's law is all done away", guess what job assignment they're going to get? They're going to be still physical and the ones to actually perform the physical sacrifices!... can you imagine? Armpit deep in blood and offal. That's the nature of the job! Pick your favorite Protestant minister. Can you imagine him? Hey rev, this is your ministry now! **You're** going to be the one doing the slaying cleaning and preparing! That's what it says. Why? Verse 12: *"Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity, (iniquity is lawlessness) therefore have I lifted up my hand against them, says the Lord God, and they shall bear their iniquity."* Though the Ceremonial Law isn't practiced during the New Covenant period, teaching the abolition of all of God's Moral Law (Grace only – NO Works!) has its consequence. (See Mt. 5:19 & 7:22-23)

A Physical / Spiritual Distinction

Down to verse 15: *"But the priests of the Levites, sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went away from me, they shall come near unto me to minister unto me and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood says the Lord God."* There's going to be a division even in the ministry between the converted and those that are being converted. Keep in mind, this whole section is oriented to describing the **physical services** of the millennium, not necessarily the spirit-born sons of God. Once we see that distinction, this makes a lot more sense.

Now down to verse 23: *“And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the profane and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. And in controversy they shall stand in judgment, and they shall judge according to my judgments, and **they shall keep my laws and my statutes and all my assemblies and they shall hallow my sabbaths.**”* Those things are **not** ‘done away’. Their respect will be restored!

When we get to chapter 45, he describes division of the land. He talks about measures and offerings and festivals. For brevity, I'm going to pass over most of this. In verse 17 we see that there's going to be new moons and Sabbaths, like Isaiah says: *“From one new moon to another and from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh come to worship before me”*. Referring to the same thing. Verse 21: *“And the first month on the 14th day of the month, you shall have the passover, a feast of seven days of unleavened bread shall be eaten.”* No question about whether that's going to be observed, is it? Verse 25: *“And the seventh month and the 15th day of the month”* What observance is that? *“...shall he do the like in the feast of the seven days.”* The Feast of Tabernacles is going to be observed even during the millennial age. (Well, after all, it represents the Millennium!)

When we get into chapter 46, we're told about Sabbath observances and special access through certain gates into the city. *“A gate on the east”,* in verse 1, *“shall be shut six working days, but on the sabbath it shall be opened and on the day of the new moon it shall be opened.”* Verse 3, it tells us about the Sabbaths. And in verse 9, it tells about solemn (annual) feasts.

The River of God

Ezekiel 47: Something else that's interesting about the Millennial Kingdom, and this clinches it for sure because this is not in existence at this point in time. But he tells of the river that's going to issue from under the altar and also the dimensions of the land. Verse 1: *“Afterward he brought me again into the door of the house and behold waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward for the forefront of the house and stood toward the east and the waters came down from under from the*

right side of the house at the south side of the altar.”

Now, if you were to come home and you find water pouring out under your threshold, you'd say, “Uh Oh. What broke?” God's Temple is going to issue forth a stream of water. And Ezekiel describes it. When the man that had the line in his hand appeared, he sent him out to measure it.

Going out a thousand cubits, the water was up to his ankles by then. Another thousand cubits, it was up to his knees. And another thousand, it was up to his waist. And after another thousand, it was too deep to even measure. This river is going to flow out of the temple area. Where is it going to flow? Keep in mind that Jerusalem will be elevated more then than it now is. Keep in mind that the hill country to the south of Jerusalem is going to be leveled out. (We read of that from Zechariah 14.) Would that river flow down through the desert and make that desert area bloom?

Look at verse 7. *“Now when I had returned, behold that the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then said he unto me, these waters issued out towards the east country and go down into the desert and go into the sea, which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.”* Verse 12: *“And by the river upon the bank thereof on this side and on that side shall grow all trees for meat whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed, and it shall bring forth new fruit according to its months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary and the fruit thereof shall be for meat and the leaf thereof for medicine.”*

When we read the later verses of this chapter, it talks about the borders of the land in verse 15. It talks about dividing the land among the tribes in verse 21.

Territorial Reapportionment

In chapter 48, we see the tribal land assignments that are going to happen during the millennial age. Verse 31 talks about the gates of the city shall be named after the names of the tribes of Israel.

Of necessity, I've moved thru these chapters very quickly for sake of being brief. There are a lot of

relevant details that we could examine more thoroughly, time permitting. We have here a very fantastic section of scripture and when we understand its true context, it makes so much sense.

In Briefest Summary

We begin with a scene of Israel in a ruined state. Its cities in large part, uninhabited and demolished and its political structure, dysfunctional.. That's in the first part of chapter 36. And then we see Israel made aware of their true history and destiny as they are gathered back into their former lands after Christ's return. That's in the second part of chapter 36. Then we see the physical survivors of the Great Tribulation and their millennial age descendants brought to salvation – the final part of chapter 36. We see the waste cities restored to a habitable and prosperous state. We see both houses of Israel restored to one unified nation in chapter 37. We see the Satan-inspired invasion of the land taking place after Satan is released from prison, after the end of the thousand years, and that's in chapters 38 and 39. We see the dead raised after the thousand years. And then we see them given the opportunity for salvation which they never had in their original lifetimes. That's in chapter 37 also.


Chapters 40 to 43 describe the Temple complex. Chapter 44 describes the Temple services. In chapters 46 and 47, we see the Sabbath and Holy Day services. We also see the river of God. And in chapters 45, 47 and 48, we see the national reapportionment of the tribes of Israel into their original lands.

God has given us an astounding amount of information regarding His millennial Kingdom. The rule of Christ with His spirit-born Bride! Is the bible silent about the millennial kingdom? And we have many other verses. I could share with you three pages of verses that I put together for this minister fellow that told me that the bible is silent about that. Not even including these that we've seen in Ezekiel.

The two houses of Israel for whom this message was intended never got the message. They were dead or dispersed before it was even written. This hope was not for them in their time. Even though, typically, it would seem to describe their situation

back then, you can't apply these scriptures historically. You can only apply them prophetically. Israel's hope was locked up. Their opportunity for salvation is dependent upon the restoration of the kingdom of God, and for most, the resurrection from the dead. We can understand these things because we understand the millennial kingdom. We can understand these things because we understand the resurrections from the dead. We can understand these things because we understand the two days of salvation. (What is referred to as 'the early and the latter rains'.) We view the millennium from a perspective of restful peace. They will view the millennium from a perspective of hope, the Hope of Salvation. The Temple Campus will be the focus, not only of the World Government to come, but will be the business center for the salvation of all mankind who experience its reality and accept its opportunity..

These chapters in Ezekiel are oriented, not to those Saints who will arise from the dead at Christ's return, but to those who will survive on over into, or be born into, or be raised from the dead after, the one-thousand years of Christ's Rule with His Bride. It addresses itself to the conditions and opportunities for those who are physical in that age, who hadn't previously been given their conversion opportunities.

God has given us a glimpse into His millennial kingdom, its ultimate purpose, and its comprehensive worship system in extraordinary detail. We should appreciate what we have been given! 

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