

Thursday Evening Bible Study

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

Teaching Summary for Week 32

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

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

The Glory of the Lord will return to the Millennial Temple, coming in by way of the same Eastern gate from which the Glory departed at the start of the Babylonian captivity (Ezekiel 9-11).

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.

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**.*

Isa 40:3-5

3 A voice is calling,

*" Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.*

4 "Let every valley be lifted up,

*And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the rough ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;*

*5 Then **the glory of the Lord will be revealed**,*

And all flesh will see it together;

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

NASU

g. The Mountain of the House of the Lord

The Millennial Temple will be located at the top of the highest mountain in the world at that time: the Mountain of the House of the Lord.

And the city of Jerusalem will also be found at the top of this mountain.

We begin by examining what the prophets tell us about this **Mountain of the House of the Lord**:

Isa 2:1-4

The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Now it will come about that

In the last days

The mountain of the house of the Lord

Will be established as the chief of the mountains,

And will be raised above the hills;

And all the nations will stream to it.

3 And many peoples will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

To the house of the God of Jacob;

That He may teach us concerning His ways

And that we may walk in His paths."

For the law will go forth from Zion

And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

The house of the Lord is the Millennial Temple.

The prophet who received the most information about the Mountain of the House of the Lord is Ezekiel.

Ezek 20:40-41

40 "For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel," declares the Lord God, "there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I will accept them and there I will seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things. 41 "As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations.

NASU

Here in Ezekiel 20 we see that the mountain will serve as the center of Jewish worship in the Millennial Kingdom.

Ezek 40:1-4

1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, 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. 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. 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. 4 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."

In the final chapters of the book of Ezekiel, we are given specific details about the plateau at the top of this gigantic Mountain of the House of the Lord.

Ezekiel saw the skyline of a city on top of this very high mountain, on the **south** side of the summit. This is the **city of Jerusalem**.

He gives detailed descriptions of what he saw on the top of this mountain in two additional passages: Ezekiel 45:1-8 and Ezekiel 48:8-20.

Here are some highlights:

Both the Millennial Temple and the Millennial Jerusalem will be on the summit of the mountain.

The Temple will not be inside the city.

The city of Jerusalem will be at the southern end of the summit, while Temple will be on the north side.

The north side will be a **holy portion** of the land. In addition to the Temple, there will land apportioned for the priests of the line of Zadok.

There will be a **central section** of the mountain top which will be for members of **the tribe of Levi**.

The southern section will be for the entire house of Israel. It will include **the city of Jerusalem**, and **lands** given to each tribe of the house of Israel.

The lands on either side of the city of Jerusalem will be used to grow food for those who work and live in the city of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem will not belong to any particular tribe but will be inhabited by members of the twelve tribes of Israel.

The prince will apportion the land according to tribe.

Again, you can read all about this in Ezekiel 45:1-8 and Ezekiel 48:8-20.

There is a **handout** tonight that illustrates this information.

h. The Millennial Temple with its order of worship

The future Millennial Temple, including the organization of the worship rituals within, is described in great detail in Ezekiel 40-48.

This Millennial Temple will far exceed, in size and in glory, anything that came before it.

Hag 2:6-9

6 "For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. 7 'I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord of hosts. 8 'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the Lord of hosts. 9 'The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts, 'and in this place I will give peace,' declares the Lord of hosts."

NASU

By the way, as is the case with so many prophetic statements in the Old Testament, this too has both a near and a far fulfillment.

The prophet Haggai was giving encouragement to the remnant in his day to complete the second temple.

But his prophecy also looks out far into the future to the time – still future for us – when the Millennial Temple will be built.

Nothing in the entire history of Israel corresponds to the architectural features of the Temple that Ezekiel describes.

In Ezekiel 37:26-28, Ezekiel prophesied that the Millennial Temple would be in Israel forever:

Ezek 37:26-28

26 "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 in their midst forever. 27 "My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 "And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.""

Then, in **Ezekiel 40:5-43:27**, Ezekiel describes in great detail the vision he received concerning the Millennial Temple.

Here is a high-level sketch of what he saw:

1. He describes **the outer court** with its gates and chambers (Eze 40:5-27).
2. He describes **the inner court**, including four things:
 - a. The **gates** of the inner court (Eze 40:28-37)
 - b. The **table** for preparing the sacrifices (Eze 40:38-43)
 - c. The **chambers** for the ministering priests (Eze 40:44-46)
 - d. The **Altar** (Eze 40:47).
3. He describes **the Temple itself**, in Eze 40:48-41:26. This includes:
 - a. The **porch** (vv. 48-49)
 - b. The **posts** (v.1)
 - c. The **Holy place** (v. 2)
 - d. The **Most Holy Place** (vv. 3-4)
 - e. The **Temple wall and chambers** (vv. 5-11)
 - f. The **separate place**, including areas where the sacrifices will be prepared, the details of which are provided in Eze 46:19-24. (vv. 12-14)
 - g. The **interior** of the Temple (vv. 15-20)
 - h. The **exterior** of the Temple (vv. 21-26)
 - i. From the dimensions given in this section, it is clear that this Millennial Temple will be **far larger** than any previous Temple. **See diagram.**
4. He gives a more detailed description of **the chambers of the inner court** (Eze 42:1-14)
5. He then describes **the outer wall** (Eze 42:15-20).
6. After that, Ezekiel reports **the return of the Shechinah Glory**, as we studied earlier (Eze 43:1-6)
7. This is followed by a detailed description of **the Throne** (Eze 43:7-12)
8. Then he gives a more detailed description of **the Altar** (Eze 43:13-18).
9. Finally, he mentions **the offerings** which will be made in the Millennial Temple (Eze 43:19-27).

We also need to note the things that are not included in Ezekiel's vision of the Millennial Temple:

- No ark (mercy seat)
- No veil
- No cherubim above the mercy seat
- No tablets of stone containing the Mosaic Law
- No pot of manna
- No rod of Aaron
- No golden candlestick

Now these things had the highest place and significance in the tabernacle and Temples where the Levitical offerings were made. But they are not found in the Millennial Temple.

The only article of furniture in the Millennial Temple is the table or altar of wood. This speaks of communion with God.

All of this tells us that the sacrifices and offerings in the Millennial Temple will have a different purpose from those that were made under the Mosaic Law.