

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Seventeen : The Vision of the Holy Building of God in Its Outstanding Features

I. Overview :

God's eternal purpose is to have a building as a mingling of Himself with His chosen people. Ezekiel saw the vision of the appearance of the glory of Lord at the age of thirty and the vision of the holy building of God at the age of fifty. To see the vision of God's holy building, Ezekiel was in the right position, standing and angle. The wall around the house is for separating; the gate is the entrance to God's building; the palm trees on the posts of the gates signify victory and everlasting power. The altar signifies the cross and the elevation of the temple indicates that the further inward we proceed, the higher we rise. The side chambers signify the fullness and expression of Christ. To eat the offerings in the holy chambers is to eat Christ and to wear the holy garments is to wear Christ for His expression.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Explain that the 3 previous sections of Ezekiel are for the 4th section.

The three previous sections of Ezekiel, concerning the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord, are all for the holy building of God. God's eternal purpose is to have a building as a mingling of Himself with His chosen people. Whatever God does among His people and among the nations on earth is for His building.

B. What does it imply that Ezekiel saw the first and the last visions?

The vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord which Ezekiel saw in chapter 1 was seen in the fifth year of the captivity at the age of thirty. The vision of the building of God's house which he saw in chapter 40 was in the twenty-fifth year of the captivity at the age of fifty. This is very meaningful, for it indicates that to see the building of God Ezekiel needed more maturity in life.

Day 2 --

A. Explain Ezekiel saw the visions at the first month and the tenth day.

The first month indicates a new start. This indicates that with us in our experience, the building of God must have a new start. According to Exodus 12:3 the tenth day of the first month was the day that the people of Israel prepared the lamb for the Passover. This surely points to Christ, our Passover, for our redemption. From this we see that whenever we have a new beginning in our Christian life, it must be based on Christ and His redemption.

B. How could Ezekiel see the building of God?

If Ezekiel had remained in Babylon in the captivity, he could not have seen the building. Likewise, if he had been on a plain and not on the mountaintop, he could not have seen the vision of God's building. Therefore, if we would see this vision, we need to grow up and to go up. This means that we need maturity in life and that we need to be on the high mountain. Then we will be able to see the building of God.

Day 3 --

A. What do the wall and the measurement of the temple signify and mean?

The wall is for separation, separating what belongs to God from what cannot belong to Him. It separates what should belong to God and what should never belong to God. The measurement of the wall indicates that it signifies Christ Himself as a separating line. Whatever is within Christ belongs to God's interests and to God's building, but whatever is outside of Christ is excluded from God's interests and God's building.

B. What is the spiritual significance of the measurement of the wall?

This wall is six cubits high and six cubits thick. If we could look at a cross section of the wall, we would be looking at a square six cubits by six cubits. The number six refers to man, who was created on the sixth day. The wall signifies the Lord Jesus as a square, upright, perfect, and complete man. Because He is square and upright, He is fully qualified. In Him there is no imperfection; with Him there is nothing lacking and nothing crooked. Rather, with Him everything is straight, upright, perfect, and complete.

Day 4 --

A. Explain what the meaning of the guardrooms in this passage is?

Ezekiel 40:10 says that in this passage are six guardrooms. These are the rooms where the guards stay to protect the temple. Each of these guardrooms is six cubits square and is thus the same in size as a cross section of the wall. This indicates that the Lord Jesus in His person and work is the real guard of God's glory and holiness.

B. What is significant of the entry of the gate being ten cubits wide?

Within the gate is the entry of the gate, which is exactly ten cubits wide. It is significant that the opening of the entrance is ten cubits in width. In the Bible the number ten first refers to the Ten Commandments. Whatever the Ten Commandments require, the entry of the gate fulfills. The width of the entry is exactly the span of the Ten Commandments. This indicates that the Lord Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the Ten Commandments.

Day 5 --

A. Explain that outside on the street there are 7 steps and another 8 steps at the entrance to the inner court.

At the entrance to the inner court, there is another set of stairs, consisting not of seven steps but of eight. Outside on the street there are seven steps leading up to the gate of the outer court. From this we see that entering into the inner court means that the more inward we travel, the higher we become. The number seven signifies completion, and the number eight signifies resurrection. This indicates that if we would come into the inner court, we need to be in resurrection.

B. Why's said throughout God's holy building the cross being seen?

Throughout the holy building of God, we can see the cross—at the main gate, on the pavement, at the boiling places in the corners, and at the tables in the inner court. The cross, therefore, is not only the centre but also the circumference. The cross spreads in every direction and to every corner. After we have been saved, we will meet the cross everywhere.

Day 6 --

A. Explain what is the difference between the 2 pillars and the posts?

From the steps we go on to the two pillars. We need to differentiate the pillars from the posts of the temple. The posts are square, whereas the pillars are round. While the measurements of the posts are given, they are not given concerning the pillars. The fact indicates that these two pillars signify Christ as God's witness bearing the house of God with a strength which is unlimited and immeasurable.

B. Expound what the holy chambers are for with significant experience.

The holy chambers are connecting buildings which connect the inner court with the outer court. The holy chambers are for the priests to eat the offerings, also to place and store the offerings, and to lay their priestly clothing. It is here in the holy chambers that one reaches the highest peak of spiritual experience. To live in the holy chambers is to live in Christ. To eat the offerings in the holy chambers is to eat Christ. To wear the holy garments is to wear Christ. From this we see that in the holy chambers we live in Christ, we enjoy Christ, and we express Christ.

III. Conclusion :

Why could Ezekiel in chapter 40 see the vision of the holy building of God? Firstly, because it is his life mature, he could see the vision. When he saw the first vision, he was thirty years of age, the age at which a priest began to function. Twenty years later, he was fifty years of age, the age of retirement for a priest. This means that to see the building of God Ezekiel needed more maturity in life. Moreover, he was brought to a high mountain of good land which was in the right position and standing, enabling him to see the vision. We also knew that he is a person of fully submissive, without having his own desire and preference; his heart is a duplicate of God's heart, and he is a priest to come near to God like the sons of Zadok, ministering and standing before God; these all enable God to do what He desires freely.