

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Afterward he brought me to the gate the gate that faces toward the east
 - a) We have looked briefly at the temple that will in the future be built
 - 1) The temple has been called the Millennial Temple, and some call it a Memorial Temple

 - II) WE SAW: That the temple would be built in the time that Jesus returns to rule and reign
 - a) Zech 6:12-13 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.
-
- III) DURING JESUS' REIGN ON EARTH: Redeemed Jews will come to the temple to worship God
 - a) He is by the eastern (outer) gate: it is the entrance into the outer court leading to the Temple
-
- IV) EARLIER: In Ch 10 and 11, Ezekiel had described how God's glory had departed from the temple
 - a) Ezek 11:23 The glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which is on the east side of the city
 - 1) His glory had departed because of the sin of Israel, as they rejected Him and His word
-
- V) AS WE SAW: The nation had backslidden into idolatry, and God had removed His presence from them
 - a) NOW: Ezekiel declares that the Lord's glory will once again be present in the temple
 - 1) V2 As His glory departed towards the east, even so His glory now returns from the east
 - 2) God's glory returns because He has finished judging the nation: it is regathered and restored
-
- VI) IMPORTANT: This is what makes the temple the Temple: God's presence
 - a) A SANCTUARY: Can be designed, built, dedicated, and occupied, but it is still *only a building*
 - 1) It becomes a holy place when the presence of the Lord occupies it
 - 2) AGAIN: Earlier in Ezekiel God had made it clear that His presence would depart from the temple
 - 3) LATER: When Zerubbabel reconstructed the temple, God's glory is not mentioned as being there
-
- VII) THE GLORY OF GOD: Does not return to the temple until Jesus returns to rule and to reign
 - a) THEN: The presence and very glory of God will fill the place, like the tabernacle and first Temple
 - 1) TABERNACLE: Ex 40:34-35 The cloud covered the *tabernacle of meeting*, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
-
- VIII) TEMPLE: As is described when Solomon dedicated the Temple to the LORD
 - a) 1 Ki 8:10-11 It came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.
-
- IX) DURING THE TIME OF JESUS: There was a refurbished temple that the Jews would worship in
 - a) Jn 2:20 tells us that Herod worked on the temple for 46 years: still, it was not filled with *God's glory*
 - 1) Because God's glory had departed, it was simply a building that people came to
 - 2) There were sacrifices and offerings made, but God's glory was not present in the temple
-
- X) IT WAS SO UNHOLY: That Jesus actually cleansed the temple

- a) He cleansed the temple at the beginning of His ministry and again at its conclusion
- I) FIRST: He cleansed it at the beginning of His ministry
 - a) Jn 2:13-17 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."
- II) SECOND: He cleansed it when His ministry on earth was about to conclude
 - a) Mk 11:17 He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'
- III) FACT: You can learn much about a person by just seeing what makes that person angry
 - a) QUESTION: What God Jesus angry? Basically two things
 - 1) The *Desecration* of the Temple and The *Disillusioning* of the People
- IV) REMEMBER GOD'S INTENTION FOR THE TEMPLE: To be a place of Worship of Him
 - a) Is 56:7 My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.
 - b) Jer 7:11 Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?
- V) FACT: Seeing His Father blasphemed and His Temple desecrated moved Him to action
 - a) He responded with a *righteous anger* toward those doing such a thing
 - 1) Ps 69:9 Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up,
- VI) SECOND: The people were being *Disillusioned* by those who should have known better
 - a) The priests had established inspectors who said that animals were unfit for sacrifice
 - 1) They would then confiscate the animal, and sell one at up to 10 times its value
 - 2) When money was exchanged, it was done so at a 25% rate of exchange
- VII) SADLY: Religion has always sold well and continues to do so today
 - a) 2 Pe 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them --bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.
- VIII) GOD HATES HYPOCRISY: He will clean up His own house, first
 - a) NOT ONLY CHURCH LEADERS: But all of Church must live free of hypocrisy
 - 1) 1 Pe 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
 - 2) KEY: There was no glory in that temple, ultimately being destroyed by Titus of Rome
- IX) NOW: When Jesus is ruling and reigning once again the Temple is filled with the glory of God
 - a) V2 NOTICE: His voice was like the sound of many waters and the earth shone with His glory
 - 1) The sound of waves crashing reveals power and majesty
 - 2) Rev 1:15 (The Son of Man's) voice (was) as the sound of many waters

- I) SECOND: The earth shining reveals the brilliance of light, which dispels darkness
 - a) Darkness often is a picture of error, unfaithfulness, distress, or sin
 - 1) God is a God of light, and brings illumination to darkened souls
 - 2) 1 Jn 1:5 says: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

- II) BELIEVERS: Are enlightened, illuminated by God's Word and by His Spirit
 - a) Before we came to faith in Jesus, we were in darkness
 - 1) 2 Co 4:3-6 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ

- III) V3-5 IT WAS: Like the appearance of the vision which I saw like the vision which I saw when I came
 - a) In Ch 1 and 10, Ezekiel had visions of God's glory, when he was called to preach judgment
 - 1) His response was one of complete worship: he fell down on his face before God
 - 2) Ezekiel has been given the joyful privilege of seeing God's glory entering once again

- IV) V6-9 THEN: I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me
 - a) The LORD will once again be present with the nation, and will purify His people
 - 1) A holy God and holy temple will require a holy people
 - 2) Mal 3:1-3 Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming", says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He *is* like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.

- V) V7, 9 THE KINGS: Had tombs built next to the temple, which defiled the area
 - a) God says that this will no longer be the case, and He will be present forever

- VI) V10-12 SON OF MAN: Describe the temple to the house of Israel that they may be ashamed of their
 - a) The purpose of showing Israel these plans was to cause them to repent
 - 2) Their idolatry had resulted in their forfeiting their fellowship with God: this will shame them
 - 3) By showing them the plans, they would follow them precisely revealing repentance

- VII) V13-18 SUMMARIZE: He gives them the measurements of the *altar of sacrifice*
 - a) The altar of sacrifice is for *memorial sacrifices* because sin has already been dealt with
 - 1) Offerings are made to remember that Jesus is the perfect offering that saved them
 - 2) Heb 10:10-14 We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*. And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered *one sacrifice* for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool For by *one offering* He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- I) WHY A MEMORIAL OFFERING: Because many will come through the tribulation without dying

- a) They will also have children, who will be born with the need to receive salvation
 - 1) Is 65:20 No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.

- II) V19-27 SUMMARIZE: You shall give a young bull for a sin offering to the priests, the Levites, who are of
 - a) The OT sacrifices pointed to Jesus, and are here presented as memorial offerings
 - 1) AGAIN: Because God is holy, the altar must be set apart in such a way as to reveal this to man
 - 2) Sacrifices of bulls, goats, and rams are offered to reveal God's holiness

- III) V27 AND: *I will accept you* says the Lord GOD
 - a) FINALLY: Believers have always been accepted by God on the basis *of faith* in Him
 - 1) The offerings that are made are offerings given in faith, and not just ritual
 - 2) Jas 2:23 The Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.