

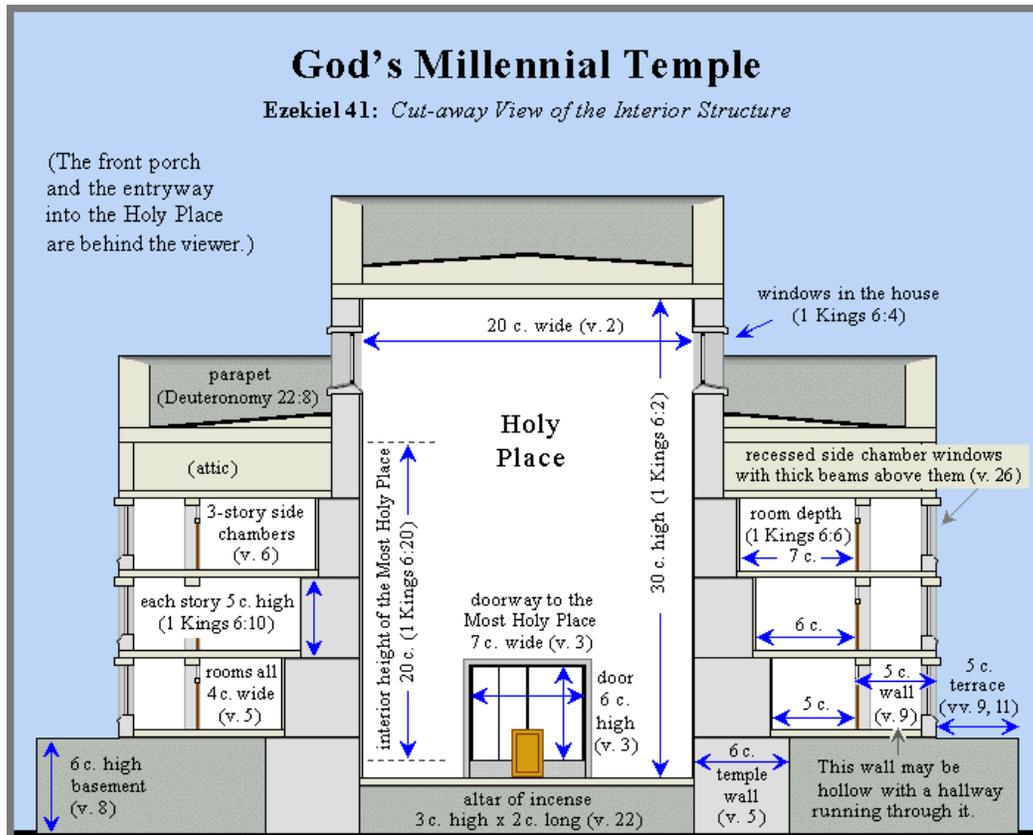
# FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

**THEME: DISPLACED BUT NOT MISPLACED THROUGH TRUSTING THE IMMUTABLE GOD**

## Unit III – Visions of Grandeur

### “THE RETURN OF GOD’S GLORY SIGNIFIED BY THE ALTAR”

Sunday School Lesson No. X – November 9, 2014



Presented by Rev.  
Frank A. Davis, III

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 43:13-21

Motto Text: Ezekiel 43:27,  
“And when these days are expired, it shall be, that upon the eighth day, and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord GOD.”

Required Reading:  
Ezekiel 43:10 – 46:24

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

The Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator opens our lesson this week with: “Altars have played an important role in virtually all religions...They were used either as memorials or, more commonly, as places of sacrifice...Noah built the first-known altar of sacrifice, thanking God for deliverance from the Flood.

The Mosaic Law prescribed two altars for the tabernacle – one for sacrifice and one for incense. The Christian church needs no altar for sacrifice. But Ezekiel envisioned an altar in the millennial temple to memorialize Christ’s work and celebrate God’s presence.” No doubt beloved, the Christian church celebrates the Lord’s Supper according to Jesus’ command and the written ordinance by Paul to the Corinthian Church (I Cor. 11:23-26). This practice is given that the Church will always memorialize the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Millennial Temple Altar will be a constant memorial to Israel of the great Feast celebrations God gave them that point to the loving Messiah who did come and fulfilled all that was necessary for their redemption and abiding fellowship!

#### Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Setting.** Ezekiel 43:13-27
- **The Size.** Ezekiel 43:13-17
- **The Stewards.** Ezekiel 43:18-19
- **The Sacrifice.** Ezekiel 43:20-21

## LESSON OUTLINE EXPOSITION

### **“The Return of God’s Glory Signified by the Altar”**

#### **I. The Setting (Concerning the Altar). Ezekiel 43:13-27**

Dr. John MacArthur offers an overview of this week’s text: “The altar: The measurements of the altar of burnt offering are given in vv. 13-17, then the offerings are described (vv. 18-27). The offerings are not efficacious (adequate) nor were the OT sacrifices. They were all symbolic of death for sin. They do not take away sin (cf. Hebrews 10:4, *‘For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.’*) They were prospective; these will be retrospective.”

Quoting Dr. H. L. Willmington: “Perhaps they (sacrifices) will be a memorial of God’s great work of salvation through Christ to show

- the holiness of God
- the seriousness of sin
- the costliness of salvation
- the necessity of new birth.” Thus concerning the setting of this altar.

#### **II. The Size (Concerning the Altar). Ezekiel 43:13-17**

As we consider the dimensions of this great altar, we note that all of the furnishings of the Old Temple are not mentioned but the focus is on the altar. Ezekiel uses the Hebrew measurement of the cubit, which is the average distance from a man’s elbow to the tip of his middle finger. That’s about 18 inches. But in this new temple, Ezekiel adds about 3 inches to the cubit called “a hand-breadth,” which is the distance across the length of a man’s 4 fingers. When added to the 18”, we have about 21” in total measurement of this temple size cubit. Now using our measurements, this was a massive altar that needed steps or an ascending incline in order for the priests to go up and offer the sacrifices. This incline was on the east side.

According to Dr. Warren Wiersbe: The altar of the Millennial will be larger than Solomon’s Temple with only one way up on the east side instead of 4 stairwells, one on each side. Note, “The altar in the millennial temple will be about twenty feet tall, with a stairway on the east side. The altar will be tiered, with the base 3½ ft. sq., the next level 28 ft. sq., the third 24½ ft. sq. and the top level (the ‘altar hearth’) 21 ft. square.”

#### **III. The Stewards (Concerning the Altar). Ezekiel 43:18-19**

These stewards are clearly defined as Righteous Priests who are from the line of Zadok rather than Abiathar. “Zadok was the joint high priest during David’s reign and the high priest during the reign of Solomon. When Abiathar the high priest conspired against Solomon, he was put into retirement and Zadok was made sole high priest because of his loyalty to the king.” (Precepts for Living, UMI). Read about Zadok’s faithfulness and God’s promise (I Chron. 12:26-28; II Sam. 15:24-29; 19:11; I Ki. 1:38-39; 2:35). God never forgets faithfulness or His promises. So since there will be a renewing of sacrifices which commemorates Christ’s finished work, God raises a faithful priesthood. Now finally concerning the priesthood of Zadok, Dwight Pentecost writes: “When Christ returns, Israel, now converted and cleansed (Rom. 11:25-27), will resume its prominent place in God’s program. Thus ordinances, consistent with God’s dealings with Israel, will prevail. While animal sacrifices may seem regressive and repugnant to the modern mind, they will remind Israel of what their sins have cost their Messiah.”

#### **IV. The Sacrifice (Concerning the Altar). Ezekiel 43:20-21**

“After the altar is constructed, it must be ceremonially cleansed with the blood of a young bull to make it fit for the worship of the Lord...In Israel’s past, the altar was the place where sin offerings were brought and atonement for sin was made. This altar appears again in Ezekiel’s vision of the millennial temple complex. It is necessary because the Shekinah-glory of God will once again dwell among His people, requiring holiness in the temple complex and in those who enter it. The altar is thus a significant sign of hope for Israel’s restoration after exile.” (Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator).

### CLOSING

We will continue with the wonders of God’s presence and His Temple and people. **“Thy Kingdom Come.”**

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**Radio Broadcasts: WVOG AM 600, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.**

**WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.**

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



**Looking Ahead: November 16, 2014 Ezekiel 47:1, 3-12**

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