



# OUR CLAIM TO FAME

Studies in Ezekiel

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## Back to the Garden

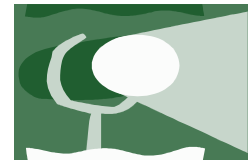
### Introduction to Ezekiel 40-48

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

A line in the 1969 song, “Woodstock”, said, “We’ve got get ourselves back to the Garden”. It voiced a deep-seated feeling of mankind that things are not quite right here and we need to return to God’s original design for us. This is what Ezekiel 40-48 is all about—God’s original plan for His people finally coming to fruition. In the first part of the book (1-32) Ezekiel prophesied God’s judgment on His people and then judgment on the nations that mistreated His people. In the second part, however, God reveals the future of His chosen people; they will be restored spiritually (33-39), and also physically to their land of promise. While this hasn’t yet occurred, a day is coming when true Israel will inhabit the land of Palestine again, the temple will be rebuilt, and

true worship of God restored. The new temple is described in Ezekiel 40-42 in intricate detail. First, the dimensions of the wall around the temple are given, being presented by a divine messenger who has measuring instruments in his hand. He then depicts the outer courtyard, the temple proper, the inner temple (the Holy Place), the anterooms, and all the gates. The amount of detail shows that this will literally occur—it is not just a metaphor. It also shows that God really intends to make His dwelling place forever among His people, especially in light of the fact that God’s glory fills this temple again. The picture of this millennial temple should bring shame to the people of Ezekiel’s day as they realize what they have forfeited because of



**Our claim to fame is found as we reflect the glory of God.**

their sinful ways. The next section reveals that Israel will still worship with sacrifices and feast days, but these will look back on the sacrifice of Christ, rather than offering forgiveness for sins. Finally, the “new” land of Israel is depicted along with its allotments. One important feature is a mighty healing river that flows from the temple—showing that the future state of Israel will be healthy and fruitful. The book closes with declaration that the name of Jerusalem will be “the Lord is there”. This is the real key to getting “back to the Garden”.

## Daily Study Questions for Ezekiel 40-48

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

1. Read Ezek 40:1-4. What did Ezekiel see in his vision (v2, 3)? What did God command Ezekiel to do as He revealed all the plans for worship in the millennial kingdom (v4)?	
2. Survey Ezek 40:5-42:20. List some of the details of the millennial temple (40:5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 28-29, 39, 44; 41:1, 4, 7, 13; 42:13, 14, 20). Why would this new temple be important (42:20)?	
3. From Ezek 43:1-5 what (who) returned to Israel (v2-3), how did Ezekiel react (v3), and what happened when he was placed in the inner court of the temple (v5)? Why was this significant?	

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## Ezekiel 40-48 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Ezek 43:6-12 what change would occur in the new temple (v7) and how should the temple's description affect them (v8-9, 10-11)?	
5. In 43:13-27 the altar of burnt offering is described (v13-17). What sacrifices would be offered in the millennial kingdom (v18, 21, 27) and why do you think God would want them?	
6. Looking at Ezek 44:1-8 what gate remained shut (v1-2) and why (v2)? What was Ezekiel to be careful about (v5) and why (v4, 6-8)? Apply.	
7. According to Ezek 44:9-15 who was held to higher standard (v10, 15) and why (v13, 15)? How had the Levites done evil (v10, 12)?	
8. From 44:16-31 what were the Zadokite priests to do (v16, 23-24) and what were their regulations (v17-20, 21-22, 25-27)? How would they benefit (v28-30)?	
9. Using 45:1-25 who would receive a special allotment in the land (v4-5, 7)? How were the princes to act (v8, 9-12) and what feasts was Israel to observe (v18-25)?	
10. Looking at 46 what was the prince to do (v1-2, 6-7, 12) and what was he not to do (v18)? What does this say about godly leadership?	
11. In 47-48 what was flowing under the altar (v1-5) and what was its effect (v6-12)? After all 12 tribes had settled in the millennial land, what would the final verdict be (v35)?	
12. Review Ezekiel. What are some of the lessons you have learned from it? How can you apply them to your life?	

### Scripture to Remember

*"They will bear [fruit] every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."*

**Ezekiel 47:12 (NASV)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Sheep Need a Healer, the Sequel (Ps 23:5)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. If you had an enemy or nemesis growing up share with the group what that was like. Did anyone have a protector that took care of them? How did that feel?
2. Read Psalm 23:5. Talk about the ways to deal with hurts—ignore them, run from them, hide them, or resent them. Which one do you normally do, and why?
3. How does the fact that "time and truth walk hand in hand" help when you are dealing with opposition? How do you release your opponent to God?
4. Talk about the various ways that God heals our hurts—His Word, prayer, worship and community. Why do each of these bring healing?
5. Discuss which of the 3 ingredients necessary for healing that you need for others to help you with the most—integrity, perseverance, or wholeness (define this) - and why?
6. What are some ways that the Shepherd has caused your "cup to overflow"?
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.