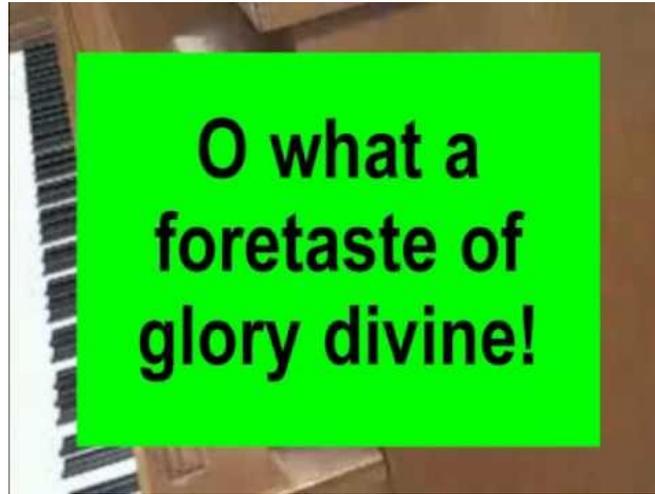


FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

THEME: DISPLACED BUT NOT MISPLACED THROUGH TRUSTING THE IMMUTABLE GOD

Unit III – Visions of Grandeur

“The Return of God’s Glory”



Sunday School Lesson No. IX – November 2, 2014

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III

- Lesson Text:** Ezekiel 43:1-12 (NLT)
- Motto Text:** Ezekiel 43:4 (NLT), *“And the glory of the LORD came into the Temple through the east gateway.”*
- Required Reading:** Ezekiel 40 – 43:12
- Reliable Resources:** David Jeremiah Study Bible; Precepts for Living (UMI); Pilgrim Study Bible (Notes); Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Nelson’s Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible (1980); Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); The Message (Translation); Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; The Outline Study Bible by H. L. Willmington

LESSON INTRODUCTION

First, I want to acknowledge my limitations as an expositor of this great text and pray that the Holy Spirit will bring illumination to those who study the text so that all glory will rest at the feet of our God! Now, according to the notes of the Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator: “Our lessons this quarter began with several passages from Jeremiah that reassured Judah in its darkest days...But as our second unit from Habakkuk and Job revealed, dark nights can descend on the soul to tax hope to the breaking point...Our final five lessons, four from Ezekiel and one from Isaiah, return us to the brighter prospects awaiting the saints in the last days.”

In “Precepts for Living” we find, “Just as God showed the Apostle John a revelation of the future in a vision, which included the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2), so he permitted Ezekiel a similar partial vision of the new temple (begun in Ezekiel 40). The whole purpose of the restored temple would be to receive God’s glory, which would arrive from the east. This coming glorious event would perfectly reverse Ezekiel’s prior vision of the glory departing toward the east.” (Read 10:1-22; 11:22-25).

Beloved, why does a New Temple need to be constructed? Because all the previous ones would be destroyed, and God is determined to dwell among His people. Therefore our lesson this week highlights that God’s place of residence among Israel is promised and will be fulfilled in a future day. I believe it will be in the Millennium when Christ shall return to earth and raise the throne of David. Now Ezekiel writes in chapters 40-46 of this great temple and what God expects of it and its people who will worship therein. This begins the series of lessons in unit three that I entitled: “Visions of Grandeur,” and this week’s lesson we entitle: “The Return of God’s Glory.”

Anticipated Power Points:

- **God's Glory Returns. Ezekiel 43: 1-5**
- **God's Glory Reverenced. Ezekiel 43: 6-8**
- **God's Glorious Revelation. Ezekiel 43: 9-12**

LESSON OUTLINE EXPOSITION

I. God's Glory Returns. Ezekiel 43:1-5

Beloved, beginning in chapter 40 we read God's intention to return His presence back among Ezekiel's people. Using an angel or some special heavenly being, Ezekiel is given a divine tour and all necessary knowledge to be encouraged, that Jehovah would return a repentant Israel back to her land. He, himself will restore an awesome temple in which His glory would return to dwell among His promised people,

David Jeremiah writes: "Years before, Ezekiel had seen the glory of the Lord depart the temple; now he sees it return again to fill the new temple, through the gate which faces toward the east. Such an image signaled that God's fury with the nation's disobedience had run its course, and now He would dwell with His people once more." Beloved when one reads chapters 8 and 16, it is heartbreaking to see how low God's people had fallen, but thank God for His amazing grace and mercy!

Note: God's glory missing meant that the Temple was only a beautiful building, but His glory present brought life, peace, joy, splendor and hope. Beloved, thank God for the glory of His presence in our lives today as Christians. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*"

II. God's Glory Reverenced. Ezekiel 43:6-8

Exodus 20:5 reminds us that "*the Lord our God is a Jealous God*". He will in no way share His glory with any man or idol god. What He has already demonstrated should have spoken loudly, but He spells it out and makes it clear!

Like in the days of the Philistines, I Samuel 5:2, after Israel lost the Ark in battle and it was placed before Dagon their god, even their idol bowed before God's presence in the Ark! Ezekiel is taught that there shall be no place for idols of gods or men in the New Millennial Temple of Jehovah. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess! **Reverence!**

III. God's Glorious Revelation. Ezekiel 43:9-12

God now gives Ezekiel the go ahead to reveal His future architectural plans for His Millennial temple and His great expectations concerning the true worship that He fully expects without compromise. Jehovah by no means wanted Israel to have any misunderstanding about what kind of worship He expected in His holy presence and all of its surroundings. Vs. 12 NLT, "*And this is the basic law of the Temple: absolute holiness!*"

CLOSING

Beloved, what God expects from the covenant Israelite, He expects of you and I as His Christian, blood washed people...to be Holy! Hebrews 12:14(NKJV), "*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*" Leviticus 11:45; I Peter 1:16 "*...Be ye holy; for I am holy.*"

"The Return of God's Glory"

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TV Broadcasts: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

November 9, 2014

Ezekiel 43:13-21

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.