

The Book of Ezekiel (201-218)

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Ezekiel was privileged to hear the voice of the Lord as He spoke from out of the house, or the place of the manifest glory of the Lord. In this instance it represents the future, everlasting habitation of the Lord. Eze. 43:6 It is the church that the Lord has chosen to dwell in. She is called the Temple of the living God. He has proclaimed that He will dwell IN them, He will walk with them. He will be the only God that they know and most importantly, they will be His people. 2 Cor. 6:16 There is no such person as a Messianic Jew. Now that I have your attention, hear the voice from within the house. All who are in Christ are believers, regardless of their nationality. Jew and Gentile are of one Spirit if they are in Christ. There is only one body to which all must belong if they are to be the body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:13 There is no distinction such as is made today by so many between Jew and Gentile. All who are in Christ are Abraham's seed and if they are not in Christ they are not Abraham's seed. Gal. 3:28-29.

And the man stood with me. The same man who was revealed to Ezekiel in Eze. 40:3 The man of glory. The man who was not only to measure the Temple but was also the line, the rod, the measuring stick by which the whole house was to be measured. The last day church is destined to grow up in Christ until she reaches the identical measurements of the Lord Jesus. We may understand the greatness of that act through knowing that Jesus received the Spirit without measure. In other words, in absolute fullness. The unified body of Christ will be of the same stature, measure, ability or to be exactly what He is. Eph. 4:13 If we are His body, then we shall be like Him. 1 John 3:2.

Further evidence that Ezekiel's temple is that which is eternal is given in the statement made that, this is the place of my throne. Eze. 43:7 The place of the soles of His feet. The place of worship where those occupying that kingdom worship at His footstool. Ps. 99:5 In conjunction with this, the question is asked by the Lord, as to what house on earth might be built unto Him? Isa. 66:1 He is not seeking a building constructed by man but will have a Temple, which is His

dwelling place, called the body of Christ, the church of the living God. The Lord Jesus is the architect and the builder of His own house. Heb. 3:3 Be most assured that anything He constructs is going to be beautiful beyond description. Christ is also the head of the house which He will complete and then fully and joyfully occupy for the eternity to come. Heb. 3:6 The house of the Lord is a Spiritual house made of living stones and not the dead materials of the earth. 1 Peter 2:5.

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I will dwell. Eze. 43:7 Here, once more, we must face the responsibility of determining exactly who the people of the Lord are. In the first place, the Lord is no respecter of persons. No one is preferred above another when it comes to belonging to the family of the Lord. Rom. 2:11 There is no difference made by the Lord between the Jew and the Gentile. Rom. 3:22 He will save all who call upon His name, regardless of their national background. Rom. 10:12-13 Any difference between Jew and Gentile has been dissolved. The racial difference exhibited in the Old Testament has been eliminated and now the Lord can only recognize one people, that is, those who are in Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:14-16 In His sight there is no such thing as a special chosen race whom the Lord will bless above all others, but Christ is everything to all who come unto Him. Under the New Testament dispensation the Gospel of Christ and a place in the family is available to all. As a matter of fact He is creating a new people out of a people who did not previously exist as His people. 1 Peter 2:10.

The dwelling place of the Most High is not in a Temple made with the hands of men. He does not abide in the beautiful modern day edifices and churches. He will never again reside in a structure constructed of the usual building materials. Acts 7:48 There is not need for the Lord Jesus to cause mankind to worship in a so called holy place built by the hands of man, for He has entered into that which is real and eternal, not a type or a symbol but into heaven itself, the true Tabernacle and Temple. Heb. 9:24 It is the perfect structure, the living Temple of the Lord, the gathering together of the redeemed of all ages, regardless of race. Heb. 9:11.

The promise of His abiding presence in His people is one which has not been fully utilized by the modern day church. The promises made to

those who have Him abiding in their spirit nature are tremendously powerful and many. Take for instance a promise which we approach all too casually which promises that if He and His Word abide within us we can ask what we will and it shall be done. John 15:7 We believe it and often quote it but do we see it being consummated? The church has been delegated the responsibility of continuing the works of the Lord Jesus, even to a place of performing greater works. John 14:12 For this to take place it is necessary that He dwells within. When we fully love Him and His Word abides within, we will see the manifestation of His mighty works wrought through the living body of Christ. John 14:23 His mighty presence is vital in order for the promises to be fulfilled. There is a glory yet to be revealed in and through His people.

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The position of the house of Israel is conditional and demands the same standard of Spirituality as is required of all. Eze. 43:7-10 When the conditions expressed by the Word of the Lord are not met, there is but one course of action which the Lord, according to His own holiness, must take. He will consume them in His anger. v.8 This is not only repeatedly expressed in His dealings with them as a people but it was carried out. A nation of rebels they were punished many times by other nations invading their territory and conquering them. They were bold in their defiance of the Lord and used His house as the house of foreign gods. There is a call here for repentance and consideration and practice of the pattern of holiness as presented by the Lord.

The acceptance of Israel, and as far as that goes any nation or individual, depends on their admission of wrong doing. When they came to a point of repentance, they were to be shown the form of the whole house. Form, in the Hebrew means a rock, also a form as pressed out. Strong's Dict. Interesting, the Lord Jesus is the rock and fits perfectly into the picture presented here. He was a rock of stumbling and offensive to Israel. 1 Peter 2:8 As the servant and subsequent sacrifice He took upon Himself the form of man. Thus, He became the anointed of God the savior, the man, Christ Jesus. 1 Tim. 2:5 Coming to seek and save that which was lost, He took upon Himself the form of a servant. Phil. 2:7 In all actuality, He eternally was and always will be in the form of God. Phil. 2:6 Equal in every aspect to God. This, then, is the form which must be revealed to and understood by anyone in order to inherit eternal life. The sacrifices

presented manifest the truth that all must be redeemed by blood, only now there is but one blood which is acceptable to the Lord. In all truth, all the sacrifices pointed to one true sacrifice, the Lord Jesus. All others were ineffective except as signs declaring that redemption is by blood, The blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ. Heb. 10:4.

A closed gate, that which faced the east, because the Lord of glory had entered in through that specific door. Eze. 44:1-2 Obviously it is a very special door to have such a reservation place upon it. Its importance is revealed in the fact that the Prince, the Lord Jesus, will sit in that particular gate to eat bread before the Lord. The gate in ancient Israel was the gathering place of the elders, the judges of the people and disputes, etc, were brought to them for their settlement. As an example, Boaz.

Ruth 4:1 Mordecai. Est. 4:1-2 Both used the gate as a place of appeal and settlement.

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Not only was the prince to enter in through the eastern gate but He was to exit by the same. Eze. 44:3 It is solely His gate, for His use and His entrance into all of that which is Holy and pure. When He entered in it was in the capacity of the great high priest for He carried His own blood to the very throne of God. Heb. 6:20 Thus providing an eternal salvation to all who will believe. He entered into a place constructed by the Lord alone. Not the work of the hands of men but into heaven itself, where even now He is our advocate before the throne. Heb. 6:20 Note also that the gate will not be shut until the evening. Christ will come and receive His own in the end or the evening of the age and will take them with Him through the gate before it is closed. Eze. 46:2.

By the time that Ezekiel was carried around to the north gate, the shining, brilliant, radiant glory of the Lord had filled the house. Eze. 44:4 This we see in the dedication of every house of worship which was built unto the Lord. How much more will it be true of the most wonderful of all, the Bride of Christ. Haggai spoke of the shaking of all nations which will cause them to come to the "Desire of All Nations. NKJV Hag. 2:7 In more ways than one, we have recently experienced situations which have shaken the whole world and we are not yet through. Most definitely the peoples of this earth will experience a mighty world wide revival where they are given an opportunity to

receive the Lord Jesus and be filled with His glory. Those who do not take advantage of the opportunity afforded them will have to face Him as He comes in glory, not to bless but to judge. Rev. 11:18.

So majestic, so powerful was the very sight of the glory of the Lord that Ezekiel immediately fell on his face before the Lord. While still prone before the Lord the Lord spoke to him concerning that which is His will in regard to being obedient to the Word and the fulfilling all of His commandments. It is a time for house cleaning. The expulsion of those in the household of faith who are living contrarily to the Word. The Lord spoke a Word to Ezekiel which must seriously be considered. Those who are uncircumcised, yet found in the house of the Lord cause the whole to be polluted. That is, those who have not experienced circumcision of the heart.

Rom. 2:29 Note also, that a true Jew is one inwardly and not outwardly.

It is a matter of the laying aside the works of the flesh by having them severed from our soul and spirit and it is called the circumcision of Christ, i.e. that which is necessary for those who would desire a place in the perfected church or the body of Christ. Col. 2:11-11.

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The forty fourth chapter of Ezekiel bears witness to the fact that the Lord was communicating with the captives in Babylon concerning a temple in Jerusalem which He would assist them in building. The order of worship which was common to that under the Law would be reinstated. The legitimate priesthood would be restored, but only after repentance on their part and a work of restoration performed by the Lord. The Levites who had forsaken the Lord upon their receiving correction from the Lord would be restored to their proper place in offering sacrifices to the Lord, under the old order and only while it was in effect. Eze. 44:8-14 The Levites, the sons of Zadok (meaning, righteous) Thus illustrating that only those who were righteous before the Lord would be used of Him. Eze. 44:15-31 The special rule of clothing and separation unto the Lord as given to Aaron and his sons was to be practiced in this temple as well. The Law of righteousness and clean living before the Lord is laid before them in chapter forty-five. The Lord was every trying to establish them in His Law. Chapter forty-six covers the order of the sacrifices and offerings which were to be brought unto the Lord.

If anyone in this Gospel dispensation would have understood the building of a new temple and the restoration of the form of religious ceremony which was conducted there, it would be the Apostle Paul. But, he wrote of a new covenant and the exclusion of the old. Stating that it was old and decaying and in his day, ready to vanish away. Heb. 9:11 He also declared that the Lord Jesus through His sacrifice abolished the law of commandments which were contained in ordinances that there might be but one, that is a new man, a man with the peace of the Lord dwelling within him. Eph. 2:15 Again he approached the question of the Law by saying that Jesus took the handwriting of ordinances which are contrary to mankind by nailing them together with Himself on Calvary. Col. 2:14 The Law was but a shadow indicating that there was something in existence which was the cause of a shadow being cast. In this case, that person casting the shadow was the Lord Himself, for, in and through the Law He made known His holiness. Heb. 10:1.

Why would the Lord restore in the end of the age something which never gave Him any pleasure. Heb. 10:8 The revelation of the Lord to Ezekiel was for that day and time and indicated to them the desire of the Lord to be able to communicate with them, that they might indeed become His people. Now, through the efforts of one man, the Lord Jesus, He has established a new and life giving way, therefore because of having received of the nature of the Lord we live the Word. It must become an integral part of our worship before the Lord. Like the changing of the fashions of the world, the old is out and the new is in. It is the Lord's order of the day. Heb. 10:20.

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Ezekiel is now escorted by the man, to the front of the temple, to the east side, to the door. Eze. 47:1 Whenever a door is brought into view our thoughts immediately turn to the one who bears the title of the Door. John 10:9 Jesus is the only entrance into the kingdom of God. Thus it immediately becomes apparent that there is a spiritual implication presented by the statement. The front of this temple faced toward the east as did both the tabernacle and the temple. All in anticipation of the coming of the Lord Jesus from the east. Mt. 24:27 He will then circle the earth with the speed of light accompanied with streaks of lightning, of flaming fire, such as never seen before. 2 Thess. 1:8.

Ezekiel then beheld a stream of water flowing for the south side of the temple, a stream which was destined to become a great river of water of life. Eze. 47:2 The south would be the right hand of a person standing in the door of the temple and looking out or toward the east. The Lord Jesus has been established as the right hand of God. Luke 22:69 The south typifies the Holy Spirit of God which Jesus promised that He would send. John 14:16 He is the one who was to become the teacher of the church, sent by the Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Desire to be filled with the Spirit, worship and adore the Lord Jesus.. Consider also that the flow of water issues from the altar. Christ is both the altar and the sacrifice from whence flow all the blessings of the Lord. Those who worship at His altar are also partakers of all that the altar implies. 1 Cor. 9:13 Once again the mechanics of a great last day revival are brought into view. The last day of the feast of Tabernacles Jesus issued an invitation to come to Him and drink of ever flowing spiritual waters. Those who respond will find that from the depths of their being there will flow living waters, waters which bring forth life. His words were to relate to them that He could give them the same sort of life which flowed from Him. John 7:37-38 Peter, on the day of Pentecost declared that Jesus had been exalted to the right hand of the Father and had received of Him the Spirit which was shed forth, poured out, from on high. Acts 2:33.

As with everything built by the Lord there must be a measurement made by the measuring line, rod or stick of the Lord. He has the very highest of standards when it comes to the material used as well as making certain that everything is exactly according to the blueprint, the divine example, who is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Every stone in the New Jerusalem will be of the exact, required dimensions and form. If we have been planted with Him, we shall come forth in His likeness. Not only will we be like Him in the resurrection but now we may and should be like Him. Rom. 6:5.

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The flow of the water seen by Ezekiel is of that of a great river, ever flowing and ever growing in volume. It foreshadows the moving of the Spirit over the span of the ages and will reach its grand conclusion as a mighty flood flowing so strongly and so deep, that that he explained them as being waters so broad that they could not be passed over. Each of these thousand cubit measurement represent approximately a

thousand years of time. We begin with Abraham, the Father of all who believe, that is, who walk by faith. Then coming to the time of Elijah we see a deepening of the waters. The third measurement begins with the introduction of the church age. The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus and the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We are now coming to the grand finale, the end of the fourth measurement or the end of the age where the gigantic flow reveals the blessedness of the climax of the Gospel dispensation. Eze. 47:3-5.

The attention of Ezekiel must have been focused on the mighty flow of the river for he is taken back to the brink of the river and his attention is focused on the trees, where he saw an exceeding great number which were growing on either side of the river. Immediately our attention is drawn to the fact that the Lord planted a great variety of trees in the garden of Eden. Trees that were pleasant to look upon, most definitely flowering trees and fruit trees of every kind. While in the heart of the garden was to be found the tree of life. Along with it the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Likewise there was a river which originated in the garden to water it which flowed out of the garden and divided into four rivers. Gen. 2:9-10 There is enough similarity to conclude that both represent the same thought.

When John saw the river it was a beautiful flow of the water of life. What John saw was in contrast to the others for while they produced plant life, the river John saw was the river of life eternal, the life which is found in the Lord Jesus. Its origin was none other than the very throne of the Lord. No wonder it was called the water of life. Like the flooding of Ezekiel's river there is no end to the waters of life which dwell within those who are in Christ. It is a constantly flowing well which springs up to life eternal.

John 4:14 It is also a river of pure water, there is none to be found to which it may be compared. A flowing stream which is totally uncontaminated for it is as clear as crystal. So, like crystal it will glitter and reflect light, no doubt revealing all the colors of the rainbow and then some. Rev. 22:1 Anything and everything which the Lord places His hands on, is a work of art which will exceed all the beautiful things of this life by a great degree.

Water, is one of the most vital elements on the earth, if not the most necessary. Water typifies the flow of the Spirit of the Lord. What better example could be used of a mighty move of the Spirit than that of the waters of Ezekiel's vision, flowing into a desert, a dry place unused to the benefit of water. With its arrival that which was barren and unproductive became an area of great beauty. Eze. 47:8 Periodically someone produces a documentary film showing what happens in a desert place when the infrequent rain falls. It causes the desert to suddenly break forth with the most unusual and exquisite of flowers. So, when the Spirit of the Lord is prevalent among the people of the Lord, the gifts and fruit of the Spirit suddenly spring to life out of a previously dormant seed which only needs water to break forth.

King David was one who expressed the condition of both his natural life and the desire of his spirit. Most definitely, the latter more than the former. For all of his faults and failures, David was a spiritual man who deeply loved the Lord. Fleeing from those who would kill him, he found himself in a desert, a dry place. Like all of us, he on occasion found himself bereft of the most important component of his life, that is the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. In those dry seasons he found his soul thirsting and crying out for the presence of the Spirit of the Lord in his life. Ps. 63:1 He longed to see the power and the glory of the Lord as he had seen it in the sanctuary of the Lord. Ps. 63:2 Once having experienced the mighty blessing of the Lord, the soul of man cannot be satisfied with a lesser portion. There will always be that longing for a greater participation in the Lord's power and glory.

The last day revival will fill the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, that is a full comprehension of the works and evidences of the Spirit of the Lord, even as the waters now cover the seas of the world. Living on a planet which is mostly covered by water, this should speak loudly to us, that there is a presence of the Lord coming upon His people such as never known before. Hab. 2:14 The ultimate fulfillment of this verse will reach its climax during the Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus on earth. Those who will be privileged to live under that eternal regime will live and breathe the glory and presence of the Lord. His Spirit and the glory which accompanies it will be the only source of life for the thousand years. Isaiah received of the Lord a word concerning the condition of the Bride in the wilderness which will

carry on over into the Sabbath of the ages, that is the thousand year kingdom of our God and of His Christ. Weigh the abundance of waters to be found in, rivers, fountains, pools and springs of waters, all of which are in the plural except for the pool. That is an abundant supply. Isa. 41:18.

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What beautiful hidden jewels there are to be found in the Word of the Lord.

Take for instance, the word, "risen" as used in Ezekiel forty-seven, verse four. This is the meaning given in Strong's Dictionary; A primitive root; to mount up; hence in general to rise, (figuratively) be majestic – gloriously, grow up, increase, be risen, triumph. It speaks to the tremendous abundance of the glory of the Lord which will be revealed in the mighty last day revival. An opportunity to be given the last generation of people on earth to partake of the blessedness and the fullness of the glory of the Lord. That river is the majestic river of the water of life which proceeds from the very throne of the Lord. As the Egyptians found that they could not transport their chariots and army on the floor of the sea, so in the end of the age this abundant flowing river will be a barrier between the righteous and the unrighteous for it flows with such force that it is impassible. Satan will try to destroy the beautiful woman of Revelation twelve by means of a flood of lies proceeding out of his mouth but the earth will destroy and swallow the water of his flood. Rev. 12:15-16.

Standing on the brink of the river Ezekiel noted that there were a large number of trees on either side of the river. John gave a more spectacular report on the river and the tree, both were stated to be a source of life. The water of life and the tree of life.

Rev. 22:1-2 It is also to be noted that Ezekiel saw many trees but John saw a huge spreading tree. A tree unified and not divided. This tree of life is unique inasmuch as the one tree produced twelve manner of fruit. While we are not told what the twelve fruits are, twelve is the number of government, we may rest assured that it is connected to leadership. Another peculiarity about the tree which John saw is the fact that every month it will yield it's fruit. Multiplying twelve fruit with twelve months we arrive at the number one hundred forty four. While it is just a hint, it would appear that this tree, as the tree of life, is

associated with the one hundred forty four thousand for they will be a source of life everlasting.

The leaves were for the healing of the nations. Leaves through the process of photosynthesis become the basis of life for the whole of the tree. The leaves represent the many multiplied members of the body of Christ. Rev. 22:2 The spirit of the Lord reveals Christ through the leaves or the member of His body. Not only in presenting them before the Lord in prayer but in pointing out to them the way of salvation. Added to that is the ministry of the healing of the physical body. Not only in special healing services but in a day to day ministry wrought by the individuals who comprise the whole body of Christ, the leaves of the tree.

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These waters issue (issue; seed or offspring) toward the east. We must keep in view that these waters are the waters of life. The presence of these waters will produce life, new life, the life of Christ. The seed is the incorruptible seed, the Word of the Lord, which lives and remains eternally. 1 Pet. 1:23 The reference here is not to the seed of trees, fruits, vegetables or other plant life which may propagate by being planted and watered. It is in direct suggestion to the life giving seed of the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus.

Among the many Messianic prophecies in the Word of the Lord there are two that should be considered here. The first being one of the titles given the Lord Jesus as recorded is Isa. 9:6 That is, The everlasting Father. We know of course that He is not His own Father. When and where does He become an everlasting Father? This brings us once again to Revelation twelve where a man child is born. Birthed by the Bride of Christ. Inasmuch as she is the Bride of Christ, the Lord Jesus is the Father. Rev. 12:1-2, 5 Christ Jesus is the seed. Gal. 3:16 The Lord Jesus as the husband of the true Church guides and protects her in all things. She is totally united with Him.

One in every aspect of the word for she is His body, of His flesh and bones.

The great mystery, which many in the church fail to comprehend is the completeness of their unity. Paul said that the husband and wife would become one flesh. Eph. 5:29-32 They are married in every sense of

the word. Revelation twelve properly understood is the answer to when and how He becomes the everlasting Father.

The second prophecy is also found in the book of Isaiah. It is a promise that the Lord will establish a regime under the leadership of Eliakim (meaning; whom God will raise up.) He is the son of a man named Hilkiah (meaning; Jehovah is my portion.) With names like that, the kingdom which shall be established must be a kingdom of righteousness. Also, Eliakim is called a servant, therefore is a type of the Lord Jesus as the servant of the Most High. He is to wear the robe of authority and be girded with the strength of the office. As a leader in a government of holiness He will be a Father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Isa. 22:20-21 The key of the house of David is the key to the fact that Jesus is the main entity of the prophecy. The burden of the government of the Lord will fall upon His shoulders. Those precious shoulders which bore His cross for the act of redemption which would result in the door of salvation being opened for all of mankind. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can open and close the door of salvation, for He is that door. Isa. 22:22 As the personification of holiness and truth He is in complete command. Rev. 3:7.

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The office of Eliakim to be of a permanent nature. As a wooden peg, a clothes holder, driven into the wall or door he will be established in His office. Fastened, may among other meanings, also speak of one who becomes a bondsman, according to Strong's Dict. The Lord Jesus is the true mercy seat. He has paid the price for our redemption from sin. He is our bondsman, He is our sacrifice, He has paid the full price, by the shedding of His precious blood, for the salvation of every individual ever to live on this earth, providing they appropriate that which He has provided for all. 1 John 2:2.

Eliakim was to replace a man of high position in Hezekiah's court named Shebna. He was the treasurer and controlled the house of Hezekiah. In having control of the purse strings he reminds us of Judas Iscariot who was the treasurer of the little band of disciples who followed the Lord Jesus. It appears to be an office that is frequently in trouble, at times creating great problems. Isa. 22:15 That he was a man of considerable pride is evident in the digging out of a tomb for

himself in a conspicuous place. One where he might be remembered by future generations as the great one he thought himself to be. It is not infrequent that we find in the scriptures, men like him who are unscrupulous and vain. They are fore shadows of the antichrist who will be all that they are and then some. They are always insiders, as were Lucifer and Judas. The antichrist will be one who withdraws himself from the body of Christ even as Lucifer tried to usurp God's authority. 1 John 2:19.

As with all such characters the Lord allows them to run their course and then judgment falls upon them and they are replaced by one who will do the perfect will of the Lord. The NIV uses language which is very descriptive of the immediate, furious actions about to be taken by the Lord. It described the Lord as taking hold of this mighty man, seizing him, rolling him up like a ball and hurling him into a large country where he would die for he was a disgrace to his master's house. He would be disposed and ousted from his position. Isa. 22:17-19 John spoke of the antichrist as one who will lead his followers into captivity and then he will be taken captive. He will prevail against the saints by the sword and will die by the sword. Rev. 13:10 Incidentally, if all are raptured before he comes, who are the saints whom he will persecute and kill? Rev. 13:7 The antichrist is like the reed of Egypt, if trust is placed in him he will pierce his hand. 2 Kings 18:21 Yet many in the end of the age will trust him to their ultimate misery and sorrow. Therefore Eliakim the stable, the man of truth and integrity was called upon to replace Shebna. Isa. 22:20.

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The nail would be fastened in a sure place, built up or to foster as a parent or nurse. Strong's. As the everlasting Father, He would be the perfect Father.

There is no possibility of failure, for He is located in a place of security as only the Lord can provide. Furthermore He is the visible glory of God. He will make the throne of the Lord to be glorious. Isa. 22:23 The way the text is recorded, He is the throne of glory. The throne and the glory of the throne, which is the Lord Jesus, will be the inheritance of the saints. 1 Sam. 2:8 His Bride is in the process of being transported from glory to glory, through the operation of the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18 The destiny of the church is to be a glorious church. Mature and perfect in every aspect. Physically and most

definitely, spiritually. Eph. 5:27 Anyone who has reached the status of being clothed with the sun has achieved the ultimate of the glory of the Lord. Rev. 12:1.

The wooden peg is generally used to hang clothing on, so the full glory of the Father will be hung upon the Lord Jesus. The glory of the Lord which was periodically manifest to Israel in the wilderness, in the tabernacle and in the temple, was, is and always will be in the Lord Jesus. He is called the SUN of righteousness. Mal. 4:2 On the mount of transfiguration, the veil was pulled back and the disciples who were with Him saw the ultimate glory of the Lord which is resident within the Lord Jesus. Mt. 17:2 The people who possess His righteousness will eternally shine with the same brilliancy. Mt. 13:43 The psalmist proclaimed that; the Lord God is a sun. Ps. 84:11 He was not referring to any sun in the universe but to the glory of the Lord which will be the element of life throughout eternity. The brilliancy of the light of the Lord is far greater than any sun. If it were possible to accumulate all the suns of the universe in one place, He would still outshine them all, for He is light. 1 John 1:5 Among the "caught up" saints there are those who will ever bear the same brightness and will glow with the fullness of the light of His glory, the glory of the sun. 1 Cor. 15:41.

It may well be said that the nail or peg, in reference to the Lord Jesus, was to be an integral part of the continuation of the family, for the offspring and issue were to be of Him. Isa. 22:24 Paul presented the Lord Jesus and His church in the end of the age as a bride and groom. He called it a great mystery and it seems to be to the mass of Christianity. Eph. 5:32 The offspring of the marriage of the ages is the man child of Revelation twelve. His wife will be as a fruitful vine. His children as olive trees (trees of oil or anointing) around His table. Ps. 128:3.

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Not only did the Lord hang the glory of the Lord so that all depended on the nail or peg but the vessels used in worship before the Lord also hung on the nail. There were large vessels, small vessels plus all kinds of utensils used in worship before the Lord. Some were of the purest gold, others of silver and then some of brass. ALL dependent on the nail. Even as in the family of the Lord there is bound to be a variety of vessels and the material used in creating them. 2 Tim. 2:20 Likewise

in the resurrection there will be a variety of the manifestation of the glory of the Lord for there are those whose glory may be compared to that of the most brilliant shining of the sun. Others will have the brightness of the moon while others will appear to have a lesser glory, that of the stars, simply because they are farther away and appear to be smaller in their size and shining. 1 Cor. 15:13 Whatever the status, all will be held up by the peg.

The Lord predicted a horrendous day where the peg that was so secure, so stalwart would be removed by being cut down. Daniel also prophesied concerning the cutting down or cutting off of the peg. He identified the one cut down as the Messiah who would confirm the covenant of the Lord with many for one week or a period of seven years. Which is exactly what the Messiah is doing. He has already ministered for a period of three and one half years which figures out to be one half of the week. In the midst of that week, or at the end of three and a half days, (the actual measurement is three and one half years,) MESSIAH was to be removed or cut down but not for Himself. It was the act of redemption, His crucifixion, when He died that we might be redeemed by His precious blood. Dan. 9:26-27.

The midst of the week, or the half of seven is three and one half days a number which prophetically speaking, is translated into years, or three and one half years. Not only did He come with the covenant of the Lord but He is the covenant in its completeness and entirety. Isaiah declared that the Father would give Him as a covenant of the people and a light for the Gentiles. Isa. 42:6 Listen to Paul; Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision, FOR THE TRUTH OF GOD. It is He who was to confirm the promises which were given to their progenitors. Rom. 15:8 The unsaved Jew or Gentile is alienated from the household of Israel and a stranger from the covenants of promise when they are without Christ. Eph. 2:12 The Lord Jesus has decimated the wall separating the races and has made of all, a new man. That is, those who have been reconciled to the Lord by His death upon the cross. Eph. 2:14-16 The covenant of the Messiah is fulfilled in the Lord Jesus. He is the covenant!

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The life giving element and the force of this flowing river of the water of life flow into the areas where there is no life. They go into the

desert, a place of dryness and sand. Also, they flow into the sea, the eastern sea which would be the dead sea. The power of these waters immediately effect a great change wherever they go, the desert will come to life. Dare we liken it to a dead, formal church world which exercises all the motions and manifestations of life but without the true anointing of the Lord. The eastern sea would be the dead sea, lifeless and dormant, could well be the Jew of today who knows about Christ but in total blindness will not accept Him as their Messiah. Eze. 47:8 Both groups are destined to a glorious awakening in these last days which will usher in the Millennial reign of Christ, as well as the completion of the prophecies of the book of Revelation.

These waters are noted for their life giving powers. Everything, everywhere, which receives a touch of the waters spring up into life. Miracle working powers indeed. Another amazing thing about the waters is that they are filled with an exceeding abundance of fish. Eze. 47:9 The analogy is immediately evident, Jesus on watching Peter and his brother Andrew while they were fishing, called them to be fisher of men. Mt. 4:18-19 The kingdom of heaven is likened to a fishing net which when cast into the waters catches all kinds of fish. The fisherman on inspecting his catch will separate the marketable from the unmarketable, which are then cast away. So in the end of the age, there will be a separation of fish or people, conducted by His angels. The wicked will then be cast into the great tribulation where there is nothing but sorrow and anguish. Mt. 13:47-50.

The news is out, the schools of fish are running. The banks of the river are crowded with fishermen reaping the harvest of fish. A grand climax, a great escalation of salvation and the full manifestation of the power of the Spirit of the Lord resulting in the final harvest. The reaping of the first harvest resulting in life eternal to those who are gathered in this harvest. Rev. 14:15-16 From Engedi, (meaning, the fountain of life). Which represents the opening of the fountain or waters of life, or the ministry of the Lord Jesus. They were to fish even unto Eneglaim, (meaning, twin springs), or the time of the double (full and complete) portion. Another of those hidden, yet extremely visible promises, a confirmation of the work that the Lord will consummate in the end of the age with a mighty manifestation of the fullness of His Spirit resting upon His church. A true full portion.

The swamps, the marshes will not be changed or healed. Eze. 47:11 A place of such nature may fit into the ecosystem but they are not generally waters which we would drink or even bathe in. They are more apt to be stagnant, smelly, slimy waters and are considered to be foul disgusting waters. So is sin to the heart that has been purchased and cleansed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus. There are those who are totally given over to the beggarly elements of sin and the wickedness of this world. The moment will arrive, which the scripture shows to be the time when the filthy will continue to be filthy while the righteous will continue to be righteous. Rev. 22:11 All spiritual changes are made in the here and now. None after death. These places will be given to salt, nothing green growing. All opportunity of eternal life is lost. Remember Lot's wife. Luke 17:32

When Ezekiel returned his attention to the river he saw a great abundance of trees growing on both sides of the river. Fruit trees of every variety for they brought forth fruit of every kind. They are trees of righteousness which the Lord has planted for His own purpose. Like the kings of old with their gardens, these trees are a part of the Paradise of the Lord. Isa. 61:3 Their stature and beauty will be as perfect as every other work of the Lord. While John in the Revelation saw one massive tree, (Rev. 22:2) Ezekiel's vision embraced the whole of the banks of the river with a multiplicity of trees. Their leaves will never lose their source of life. The process of life now is contained in the leaves of trees and called photosynthesis, an action instigated by the light of the sun. Life will continue eternally in the living leaves of the trees of life. Not in a natural sense, as now, but by an action instigated by the Spirit of the Lord.

Similar to John's vision, the fruit of the trees is to be found ripe on the tree every day. Its abundance far out weighs the needs and necessities of the people. The Lord is ever fruitful and so are His people. The trees will persistently bring forth new fruit (bakar, to burst the womb) in accordance to their months. The growth of the kingdom of the Lord will know no end. Anything and everything which has the touch of the Lord upon it will constantly increase. The source of the water is the very throne of the Lord. Rev. 22:1 Even the house of the Lord could not contain the flow of that glorious river or should I say that river of the glory of the Lord. Eze. 47:12 That which was stolen and

consequently lost to man in the garden of Eden is restored in Christ. The privilege of a very personal relationship with the Lord. The privilege of eating of, that is partaking of Him and the constant and wonderful health found in Him, are all to be found in His eternal Eden.

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And a double portion for the descendents of Joseph. His rise as a foreigner in Egypt is one of the most phenomenal stories in the Bible. In modern day theology the cart is placed before the horse. Success is easily achieved without tears, toils and much opposition. Joseph, the fruitful one, was to experience the most disheartening type of opposition and jealousy, that from within. From his own brothers. All because he was younger and greatly beloved of his Father. Spiritual integrity and holiness were certainly predominant in his life, thus becoming a source of conviction for his unrighteous brothers. Lets take a peek at the Word of the Lord. For one thing it declares that ALL who would live godly in Christ SHALL suffer persecution. 2 Tim. 3:12 Most everyone is taught today that we will be raptured not having been persecuted at all. The growth factor, the manifold blessing of persecution is the settling, or the establishment of a foundation in the life of the individual. They are strengthened in the spiritual nature for they will overcome. Nothing like a victory to build confidence. They become established, steadfast and knowledgeable in their conduct before the Lord. They make the proper spiritual adjustments which lead them to perfection or maturity before the Lord. 1 Peter 5:10 Persecution builds spiritual character.

Church, hear the Word of the Lord, you will be persecuted. Jesus said so.

In what He determined to be the beginning of sorrows, or prior to the great tribulation, at the time just before the introduction to the tribulation, as well as during the tribulation, there will be persecution. They will deliver you up to be afflicted or troubled. You shall be hated of all nations and be killed. Brethren will hate and betray one another. Mt. 24:9-10 The doctrine of an easy rapture does not agree with the words of the Lord Jesus. Consequently, the church is not prepared for future events of trial and opposition. Seriously consider these things. Rev. 17:6 Introduces us to that which takes place during that great tribulation and it relates to the martyrs of Jesus who are slain during that period of time by the false church. Tribulation martyrs. Rev. 20:4

When the devil is cast out of heaven he turns on the woman, the church to persecute her but she is delivered by the power of the Spirit. Rev. 12:11-14 These are they who came out of great tribulation. Rev. 7:14 Then there are those who stand on the sea of glass mingled with fire who resisted receiving the number name or mark of the antichrist. That can mean only one thing, they faced receiving the stamp but refused to do so, thus, they became victorious. Rev. 15:2-3.

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The recipient of the double portion was to be the first born son. Deut. 21:17 Joseph was the first born son of Jacob and Rachel, but through the trickery of his father-in-law Rachel was not his first wife nor was Joseph his firstborn but was his firstborn with Rachel. Moreover he was his favorite, therefore Joseph was hated by his brothers. By the will of the Lord being accomplished in his life Joseph was far greater and should have been far richer than all of his brothers combined. So complete was his alliance with the Lord that the double portion blessing poured over upon his descendents who were to receive a double portion of land. Eze. 47:13

The spiritual significance of the double portion is found in the request of Elisha of Elijah that a double or absolute full portion of the Spirit which was upon Elijah come upon Elisha. 2 Kings 2:9 We are filled with the Spirit but too often, because of limited capacity, there is yet a great measure of the Spirit which could be received if the vessel was expanded to its full capacity. The Lord will have a people who are like Himself, filled with all the fullness of the Lord. The promise of the Word is that we are to be filled with the fullness (the completeness) of Him who fills (fills) all (any, every, the whole) with the fullness of His divine nature. Eph. 1:23 The good pleasure of the Father is that in the Spirit being of the physical new man, the Lord Jesus, the completeness of all that is God might dwell. Col. 1:19 In the process of salvation and resurrection, the redeemed, will also be filled with the same measure of all that God is. Eph. 3:19 That is the ultimate of the double portion.

The dividing of the land, its ownership and the construction upon it is a great issue today. Even our country became diplomatically involved over this issue. In the measuring of the portions given to the twelve tribes there was also an ordinance given which could have great implications of the end of the age. It concerned the stranger, those

who were not Israelis, yet for what ever reason they were living among them as citizens. A spiritual revival is to be found in the last days when Jacob and Esau, Jew and Arab learn to dwell together. A work which has to be wrought by the Spirit of the Lord. The stranger was to be delegated a portion of land equal to that of his neighbor. What a beautiful type of the end times church embracing all the nations of the world with out prejudice or racial division of any kind. They were to be granted full citizenship and an inheritance equal to the people of Israel and that was to be practiced among all twelve tribes. How wonderful the Lord is. Eze. 47:21-23.

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The book concludes with the list and the measurements of the various portions of land divided to the tribes of Israel. The middle part of the country was set aside as land dedicated unto the Lord. It was to be the place of the sanctuary. Likewise the priests were to dwell in this portion of the land. Eze. 48:8-10 The dwelling place of the Most High among them. Mentioned in particular are the sons of Zadok (meaning, just or righteous). The Lord always has a very special honor for those who adhere to His Word. This segment of the priesthood is composed of a sanctified group who responded positively to the Word of the Lord. When others went astray from the Lord they held their ground and their standard of holiness. Eze. 48:11 This portion of dedicated land was to be considered most holy unto the Lord. Eze. 48:12 They were forbidden to sell any part of it. Nor could it be exchanged for other properties. It was considered to be first fruits and holy unto the Lord. Eze 48:14.

It is worthy of our consideration to see that the city was to be foursquare. Which is accordance with the shape of the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:16 Located In the midst, or the center of their land was to be the place of the city, for a place for dwellings and suburbs. Eze. 48:15 The suburbs were where they were to have their gardens and grow their crops for the city dwellers. Eze. 48:18 Sounds like a well planned city and hinterland. The city was also to be wholly dedicated unto the Lord for it is called an holy oblation (offering, gift or sacrifice) foursquare. Eze. 48:20.

Between the temple land and the people, there was to be property dedicated to the prince. Ezekiel does not give us a name for this

prince, but then, there can only be one prince to whom this strategic portion of land would be delegated. He must be the one head which Judah and Israel will one day acknowledge. Hos. 1:11 Jesus alone is the prince of the kings of the earth. Rev. 1:5.

Of prime importance is the name allotted to the city, THE LORD IS THERE, Yahweh-shammah. Thus, in accordance with the promises and the purposes of the Lord there is that glorious eternal city where His glorious presence shall forevermore be revealed. Zech. 2:10 Rev. 21:3-4.

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