

## Life to be Longed for. Ezekiel 40-48

### Life for the Discouraged

#### Life Revealed Ezekiel 40-48 [Ezk. 1:1, 8:3]

*Ezekiel 40: 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 was struck down, on that very day, the hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me to the city. <sup>2</sup> In visions of God he brought me to the land of Israel, and set me down on a very high mountain, on which was a structure like a city to the south.*

### Life is found in the presence of God

*Ezekiel 43: Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. <sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. <sup>3</sup> And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. <sup>4</sup> As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, <sup>5</sup> the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.*

*Ezekiel 48: <sup>35</sup> The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The LORD Is There."*

#### Provision for Presence – a new temple. Ezekiel 40-43:11

*Ezekiel 43: <sup>7</sup> and 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 in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places,*

*Ezekiel 24: <sup>21</sup> 'Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and the yearning of your soul, and your sons and your daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword.*

#### Provision for a permanent presence Ezekiel 43:12-46:24 [44:10-11]

*Ezekiel 43: <sup>13</sup> "These are the measurements of the altar by cubits (the cubit being a cubit and a handbreadth): its base shall be one cubit high and one cubit broad, with a rim of one span around its edge. And this shall be the height of the altar:*

#### A Life giving presence

*Ezekiel 47: Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. <sup>2</sup> Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.*

*Ezekiel 47: <sup>8</sup> And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. <sup>9</sup> And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.*

*Ezekiel 47: <sup>12</sup> And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."*

*Ezekiel 48: <sup>35</sup> The circumference of the city shall be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The LORD Is There."*

#### **The New Testament and Ezekiel's Vision: Revelation 21-22 [Rev. 21:15, 21:12-13, Ezk. 48:30-34]**

*Revelation 21: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

*Revelation 21: <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

*Revelation 21: <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."*

*Revelation 22: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. [Ezk. 43:7]*

*Revelation 21: <sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.*

No rebuilt temple [Zech. 14:8]

*Revelation 21: <sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.*

*Revelation 22:*<sup>3</sup> *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.* <sup>4</sup> *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.* [Exodus 33:20, John 1:18]

### **But how do we come to that life in Revelation?**

That question has two senses

1. How do we move in the Bible from the picture of that life with the temple, to the picture of that life without the temple? A picture of that life focused on the twelve tribes of Israel and the land of Israel, to the picture of a new heaven and earth with people of every nation and race
2. How do you and I come to share in it, to have confidence that one day God will wipe every tear from our eye?

### **Jesus brings and secures that life for us.**

*Matthew 1:* *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.* <sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:*

<sup>23</sup> *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”*

*(which means, God with us).*

*John 2:*<sup>18</sup> *So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?”* <sup>19</sup> *Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”* <sup>20</sup> *The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”* <sup>21</sup> *But he was speaking about the temple of his body.*

*Matthew 28:*<sup>20</sup> *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

[John 1:36, 1 John 4:9-10, Romans 3:24-26]

*Heb. 9:*<sup>24</sup> *For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.* <sup>25</sup> *Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own,* <sup>26</sup> *for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.* <sup>27</sup> *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,* <sup>28</sup> *so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

*Hebrews 10:*<sup>10</sup> *And by that will we have been sanctified, [that is made holy], through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

<sup>11</sup> *And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.* <sup>12</sup> *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at*

*the right hand of God,<sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.<sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

*John 5:<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

*John 7:<sup>37</sup> On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"<sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

[Romans 8:22-25]

*Eph. 2:<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,<sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. [1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19]*

### **There is a life to be longed for and it is to be found only in the Lord**

*Revelation 21:<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*