

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

**Series: the End Times – Bible prophecy about future events and periods**

### Teaching Summary for Week 31

#### The Kingdom and the Covenants

#### Part 6. The future Messianic Kingdom in Old Testament prophecy

#### Five major subjects in the future prophesied Kingdom

5. The **Temple**: Worship in the Millennial Kingdom
  - a. The **character** of the worship
  - b. The Temple in Jerusalem will be the **world center of worship**. The entire world will unite in the worship of God and His Son the Messiah.
  - c. The **Levitical priests** will return as the ministers of the Lord. They will present offerings and prepare sacrifices to the Lord.
  - d. **The Priest-King**

The Old Testament prophets teach that in the future Kingdom, the Ruler will exercise the functions of **both King and Priest**.

All governmental and worship activities will be under the authority of one supreme head, the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ.

- e. **Building the Millennial Temple** ( not to be confused with the Tribulation temple)
  - i. **The Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah**, will build the Millennial Temple.

ii. The **Tribulation temple** is not the same as the Millennial Temple

The Tribulation temple is mentioned in four passages of scripture: Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, and Revelation 11:1-2.

*Dan 9:27*

*"And he [the prince who is to come – the beast of Revelation] will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he **will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering**; and on the wing of **abominations will come one who makes desolate**, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*

*Matt 24:15-16*

*"Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in **the holy place** ( let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.*

*2 Thess 2:3-4*

*3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and **the man of lawlessness** is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that **he takes his seat in the temple of God**, displaying himself as being God.*

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*Rev 11:1-2*

*1 Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and **measure the temple of God and the altar**, and those who worship in it. 2 " Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for **forty-two months**.*

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All four passages describe events that will occur in relation to the Jewish Temple.

The events all take place in the **middle of the Tribulation period**.

So that means that the Tribulation Temple is complete and functioning for at least a little while in advance of the mid-point of the Tribulation Period.

It could either be built before the Tribulation begins, or sometime between the start of the Tribulation and the middle of the Tribulation.

The scriptures do not provide any more details about that.

Once the Tribulation temple is built, the sacrifices and offerings will be reinstated.

But God will not sanction the Tribulation temple.

God never sanctions a rebellious people to build Him a house.

We see this in Isaiah 66:

*Isa 66:1-6*

*Thus says the Lord,*

*"Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool.*

*Where then is a house you could build for Me?*

*And where is a place that I may rest?*

*2 "For My hand made all these things,*

*Thus all these things came into being," declares the Lord.*

*"But to this one I will look,*

*To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

*3 "But he who kills an ox is like one who slays a man;*

*He who sacrifices a lamb is like the one who breaks a dog's neck;*

*He who offers a grain offering is like one who offers swine's blood;  
He who burns incense is like the one who blesses an idol.  
As they have chosen their own ways,  
And their soul delights in their abominations,  
4 So I will choose their punishments  
And will bring on them what they dread.  
Because I called, but no one answered;  
I spoke, but they did not listen.  
And they did evil in My sight  
And chose that in which I did not delight."  
5 Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word:  
"Your brothers who hate you, who exclude you for My name's sake,  
Have said, 'Let the Lord be glorified, that we may see your joy.  
'But they will be put to shame.  
6 "A voice of uproar from the city, a voice from the temple,  
The voice of the Lord who is rendering recompense to His enemies.*

f. The **Glory of the Lord; Jehovah entering the Temple**

When Solomon's temple was completed, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

*2 Chron 7:1-3*

*1 Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. 2 The priests could not enter into the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. 3 All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord, saying, " Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting."*

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The glory of the Lord remained in the temple for hundreds of years. This revealed how patient the Lord is, because the people of Israel and of Judah did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They committed great iniquity and idolatry during this period of time.

You can read all about this period in 1 and 2 Kings.

Finally, the Lord had had enough. He sent the armies of Babylon to conquer Jerusalem and take the Jews captive into exile in Babylon.

And the glory of the Lord departed from the Temple.

Subsequently, the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem and burned the Temple, destroying its walls and columns.

Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah three times: in 605, 597 and 586 BC.

Each time they took Jews captive back to Babylon.

<have the document "Timeline of the Babylonian Captivity handy">

The first time was in 605 BC. The Babylonians invaded Judah. This is documented in 2 Chronicles 36:6-7. The prophet Daniel was taken captive during this first wave of deportation.

The second time was in 597 BC. This time, the Babylonians captured Jerusalem. This is documented in 2 Chronicles 36:9-10. The prophet Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon during this second wave of deportation. King Jehoiachin was taken into exile at this time.

The third and final time was in 586 BC. This time the Babylonians destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the Temple. This is documented in 2 Chronicles 36:17-21.

Ezekiel began to prophesy to the Jewish exiles in Babylon in 593 BC.

*Ezek 1:1-3*

*Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. 2 (On the fifth of the month in the **fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile**, 3 the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the Lord came upon him.)*

By the way, the Chaldeans established the Babylonian empire of this period.

In 592 BC, Ezekiel is miraculously transported back to the Temple in Jerusalem (which was still standing at this time; it would be destroyed eight years later).

*Ezek 8:1-4*

*1 It came about **in the sixth year**, on the fifth day of the sixth month, as I was sitting in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell on me there. 2 Then I looked, and behold, a likeness as the appearance of a man; from His loins and downward there was the appearance of fire, and from His loins and upward the appearance of brightness, like the appearance of glowing metal. 3 He stretched out the form of a hand and caught me by a lock of my head; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the idol of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy, was located. 4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the appearance which I saw in the plain.*

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He witnesses shocking apostasy taking place in the Temple. (Ezekiel 8).

Then he is given a vision of the glory of the Lord departing from the Temple and from Jerusalem.

The glory of the Lord left Israel reluctantly, in several stages.

The first stage of departure was from the Holy of Holies to the threshold of the door of the Temple:

*Ezek 9:3*

*3 Then the glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub on which it had been, to the threshold of the temple.*

*Ezek 10:4*

*4 Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub to the threshold of the temple, and the temple was filled with the cloud and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the Lord.*

The second stage occurred when the glory of the Lord moved from the threshold of the door of the Temple to the eastern gate:

*Ezek 10:18-19*

*18 Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. 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 glory of the God of Israel hovered over them.*

The third stage saw the glory of the Lord departing from the eastern gate and moving over to the Mount of Olives:

*Ezek 11:22-23*

*22 Then the cherubim lifted up their wings with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel hovered over them. 23 The glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood over the mountain which is east of the city.*

Since that day, the glory of the Lord has never returned to dwell in a Jewish temple.

When Zerubbabel completed the second temple, the glory of the Lord did not fill it.

The Glory of the Lord will return to the Millennial Temple, coming in by way of the same Eastern gate.

*Ezek 43:1-7*

*1 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing toward the east; 2 and behold, the 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. 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. 4 And **the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east.** 5 And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house.*

*6 Then I heard one speaking to me from the house, while a man was standing beside me. 7 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.**"*

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The manifestation of the Glory of the Lord – the Shechinah Glory - will be the Person of the Messiah – our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Shechinah is derived from the Hebrew word for “I will dwell”.

The Shechinah Glory will not depart from Israel again.



Not only will the Shechinah Glory be in the Holy of Holies of the Millennial Temple, but it will also cover the entire new Mount Zion:

*Isa 4:1-6*

*For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, "We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!"*

*2 In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth will be the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel. 3 It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy — everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem. 4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, 5 then the Lord will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy. 6 There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.*

The Shechinah Glory will once again be present in the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, as it was when the Lord was leading the nation of Israel out of Egypt and across the wilderness.

The Glory of the Lord will rest over the new Mount Zion, the highest mountain in the world. The top of this mountain will measure 50 miles square, with the city of Jerusalem on the south side and the Millennial Temple on the north side.

And the Shechinah Glory will be with all Israel and not simply over Mount Zion:

*Isa 35:1-2*

*5 The wilderness and the desert will be glad,  
And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom;  
Like the crocus*

*2 It will blossom profusely  
And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the glory of the Lord,  
The majesty of our God.*

All the nations will see the Glory of the Lord dwelling with Israel:

*Isa 60:1-3*

*60 " Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
And **the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**  
2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth  
And deep darkness the peoples;  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And His glory will appear upon you.  
3 " **Nations will come to your light,**  
And kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Finally, the Shechinah Glory will also be seen in the visible reign of Jesus the Messiah:

*Isa 11:9-10*

*They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
As the waters cover the sea.*

*10 Then in that day*

*The nations will resort to **the root of Jesse,**  
Who will stand as a signal for the peoples;  
And His resting place will be **glorious.***