

- I) V1-4 INTRO: In the twenty-fifth year of our captivity at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day
  - a) As we begin, Ezekiel supplies us with the date, as it is 25 years since he went into captivity:
    - 1) It is the Jewish month of Nisan (Mar-Apr) 573 BC
  
- II) EZEKIEL HAS A VISION: He may have remained in Babylon, or may have been transported to Jerusalem
  - a) He was taken to a high mountain, possibly Mt. Zion, and he looks at Jerusalem
    - 1) As he is viewing the city, a man is standing before him (44:2, 5 Angel of the LORD)
    - 2) He has the appearance of brass because brass symbolizes judgment (Dt 28:23, Lev 26:19)
    - 3) He was holding materials used for measuring: flax for longer measurements, the staff for shorter
  
- III) V4 AND: The man said to me son of man look with your eyes and hear with your ears and fix your mind
  - a) The angel is about to conduct a tour of the temple that is in Israel's future
    - 1) POINT: Use all your faculties to understand what I am about to communicate to you
    - 2) Mk 4:23-24 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear! Then He said to them, Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given
  
- IV) WHAT COMES NEXT: Is a detailed picture of Israel's future temple (Millennial Temple)
  - a) In Israel's history, there are various temples that are mentioned
    - 1) Solomon's, Zerubbabel's, Herod's reconstruction, even a temple desecrated by antichrist
    - 2) THIS TEMPLE: Is in existence during the time period after Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom
  
- V) KEY: It is called the millennial temple because it is built when He reigns for 1,000 years (Rev 20:1-6)
  - a) FACT: Since the destruction of the Second Temple in AD 70, religious Jews have prayed that God will allow for the building of a new Temple on the Temple Mount. This prayer has been a formal part of the traditional thrice daily Jewish prayer services. Though it remains unbuilt, the desire for a Temple is sacred in Judaism, particularly Orthodox Judaism, as an unrealized place of worship. The prophets called for its construction to be fulfilled in the Messianic era.
  
- VI) KEY: This temple pertains to the nation of Israel who become believers in Messiah, *but not to us*
  - a) We will be in what is called the New Jerusalem and the Apostle John speaks of it
    - 1) Rev 21:22 I saw no temple therein: for the LORD God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it
    - 2) We will not need the temple, but there will be a temple for at least the millennial reign
  
- VII) THE TEMPLE: Will be built in a location that is called Mt. Moriah
  - a) IMPORTANT: Mt Moriah was a very special site in the history of Israel
  
- VIII) ABRAHAM: The father of the Jewish nation had been instructed by God to go to Mt. Moriah (Gen 22)
  - a) God had given to Abraham a son by the name of Isaac, who was the son of promise
    - 1) It was through Isaac that God's promises for the future would be fulfilled
    - 2) Ishmael was an act of the flesh, but Isaac was a miracle birth illustrating God's grace
  
- IX) WHEN ISAAC: Was somewhere around twenty years of age, God had given Abraham a command
  - a) Take your son, your only son, and offer him as a burnt offering to Me
    - 1) This must have been irrational to Abraham, as God had made a promise through Isaac
    - 2) Gen 21:12 In Isaac shall your seed be called

3) NOW: God was commanding Abraham to take his son and to make him an offering

- I) AS WE READ THE STORY: Abraham did what God had commanded
  - a) After a three day journey, he left his servants behind with the supplies and only took Isaac
    - 1) Abraham told his servants Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship and *we will come back* to you (Gen 22:5)
- II) THEY CAME TO THE PRESCRIBED LOCATION: And Abraham prepared to offer a sacrifice
  - a) Gen 22:6 Abraham took fire, a knife, and also *took wood* and laid it on Isaac his son
- III) WHEN THEY GOT TO THE SITE: Isaac spoke to Abraham
  - a) Gen 22:7 My father! Abraham said Here I am my son. Then he said look, the fire and the wood, but *where is the lamb* for a burnt offering? (Little did Isaac know that he was the lamb)
- IV) AS ABRAHAM LOOKED AT ISAAC: So much must have touched his deepest part
  - a) This was his son, the son of promise, and now he must die: the promise must die
    - 1) HE ANSWERED: My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering (Gen 22:8)
- V) ABRAHAM: Came to the place God had told him, built an altar, placed the wood on it
  - a) He then bound Isaac his son, and placed him on the altar, upon the wood
    - 1) He stretched out his hand, took the knife and prepared to slay his son
    - 2) But at that moment, the Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham
    - 3) Gen 22:12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me.
- VI) ABRAHAM THEN LOOKED: Saw a ram, and offered it up for a burn offering instead of his son
  - a) He then named the place Jehovah Jireh: the Lord will see and provide
    - 1) V14 The Lord will provide an offering that will satisfy His demands: in the mount of the LORD it shall be provided
- VII) TWO THINGS: FIRST: What Abraham did was an act of faith, based on his trust in God's word to him
  - a) Heb 11:7-9 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
    - b) SECOND: This all took place on Mount Moriah, where temple would one day stand
- VIII) KEY: I won't go into depth about its measurements, rooms, windows, doors, engraving, or courts
  - a) I WILL NOT GO VERSE BY VERSE: But I will touch on a few things of interest from Ch 40-42
- IX) FIRST: There is no mention of the *feast of Pentecost*, because it has already been fulfilled  
SECOND: There is no reference to the Ark of the Covenant, because God's glory fills the earth
  - a) Jer 3:16 It shall come to pass when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days says the LORD, that they will say no more The ark of the covenant of the LORD. It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made anymoreTHIRD: There is no mention of the High Priest, because Jesus is the High Priest (Heb 3:1)  
FOURTH: No king is mentioned because the Lord is King

- a) Zech 14:9 the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be-- "The LORD *is* one," And His name one.
- I) CH 40:39 IN THE: Vestibule of the gateway were two tables on this side and two tables on that side
- a) NOTICE: During that time there will be the temple, sacrifices, and there is even the priesthood
- 1) If the believer is the temple of God, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, and we are priests *why a temple*
- II) ANSWER: The temple, sacrifices, and priesthood will serve *as reminders* of what Jesus accomplished
- a) KEY: If the *first temple* pointed to Jesus' future sacrifice, *this temple* points *back to the cross*
- 1) FACT: This is why it is often referred to as the Memorial Temple
- III) THIS TIES IN: With Ezek 39:29, where God promised to *pour out His Spirit* on Israel
- a) KEY: The pouring out of His Spirit on Israel is connected with the cross of Christ
- 1) The first pouring out of God's Spirit took place on Pentecost, the festival of firstfruits (Ac 2)
- 2) The pouring out of the Spirit was connected with Jesus' death on Passover *birthing the church*
- IV) HERE: His pouring out of His Spirit *on Israel* will be because they have come to faith in Jesus Messiah
- a) Zech 12:10 (God says) I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on *Me whom they pierced*. Yes, they will mourn *for Him* as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn
- 1) IMPORTANT: The ones mourning have come to an awareness of what salvation cost
- V) CH 40:44 NOTICE: Outside the inner gate were the chambers for the singers in the inner court
- a) Singing praises to God is natural for the person who is *filled with God's Spirit*
- 1) Ps 13:6 I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.
- 2) Ps 95:1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- VI) WHEN A BELIEVER: Is walking in the Spirit of God, they are filled with joy and worship for Him
- a) This is one of the earmarks of a Spirit filled believer
- 1) Eph 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.
- VII) V47 AND: He measured the court 100 cubits long and 100 (150') cubits wide foursquare The altar
- a) Just a reminder that the altar is in front of the temple: sacrifice is at the forefront
- VIII) CH 41 AND 42 CONTAIN MEASUREMENTS: And descriptions of portions of the temple
- a) The holy, most holy, various chambers, rear buildings, interior, priest chambers are mentioned
- 1) Measurements of outer wall are 1 mi., revealing the temple is *too large* for the area (42:15-20)
- IX) QUESTION: If the temple mentioned in Ezekiel is too big for Mt. Moriah, how will it be built?
- a) ANSWER: There will be a change in the topography when Jesus returns
- 1) Zech 14:4-5 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee *through My* mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the

earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come and all the saints with You

2) V10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba (5 1/2 mi. N of Jerusalem) to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. *Jerusalem* shall be raised

I) FACT: When Jesus returns, the area will be changed and He will build a new temple

a) Zech 6:12-13 Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name *is* the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; Yes, *He shall build the temple of the LORD*. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both

II) FINALLY: Ch 41 and 42 contain measurements and descriptions, is there value to this for us

a) APPLICATION: Though not of much interest to most of us, something can be learned

III) WE CAN SEE: That God is a God of order, He has a design and plan, and desires worship to be proper

a) All roads do not lead to heaven: Spirituality is determined by Truth, not feeling

1) Pr 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death

2) Jn 4:24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him *must* worship in spirit and truth.