

<And They Shall Not Sell of It>

Ezekiel 40:1 – 48:35

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~ The Book of Hebrews reveals that Jesus offered One sacrifice – Himself – for sins – forever; and there is no need for us to offer a blood-sacrifice any longer in the temple, because Christ has forever perfected them that are sanctified. That's Hebrews chapter ten verses ten and fourteen, by the way. So, we're going to have to reconcile the writer to the Hebrews and the prophet Ezekiel, who says there will be animal sacrifices in the temple in Jerusalem in the Millennium Kingdom as Christ reigns and rules on the earth. Well, our Spiritual Safari does not shy away from these extremely difficult questions; because the answers are in the Word of God. It is incumbent on us to take the time to actually study it properly, correctly and completely, and allow Scripture to say what it wants to say, without inserting hidden agenda's or special interest theme-preaching.

It is easy to disconnect ourselves from the prophetic section of the Bible in areas such as these nine chapters of Ezekiel – and we may be inclined to think this is written to a far away people in a far away place at a far-distant time gone by; but, if that's what we see in all of this, or if we just don't care about these things, then we may have increased our knowledge of the Bible, but we also reveal that the Scriptures have not changed our hearts, lives, or thinking in any way, shape, or form – and truth means nothing. The truth is that God wants us to study the *ENTIRE* Bible; and *TODAY* is the day we learn about the Millennial Temple, temple worship *in that day*, and why Ezekiel even bothered writing all of this in the first place. Frankly, if we don't desire to learn and know these things, then God will use any method or circumstances required to get our attention. We can do it the easy way or the hard way – makes no difference to Him whatsoever – because either of those ways will be His way.

While it may sound contradictory to what I just wrote in the previous paragraph, I am not going into a great deal of details in this final section of Ezekiel. There are several reasons for the de-emphasis; and the primary reason is because, if I did, I would spend the remainder of the twenty-first

century writing reports on these chapters. And, since I won't be around that long, I will give a brief, but in-depth, outline of the last nine chapters, so we can move on. Chapters forty through forty-two of Ezekiel give a description of the Millennial Temple. Chapters forty-three through forty-six describe worship in the Millennial Temple – and then the division of the land of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom is found in the last two chapters.

See, I expect to see the Millennial Temple – and I may even go into it someday; but I won't be worshipping there – and neither will you. The temple is going to be on earth, but my residence – and yours – is going to be in the New Jerusalem; as described in Revelation chapter twenty-one. If you turn over and read chapter twenty-one verse twenty-two of Revelation, you'll notice there is no temple in the New Jerusalem. Confused yet? Well, in this section of prophecy, Ezekiel returns to the land where he sees the vision in which the Mosaic Law and Mosaic System is restored; because the Old Testament saints have been resurrected to a Heaven on earth. The Levitical liturgy, the burnt offering, the sin offering and the trespass offering are all done in the Millennial Temple *in that day*.

Quite candidly, I like these promises, because I am not for ritual. I go to church, but it's not necessarily my favorite thing to do. Ritual and ceremony never did much for my spiritual state. If anything, it diminished it. I would rather write Bible teaching and talk to people; as opposed to listen to a man preach who may or may not know what he is talking about. Of course, most people think I am a heretic anyways, so none of this should sound surprising coming from me. Either way, I am going to be much happier being up there where the Lord God and the Lamb of God *ARE* the temple. I would much rather be with them and *IN* them. I hope you feel that way, too; because that's the way it's going to be, according to the Bible. Frankly, I cannot even conceive of how wonderful it will be. So, with all of that in mind, I cannot get too overly excited about the Millennial Temple. Maybe I should be a little bit more excited about it than I am – but I'm not – and I have to keep this real.

If you have followed our safari through Ezekiel, you'll notice we have made progress and seen development in the history of the nation Israel. After the rebellion is finally put down — dashed with a rod of iron like a potters

vessel — Israel enters a thousand year reign with Christ as King on earth; and many Gentile nations will be saved in that literal and physical temple, located in the literal and physical Jerusalem, *IN THAT DAY*. The church at this time has become the bride of Christ and she will have her own city — the New Jerusalem. There is no temple in the New Jerusalem. At the time in which we are studying, Jerusalem has been physically destroyed, and Solomon's Temple has been literally crushed and burned. The temple God is showing Ezekiel is the temple that will be on earth *in that day* — during the Kingdom Age. We can also know we're not talking about Herod's Temple during Jesus' day, because God says, "*I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever, and My holy Name shall the house of Israel no more defile...*" - chapter forty-three verse seven. So, there is *NO POSSIBLE* way we are talking about anything other than the future — *in that day*; because Israel defiles the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ today as I type this report and as you read it. Israel rejects Christ as Messiah — make no mistake about that.

Alright, whenever we find a man in Scripture with a measuring rod in his hand, it signifies that God is prepared to move in judgment. We have that vision in the Minor Prophets and in Revelation. Chapters forty and forty-one give an extremely detailed, vivid vision of the environs of the future temple. I am sure it will be a structure of magnificent beauty with wondrous architecture. Ezekiel takes a whole lot of time and space to write meticulous details — including directions — such as verse thirty-five and forty. I can only suggest you pray for wisdom, judgment, and discernment and read these two chapters very carefully. It won't be easy.

Chapter forty verses thirty-nine and forty-one reveal animal sacrifices will be reinstated. That is verified in chapters forty-three beginning at verse nineteen. There will be music and singing while those sacrifices are taking place; so, we know this speaks of the future, because Jerusalem doesn't even have a temple today. They would like to have a temple — but the Arab's control the Temple Mount and they have a mosque that doesn't seem to be going anywhere anytime soon. Verse forty-seven goes on to mention the altar for sacrifice — again; so, again and again, our attention is called to the fact that sacrifices will resume *IN THAT DAY*.

Interestingly, as a side note, in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, there is a huge model of Jerusalem as it was in the days of Herod; which means in the days of Christ. If you examine the pictures of the model, as it was originally located in the Holy Land Hotel, you will notice they forgot to place altars for sacrifice in the temple. The Orthodox Jew is completely embarrassed by that glaring omission; and the liberal Jew thinks it was done purposefully. Well, in the Millennial Temple that Ezekiel is telling us about, there are altars for the animal sacrifices to resume.

In chapter forty-three verses four and five, as we continue to consider the temple, we see that which was absent in the final days of Solomon's Temple: the Shekinah Glory – the visible presence of Jehovah, the Lord God Almighty. He, Whom they are to worship, has now returned to the temple. That refers to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Chapter forty-five verse twenty-one reveals the Passover will be reinstated. The Passover definitely refers to Christ. Chapter forty-six verse one reveals the Sabbath will be restored. So, the question that comes up naturally is: since all of the sacrifices have been fulfilled in Christ, why are they restored during the Millennium? Well, these offerings are going to be a memorial which looks *BACK* at the cross; just as the offerings in Solomon's Temple looked *FORWARD* to the cross. In neither case do the sacrifices contain any power to put away sins; but they *WILL* glorify Christ to the entire world.

Now, I understand the twenty-seven objections to the premillennial viewpoint. Any seminary student worth his salt has studied these; although they are absolutely a liberal foundation of theology. So, don't think I didn't get the memo from the Preterist and Amillennialist camp – because I did. Of those twenty-seven objections, only *TWO* are plausible objections against the futurist theory of eschatology. The remaining twenty-five could be leveled against any cult – which neither camp believes in. Those two objections are (1) the premillennialist takes the entire Word of God literally; and that can present a problem in teaching those who are not serious students of Scripture, fully-invested in learning the Bible. One must learn to use good, old-fashioned horse-sense when reading the Bible; which, for some reason, is something even intelligent people seem to lose when it comes to rightly dividing Scripture. The context makes it clear when something is to be taken as symbolic, and when it is to be taken literally;

although even symbolism in the Bible is always symbolic of something literal and real. The second valid objection (2) would be asking why the sacrifices will be restored; and I have already dealt with that in this report. So, neither plausible objections remain valid when answered according to sound doctrine.

The human family, obviously, has great difficulties learning anything about anything at any time for any reason. Well, maybe not *YOU* – but it applies to me. Anyways, I take the position that the literal Blood of Christ is going to be in Heaven to reveal the horrible pit from which we were ransomed; and the extraordinary value of said ransom. For Andrew C. Hunt to be saved from sin is a huge undertaking, friends; again, maybe not for you – but certainly for me. That’s something only God could perform; and I am sure there will be an eternal reminder of it. The restoration of the temple sacrifice is going to reveal to God’s people on earth how they were redeemed. Perhaps that answer is not satisfactory to many people – but it is to me; and it is my answer. Take it or leave it.

In chapter forty-four, the gate towards the east is shut. Some people consider that the closing in the east gate in the wall surrounding present-day Jerusalem is a fulfillment of this prophecy. These people typically assert that when the Messiah comes, the gate will be opened, and He will come in through that gate. I cannot accept that, because the prince that is coming is *NOT* the Messiah – the Lord Jesus Christ. No, Christ is the *KING!* The prince that will be coming will be, in my estimation from studying Ezekiel, David – or, at least, some descendant of David. The other way we can know that the prince is not Christ is because he offers a sacrifice in his worship of God. Well, Jesus is God; and Jesus never made a sacrifice in His earthly ministry two thousand years ago – and He won’t be offering a sacrifice *in that day*, either. There would be no purpose. Christ is sinless. It won’t be necessary; and Jesus will eternally be able to ask, *“which of you convicteth me of sin?”* So, this *“prince”* isn’t Jesus.

Further, the north gate spoken of in chapter forty-four verse one is *NOT* the gate of the city – it’s the gate of the temple. What Ezekiel is talking about isn’t even there today. The temple must be built first. The walled-up gate that stands there today has nothing in the world to do with this prophecy,

my friends. The wall we see standing in Jerusalem may or may not even be there *in that day*! It's not the wall or the gate that was there in Ezekiel's day – because Nebuchadnezzar tore that down to rubble – and it wasn't even there in the days of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

So, we end this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with a picture of the land *in that day* beginning in chapter forty-seven. The waters issuing out are coming from the altar – the throne. That is where all blessing originate. Everything that blesses our lives today comes through the death of Christ on the cross. When the water starts to flow in verse three, they are only ankle deep. That ankle deep water speaks of the walk of the believer. The source of that water is in the redemption of Christ. It gets deeper and deeper – up to the knees, and then to the loins. Loin deep water speaks of our service to God. We are to gird up our loins for service. The application is for *that day* because they will have an eternal spring of water bringing blessing to the land of Israel.

When the water gets deep enough to swim in – in verse five – that speaks of the fulness of the Spirit of God. That's when the Spirit will be poured out on all flesh – that Joel spoke of – and it isn't happening today. The Holy Spirit indwells believers today. The "many trees" in verse seven speaks of the fruit in our lives; and the prophecy of Ezekiel goes on to close with the millennial city and the entire land having the entire sinful curse removed. So, that concludes our Spiritual Safari vision from Ezekiel, and the picture the prophet painted for us; and what a weird, wild, and wonderful picture he gave us ~

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