

Class #42 - Walls, Gates, & Rooms (Ezekiel 40)

Objectives:

- Explain the significance of when and where this vision takes place.
- Identify a few of the features of the temple complex that Ezekiel sees.
- Connect one aspect of Ezekiel's temple with a spiritual principle fulfilled in Christ.

Opening Question

If God is trying to communicate to Ezekiel's readers how he will intimately dwell with His people, why might He have chosen to show him a temple complex?

When, Where, Who (40:1-4)

- Ezekiel sees this vision in the _____ year of the exile, on the tenth of the first month, fourteen years after Jerusalem was destroyed. (40:1)
 - Timing is significant - halfway to the Year of _____. (Leviticus 25:8-17)
 - Announced on the Day of _____ (10th day of 7th month)
 - _____ for all slaves in the land of Israel.
 - All _____ is restored to its original family/clan.
 - With the city destroyed, this is a time of anticipation / _____ for the future of the city, the land, and God's people.
- In a vision, Ezekiel is taken to a very high _____ in the land of Israel. (40:2)
 - Scene of the valley of dry bones has been completely _____.
 - Jerusalem is not (really) a high mountain. _____ geography, not literal.
- Ezekiel is greeted by an angelic figure, who will _____ and measure. (40:3)
- The prophet is told to _____, and then declare it to the house of Israel. (40:4)
 - Reminiscent of _____ seeing the heavenly vision on the mountain. (Ex. 25:40)
 - Though unlike him ^, Ezekiel is never instructed to _____, just to describe.

The Temple Complex (40:5-47)

- Walls (40:5)
 - Over five feet thick and tall
- Gates (40:6-15, 20-27)
 - Main entrance on east side
 - Steps up to the gate, with vestibule / rooms inside
 - Matching gates north/south
- Windows & Jambs (40:16)
 - Palm trees (1 Kings 6:32)
- Rooms (40:10, 17)
 - Gateway rooms may be for guards, rooms around court for eating or worshipping
- Courtyard (40:17-19)
 - Size of the courtyard may be it's own form of protection
- Inner Gates (40:28-37)
 - More stairs up to the inner portion of the temple
 - Rooms, windows, palm trees
- Sacrifice Chambers (40:38-43)
 - Designated places for slaughter and washing of the offerings
- Priestly Chambers (40:44-47)
 - Priests from line of Zadok only (David's priest - 1 Kings 2:35)

Spiritual Principles at Work

- New creation
 - In Genesis 1, God used Days 1-3 to _____ (bring _____ to chaos)
 - Ezekiel 40-42 is describing _____ and _____ in this new creation
- Holy vs. Profane
 - Specifically, the temple separates the holy from the profane (_____)
 - _____ protection—walls, stairs, gateways, courts, more stairs, gates, etc.
- New Priests
 - One (surprising) aspect of separation is the choosing of the sons of _____
 - The rest of the sons of _____ are kept out, not allowed to minister (44:15)
- Rooms in the house
 - All the rooms indicate the _____ of God and His people together
 - "In my Father's house [temple] there are many _____ [abodes]." (John 14:2)