

**Envisioning the Good News**  
**Stand by and See the Return of YHWH**  
**Ezekiel 40:1–4; 43:10–12**  
**Veritas Adult Community**  
**The Commons, College Church**  
**June 20, 2021**

**The New Temple: Preamble**

<sup>40:1</sup>In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth [day] of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city had been conquered, on that very day the hand of YHWH came upon me, and he brought me there, <sup>2</sup>In divine visions he brought me to the land of Israel and set me down on an extremely high mountain, on which was a structure resembling a city, to the south. <sup>3</sup>When he brought me there, I noticed standing at the gate a man whose form had the luster of copper. In his hand he held a linen cord and a measuring stick. <sup>4</sup>The man said to me, "Human, look carefully and listen closely. Pay attention to all that I am about to show you—for you have been brought here expressly for the showing—and report everything you see to the house of Israel.

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<sup>43:10</sup>As for you, human, describe the House to the house of Israel so they may be humiliated for their crimes. Let them measure the perfection, <sup>11</sup>and they themselves will be humiliated for everything they have done. As for the design of the House —its layout, exits, and entrances, as well as all its regulation and laws—make known. Write them down in their sight so they may observe all my rulings and all my regulations by executing them.

<sup>12</sup>This is the *Torah* of the House. All its surrounding territory at the top of the mountain shall be absolutely holy. Look! This is the *Torah* of the House.

**Eight Clues for Interpreting Ezekiel 40–48**

1. **The Literary Context of this Vision.**
2. **The Historical Context of the Vision.**
  - a. In Relation to Israel’s Religious Calendar (Year of Jubilee)
  - b. In Relation to Babylon’s Religious Calendar (Akitu Festival)
  - c. In Relation to Israel’s Experience of Salvation



Feature	Exodus Narrative	Ezekiel's Restoration Oracles
YHWH commissions a human agent	Exodus 3–4	Ezekiel 33
YHWH separates Israel from the nations and delivers her from bondage.	Exodus 5–13	Ezekiel 34–37
Enemy forces challenge YHWH's saving work on his people's behalf	Exodus 14–15	Ezekiel 38–39
YHWH appears on a high mountain.	Exodus 19	Ezekiel 40:1–4
YHWH provides for his residence among his people	Exodus 25–40	Ezekiel 40:5–43:12
YHWH prescribes the appropriate response to his grace	Leviticus 1:1—Numbers 21	Ezekiel 43:13–46:24
YHWH provides for the apportionment of his land to his people	Numbers 34–35	Ezekiel 47–48

### 3. The Nature of Ezekiel's Prophetic Experience (Genre of the Material).

#### 4. Precursors to the New Temple Vision

##### **Ezekiel 11:16**

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, say, "Thus has the Lord YHWH declared, 'I have indeed driven them away among the nations; and I have indeed scattered them among the countries. Nevertheless, I have become their sanctuary in small measure in the lands to which they have come.'"

##### **Ezekiel 20:33, 40–43**

<sup>33</sup>As I live—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—Surely with a strong hand, and with outstretched arm, and with outpoured fury, I will reign over you as king. . . .

<sup>40</sup>On the contrary, on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel—the declaration of the Lord YHWH—there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve me, in the homeland. There I will accept them, and there I will request your contributions, and your choice gifts, all your holy gifts. <sup>41</sup>As a soothing aroma I will accept you, when I take you out from the peoples, and gather you from the countries, in which you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness through you in the sight of the nations. <sup>42</sup>Then you will know that I am YHWH, when I bring you to the land of Israel, to the land that I swore to give to your ancestors. <sup>43</sup>There you will remember your ways, and all your provocative deeds, with which you have defiled yourselves. And you will look upon yourself with utter disgust, because of all your evil actions that you have committed.

##### **Ezekiel 37:26–28**

<sup>26</sup>I will make with them a covenant of peace; it will be an eternal covenant with them. I will give to them [the land of Israel] and multiply them. I will place my sanctuary in their midst forever. <sup>27</sup>**My residence will be over them, and I will be their God and they will be my people.** <sup>28</sup>**And when my sanctuary is in their midst forever, then the nations will know that I am YHWH, the one who sanctifies Israel.**

#### 5. The Literary Structure of the Vision



#### 6. Fantastic and Stylized Elements in the Vision.

#### 7. The Influence of Ezekiel's Design on Later Writers.

##### **Revelation 21–22**

1. A visionary transport of the prophet to a high mountain (21:10).
2. The sight of a new world with Jerusalem at the center (21:1–2, 10).
3. The dwelling of God in the midst of his people, which produces a state of perfect well-being (21:3–4).
4. The presence of the glory of God in the city (21:11).
5. A heavenly interpreter with a measuring rod with which he measures the city (21:1–15).
6. A symmetrical plan of the city, complete with high walls and twelve gates, one for each of the tribes (Ezek 48:30; cf. Rev. 21:11–21).
7. An emphasis on the purity and holiness of those within (21:27).
8. The presence of the river of life (22:1).

#### 8. The Needs of the Present Context.

### Concluding Reflections