

A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies

Contents Part 14: The Future Temple of the Millennial Kingdom

Sequence of Prophetic Events Revealed by Ezekiel	2
The Temple of the Millennial Kingdom Described by Ezekiel	4
Isaiah Reveals the Temple of the Millennial Kingdom	5
Zechariah Reveals That Messiah Yeshua Will Build the Temple	6
The Millennial Temple	10
Illustration: Ezekiel's Temple – The Millennial Temple	10
Illustration: Altar of Burnt Offerings	10
Illustration: Ezekiel's Temple – Details and Dimensions	11
Illustration: Size Comparisons – Ezekiel's Temple, Herod's Temple, Solomon's Temple, Tabernacle	12
Ezekiel Temple Videos	13
Tracing the Dwelling Place of God from the Garden of Eden to the New Jerusalem	13
Ezekiel's Temple Vision: No Ark of the Covenant, Menorah, Altar of Incense, or Table of Showbread	17
Video: Ezekiel's Temple Compared to Solomon's Temple	21
The Altar of Burnt Offerings	21
The Altar (Table of the Lord) – The Only Object in the Temple	23
The Table of the Lord and Messiah Yeshua's Passover Sacrifice	23
The Millennial Temple Sacrifices and Offerings	26
The Unique Blood Offering of the Millennial Temple	28
The Priesthood of the Millennial Temple	30
Water Flows from the Millennial Sanctuary, Creating a River	31
The Prophetic Picture of the Garden of Eden	33
The Shekinah (Glory Cloud) Returns to the Millennial Temple	35
The Shekinah Indwelt the First Temple of Solomon in the Seventh Month of Tishri	37
The Seventh Month of Tishri Link to the Rapture and Second Coming	38
The Departure of the Shekinah from the First Temple	41
The City of Jerusalem Will Be Called "The Lord Is There"	42
Israel's Borders During the Millennial Kingdom	44
Map: The Twelve Tribes of Israel Land Allotments in Ancient Times	45
Map: The Twelve Tribes of Israel Land Allotments during the Millennial Kingdom	46
Map: Israel and Surrounding Nations	47
References	48

A NEW LOOK AT THE BOOKS OF REVELATION & DANIEL END-TIME PROPHECIES

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PART 14

THE FUTURE TEMPLE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

SEQUENCE OF PROPHETIC EVENTS REVEALED BY EZEKIEL

We previously detailed the sequence of future prophetic events in Part 11 Future End-Time Events Overview. In order to correctly place the timing of the rebuilding of the future Millennial Temple (Third Temple, Ezekiel's Temple), the sequence of future end-time events must be corrected from what is generally taught. Therefore, Part 11 is foundation for this part of our study, *A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies*. In particular, let us review the sequence of key prophetic events the prophet Ezekiel reveals that lead up to the rebuilding of the Temple –

Ezekiel 38:1-16

War of Gog-Magog (Armageddon – Revelation 16:16)

Invasion of Israel by Islamic enemies, including Turkey and Iran

Ezekiel 38:17-23; 39:1-29

God destroys invading Islamic armies

Aftermath of the war; bodies buried, weapons burned

Ezekiel 40–43

Future Temple of the Millennial Kingdom, also called Ezekiel's Temple or the Third Temple

As we have previously shown in this study, Daniel's 70th Week – a period of seven years – has already been completely fulfilled, meaning there is no future seven-year Tribulation. The covenant in Daniel 9:27 is the New Covenant made by Messiah Yeshua (Christ Jesus), not a future false peace treaty made by Antichrist with Israel. This also means there will be no rebuilt Temple in which the Antichrist proclaims himself to be God before the Rapture and Second Coming of Messiah Yeshua. (See *A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies*, free study at www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

Actually, it makes no sense that the Temple would be rebuilt before Messiah Yeshua returns, only to be desecrated by an Antichrist. In fact, the Word of God shows that the Temple of the Millennial Kingdom will never be desecrated –

Ezekiel 37:26 **“And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary [Temple] in their midst forever.**

Ezekiel 37:27 **“My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.**

Ezekiel 43:7 **And He said to me, “Son of man, *this is* the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die” (bold emphasis added).**

As is currently clear, Muslims would never allow a Temple to be built on the Temple Mount. Not until Israel's Islamic enemies are destroyed and the Muslim Dome of the Rock is removed

will the Temple be built. It is interesting to note that mainstream Orthodox Judaism understands that the rebuilding of the Temple will not take place until the coming of the Jewish Messiah.¹

THE TEMPLE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM DESCRIBED BY EZEKIEL

Ezekiel's vision of the Millennial Temple is described in detail –

The New Temple (Ezekiel 40:1–43:27)

Courts and gates (Ezekiel 40:5-47)

Temple (Ezekiel 40:48–41:26)

Chambers (Ezekiel 42:1-20)

Return of the Glory of the Lord (Shekinah) (Ezekiel 43:1-12)

Altar of burnt offering (Ezekiel 43:13-27)

Offerings (Ezekiel 45:18–46:24)

There will be sacrifices in the Millennial Temple. These sacrifices can be understood as a remembrance, not a replacement, of Yeshua's sacrifice, and are not a means of salvation. Salvation has always been by God's grace – before, during, and after the existence of God's Tabernacle or Temple – based on a person's right relationship with God and trust in God's way of salvation.

The Hebrew words for the Temple are *Beit HaMikdash* – *beit* from *bayit*, meaning “house”, and *mikdash* meaning “sanctuary”, from *kadosh*, meaning “holy”. In the Tanach (Hebrew Old Testament), the Temple is usually referred to as the “House” in which God especially dwells.²

The Temple described by Ezekiel is also called the Third Temple. The First Temple was built by King Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. The Second Temple was built after the Jews returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, later reconstructed by King Herod, and destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Temple - Wikipedia, article: Third Temple, section: 8 Modern rebuilding efforts – accessed April 8, 2016.

² <http://www.thejc.com/judaism/jewish-words/beit-hamikdash> - Beit Hamikdash, by Rabbi Julian Sinclair, October 28, 2008, *The Jewish Chronicle Online* – accessed April 9, 2016.

ISAIAH REVEALS THE TEMPLE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

The prophet Isaiah reveals the Temple of the Millennial Kingdom, when Messiah Yeshua rules from Jerusalem after His Second Coming, and people from all over the world come to Jerusalem to the Temple to worship God.

Isaiah 2:2 Now it will come about that

In the last days,

**The mountain [Temple Mount] of the house [Temple] of the LORD
Will be established as the chief of the mountains,**

And will be raised above the hills;

[Note: According to Zechariah 14:10, Jerusalem will be raised higher as a result of land changes that occur when the Mount of Olives splits, as described in Zechariah 14:4.]

And all the nations will stream to it.

Isaiah 2:3 **And many peoples will come and say,**

**“Come, let us go up to the mountain [Temple Mount] of the LORD,
To the house [Temple] of the God of Jacob;**

That He may teach us concerning His ways,

And that we may walk in His paths.”

For the law will go forth from Zion,

And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:4 **And He [Messiah Yeshua] will judge between the nations,**

And will render decisions for many peoples;

And they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not lift up sword against nation,

And never again will they learn war.

Isaiah 56:7 Even those [non-Israelites] I [the Lord] will bring to My holy mountain [Temple Mount],

And make them joyful in My house [Temple] of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;

For My house [Temple] will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples” (bold emphasis added).

ZECHARIAH REVEALS THAT MESSIAH YESHUA WILL BUILD THE TEMPLE

The prophet Zechariah reveals that Messiah Yeshua, who is called “Branch”, will build the Temple and rule as Priest-King during the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:1-4).

Zechariah 6:12 “Then say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, **“Behold, a man whose name is Branch [Messiah Yeshua], for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD.**

Zechariah 6:13 “Yes, it is **He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices [of priest and king].”**”

Note: Messiah Yeshua will unite the offices of King and Priest in one Person, like Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20).³

Zechariah 6:15 “And those who are far off will come and build the temple of the LORD.” Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ...” (bold emphasis added).

The Hebrew word translated “Branch” literally translates as “Sprout” (Strong’s #2498). *JPS Tanack* (1917) translates “a man whose name is the Shoot”.^{4, 5}

According to the *Pulpit Commentary*:

[Zechariah 6] Verse 12. - **Speak unto him, saying.** The prophet is to explain to [the High Priest] Joshua the meaning of this public act. **Behold the Man whose name is The BRANCH;** literally, **behold the man, BRANCH is his name** (see note on Zechariah 3:8). **The Targum⁶ has, "Behold the Man, Messiah is his name."** It is plain that the term "Branch" or "Shoot" (LXX., Ἀνατολή:

³ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible*, p. 1466, footnote on Zechariah 6:12-13: “The crowning of [the High Priest] Joshua foreshadowed the crowning of the Messiah, who at His second coming *will build the* (millennial) *temple* and unite the offices of King and Priest in one Person, like Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20).”

⁴ <http://biblehub.com/zechariah/6-12.htm> - accessed April 3, 2016. *JPS Tanakh 1917 – Jewish Publication Society. Masoretic Text Translation* – “and speak unto him, saying: Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying: Behold, a man whose name is the Shoot, and who shall shoot up out of his place, and build the temple of the LORD”.

⁵ William Wilson, *New Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies*, p. 414, “Sprout”, #2498 (Strong’s Concordance).

⁶ The Targum is an ancient Aramaic paraphrase or interpretation of the Hebrew Bible, of a type made from about the 1st century AD when Hebrew was declining as a spoken language.

Vulgate, **Oriens**) could not be addressed to Joshua; indeed, the very form of the sentence, "his name," not "thy name," shows this. **All who saw the transaction and heard the words must have understood that they had reference to the "Shoot" of David, the Messiah that was to come, to whom was committed the regal and priestly dignity**⁷ (bold emphasis added).

The prophet Zechariah is speaking to the High Priest at that time (Zechariah 6:11), whose name was Joshua, about the man, the Messiah, who is called "Branch". Remarkably, name of the High Priest at the time was the same name of the Messiah to come. Joshua is the Hebrew name *Yehoshua* – "Yeho" meaning the name of God (YHVH) and "shua" meaning "salvation". The very name of the Messiah proclaims He is "The Salvation of the Lord". In this prophecy, we see that "The crowning of the High Priest Joshua foreshadowed the crowning of Messiah".⁸ (Note: Commonly, the Hebrew name used to refer to the Messiah is *Yeshua*, the shortened form of the name *Yeshoshua*.)

Zechariah's prophecy about the Messiah building the Temple is future. We know this because Zechariah refers to the Messiah holding two offices: priest and king. The first time Yeshua came, He became High Priest of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9–10). The second time He comes, He will also rule as king. Therefore, not until He returns does He fulfill both roles as Priest-King during the Millennial Kingdom.

Yeshua begins His rule at His Second Coming, a time of judgment when the enemies of Israel will be destroyed and the world will be judged –

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded [the Seventh Trumpet]; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "**The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord, and of His Christ [Messiah]; and He will reign forever and ever**" (bold emphasis added).

Revelation 19:15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it **He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron**; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty (bold emphasis added).

⁷ <http://biblehub.com/zechariah/6-12.htm> - Zechariah 6:12, *Pulpit Commentary* – accessed April 3, 2016.

⁸ *The Ryrie Study Bible*, p. 1466 (footnote).

In Zechariah 6:15, Zechariah tells us that people “who are far off will come and build the temple of the LORD”. From this, we can understand that people will come from all over the world to assist with this major building project in Jerusalem.

Let’s go back to the name “Branch” to see how it refers to the Messiah as a descendant of King David. Isaiah prophesies about “a branch” from “the stem of Jesse” –

Isaiah 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a **branch** from his roots will bear fruit (bold emphasis added).

Jesse was the father of David. This prophecy shows that the Messiah would come from the line of King David, and was fulfilled by Messiah Yeshua.

Jeremiah also prophesied about the Messiah, referred to as “Branch”, a descendant of David who would “reign as king” and “do justice and righteousness in the land” of Israel and on earth. This refers to the Prince of Peace, Messiah Yeshua, ruling as King from Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom.

Jeremiah 23:5 “Behold, *the* days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“When I shall raise up for David a righteous **Branch**;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land” (bold emphasis added)

Jeremiah 33:15 ‘In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous **Branch** of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth’ (bold emphasis added).

Going back to Zechariah’s prophecy about the Messiah building the Temple of the Lord, we may also see a dual meaning in reference to the spiritual Temple of the living God – believers indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit as the Temple of God, with Yeshua is its one and only Head.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that **you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?** (bold emphasis added)

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (bold emphasis added)

2 Corinthians 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For **we are the temple of the living God**; just as God said,

“I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM;
AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE
(bold emphasis added).

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints [believers], and are of God’s household,

Ephesians 2:20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua] Himself being the corner *stone*,

Ephesians 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into **a holy temple in the Lord**;

Ephesians 2:22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

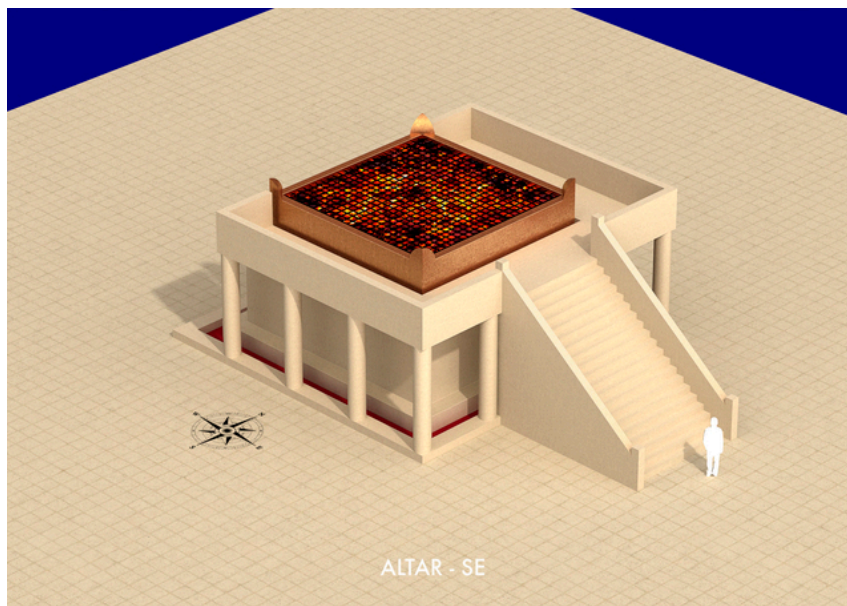
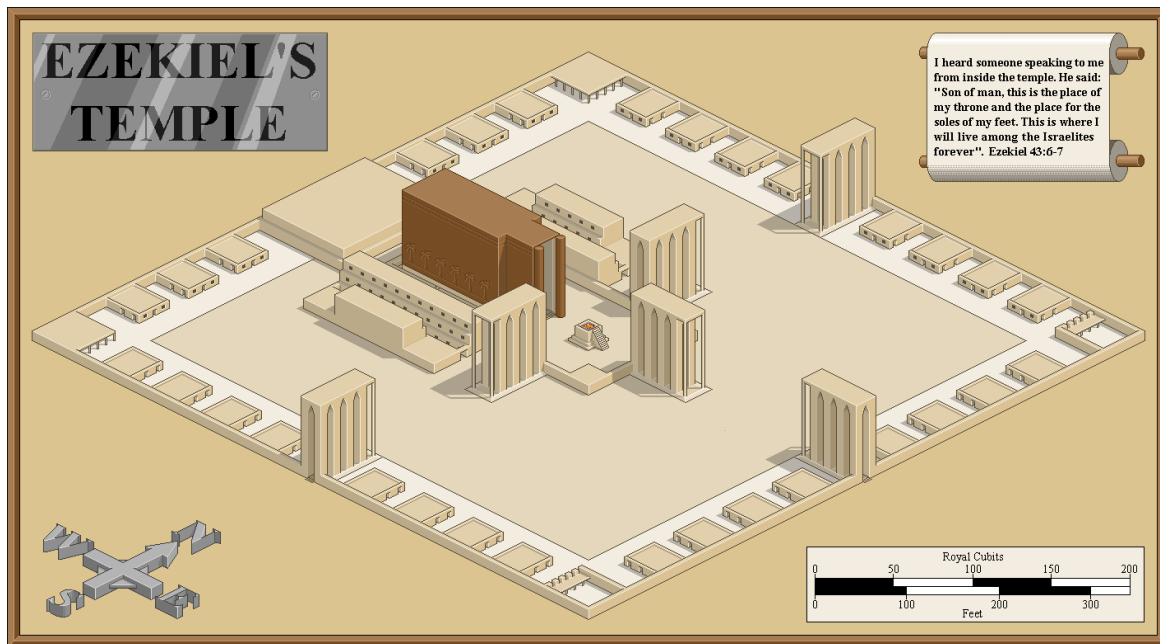
Ephesians 5:23 ... **Christ [Messiah] also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body** (bold emphasis added).

1 Peter 2:5 **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus [Yeshua] Christ [Messiah].

Even though there may be a prophetic picture of the living spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua in Zechariah’s prophecy, it is essential to understand that this prophecy primarily relates to the future Temple of the Millennial Kingdom, when Messiah Yeshua rules as both King and High Priest.

THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

Ezekiel's Temple – the Millennial Temple⁹

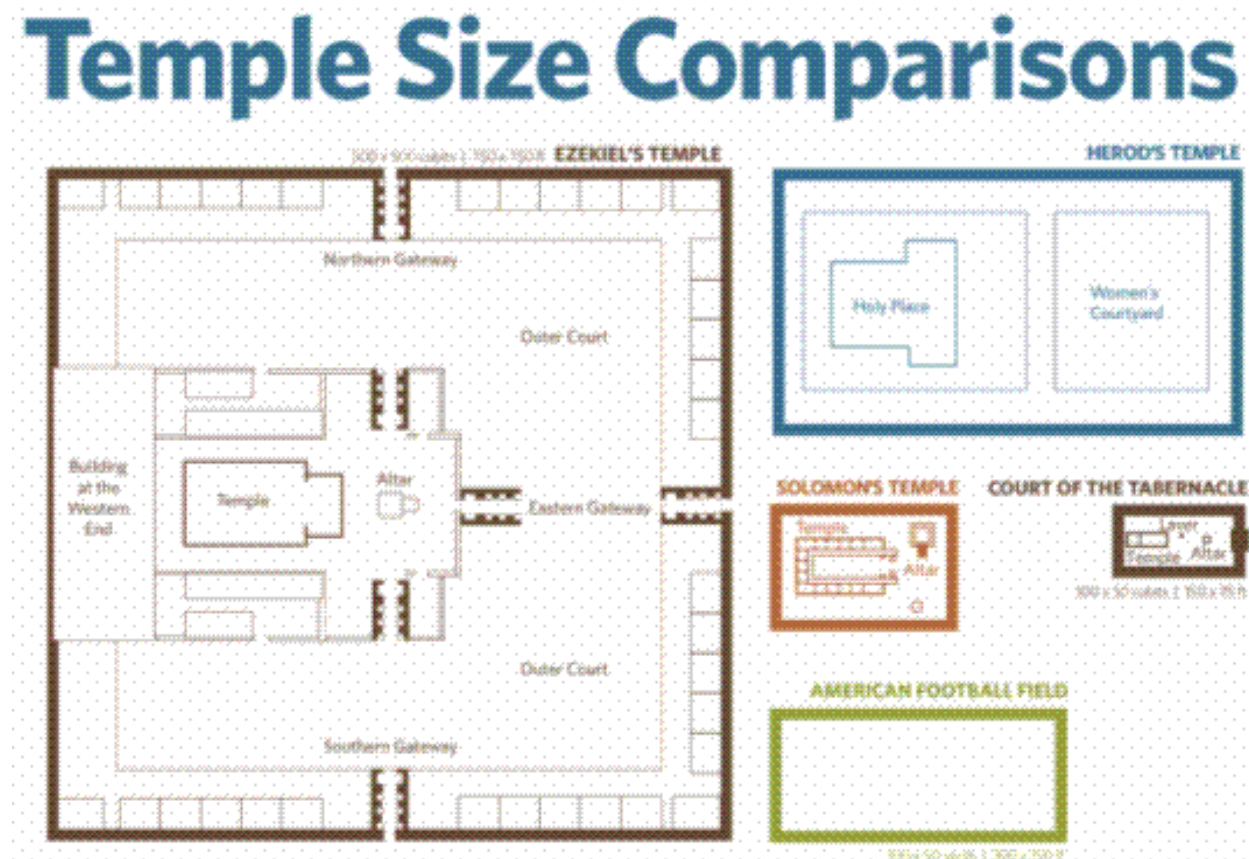


Altar of Burnt Offerings¹⁰

⁹ <https://worldwatch.is/?p=5387> - Ezekiel 40-44: The Millennial Temple, November 23, 2014 – originally accessed April 2016 at <https://godourlight.info/?p=5387> - updated link September 12, 2016.

¹⁰ <https://worldwatch.is/?p=5387> - Ezekiel 40-44: The Millennial Temple, November 23, 2014 – originally accessed April 2016 at <https://godourlight.info/?p=5387> - updated link September 12, 2016.

Size Comparison – Ezekiel’s Temple, Herod’s Temple, Solomon’s Temple, Tabernacle¹²



This view compares the size of the temples; revealing that the final physical temple the millennial temple will be far grander than Solomon’s or Herod’s temple.

The millennial temple revealed to Ezekiel is on the left; with the various gates bolded; Herod’s temple [an expansion of the temple of Zerubbabel] is top right; with the size of Solomon’s temple center right and an American football field for size comparison bottom right.¹³

¹² <https://worldwatch.is/?p=5387> - Ezekiel 40-44: The Millennial Temple, November 23, 2014 – originally accessed April 2016 at <https://godourlight.info/?p=5387> - updated link September 12, 2016.

¹³ <https://worldwatch.is/?p=5387> - Ezekiel 40-44: The Millennial Temple, November 23, 2014 – originally accessed April 2016 at <https://godourlight.info/?p=5387> - updated link September 12, 2016.

Ezekiel Temple Videos

1. Ezekiel Temple Introduction –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M58fM2ae7Zw>

2. Ezekiel Temple Chapter 40 –

<http://www.bibliaprints.com/freedia/videos/40%20medium.mp4>

3. Ezekiel Temple Chapter 41 –

<http://www.bibliaprints.com/freedia/videos/Ezekiel%20chapter%2041.mp4>

4. Ezekiel Temple Chapters 42 and 43 –

<http://www.bibliaprints.com/freedia/videos/Ezekiel%20Chapter%2042%20and%2043.mp4>

TRACING THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO THE NEW JERUSALEM

We can trace the dwelling place of God on Earth from the Garden of Eden, to the Tabernacle, to Solomon's Temple, to the Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua, to the Millennial Temple, and ultimately to the New Jerusalem that descends from Heaven.

1. The Garden of Eden

God dwelled with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden –

Genesis 2:15 Then **the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden** to cultivate it and keep it (bold emphasis added).

Genesis 3:8 And **they [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden [of Eden]** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden (bold emphasis added).

In our book, *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, we show that the place God dwelled with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden is the same place God chose on Earth as His dwelling place throughout Israel's history – the site of Jerusalem. From the beginning, God chose Jerusalem to be His dwelling place on Earth, the center of His master plan of redemption

for humanity. According to God's prophetic pattern and plan, the place where Adam and Eve committed the first sin was to be the place Messiah Yeshua paid the price for all humanity's sins. (See *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, Chapter 1 Jerusalem – The Center of the Garden of Eden, free book www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

2. The Tabernacle of Moses (approximately 1450 BC to 1000 BC)

The Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of the Lord's Presence, indwelt the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary, during the forty-year wilderness period of the Israelites –

Exodus 40:34 Then the cloud [Shekinah, Glory Cloud] covered the tent of meeting, and **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle** (bold emphasis added).

3. The Temple of Solomon, the First Temple (approximately 1000 BC to 586 BC).

For a time the Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Tabernacle of David, until David's son, Solomon, built the First Temple, which was indwelt by the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of the Lord –

1 Kings 8:10 And it came about when the priests came from the holy place, that **the [Shekinah glory] cloud filled the house [Temple] of the LORD**,

1 Kings 8:11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the house [Temple] of the LORD** (bold emphasis added).

The Babylonians destroyed the First Temple in 586 BC. The Ark of the Covenant was removed from the Holy of Holies sometime before the Temple's destruction, and has remained hidden ever since. Ezekiel had a vision of the Shekinah leaving the Temple prior to its destruction (Ezekiel 10-11).

4. The Second Temple (515 BC to AD 70)

The Second Temple was built by the Jews who returned to Jerusalem after seventy years of exile in Babylon –

Ezra 1:2 “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house [Temple] in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Ezra 1:3 ‘Whoever there is among you of all His people, may his God be with him! Let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and **rebuild the house [Temple] of the LORD**, the God of Israel; He is the God who is in Jerusalem.

Ezra 1:4 ‘And every survivor, at whatever place he may live, let the men of that place support him with silver and gold, with goods and cattle, together with a freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem’” (bold emphasis added).

The Temple and Temple Mount were later expanded and reconstructed by Herod. The Ark of the Covenant was not present in the Holy of Holies of the Second Temple. Neither did the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of God’s Presence, continuously dwell in the Holy of Holies of the Second Temple as it had in the First Temple. However, at times God’s presence did manifest in the Second Temple up until its destruction by the Romans in AD 70.

5. The Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua (from Pentecost following Yeshua’s resurrection, continuing to the present)

Following Yeshua’s resurrection, on the day of Pentecost (Shavuot), Yeshua’s disciples became filled with God’s Holy Spirit. From that time on, those who put their trust in Messiah Yeshua for salvation are indwelt by God’s Holy Spirit. This is the Spiritual Temple or Church of Messiah Yeshua, with Yeshua as its one and only Head.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that **you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?** (bold emphasis added)

Ephesians 5:23 ... Christ [Messiah] also is the head of the **church [spiritual temple]**, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body (bold emphasis added).

Yeshua told His disciples something very important –

Matthew 12:6 “But I say to you, that something greater than the temple is here.”

The purpose of the Temple and its sacrificial system was to point to Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua is far greater than any earthly physical Temple. In the same way, the Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua is greater than any earthly physical Temple.

It is interesting to note that the Spiritual Temple of Messiah Yeshua is the fifth dwelling place of God on Earth because the number 5 in the Word of God signifies grace,¹⁴ and it is by God's grace alone, through Yeshua's perfect and complete sacrifice for salvation, that human beings can have the forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, and become members of Messiah's body, the Spiritual Temple of the Living God.

6. The Millennial Temple, also called Ezekiel's Temple or the Third Temple (in the near future)

The Third Temple will be built by Messiah Yeshua when He returns to Earth to rule for one thousand years during the Millennial Kingdom. The Shekinah Glory Cloud will indwell this Temple.

Ezekiel 43:4 And **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD came into the house [Temple]** by the way of the gate facing toward the east.

Ezekiel 43:5 And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the house** (bold emphasis added).

7. The New Jerusalem

At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, this Heaven [Universe] and Earth will pass away and the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem (the Eternal State) will be revealed. There will be no need of a Temple in the New Jerusalem because Father God and His Son, Messiah Yeshua, the Lamb of God, dwell in it –

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no **temple** in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its **temple** (bold emphasis added).

¹⁴ E. W. Bullinger, *Number in Scripture: Its Supernatural Design and Spiritual Significance*, p. 135.

EZEKIEL’S TEMPLE VISION: NO ARK OF THE COVENANT, MENORAH, ALTAR OF INCENSE, OR TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

In Ezekiel’s vision of the future Temple, there is no mention of the Ark of the Covenant, the Menorah, the Altar of Incense, or the Table of Showbread. For this reason, they do not seem to be present in the Millennial Temple. These items are symbolic of Messiah Yeshua, as explained below. Therefore, there would be no need of them once Yeshua has returned to Earth to rule during the Millennial Kingdom

1. No Ark of the Covenant

The prophet Jeremiah reveals that the Ark of the Covenant will be forgotten and not remade –

Jeremiah 3:16 “And it shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land,” declares the LORD, “they shall say no more, ‘**The ark of the covenant of the LORD.**’ **And it shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they miss it, nor shall it be made again**’” (bold emphasis added).

The original Ark of the Covenant was made at the time of the construction of the Tabernacle, the portable sanctuary, and placed in the Holy of Holies. The Ark was later placed in the Holy of Holies of the Temple. Before the Temple’s destruction by the Babylonians, the Ark was apparently moved and its whereabouts never again mentioned in the Word of God.

The Ark of the Covenant was made of gold (symbolizing deity) covering wood (symbolizing humanity), symbolizing the deity of Messiah Yeshua who came into the world the first time in a human body. Inside the Ark were the tablets of the Ten Commandments, the Word of God. Yeshua is the Word of God, and fully God –

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

John 1:2 He [Yeshua] was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His**

glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth (bold emphasis added).

There is no need of a man-made Ark of the Covenant when the One it symbolized, Messiah Yeshua, returns to dwell in Jerusalem. When Yeshua came, He made the profound statement –

Matthew 12:6 “But I say to you, that something greater than the temple is here.”

This is even truer when Yeshua returns to dwell among His people as Priest-King to rule during the Millennial Kingdom.

2. No Veil separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Instead there is a door separating the two sections of the Millennial Temple

The tearing of the Veil in the Second Temple, at the moment Yeshua gave His life as the perfect and complete sin-atonement sacrifice, symbolized the removal of the spiritual separation between man and God –

Matthew 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split,

Yeshua is the only mediator between man and God –

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, *and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]* (bold emphasis added).

Hebrews 8:6 But now He [Messiah Yeshua] has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as **He is also the mediator of a better covenant**, which has been enacted on better promises (bold emphasis added).

Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason **He [Messiah Yeshua] is the mediator of a new covenant**, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance (bold emphasis added).

In the Millennial Temple, the Door replaces the Veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The Door can be understood to symbolize Yeshua, who referred to Himself as The Door, the one and only way of salvation –

John 10:9 “**I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved**, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (bold emphasis added).

3. No Menorah in the Holy Place

The Menorah (seven-branched candlestick) in the Holy Place of the Temple symbolized the Light and Truth of God. Yeshua said He is the Light of the World –

John 8:12 Again therefore Jesus [Yeshua] spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life**” (bold emphasis added).

Yeshua is God and God is Light –

1 John 1:5 And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is light**, and in Him there is no darkness at all (bold emphasis added).

Yeshua said He is the Truth –

John 14:6 Jesus [Yeshua] said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me**” (bold emphasis added).

4. No Table of Showbread in the Holy Place

The Showbread symbolized the fellowship of God and sustenance of life by God. Yeshua said He is the Bread of Life –

John 6:35 Jesus [Yeshua] said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (bold emphasis added).

5. No Golden Altar of Incense in the Holy Place

The fragrant smoke of the incense rising from the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place of the Temple symbolized prayers ascending to Heaven through the mediating service of the priests. With Yeshua the High Priest of the New Covenant, prayers are directed through Him to Father God.

Psalms 141:2 **May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee;**

The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering (bold emphasis added).

Revelation 5:8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb [of God, Messiah Yeshua], having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of **incense, which are the prayers of the saints** [believers] (bold emphasis added).

Revelation 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much **incense** was given to him, that he might add it to **the prayers of all the saints** [believers] **upon the golden altar which was before the throne.**

Revelation 8:4 And **the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints** [believers], **went up before God** out of the angel's hand (bold emphasis added).

6. No Laver

The laver held the water for the spiritual cleansing of the priests. Yeshua cleanses us spiritually by His sacrifice –

Ezekiel 36:25 “Then **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;** I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Ezekiel 36:26 “Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 “And **I will put My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances” (bold emphasis added).

Yeshua said –

John 15:3 “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”

7. No Court of the Gentiles – No wall of partition to exclude Gentiles from the Inner Court. In the previous Temples, Gentiles were allowed in the Outer Court, but not the Inner Court.

Yeshua removed the spiritual barrier between Gentiles (non-Jews) and Jews, spiritually uniting them as one in Him –

Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one, and **broke down the barrier of the dividing wall** (bold emphasis added).

Galatians 3:28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for **you are all one in Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]** (bold emphasis added).

8. No Court of Women – No wall of partition to exclude women from the Inner Court. In the previous Temples, women were only allowed in the Women's Court.

Yeshua removed the spiritual barrier between women and men, spiritually uniting them as one in Him –

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, **there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ [Messiah] Jesus [Yeshua]** (bold emphasis added).

Video: Ezekiel's Temple Compared to Solomon's Temple –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQWqD3pM7X4>

THE ALTAR OF BURNT OFFERINGS

The Altar of Burnt Offerings, the sacrificial altar located in front of the Temple, is larger in the Millennial Temple than in previous temples. In addition, whereas the altar of the previous temples had a ramp on the south side, the Altar of Burnt Offerings of the Millennial Temple has a stairway on the eastern side. This change in orientation of the approach to the Altar may have something to do with water flowing on the south side of the Millennial Temple, as described by Ezekiel (probably as a result of the earthquake described in Zechariah 14:4).

Ezekiel 47:1 Then he brought me back to the door of the house [Temple]; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house [Temple] toward the east, for the house [Temple] faced east. And **the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar** (bold emphasis added).

The Eastern approach to the Altar is also interesting because it lines up with the entrance to the Temple and faces the Eastern Gate that Messiah Yeshua enters at His Second Coming. Yeshua returns from Heaven to the Mount of Olives, east of the Temple Mount, then moves from East to West to the Temple Mount through the Eastern Gate.

Zechariah 14:4 And in that day **His [Yeshua's] feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east**; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south (bold emphasis added).

Matthew 24:27 “For just **as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west**, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be” (bold emphasis added).

Currently, the Eastern Gate of the Temple Mount is sealed up by the Muslims to prevent the Messiah from entering. The Muslims have also placed a cemetery in front of the Eastern Gate to block the Messiah from the Temple Mount, understanding the Biblical law regarding unclean dead bodies (Numbers 19:13). However, the splitting of the Mount of Olives that is prophesied to take place at Messiah Yeshua's Second Coming can be expected to open up the Eastern Gate as well as a ritually clean path through the Muslim cemetery.

Just as Messiah Yeshua comes from Heaven above the Mount of Olives and returns to the Temple Mount from the East, so will the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of the Lord's Presence, come down from Heaven above the Mount of Olives and return to the Temple from the East –

Ezekiel 43:1 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east;

Ezekiel 43:2 and behold, **the [Shekinah] glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east**. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Ezekiel 43:4 And **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD came into the house [Temple] by the way of the gate facing toward the east** (bold emphasis added).

THE ALTAR (TABLE OF THE LORD) – THE ONLY OBJECT INSIDE THE TEMPLE

The Altar, also called the Table of the Lord, is the one and only item inside the Millennial Temple, as described in Ezekiel's vision. The Altar is located in the Holy Place, in front of the entrance to the Holy of Holies. This is a very unique item because it is the one and only item in the Millennial Temple.

What is the purpose and meaning of the Table of the Lord? The answer is profoundly significant with regard to Passover. The timing of this section about the Millennial Temple, as it was first taught to our ministry group in April 2016, is highly significant because it happened to fall on Sunday, April 24, 2016 (16th of Nisan) – the day after Passover (Pesah – 15th of Nisan) according to the Biblical (Jewish) Calendar. The teaching was not planned ahead of time in this way. We believe that God was working in the timing of this teaching to confirm the link of Passover to the Table of the Lord (see next section for explanation).

Note: The Biblical Passover falls on the 15th of Nisan according to the Biblical Calendar, the same calendar used by the Jews today. However, because Christianity does not follow the Biblical Calendar and calculates Easter in a different way, Easter in 2016 fell on March 27th – a month before Passover. How can Easter, the Christian observance of Messiah Yeshua's resurrection, fall a month before His crucifixion at Passover? This has to do with changes that were made to God's true Biblical Holy Days, called the Appointed Times of the Lord (Leviticus 23). For an in-depth study on this subject, see *A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies*, Part 6: The Man of Lawlessness & the Apostasy – Emperor Constantine & the Roman Church, section: Pagan Holidays Replaced God's Biblical Holy Days, free study at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.

THE TABLE OF THE LORD AND MESSIAH YESHUA'S PASSOVER SACRIFICE

As previously mentioned, Orthodox Jews understand that the Temple will not and cannot be built until the Messiah comes. There is information about the Temple that is not revealed in Ezekiel's vision, information that only the Messiah can reveal. For example, even though Ezekiel's vision provides detailed dimensions of a floor plan, it provides few height dimensions.¹⁵ So it will be

¹⁵ Kenneth Barker (Editor), *The NIV Study Bible* (New International Version), p. 1284.

Messiah Yeshua who will fill in the missing details so that the Millennial Temple is built exactly according to God's plan.

Another mysterious aspect of the Millennial Temple has to do with why the Ark of the Covenant, Menorah, Altar of Incense, and Table of Showbread are not shown in Ezekiel's vision. Only Messiah Yeshua can reveal Himself as the reality of these symbolic items that will no longer be needed in the Millennial Temple because He Himself is present.

Messiah Yeshua will also explain the one and only unique item in the Millennial Temple, referred to as the Altar called the Table of the Lord in the Holy Place:

Ezekiel 41:22 The altar *was* of wood, three cubits high, and its length two cubits; its corners, its base, and its sides *were* of wood. And he said to me, **“This is the table that is before the LORD”** (bold emphasis added).

Ezekiel 44:16 “They shall enter My sanctuary [Temple]; **they shall come near to My table to minister to Me** and keep My charge” (bold emphasis added).

Converting cubits to feet, the Altar/Table of the Lord is about 5 feet high and 3.5 feet square.

Note: The cubit was the ancient measurement based upon the length from the elbow to the fingertips. The short cubit was about 18 inches long (Hebrew: 17.5 inches; Egyptian 17.6 inches); the long cubit was about 20.4 (Hebrew) to 20.6 (Egyptian) inches long. The Ezekiel's Temple cubit is the long cubit, according to Ezekiel 40:5 and 43:13, the sum of an 18-inch cubit plus a 3-inch handbreadth (or more precisely the sum of 17.5 inches plus 3 inches for a total of 20.5 inches). It is interesting to note that the Solomon's Temple cubit was also the long cubit, according to 2 Chronicles 3:3 (“the old standard” for the cubit referring to the long cubit).^{16,17,18}

¹⁶ “In using the long cubit (seven handbreadths, or about 21 inches), which was older than the shorter cubit (six handbreadths, or about 18 inches), Ezekiel was returning to more ancient standards ... (2 Ch 3:3)” – *The NIV Study Bible*, p. 1283, Ezekiel 40:5 (Footnote).

¹⁷ “Ezekiel uses a long or “royal” cubit, 20.4 inches or 51.81 cm (“cubit and a handbreadth,” Eze 40:5), as opposed to the standard Hebrew cubit of 17.6 inches or 44.6 cm” – *The NIV Study Bible*, p. 1284.

¹⁸ <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-long-was-the-original-cubit/> - How Long Was the Original Cubit? by Bodie Hodge, April 1, 2007, *Answers in Genesis* – accessed April 8, 2016.

The day that I (Christie Michas) originally prepared this part of the teaching on the subject of the Millennial Temple – Thursday, April 21st, 2016 – I told Peter (my husband) about the Table of the Lord. Immediately what came to his mind was that the Table of the Lord is symbolic of the Lord's Last Supper. At the Last Supper, Yeshua presented the bread and wine as symbolic of His body and blood that would be given for humanity's redemption. He came in a human body with blood in order to be God's Passover Lamb for the Passover sacrifice. The Table of the Lord is made of wood – wood symbolizing Yeshua's humanity.

As we previously explained, the sacrifices of the Millennial Temple are not a replacement for Yeshua's once-for-all-time, perfect, and complete sacrifice for the redemption of humanity. As the sacrifices of the Tabernacle and first two Temples were symbolic, looking FORWARD in time to Messiah Yeshua's sacrifice, the sacrifices of the Millennial Temple are symbolic, looking BACKWARD in time to Messiah Yeshua's sacrifice.

We can understand the Table of the Lord as a symbolic reminder of Yeshua's Last Supper and His sacrifice as God's Passover Lamb. This is the central focus of God's plan of salvation for humanity and therefore its significance in the Millennial Temple is of paramount importance.

The date that we believe God showed us about the Table of the Lord being symbolic of Yeshua's Last Supper and His Passover sacrifice happened to be the 13th of Nisan on the Biblical (Jewish) Calendar – the same date that Yeshua had His disciples prepare for the Last Supper, which took place after sunset that same day (the start of the 14th of Nisan according to the Biblical Calendar). And we had previously planned a Last Supper Communion service as part of this teaching for the day of our local ministry meeting (Sunday), the day following Passover, the 15th of Nisan.

I (Christie) believe that in this remarkable way of timing, God is confirming the meaning of the Table of the Lord in the Millennial Temple as symbolic of Yeshua's Last Supper Communion, when He offered His body (symbolized by the bread) and His blood (symbolized by the wine) as a sacrifice for all humanity. All who trust in Messiah Yeshua for salvation through His complete and perfect sin-atonement sacrifice are partakers in the Last Supper Communion, as symbolized by the Table of the Lord in the Millennial Temple.

There is also a unique blood offering involving application of blood on the doorposts of the Millennial Temple, also pointing to Yeshua's Passover sacrifice. We will explain this later, as we continue our study.

The main point is that the entire focus of the Millennial Temple is on Messiah Yeshua as God's Passover Lamb, sacrificed for the sins of humanity. As John the Baptist proclaimed:

John 1:29 ... "Behold, **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!" (bold emphasis added)

Even the date on the Biblical calendar when Ezekiel experienced the vision of the Millennial Temple points to Messiah Yeshua as God's Passover Lamb – the 10th of Nisan, the day the Passover lambs were selected!

Ezekiel 40:1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at **the beginning of the year [first month], on the tenth of the month**, in the fourteenth year after the city was taken, on that same day the hand of the LORD was upon me and He brought me there.

Ezekiel 40:2 **In the visions of God He brought me into the land of Israel**, and set me on a very high mountain; and on it to the south *there was* a structure like a city.

Ezekiel 40:3 So He brought me there; and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze, with a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand; and he was standing in the gateway.

Ezekiel 40:4 And the man said to me, "**Son of man, see with your eyes, hear with your ears, and give attention to all that I am going to show you**; for you have been brought here in order to show *it* to you. Declare to the house of Israel all that you see" (bold emphasis added).

THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS

Ezekiel's vision clearly shows sacrifices and offerings as part of the Millennial Temple service for the Biblical Feasts (the Appointed Times of the Lord, the Biblical Holy Days), Sabbaths, New Moons, and daily sacrifices (Ezekiel 45:18–25; 46:1–15).

There is no mention of the Red Heifer, whose ashes were used in the ritual purification of persons and objects defiled by a corpse (Numbers 19).¹⁹ According to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*:

¹⁹ http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0017_0_16546.html - *Encyclopedia Judaica*, article: Red Heifer – accessed April 23, 2016.

The burning of the red heifer with its blood, the crimson that was combined with it, and the red color of the animal itself may allude to the power of blood to overcome the power of death.²⁰

The Red Heifer points to Messiah Yeshua, by whose blood sacrifice we are cleansed of all spiritual impurity, have the forgiveness of sins, and are spiritually restored to God. (For a detailed study on this subject, see our free book, *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, Chapter 2: The Mount of Olives – True Site of the Crucifixion, section: The Mystery of the Red Heifer Revealed in Messiah Yeshua, at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.)

The Millennial Temple sacrifices are a remembrance of Messiah Yeshua's perfect and complete sacrifice for salvation, not a replacement for His sacrifice. As the sacrifices offered in the Tabernacle and first two Temples looked forward to Yeshua's sacrifice, the sacrifices offered in the Millennial Temple look backward to His sacrifice.

The prophet Isaiah was also shown the future Temple, where sacrifices will be made to the Lord

—
Isaiah 56:7 “Even those I will bring to My holy mountain [Temple Mount],

And make them joyful in My house [Temple] of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar;

For My house [Temple] will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples” (bold emphasis added).

There will be people who survive the terrible times and God's judgment to come before Messiah Yeshua returns to Earth. They and all the children born during the Millennial Kingdom period will have the opportunity to learn about Yeshua's perfect and complete sacrifice for salvation. People will continue to have the choice to receive or reject God's one and only way of salvation through Messiah Yeshua. Many people will come from all over the world to the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem during this time.

Salvation has always been by the grace of God, never by sacrifices. The sacrificial system revealed the prophetic picture of Messiah Yeshua's sacrifice for our sins. Salvation is only by the

²⁰ http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0017_0_16546.html - *Encyclopedia Judaica*, article: Red Heifer – accessed April 23, 2016.

grace of God, freely granted by God and received through a person's freewill choice by trusting in God's way of salvation. When we trust in God's way of salvation through Messiah Yeshua, we receive the righteousness of Yeshua and are in a right relationship with God. Before the Tabernacle – before the Temple – before the sacrifice of Yeshua – Abraham (Abram) trusted in God, and God reckoned his trust as righteousness, being in a right relationship with God.

Genesis 15:6 Then he [Abraham] believed [trusted] in the LORD; and He [the LORD] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

THE UNIQUE BLOOD OFFERING OF THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

A unique blood offering of the Millennial Temple is described in Ezekiel 45:19 –

Ezekiel 45:18 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “In **the first *month*** [Nisan], **on the first of the month**, you shall take a young bull without blemish and cleanse the sanctuary.

Ezekiel 45:19 “And the priest shall take some of **the blood from the sin offering and put it on the door posts of the house [Temple], on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the posts of the gate of the inner court.**

Ezekiel 45:20 “And thus you shall do on the seventh *day* of the month for everyone who goes astray or is naive; so you shall make atonement for the house” (bold emphasis added).

According to the Jewish commentary: “The blood offering described in this verse is unique. Nowhere else do we find blood being placed on either the *doorposts of the Temple Building* or on the *doorposts of the inner courtyard*”.²¹

The unique blood offering, involving application of blood on the Temple doorposts, points to Passover and the blood of Yeshua, God's Passover Lamb. At the time of the Exodus and the first Passover, God specified that the blood of the Passover lamb be applied to the doorposts of the Israelite dwellings in order to protect them from the Tenth Plague – the death of the firstborn.

Exodus 12:7 ‘Moreover, they shall **take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts** and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

²¹ Nossion Scherman and Meir Zlotowitz (Editors), *ArtScroll Tanach Series: The Book of Ezekiel*, Vol. III, p. 717.

Exodus 12:22 “And you shall take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood which is in the basin, and apply some of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts; and none of you shall go outside the door of his house until morning.

Exodus 12:23 “For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite *you*” (bold emphasis added).

The blood of the Passover lamb provided a sign to God and protection from death. Messiah Yeshua is the Lamb of God and by His blood we have protection from spiritual death; we have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (NIV).

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus [Yeshua] coming to him, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**” (bold emphasis added).

John 1:36 and he looked upon Jesus [Yeshua] as He walked, and said, “**Behold, the Lamb of God!**” (bold emphasis added).

Acts 8:32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:

“**HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH** (bold emphasis added).

Note: This passage of Scripture refers to the Hebrew Scriptures, Isaiah 53:7. Isaiah 53 describes Messiah Yeshua as the Suffering Servant, God’s Passover Lamb, who gave His life for the redemption of humanity.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He did not open His mouth;
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,
So He did not open His mouth.

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that **you were not redeemed with perishable things** like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

1 Peter 1:19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ [Messiah]* (emphasis added).

Revelation 5:12 ...“**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain** to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Revelation 5:13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,

“To Him who sits on the throne, and **to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever**” (bold emphasis added).

Revelation 7:17 for **the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd**, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes” (bold emphasis added).

Revelation 15:3 And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and **the song of the Lamb**, saying,

“Great and marvelous are Thy works,
O Lord God, the Almighty;
Righteous and true are Thy ways,
Thou King of the nations” (bold emphasis added).

THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

Messiah Yeshua is the High Priest of the Millennial Temple. There will also be a Levitical priesthood from the line of Zadok that serves in the Millennial Temple.

Ezekiel 44:15 “But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood,” declares the Lord GOD.

Zakok was the priest at the time of king David who established a high priestly dynasty that continued through both the First and Second Temple periods until about 171 BC. Zadok remained faithful to David during the plot by Adonijah to usurp the throne (1 Kings 1–2).²²

²² http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0021_0_21361.html - Jewish Virtual Library, article: Zadok, accessed April 8, 2016.

WATER FLOWS FROM THE MILLENNIAL SANCTUARY, CREATING A RIVER

The prophecies of Ezekiel, Zechariah, and Joel show that water will flow from the south side of the Millennial Temple, forming a river that divides into two branches, one flowing West into the Mediterranean Sea, the other flowing East into the Dead Sea.

Ezekiel 47:1 Then he brought me back to the door of the house [Temple]; and behold, **water was flowing from under the threshold of the house [Temple] toward the east**, for the house [Temple] faced east. And **the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar**.

Ezekiel 47:2 And he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of *the gate* that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side.

Ezekiel 47:3 When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water *reaching* the ankles.

Ezekiel 47:4 Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water *reaching* the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through *the water*, water *reaching* the loins.

Ezekiel 47:5 Again he measured a thousand; *and it was* a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, *enough* water to swim in, a river that could not be forded.

Ezekiel 47:6 And he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen *this?*” Then he brought me back to the bank of the river.

Ezekiel 47:7 Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there *were* very many trees on the one side and on the other.

Ezekiel 47:8 Then he said to me, “**These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the [Dead] sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh**” (bold emphasis added).

Note: The Dead Sea is 9.6 times as salty as the ocean. The high salinity prevents fish and aquatic plants from living in it, which is why it is called the Dead Sea.^{23, 24} This will change when the massive amounts of fresh water from the spring in Jerusalem flow into it.

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea - Wikipedia, article: Dead Sea, section: Introduction – accessed April 9, 2016.

²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea - Wikipedia, article: Dead Sea, section: 7 Fauna and flora – accessed April 9, 2016.

Ezekiel 47:9 “And it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. **And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there, and *the others* become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.**

Ezekiel 47:10 “And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea [Mediterranean Sea], very many.

Ezekiel 47:11 “But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

Ezekiel 47:12 “**And by the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all *kinds of trees* for food. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary [Temple], and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing”** (bold emphasis added).

Ezekiel’s prophecy connects to Zechariah’s prophecy about the splitting of Mount of Olives, resulting in water flowing out of Jerusalem –

Zechariah 14:4 And in that day His [Yeshua’s] feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and **the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley**, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

Zechariah 14:6 And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

Zechariah 14:7 For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

Zechariah 14:8 And it will come about in that day that **living [flowing] waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea [Dead Sea] and the other half toward the western sea [Mediterranean Sea];** it will be in summer as well as in winter (bold emphasis added).

The prophet Joel also prophesies about a spring that will flow from the Temple –

Joel 3:18 And it will come about in that day

That the mountains will drip with sweet wine,

And the hills will flow with milk,

And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water;

And **a spring will go out from the house [Temple] of the LORD,**

To water the valley of Shittim [region Northeast of the Dead Sea]²⁵
(bold emphasis added).

THE PROPHETIC PICTURE OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN

In the prophecies concerning a river flowing from the Temple, we see the prophetic picture of the Garden of Eden, where God dwelled with Adam and Eve. In our book, *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, Chapter 1 Jerusalem – The Center of the Garden of Eden, we show that God dwelled with Adam and Eve in the same place God said His dwelling place on Earth would be – Jerusalem. (Free copy of book available at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.)

God established Jerusalem as the site for His Temple according to His detailed, precise, and meaningful prophetic pattern. As the First and Second Temples stood on the Temple Mount, so the future Millennial Temple will stand in the very same place.²⁶

Ezekiel 43:7 And He said to me, “Son of man, **this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever**. And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die” (bold emphasis added).

Alongside the river that flows will grow many trees – trees that will produce fruit all months of the year; trees whose leaves will be for healing. This is a picture of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, whose fruit endowed Adam and Eve with eternal life.

Ezekiel 47:12 “And **by the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food**. Their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. **They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary [Temple], and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing**” (bold emphasis added).

²⁵ *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 5, p. 418.

²⁶ The Dome of the Rock currently stands on the site of the ancient Temples; for conclusive evidence, see *The Quest: Revealing the Temple Mount in Jerusalem* by Leen Ritmeyer.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground **the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden**, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (bold emphasis added).

The prophetic pattern is a reflection of the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God, the New Jerusalem that comes down out of Heaven (Revelation 21-22).

Revelation 2:7 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of **the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God**’ (bold emphasis added).

Revelation 22:1 And he showed me **a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb** [Messiah Yeshua],

Revelation 22:2 in the middle of its street. And **on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

Revelation 22:3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him;

Revelation 22:4 and they shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.

Revelation 22:5 And there shall no longer be *any* night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever (bold emphasis added).

The “river of the water of life” that flows “from the throne of God” and “the Lamb” in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:1) is the heavenly reality of what God has revealed on this Earth – the river of the water of life coming from the earthly Temple of God in Jerusalem. The water that flows from the Temple of God – the earthly Throne of God – connects to the Gihon Spring in Jerusalem and the Gihon River in the Garden of Eden. (See *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God’s Master Plan*, Chapter 1 Jerusalem – The Center of the Garden of Eden, free copy at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.)

Genesis 2:13 And the name of **the second river is Gihon**; it flows around the whole land of Cush (bold emphasis added).

1 Kings 1:45 “And Zadok the [high] priest and Nathan the prophet have **anointed him [Solomon] king in Gihon**, and they have come up from there rejoicing, so that the city

[Jerusalem] is in an uproar. ...” (bold emphasis added).

2 Chronicles 32:30 It was Hezekiah who stopped **the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon** and directed them to the west side of the city of David [Jerusalem]. And Hezekiah prospered in all that he did (bold emphasis added).

When the Mount of Olives splits (Zechariah 14:4), water that is currently flowing underground will be brought to the surface, releasing the flow of water from the Gihon. The water will flow on the south side of the Temple.

Ezekiel 47:1 Then he brought me back to the door of the house [Temple]; and behold, **water was flowing from under the threshold of the house [Temple] toward the east**, for the house [Temple] faced east. And **the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house [Temple], from south of the altar** (bold emphasis added).

As Ezekiel’s vision reveals, water will flow south of the Altar in front of the Temple. Perhaps this is a reason why the access to the Altar in front of the Millennial Temple will be from the East, not from the South as it was in the previous two Temples.

THE SHEKINAH (GLORY CLOUD) RETURNS TO THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

Ezekiel had a vision of the return of the Shekinah, the Glory Cloud of the Lord’s Presence, to the Millennial Temple –

Ezekiel 43:1 Then he led me to the gate [of the Temple], the gate facing toward the east;

Ezekiel 43:2 and behold, **the [Shekinah] glory of the God of Israel was coming from the way of the east**. And His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory (bold emphasis added).

The Shekinah departed from the First (Solomon’s) Temple prior to its destruction by the Babylonians. Ezekiel describes the movement of the Shekinah leaving the Temple, moving eastward toward the Eastern Gate, where it hovered before continuing to move eastward toward the Mount of Olives, where it hovered above the mountain, finally ascending into Heaven (Ezekiel 10:4-19; 11:22-23). There was no permanent presence of the Shekinah in the Second

Temple as there had been in the First Temple (and no Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, above which the Shekinah dwelled in the First Temple).

In Ezekiel's vision of the Millennial Temple, Ezekiel describes the Shekinah returning from Heaven above the Mount of Olives, moving from East to West toward the Millennial Temple on the Temple Mount. Just as the Shekinah had departed from the First Temple to Heaven above the Mount of Olives, it will return from Heaven above the Mount of Olives to the Millennial Temple.

Ezekiel 43:3 And *it was* like the appearance of the vision which I saw, like the vision which I saw when He came to destroy the city. And the visions *were* like the vision which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.

Ezekiel 43:4 And **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD came into the house [Temple] by the way of the gate facing toward the east.**

Ezekiel 43:5 And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court [of the Temple]; and behold, **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the house [Temple].**

Ezekiel 43:6 Then I heard one speaking to me from the house [Temple], while a man was standing beside me.

Ezekiel 43:7 And He said to me, "Son of man, ***this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever.*** And the house of Israel will not again defile My holy name, neither they nor their kings, by their harlotry and by the corpses of their kings when they die" (bold emphasis added).

In the same way, Yeshua ascended into Heaven above the Mount of Olives, and will return from Heaven to the Mount of Olives, then moving from East to West toward the Temple Mount. We can therefore say that the Gate of Heaven is located above the Mount of Olives. The summit of the Mount of Olives is also where the Two Witnesses will ascend into Heaven after they resurrect, near the place Yeshua ascended into Heaven (Revelation 11:8-12), and where Yeshua was crucified and resurrected (see *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, Chapter 2 The Mount of Olives – True Site of the Crucifixion, section The Mount of Olives – Where the Two Witnesses Will Be Killed, free book at www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

As previously explained, the Word of God in Ezekiel 43:7 reveals that the Millennial Temple will never be desecrated, another proof that there will be no Antichrist proclaiming himself to be God in a rebuilt Temple during a future seven-year Tribulation. This is confirmed in Ezekiel 44:9

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Ezekiel 44:9 ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary [Temple].”’

As we have also fully detailed and documented in our prophecy study, there is no future 70th Week of Daniel – seven-year Tribulation – and the Temple will not stand until AFTER Messiah Yeshua returns. (See *A New Look at the Books of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies*, free study at www.messengers-of-messiah.org.)

The prophet Ezekiel was overwhelmed by the vision of the Shekinah (Glory Cloud) filling the Millennial Temple –

Ezekiel 44:4 Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the house; and I looked, and behold, the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD filled the house [Temple] of the LORD, and **I fell on my face** (bold emphasis added).

Another proof that the Millennial Temple will be built under the supervision of Messiah Yeshua, and not descend fully formed from heaven (as some think), is that the Shekinah comes from Heaven to indwell it. If the Millennial Temple descends from Heaven, why would the Shekinah be described as coming from Heaven to indwell the Temple? Wouldn't the Shekinah already be in the Temple from Heaven?

THE SHEKINAH INDWELLED THE FIRST TEMPLE OF SOLOMON IN THE SEVENTH MONTH OF TISHRI

We can assume that the manner in which the Shekinah indwells the Millennial Temple will be similar to the way it indwelled the First Temple built by Solomon. We find a description of this event in 1 Kings 8 –

1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' *households* of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, **to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the city of David**, which is Zion.

1 Kings 8:2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is **the seventh month** [Tishri] (bold emphasis added).

Significantly, the events surrounding the indwelling of Solomon's Temple took place during the seventh month of the Biblical Calendar, called Tishri ("Ethanin" in 1 Kings 8:2).

The Seventh Month of Tishri Link to the Rapture and Second Coming

The seventh month is the month of Tishri according to the Biblical (Jewish) Calendar. This is an extremely prophetically significant month because of the number and significance of key Appointed Times of the Lord (Leviticus 23) –

1. Rosh HaShanah (Feast of Trumpets) 1st to 2nd of Tishri²⁷
2. Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) 10th of Tishri
3. Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles) 15th to 21st of Tishri

We have previously shown that the Appointed Times of the Lord, specifically Rosh HaShanah (Feast of Trumpets) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), provide a prophetic picture and timeline for the Rapture and Second Coming. We believe that in the description of events leading up to the indwelling of the First Temple by the Shekinah, a prophetic timeline is revealed that confirms the link between these Appointed Times and the Rapture and Second Coming.

To understand this connection, let us examine the full description in 1 Kings 8 –

1 Kings 8:3 Then all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

1 Kings 8:4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils, which were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites brought them up.

1 Kings 8:5 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were assembled to him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen they could not be counted or numbered.

1 Kings 8:6 Then **the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house [Temple], to the most holy place [Holy of Holies], under the wings of the cherubim.**

²⁷ Rosh HaShanah ("head of the year"), also called the Feast of Trumpets (*Yom Teruah* - the day of sounding of the shofar or ram's horn) in Leviticus 23:24, falls on the 1st of Tishri - <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday2.htm> - accessed May 7, 2016. By custom, it is observed two days, the 1st and 2nd of Tishri, due to the way the Biblical (Jewish) Calendar works, with the date of the New Moon coming after the previous month of either 29 or 30 days. For a detailed explanation of the reason for the two-day observance, go to <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday0.htm#Extra> - accessed May 7, 2016.

1 Kings 8:10 And it came about when the priests came from the holy place, that **the [Shekinah, Glory] cloud filled the house [Temple] of the LORD,**

1 Kings 8:11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the [Shekinah, Glory] cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house [Temple] of the LORD.

1 Kings 8:12 Then Solomon said,

“The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud [Shekinah, Glory Cloud]”
(bold emphasis added).

After the priests set the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, the Shekinah (Glory Cloud) filled the Temple. During the time the Temple was dedicated and these events were taking place, King Solomon observed a special feast for the dedication of the Altar in addition to the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot). We may learn more about the future prophetic events to take place during the month of Tishri from the prophetic pattern and events revealed at the time the First Temple was dedicated and indwelt by the Shekinah. In particular, we need to focus on the feast of seven days for the dedication of the Altar, followed by the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles –

1 Kings 8:65 So **Solomon observed the feast [Feast of Tabernacles - Sukkot] at that time, and all Israel with him,** a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, **for seven days and seven *more* days, *even* fourteen days.**

1 Kings 8:66 **On the eighth day he sent the people away** and they blessed the king. Then they went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David His servant and to Israel His people (bold emphasis added).

2 Chronicles also records the events relating to the dedication of Solomon’s Temple, the indwelling of the Shekinah, and the two feasts celebrated, each for seven days.

2 Chronicles 5:3 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves to the king at the feast, **that is *in the seventh month* [Tishri]** (bold emphasis added).

2 Chronicles 7:8 So **Solomon observed the feast [Feast of Tabernacles - Sukkot] at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him,** a very great assembly, *who came* from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt.

2 Chronicles 7:9 And **on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days [preceding Sukkot], and the feast [of Sukkot] seven days.**

2 Chronicles 7:10 Then **on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents**, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel (bold emphasis added).

According to this timeline, there was a seven-day celebration for the dedication of Altar of the Temple (8th to 14th of Tishri), followed by the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles, Sukkot (15th to 21st of Tishri). The “eighth day” (2 Chronicles 7:9) refers to the eighth day, the 22nd of Tishri, following the seven days of Sukkot. The day after the 8th day following Sukkot, the 23rd of Tishri, Solomon sent the people back to their homes. (Note: Today, the 8th day that follows the 7th day of Sukkot is called Shemini Atzeret or Simchat Torah.)²⁸

This timeline is confirmed in the *Ryrie Study Bible* –

The entire celebration lasted 15 days: seven days for dedicating the altar followed by the seven days of the Festival of Booths [Feast of Tabernacles, Sukkot] and climaxed by a one-day solemn assembly²⁹ (bold emphasis added).

We have further confirmation from the Jewish commentary on the parallel verse in 1 Kings 8:65

—

The celebration, i.e., the seven-day inaugural celebration ... just before Succos [Sukkot].

For seven days and seven [more] days. According to the Sages, **the seven-day inaugural celebration began on the eighth of Tishrei [Tishri] and ended on the fourteenth, immediately followed by Succos [Sukkot], which begins on the fifteenth, for a total of fourteen days** (*Moed Kattan* 9a). As explained in *II Chronicles 7:9*, the seven-day inaugural celebration *preceded* the seven-day festival of Succos [Sukkot].

²⁸ <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday6.htm> - Judaism 101, article: Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah – accessed April 23, 2016.

²⁹ *The Ryrie Study Bible*, p. 679, footnote for 2 Chronicles 7:9.

One of the seven days preceding Succos [Sukkot] is Yom Kippur, on the tenth of Tishrei [Tishri]. ...

Since Solomon did not schedule the seven-day inauguration celebration to *coincide* with Succos [Sukkot], the Talmud (ibid.) derives the rule that ... *one should not combine one celebration with another celebration*. For example, it is forbidden to hold a marriage during a festival.

One day suffices for an ordinary celebration; **an extraordinary celebration requires seven days, such as the seven-day celebration of a wedding**. So, too, **seven represents a complete cycle of time**, such as the seven days of the week, the seven years of the *Shemittah* [Sabbatical] cycle, the seven-day festivals of Pesach [Passover] and Succos [Sukkot]. ... Therefore, the duration of Solomon's dedication is not given simply as fourteen days, but as two sets of seven (*Sichos Kodesh*), as if to say that the joy was so great the one cycle of celebration was insufficient (bold emphasis added).³⁰

With this perspective, we can understand that the dedication of Solomon's Temple was celebrated for seven days preceding Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles). The first fifteen days of the month of Tishri are therefore a very prophetically significant period of time, revealing the pattern for future events, including the Rapture, Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and Second Coming of Messiah Yeshua.

With regard to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, according to our understanding of the prophetic timeline, it will occur sometime between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. This fits the statement made in the Jewish commentary that a seven-day marriage celebration should not coincide with a festival such as Sukkot.

The Departure of the Shekinah from the First Temple

By the time the First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians, the Shekinah had already departed due to the corruption and idolatry of the people and priesthood. The departure of the Shekinah is described in Ezekiel chapters 10 and 11 –

³⁰ Nossion Scherman (Editor), *The ArtScroll Series: I-II Kings* (The Rubin Edition), pp. 100-101.

Ezekiel 10:4 Then **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple**, and the temple was filled with the [Shekinah] cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD (bold emphasis added).

Ezekiel 10:18 Then the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.

Ezekiel 10:19 When the cherubim departed, they lifted their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight with the wheels beside them; and they **stood still at the entrance of the east gate of the LORD’S house**. And the [Shekinah] glory of the God of Israel hovered over them (bold emphasis added).

Ezekiel 11:22 Then the cherubim lifted up their wings with the wheels beside them, and the [Shekinah] glory of the God of Israel hovered over them.

Ezekiel 11:23 And **the [Shekinah] glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city, and stood over the mountain which is east of the city [Mount of Olives]** (bold emphasis added).

From the summit of the Mount of Olives, the Shekinah ascended back into Heaven.

There is no record in the Word of God that the Shekinah continually dwelled in the Second Temple like it did in the First Temple. In the First Temple, the Shekinah dwelled above the Mercy Seat, the lid that covered the Ark of the Covenant. In the Second Temple, there was no Ark of the Covenant, so it fits that there was also no continual dwelling of the Shekinah in the Holy of Holies.

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WILL BE CALLED “THE LORD IS THERE”

During the Millennial Kingdom, when Messiah Yeshua rules from Jerusalem, Jerusalem will have a new name: *Yehovah Shammah*, meaning “The LORD (Yehovah) is there”. Note: Yehovah (YHVH) is the Name of God.

Ezekiel 48:35 “*The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, ‘The LORD is there’*” (bold emphasis added).

This is a very prophetically significant name because Messiah Yeshua – who is the Son of God, fully God, with the Father – will dwell in Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom. Therefore, the name “Yehovah is there” is a true statement that Yehovah (the Son) is dwelling in Jerusalem.

Of that time, the prophet Micah speaks –

Micah 4:1 And it will come about in the last days
That the mountain of the house [Temple] of the LORD
Will be established as the chief of the mountains.
It will be raised above the hills,
And the peoples will stream to it.

Micah 4:2 And many nations will come and say,
“Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD
And to the house [Temple] of the God of Jacob,
That He may teach us about His ways
And that we may walk in His paths.”
For from Zion will go forth the law,
Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Micah 4:3 And He [Messiah Yeshua] will judge between many peoples
And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.
Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
And never again will they train for war.

Micah 4:4 And each of them will sit under his vine
And under his fig tree,
With no one to make *them* afraid,
For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

A time of peace is coming, when the Prince of Peace, Messiah Yeshua, will rule the Earth during the Millennial Kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace [Messiah Yeshua].

Isaiah 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

ISRAEL'S BORDERS DURING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

In the vision shown to Ezekiel, the future Temple will stand at a time when the borders of Israel are greatly expanded. Israel's borders will not be expanded until after the enemies of Israel are defeated in the War of Gog-MaGog/Armageddon (Ezekiel 38-39; Revelation 16:16-18, 21). This is another proof that the Temple will not be built until after Messiah Yeshua's Second Coming.

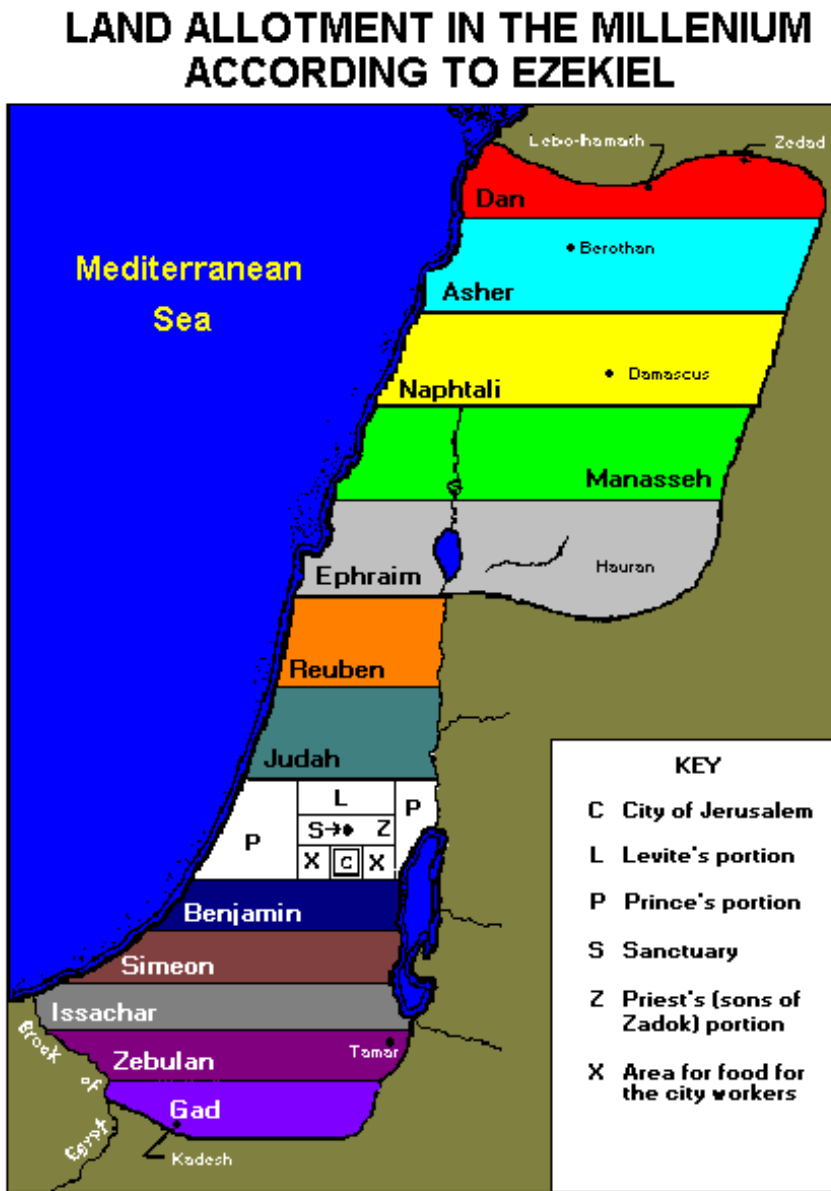
The future boundaries of the Land of Israel are detailed in Ezekiel 47:13-23. The future division of the land is detailed in Ezekiel 48:1-35. The maps below show the apportionment of the Land of Israel among the Twelve Tribes in ancient times and during the Millennial Kingdom.

Map: The Twelve Tribes of Israel Land Allotments in Ancient Times ³¹



³¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelites#/media/File:12_Tribes_of_Israel_Map.svg - accessed April 2016.

Map: The Twelve Tribes of Israel Land Allotments during the Millennial Kingdom¹²



Adapted from map prepared by Lambert Dolphin © 1996

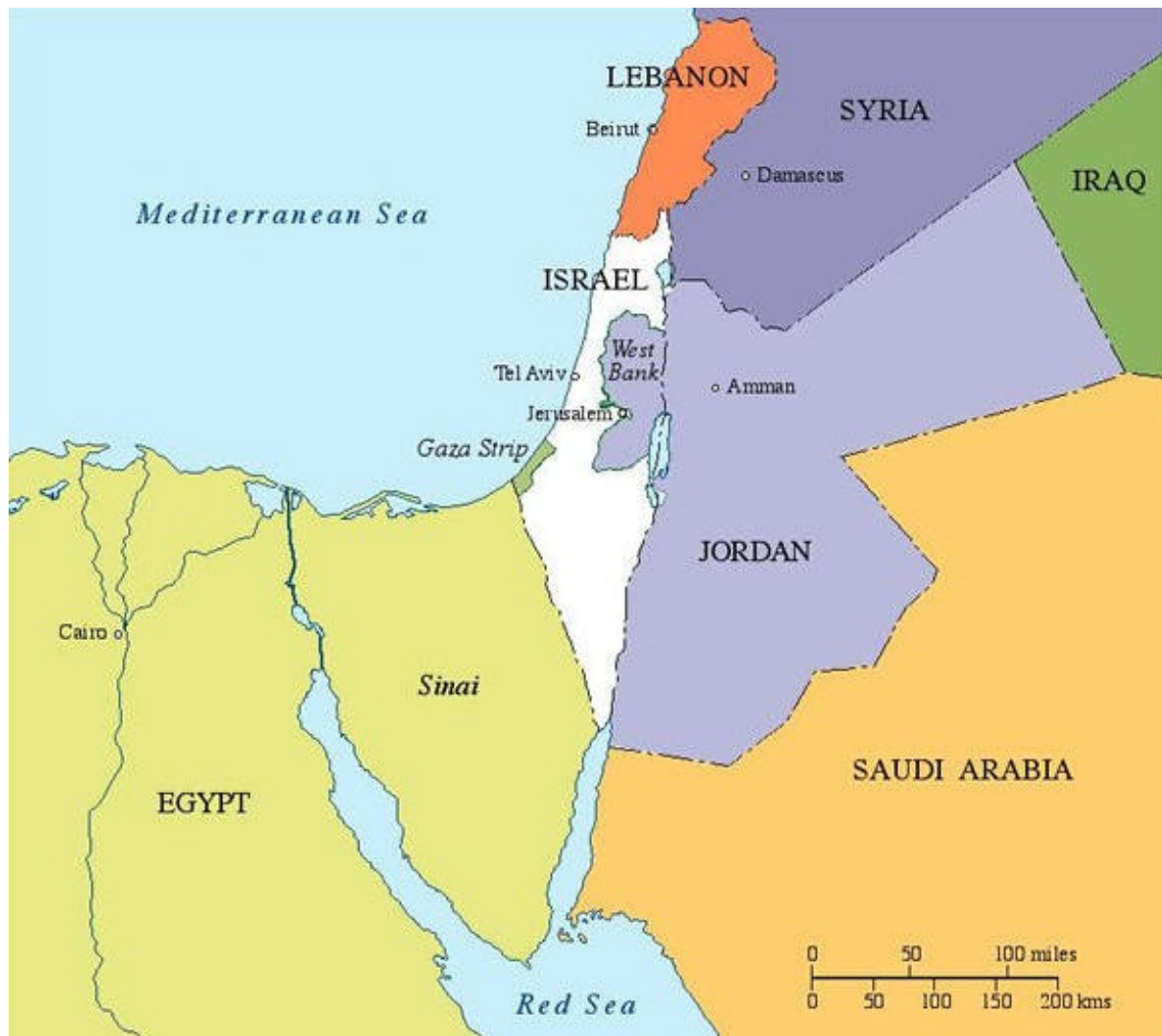
Note: The Holy Portion (in white) includes the Temple (Sanctuary), City of Jerusalem, Priests' (sons of Zadok) portion; Levite's portion; Prince's portion (includes the city and its suburbs).

Note: The "prince" (Hebrew *nasi*) refers to the political leader of Israel.

The expanded borders of Israel will include territory that is today part of Lebanon and Syria.

¹² <http://www.ldolphin.org/jerusalem.html> - accessed April 2016.

Map: Israel and Surrounding Nations



Note: Egypt and Jordan have peace treaties with Israel. Lebanon and Syria do not. This is interesting because the expanded borders of Israel include territory currently belonging to Lebanon and Syria, but not Jordan and Egypt, who are NOT identified in Ezekiel 38 as among the enemies who attack Israel.

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