



Ezekiel's Temple

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and in the visions of God He brought me into the land of Israel ... afterward He brought me to the temple” (Ezekiel 40:1-2, 41:1)



The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

Created By Dr. David L. Cooper

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. Here is a way that has helped many people. It is known as *Dr Cooper's Golden Rule* and is reproduced below. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

“When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”

“A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.

“B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.

“C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.

“Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (*i.e. self-evident or unquestionable*) fundamental truths.

“No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)

“The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)

“1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

“2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**”

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God’s meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it’s) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away. (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)

(“Cooper’s Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)



Ezekiel's Temple

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Introduction

The Millennium Temple

“In the selfsame day the hand of the Lord was upon me...(and He) brought me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain ... and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass ... and he stood in the gate. And the man said unto me, ‘Son of man, behold with your eyes, and hear with your ears, and set your heart upon all that I shall show you; ... declare all that you see to the house of Israel.’” (Ezekiel 40: 1-4 selected)

The verses above mark the moment when Ezekiel the prophet was given the vision of the Temple. This is quite an exciting study and one that you will almost never hear from the Pulpit. In over 70 years attending evangelical Baptist Churches I have only ever heard one sermon on it.

It is never-the-less a major theme in Ezekiel. There are forty eight chapters in Ezekiel’s prophecy and eight of them are connected to the building of the Millennial Temple and how the worship of God is to function within it. Therefore this Temple is not an incidental thing mentioned *“in passing”* by the Prophet. It is rather a major matter for Ezekiel gives precise measurements of the building and details of how it will function. Faced with all the specifics that God provides, it is not an easy thing to dismiss it lightly as perhaps a figment of a wild imagination, for it is quite comprehensive and thorough.

Some features revealed in Ezekiel, and also other places in the Scriptures, are:

- The Lord Jesus Himself oversees the building of it.
- That does not imply that it is built by miraculous means for it is not. In fact Zechariah 6:15 tells us that *“They that are afar off shall come and build in the Temple of the LORD.”*
- The Temple is HUGE totally dwarfing all previous Temples.
- Modern estimates are that the “grounds” will hold two million people and that is because
- All the Nations of the earth will have to visit it annually.

- From it huge volumes of water flow constantly.
- These waters are life giving and totally refreshing as they flow from the Temple of the Living God.
- The sacrificial system functions once again and the reasons for that will be examined.

This Temple was never built in Old Testament times and so the questions must be asked

- why do we need a new Temple?
- Where will it be built?
- Where does it fit into the great Plan of God?

These things are rather surprising to many sincere Christians and they do present certain problems to a casual approach. I suspect that that is the reason why you rarely hear it preached.

One major *“problem”* is that the sacrificial system is reintroduced. Does this contradict Hebrews 10:12 where we read that Christ *“after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God”*?

The Word of God is *“faithful and true”* and, as you will see, everything fits together beautifully for the promises and this detailed plan come from our Holy God.

All of these questions, and many more, will be explored in this series of *The Single Paged Papers*.

Every article is, as always, just one A4 page long, so it is easy to read and to digest.

This is quite a challenging study!

Who Builds The Temple?

“And speak unto him, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the Lord:” (Zechariah 6:12)

The Temple’s exact measurements were given to us by Ezekiel, but it is to Zechariah that we must look for some additional information. In Zechariah 6: 12-13 we read that it is the Lord Himself who builds the Temple viz.

- *“Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: **“Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!** (the Branch is a title of Christ)*
- ***He shall build the temple of the Lord;***
- ***Even 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 ...”*

This passage defines who “The Branch” is for we are advised that He “bears the glory and sits and rules on His throne” and is thus worshipped, so it can only be Jesus the Messiah Himself. Some insist that this prophecy is to do with Zerubbabel’s Temple or Herod’s Temple (destroyed by the Romans), but that idea fails because it is a new construction built by “the Branch” Himself.

The Jewish people today are seeking to build a new Temple under the guidance of “The Temple Institute.” They are attacking the project with great craftsmanship, patience and enthusiasm. They report ...

*“According to the great sages of Israel, it is a positive commandment for the people of Israel to rebuild the Holy Temple conforming to the dimensions, characteristics and attributes of the **Second Temple**. Thus, although there were differences between the First and Second Temples, and vast differences between both of these and the vision of Ezekiel - it is the details of the Second Temple that are binding upon Israel for all time. This is why the majority of the Temple Institute’s work and research, both in artistic representation as well as actual Temple restoration, centres on the aspects of the Second Temple.”*

By their own admission they are not attempting to build the Temple of Ezekiel. They say...

“Many aspects of the Temple described by Ezekiel are difficult to comprehend, since that vision contains elements of prophetic insight which, in our generation, we do not have the spiritual or intellectual capacity to understand. For example, according to the prophecy of Ezekiel, the structure of the Third Temple will necessitate vast topographical changes in the environs of the Jerusalem. This Temple will differ drastically in size from its predecessors. According to Ezekiel’s measurements, the new Temple will be so large that it will occupy the

entire area of the city of Jerusalem. Ezekiel’s prophecy explains that both the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives will be enlarged and expanded in the future.”

As you see, they take the prophecy quite literally as they should, but they have problems with it. They seem to recognise their limitations for they write...

“All of those details from Ezekiel’s prophecy that were not explained in the Second Temple era, remain sealed until that time when ‘the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of G-d, as the waters that cover the sea’ (Isaiah 11:9). In the future, we shall be enlightened with a higher level of spiritual awareness and consciousness, and at that time we will have the ability to perceive the deeper meaning of all those portions of Ezekiel’s vision that had heretofore been inaccessible. Until that time, it is the Second Temple’s attributes that must be upheld when rebuilding the Temple. Most importantly, Israel’s Divine obligation to rebuild the Holy Temple remains a constant and unchanging factor in the nation’s life, throughout every generation.” (My emphasis)

(http://www.templeinstitute.org/future_temple.htm)

They say “In the future, we shall be enlightened with a higher level of spiritual awareness and consciousness” and they are right. At that time they will recognise Jesus as their Messiah and it is He who builds the Temple described by Ezekiel. In many ways those comments fill me with sadness for “blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom 11:25) and that “blindness” is observable in their writings.

Ezekiel then explains “and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house... **where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and the house of Israel shall no more defile my Holy Name...**” (Ezekiel 43: 4-7)

This prophecy is also confirmed in Acts where some Jewish believers wanted the Gentile Christians to observe certain parts of the Law. In opposing this James quoted Amos 9:11 where the Lord is speaking and He said ...

*“Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name ... **After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up’...** (Acts 15: 13-17)*

Jesus will return and He will build the Temple. This fact is prophesied in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament.

“Strange Happenings” In The Temple?

“Thus says the Lord God; In the first month, in the first day of the month, you shall take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary: And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering, and put it upon the door posts of the house, and upon the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and upon the posts of the gate of the inner court. And so you shall do the seventh day of the month for every one that goes astray, and for him that is simple: so shall you reconcile the house.” (Ezekiel 45: 18-20)

This passage seems strange to many who know and understand the New Testament for it seems contradictory. We are told that Christ “*after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God...*” (Heb 10:12) We know that Christ “*needs not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for His own sins, and then for the people's: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.*” (Heb 7:27) So we correctly argue that Christ is the fulfilment of the Old Testament sacrificial system.

St John reports, “*The next day John sees Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.*” (John 1:29) We believe that fully, but we also have to come to grips with the sacrificial system outlined by Ezekiel, for it is also a part of Holy Scriptures, and it has not happened yet, so how do we understand it? The Old Testament sacrificial system was only symbolic of Christ who was to come as “the Lamb of God.” There was no salvation in the sacrifice itself, for salvation has always been *by faith*. “*Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness.*” (Rom 4:3) Here is some evidence for that...

“You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” (Ps 51:16-17)

This Psalm argues correctly that it is the attitude of a person's heart that counts with God. Someone could offer a sacrificial lamb and yet their heart remains hardened against God. Thus they are not forgiven because their sacrifice was not matched with a repentant heart. God teaches in many places that He looks on our hearts ...

“But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at My word.” (Isaiah 66:2)

In those same verses God condemns the person who offers a sacrifice, but their heart is not right with Him. He points out the folly of their sacrifice ...

“He that kills an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrifices a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offered an oblation, as if he offered pig's blood; he that burns incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yes, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations.” (Isaiah 66:2-3)

So we see that the essential element is the heart of the one offering the sacrifice. Thus we see that the sacrificial system itself was always symbolic and

looked forward to the coming of Christ, the real Lamb of God who gave Himself for us, “*the Just for the unjust.*” (1 Peter 3:18) **There would have been no need for the atoning sacrifice of the cross if the sacrificial system was effective in itself.**

So why is this sacrificial system reintroduced? This Temple will be built in the Millennial reign of Christ on earth as explained elsewhere in this series. The purpose of this sacrificial system is memorial in nature. These days we celebrate the Lord's Supper as a memorial. In it we look back to the cross and will do so “*until He come.*”

The millennial period is a time **after** Christ has “*come again*”, for He is then ruling on the earth. The memorial of the Lord's Supper will no longer be required for it was only “*until He come.*” For the people living at that time, His coming is a living reality. In our situation today we are some 2000 years since the cross and every week since that time the Lord's Supper has been celebrated.

Consider this. The Millennial Reign of Christ will last for 1000 years. People born say 500 years into the millennium will be just like we are now. His glorious second coming will be a long time ago for them, just as His first coming is for us. These people will be living in an ideal world of justice and true righteousness under the leadership of Christ Himself. Ezekiel's prophecy pictures a memorial that by means of blood soaked sacrifices illustrates the violence an horror of the brutal death of Christ.

Remember that the people of that day will also be sinners just like us, and will be responsible to God for their actions as we are now. They, like us, need daily cleansing from sin and God has ordained this sacrificial system as a memorial for it seemed good to Him. “*Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Your sight.*” (Matt 11:26) During our Communion Services we contemplate the sins of our recent life. The Temple sacrifices will also be a time of contemplation for them, as they witness the harsh realities of the sacrificial system. It is clear that the Millennial Temple sacrifices are definitely **NOT** a reinstatement of the Mosaic system for they are different in nature and practice.

It is memorial for “*In those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.*” It is the blood of Christ that alone satisfies the holiness of God for “*it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*” (Heb 10:3-4)

The Topography Of Israel Renewed

“All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up....” (Zechariah 14:10)

As reported, Israel's *Temple Institute* is currently seeking to build a Temple in Jerusalem. They have created many of the fixtures and fittings for the Temple and the work that they are doing is considerable. When it comes to Ezekiel's Temple they say,

“According to Ezekiel's measurements, the new Temple will be so large that it will occupy the entire area of the city of Jerusalem. Ezekiel's prophecy explains that both the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives will be enlarged and expanded in the future... the structure of the Third Temple will necessitate vast topographical changes in the environs of the Jerusalem. This Temple will differ drastically in size from its predecessors.” (Source: http://www.templeinstitute.org/future_temple.htm)

And they are correct for it is vastly bigger. The whole of that area will be expanded. How is this to come about? We are not left in the dark for we read in Zechariah 14:10 ...

“All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, 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 winepresses.”

This detail means little to us as we are not familiar with the geography, but it does reveal an upheaval in the land of Israel. According to a report, the plain to be created from Geba to Rimmon will be about 60kms long. Based on the existing topography it means that Rimmon will be “*lifted up*” something like 500 metres. Why is this change happening to the Holy Land? All of these topographical changes are our wise Master Builder “*preparing the ground*” for the Temple and other things. Our God reveals that “*the Branch*” will build the Temple and “*the Branch*” is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

More detail of the upheaval that comes upon Israel.

On that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep on the ground, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall quake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the cliffs shall fall, and every wall shall tumble to the ground. (Ezekiel 38:18-22)

After the destruction and the terror it causes, the Lord offers these lovely words of comfort to His people and, in it, He also summarises the topographical changes that will take place.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that

*her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**”* (Isaiah 40:1-5, also quoted in Luke 3:5)

If you look at the diagrams on pages 12 to 14 at the end of this series you will see that Ezekiel's Temple is a massive building and, as the *Temple Institute* point out, “*According to Ezekiel's measurements, the new Temple will be so large that it will occupy the entire area of the city of Jerusalem.*” To prepare for this large Temple God tells us that “*every wall shall tumble to the ground*” and that “*Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain*” and this is all happening “*in the land of Israel.*” (Isaiah 40: selected portions)

Here we see the Lord doing His “*earthworks*” on the building site for His Temple. Who but the Lord would, or could, employ an earthquake to create a site suitable for His building? We read elsewhere of the Lord's House. It says

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the **mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills;** and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:2-3)*

Jerusalem will become the millennial headquarters of the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords. Then “*the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.*” It will be the time when “*the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea*” (Isaiah 11:9) “*So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; **and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house...** And He said unto me, Son of man, the place of My throne, and the place of the soles 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...” (Ezekiel 43: 5-7)*

Rivers Of Healing Water Flowing From The Temple

“Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the front of the house 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.” (Zechariah 14:10)



Another remarkable feature of the Temple is that rivers of living water will flow from it constantly. We read that *“waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house 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.”* (Ezekiel 47:1) Note how specific this information is, for God Himself is revealing one of His plans and He gives specific detail. **That is highly significant for “precise detail” is an indicator of a truth that is to be understood literally.** What is that detail?

Ezekiel was shown the waters running from the Temple and he tells us all about it. The river is of very modest proportions as it leaves the Temple. It begins as a trickle, but it soon grows into a mighty torrent. This is miraculous in itself. Here is that growth as described by the Prophet. Ezekiel was guided along its shoreline for 1000 cubits, that is about about 530 metres. His guide then *“brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.”* (Ezekiel 47: 2-5)

In 4000 cubits (about 2kms) it grows from a trickle to a mighty river *“that could not be passed over.”* This is a miraculous: a trickle becomes a torrent.

The *“man”* then took Ezekiel back to the head of the river and he saw *“very many trees”* growing on both sides of the river.

“And by the river upon the bank thereof, on both sides, shall grow all trees for food, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof fail: it shall bring forth new fruit according to the months, because their waters flows out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for food, and the leaves for medicine.” (Ezekiel 47:12)

So the Lord provides food and medicine for the people. Note that it says *“medicine”* for, as we have already seen, the people of this age are sinners just like us and will not be free from sin and its consequences, but God provides healing. (See <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/mill-reign>)

This entire prophecy is surprising, but next we come to something that is quite amazing for these waters are *“healing waters.”* Ezekiel was told *“These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and then into the sea: (the Dead Sea) which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that lives, which moves, wherever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come there: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live wherever the river runs.”*

(Ezekiel 47:8-9)

It will provide an abundance of food for *“it shall come to pass, that the fishermen shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; it shall be a place to spread their nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, (the Mediterranean) exceeding many.”* (Ezekiel 47:10)

This flowing river is also described elsewhere in the Scriptures along with all the abundance that God will shower upon His now repentant and converted children of Israel ...

- *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.”* (Joel 3:18)

Here Zechariah speaks of its healing powers and also tells of its permanent flow.

- *“And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea (Dead Sea), and half of them toward the hinder sea (Mediterranean): in summer and in winter shall it be.”* (Zech 14:8)

It is not only mankind that rejoices for we are told *“And it shall come to pass, that every thing that lives, which moves, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live...”* (Ezekiel 47:9)

So we are given a picture of the reality that will occur when Christ reigns on the earth. He promises abundance for what else could His Kingdom offer? Here we see the KING of all Kings and LORD of all Lords reigning on the earth that He made. Is it any wonder that the world rejoices?

The Feast Of Tabernacles

“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain” (Zechariah 14:16-17)



Booths for the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel

It may seem strange to people of our era when we read some verses like those above. In many pulpits these days we are taught that the Church is the end of God’s revelation to mankind. This idea is enforced weekly in many Churches who preach the lie that the Church replaces Israel. This doctrine has done much harm to the cause of Christ.

However the Bible plainly states that there is to be a reinstatement of the *Feast of Tabernacles* as we see in the verses above. So we ask *“what is this Feast”*? This great event was also called *The Feast of Booths* and *“Sukkot”* by the Jewish people.

“Sukkot” is the Hebrew word for *“Booths.”* It was the last of the seven feasts instigated by the Lord God. We read of it here,

“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord.” (Leviticus 23:34)

What does it mean? and why did God command it? The tabernacle, or booth, is a temporary structure that the people construct for themselves. We would call it a hut. God said it was to be made of wood and covered with palm fronds ...

“And you shall take on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days ... You shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths.” (Leviticus 23:40, 42)

This was done to remind the coming generations that they

“... may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Lev 23: 43)



Booths for the Feast of Tabernacles in Brooklyn, NY.

God also taught *“You shall observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after you have gathered in your corn and wine: And you shall rejoice in the feast...” (Deut 16:13-14)* So *The Feast of Tabernacles* was a happy time for Israel and remains so to this day. These days the Jewish people build a *“booth”* in their backyard, or on their verandah, as shown in the pictures above from Israel and New York.

The command of God was that the Feast be open to any “stranger” who may be under your care ...

“And you shall rejoice in the feast, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within your gates.” (Deuteronomy 16: 14)

When this Feast is conducted in the Millennial Reign of Christ it will be mandatory for the Nations to visit Israel. The KING of Kings will be there and to snub His invitation will be viewed as a serious offence and no rain will fall on them. This is a most weighty matter and the *“rod of iron”* will fall hard.

This Feast in the millennial reign of Christ will have a different meaning for Israel then for we are told *“Therefore, behold, the days come, says the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord lives, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord lives, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries wherever I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.” (Jeremiah 23: 7-8)*

Instead of recalling the years in Egypt the Jewish people of that day will recall the 2000 years of wandering and persecution in other lands. The *“strangers within your gates,”* meaning all the Gentile Nations, will be welcome at the Feast and Israel will then be the dominant Nation in the world.

The Shekinah Glory

“Then the glory of the Lord departed from off the threshold of the house” (Ezekiel 10:18)

The Shekinah Glory is quite a strange term to our minds. The Shekinah glory of the Lord was seen in the first Jewish Temple when the whole Temple shone with its brightness. It was a sign that the Lord was there. However in Ezekiel's vision we witness the departure of the Shekinah Glory from the Temple due to the wickedness of the people. Ezekiel says that *“that the hand of the Lord God fell upon me”* and he was transported *“in the vision”* of God to *“Jerusalem”* where he reports *“the glory of the God of Israel was there.”* (Ez 8:1-4 selected)

The Lord God, in the vision, then took Ezekiel and he was shown *“the great abominations that the house of Israel was committing.”* Ezekiel reports *“I went in and saw ... all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about ... and at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty five men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.”* (Ezekiel 8: 10-16 selected)

Then the Lord God said to Ezekiel *“Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke Me to anger ... Therefore will I also deal in fury: My eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.”* (Ezekiel 8:17-18)

So we see that the sin of Israel caused God's anger, and judgement was about to fall. The Lord God then called for the leaders. He *“cried with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came ... every man with a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar.”* (Ezekiel 9:1-2)

Ezekiel then witnessed the departure of the Shekinah Glory. Ezekiel records that *“The glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub on which it had been, to the threshold of the temple.”* (Ezekiel 9: 3) That marked the beginning of judgment but, before judgement starts, the Lord protects His people. The Scriptures teach that *“The Lord keeps all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy”* (Psalm 145:20) and we see that principle at work here. God said to the man with the inkhorn *“Go through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.”* Then God instructed the other men *“Go after him*

through the city, and smite... but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” (Ezekiel 9: 4-6 selected) And there was a great slaughter in Jerusalem that day.

The Shekinah Glory Departs

“Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord's glory ... Then the glory of the Lord departed from off the threshold of the house ... And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.” (Ezekiel 10:4, 18, 11:23) Then the city fell and the people were exiled for seventy years. They did return and rebuilt the Temple, but the Shekinah Glory did not return at that time.

The Shekinah Glory Will Return

Ezekiel records that the *Glory Of The Lord* will return to when Ezekiel's Temple is constructed. The Glory departed from the Holy of Holies first, and then the inner court and then via the eastern gate. The Shekinah Glory returns in the exact same way as it departed for Ezekiel records ...

“And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and His voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with His glory. And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city ... and I fell upon my face. And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house.” (Ezekiel 43: 2-5 selected)

The Glory of the Lord returns because the people of that day have accepted Jesus as their Messiah just as Ezekiel prophesied. *“Thus says the Lord God; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come.” And He was, for deep within the hearts of the chosen people remained a longing to return to the Holy Land. “Thus says the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel. And they shall come there ... And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stoney heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in My statutes, and keep My ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”* (Ezekiel 11:16-20)

God's promises are stated in simple language, all we have to do is to believe them.

The House Of The Lord High And Lifted Up

“Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains...” (Isaiah 2:2)

We have already examined the fact that there will be great topographical changes to the land of Israel during the Tribulation. One change is described by Isaiah and by Micah who reveal that the Temple will be built on the highest point of the refurbished earth. Despite those plain and clear words one commentator insists *“This is not a reference to the Jewish temple, but to the Church of Jesus Christ.”* (It is best to ignore such comments, but they are included to show how much of the Church reinterprets the clear words of God to fit their man-made theories.) The Temple mount will be so prominent that it will be called *“the chief of the mountains”* and it *“will be raised above the hills.”* And why not? for the KING of all Kings and LORD of all Lords will be reigning from there! (For completeness, and to highlight its importance, Micah 4:1-2 also records this promise.)

The millennial reign of Christ on the earth will be the most glorious time in human history. Jesus our Saviour will be ruling on the earth personally and a great proportion of the Scriptures describes His reign. Tragically much of the Church today denies that He will rule physically on the earth. Isaiah 2 does not agree with them and clearly states ... *“Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.* (Isaiah 2:2)

It is on that spot that the Temple will be built and Ezekiel advises that it will be built by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Here it is ... *“Thus says the Lord of hosts, Behold the man whose name is The Branch ... He shall build the temple of the Lord... and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne ... And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the Lord...”* (Zech 6:12-15 selected)

It will not be built by miraculous means for skilled workers from all over the planet *“will stream to it”* ... *“and build in the temple of the Lord.”*

1 It will become **“THE place to go”** for the redeemed people of the earth, for we are told *“And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.’”* (Isaiah 2:3)

2 It will become the centre of government of the entire planet. *“For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”* (Isaiah 2:4)

3 It will become the Court of the entire earth where all disputes among the Nations will be settled. *“And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples.”* (Isaiah 2:4)

4 It will become the initiator creator of peace in the whole earth, something unknown to mankind.

“and they will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and they will not learn war anymore.”
(Isaiah 2:4)

But not all agree with the plainly stated truths of God. A commentator explains, *“Perhaps the most difficult portion of this prophecy to understand is the last portion of it which speaks of beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks, which is often misunderstood to teach that war shall pass away as an instrument of national policy and that universal peace on earth shall prevail. This is totally in error...What we actually have, therefore, is a statement of the way it will be among the citizens of the kingdom of God, or the church of Messiah.”* Does that mean that the Church is free of “wars”? (Source: <https://www.google.com/search?q=is%202%3A2%20commentary%20coffman>)

Who Will Enter The Kingdom?

Only believers are allowed to enter this Kingdom, but they will be normal everyday humans just like us, and they will repopulate the earth. They will be the survivors of the great tribulation and will have come to know the Lord in that period. When the tribulation begins there will be no believers on the earth as they will be taken in the rapture. And so we read that these Kingdom dwellers are humbled by God ... *“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down.”*
(Isaiah 2:11)

They will be humbled because these men and women have observed first hand the *“wrath of God”* being measured out on wicked mankind. Isaiah tells us that *“the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish... In that day a man shall cast his idols...to the moles and to the bats”* (Isaiah 2:17-20 selected) and many of these people will have done just that, when they were truly converted to Christ.

People from every nation will come to know the Lord in the Tribulation but Isaiah’s focus is the Holy Land itself and essentially on the Chosen People. Israel will become the Premier Nation of the earth. *“And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat Him.’ This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, “Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.””* (Zechariah 8:22-23) And that is a far cry from how our world treats the Chosen Jewish People today!

A Strange Happening At The Feast Of Tabernacles

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." (John 7: 37)

Has it ever struck you as strange why the Lord would shout out *"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water"* This "strange" utterance happened at the Feast of Tabernacles which is known by various names: The *Feast of Booths* and also *Sukkot*. John records that ...

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believes on Me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7: 37-39)

An understanding of how this remarkable statement happened is provided unwittingly by *The Temple Institute*. Some background: *"The actual participants in the celebrations were not the common folk, but the greatest scholars and the most pious men of the generation-the heads of the Sanhedrin, the sages, the academy heads and the elders."* (<http://www.templeinstitute.org/sukkot.htm>)

This being the case then the reaction by the people is better understood for they were learned men and understood the Scriptures, hence ...

"Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ..." (John 7: 40-41)

What caused this unusual response? Why would these learned people recognise this statement as a Messianic claim by Jesus? To understand the significance of this we need to gain a bit of extra knowledge of what happened at the *Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)*. For this extra knowledge we again quote *The Temple Institute* who tell us ...

At the foothills of Mount Moriah, down below in the City of David, flows a natural spring called Shiloach. This spring is ancient, and as it is located literally in the shadow of the Holy Temple, it has always had spiritual significance for Israel. It is the original source of Jerusalem's water. Every day of the festival (Sukkot), the priests descended down to the Shiloach, accompanied by all the congregation assembled in the Temple. There, they filled a golden flask of the pure water. Ascending back up, carrying the flask with song and elating with that singular feeling that comes only from fulfilling the Holy One's will, the gathering entered back into the Temple through the Water Gate (Neh 8:3), it received its name on account of this event. As they entered the gate, their steps were greeted by the sound of trumpets and shofar-blasts, in fulfilment of the prophet Isaiah's words (12:3) "With joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation." Once in the Temple, the priest performing this service now carries the golden

flask up the altar ramp, it is here that the libations (water and wine from separate golden cups) were poured onto the altar.

"With joy you shall draw water out of the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). Based on this verse, the drawing of water from the Shiloach spring and its libation upon the altar of G-d was accompanied by great rejoicing and celebration in the Holy Temple. In fact, this joy was so immense, and the celebrations so uplifting, that the sages of Israel emphatically stated: "Whoever has never seen the celebrations of the Festival of the Water Libation-has never experienced true joy in his life" (<http://www.templeinstitute.org/sukkot.htm>)

So we see that the audience *"In the last day, that great day of the feast"* in John's account was an expectant group of learned men, some of whom were expecting the arrival of the Messiah. Throughout the four Gospel's we read that there was excitement in Israel caused by the presence of Jesus Himself. It seems that most of the Pharisees hated our Lord, and set out to trap Him. However some of them became His disciples, not the least of whom was Paul. Not all of the Pharisees hated Jesus for we read in Luke that some Pharisees warned Jesus ... *"Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You."* (Luke 13:31) In Acts 15 there is mentioned a *"sect of the Pharisees which believed"* and Nicodemus was a believing Pharisee also.

Getting back to the Feast of Tabernacles we now see that members of that audience were not against our Lord and Saviour and, no doubt, it was them of whom it is recorded

"Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ..." (John 7: 40-41)

Why would they make such a connection? These people were well versed in the Scriptures and knew Zechariah well. In Zechariah we read *"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."* (Zechariah 13:1)

"That day" is scriptural code and people looking for the Messiah would understand it to be a Messianic reference. Jesus spoke as He did quite deliberately. He knew that many were looking for the Messiah so when His audience heard *"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink"* it overwhelmed them and so they responded *"Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ..."* And they were right for He is!

A Strange Happening After The Feast Of Tabernacles

“And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto Him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what do You say? This they said, tempting Him, that they might have to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not.” (John 8: 3-6)

Some background to this event is covered in the previous “page” under the heading “A Strange Happening At The Feast Of Tabernacles” so that information will not be repeated here. There was great excitement amongst the people about the true identity of Jesus: was He the Messiah? *“Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is He? And there was much murmuring among the people concerning Him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, No; but He deceives the people. However no man spake openly of Him for fear of the Jews.”* (John 7:11 -13)

The above is further background to the event when Jesus shouted out *“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believes on Me, as the scripture have said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”* (John 7: 37-38) We remind ourselves that the audience *“In the last day, that great day of the feast”* in John’s account was an expectant group of learned men, some of whom were awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. When Jesus shouted out His claim the learned audience understood what He was saying. They knew that it was a claim to Messiahship, Jesus claimed personally that He was the *“living water.”* That is why His enemies hated Him.

The very next morning Jesus went to the Temple again. We read *“And early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came unto Him; and He sat down, and taught them.”* (John 8:2) That was the moment when the gloating Pharisees came to Him and said *“Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what do You say?”* Jesus did not answer and, instead, *“with His finger wrote on the ground.”*

Remember that these are very learned Pharisees and they well knew the ancient prophetic writings. In this instance Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy from Jeremiah which states *“O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake You shall be ashamed, and they that depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters.”* (Jeremiah 17:13)

We now are able to see this event in the light of that prophecy that Jesus was now fulfilling. That prophecy was being realised in the very presence of those who spat out enmity against Him. Jesus knew that He was to be rejected when He called out *“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believes on Me, as the scripture*

have said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” Those words were a messianic claim and the Pharisees, and the other learned people, recognised that it was a claim to Messiahship.

Here were the gloating Pharisees, excited by the prospect of shaming Jesus over the plight of that poor sad woman, and Jesus turned their excitement into total embarrassment for them. They had rejected Jesus the day before at the Feast of Tabernacles and, the very next day, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah.

The Pharisees and others had *“forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters”* at had done so publicly at the Feast but now Jesus wrote *“in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters”* just as the prophecy claimed.

The Bible tells us that the Pharisees *“continued asking Him.”* They were really harassing Him about that woman whom they thought deserved to be stoned to death. They were seeking selectively to fulfil the Law of Moses which states *“And the man that commits adultery with another man’s wife, even he that commits adultery with his neighbour’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”* (Lev 20:10) So here we see their hypocrisy. They alleged that the woman was caught *“in the very act”* so, if they caught the woman *“in the very act”* why did they not bring the man also and seek to stone him to death?

Jesus, seeing through their hypocrisy then, *“lifted up Himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”* Then Jesus *“stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”*

The Pharisees slunk away in shame for the prophecy clearly says, *“O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake You shall be ashamed, and they that depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters.”* (Jeremiah 17:13)

Will our names be *“written in the earth”* as were these Christ rejecters of old, or are our names written in *“the Lambs Book of Life?”* (Rev 21:27)

The Deceitful Heart Of Man

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

If you ever needed proof of how deceitful our hearts are then please read on. The Scriptures are clear that the Lord will reign on the earth. His reign is clearly described in the Scriptures as shown elsewhere in this series. (<https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/mill-reign>) We are told our loving Saviour will rule the earth from Jerusalem, but we are also advised that He needs a “rod of iron” to keep wayward mankind under control. Satan is locked away during this whole period. (Rev 20: 1-3) When Jesus reigns the entire planet will be “full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9) The entire globe will be peaceful and there will be no armies...

*“He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: **nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**” (Isaiah 2:4)*

The millennial reign of Christ will be a time of peace and plenty, of good health and longevity. The people are living in ideal conditions, such as have never been recorded in human history, but even then the Lord of glory requires a “rod of iron” to maintain His rule over wayward mankind.

The nations will still exist at that time and will have obligations to our Lord and Saviour. One is that they must send representatives to Jerusalem every year to attend the *Feast of Tabernacles*. Here it is: *And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left (the survivors) of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain ... This shall be the punishment ... of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.* (Zechariah 14:16-19)

Reading that should cause quite a surprise. Here we have the entire world living free from fear and suffering, but somehow they fail to honour the Lord by obeying His simple command. The result is that no rain falls on that Nation. The “rod of iron” falls and it will not be an incidental thing because it is a serious judgment of God on a wayward Nation.

Time passes, and the millennial reign of Christ will eventually come to an end. During this entire period mankind will not know war and will enjoy peace and plenty so, when the millennium ends, what will happen? We are not left in the dark for the

Lord reveals His plans. We read in Revelation of a new condition that came into force at the beginning of Christ’s millennial reign, Satan was bound ...

*“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, **that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**” (Revelation 20: 1-3)*

So we are told that Satan will be released at the end of the millennial. What does he do?

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.” (Rev 20: 7-8)

This is surely a most remarkable Scripture, for what does it tell us about the heart of mankind? Here we have people who have only lived in a climate of peace and plenty. None of us have ever lived in a world like the one they have lived in since birth. This fact highlights the lie promoted by those Psychologists and “Do Gooders” who insist that if we improve living conditions and education then people would rise up and be worthy. It’s nonsense.

So what happens? Satan recruits an army “the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.” And who is recruited into this army? Those who have lived their entire lives under the beneficial rule of the KING of Kings. They have only known peace and plenty but their hearts remain “... deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” So they rise up against the Lion of Judah and their fate is not too long in coming upon them.

“And they went up on 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.” (Rev 20:9)

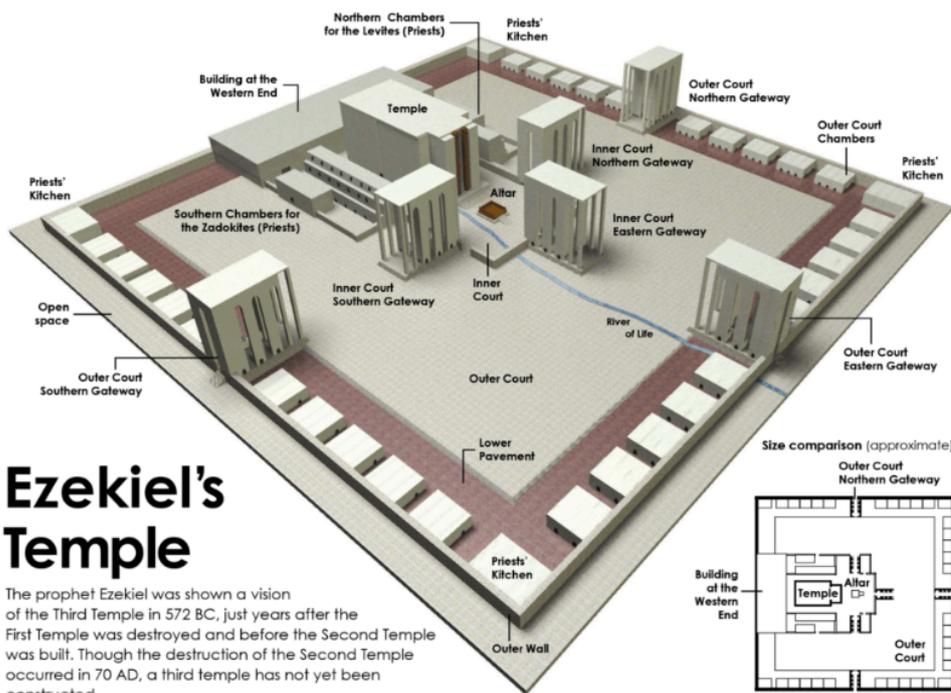
The “rod of iron” falls again and, even though their “number is as the sand of the sea,” they all perish in a moment of time.

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Rev 20:10)

Here is proof certain that “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Ezekiel's Temple

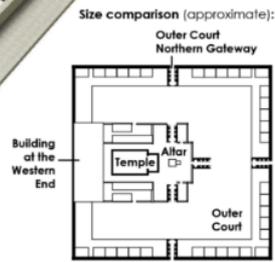
This chart shows the comparison of the size of Ezekiel's Temple to that of a football field. It is many times bigger than a normal sized footy field as shown below.



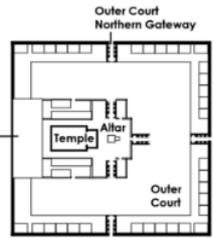
Ezekiel's Temple

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in 70 AD, a third temple has not yet been constructed.

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Size comparison (approximate):

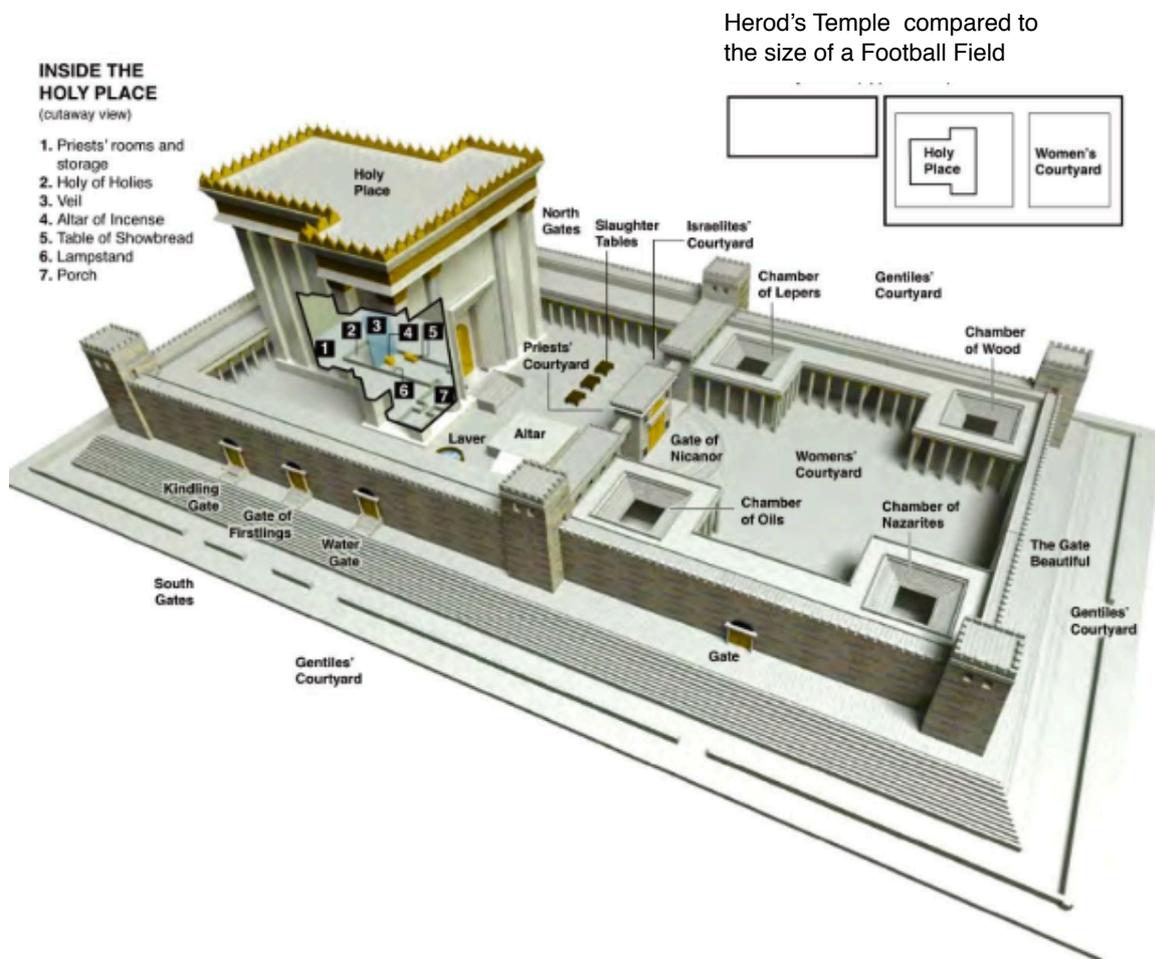


The Temple compared to the size of a Football Field

Herod's Temple

Herod's Temple was the Temple that our Lord entered in His earthly life. *“And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables.”* (John 2:15)

As you can see it was bigger than a normal footy field but it shrinks away when compared to Ezekiel's Temple.



Solomon's Temple

As you can see Solomon's Temple was much smaller than your average football field.

