

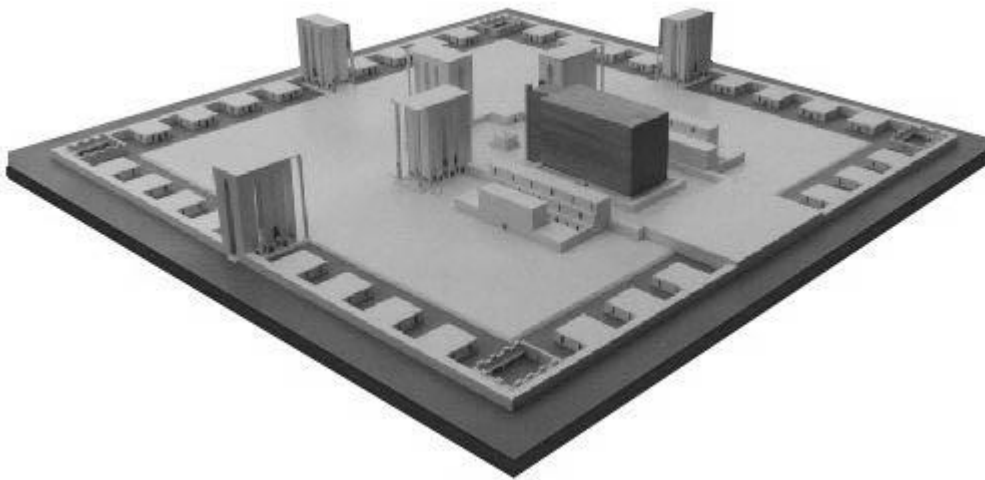
Parson to Person
1 Corinthians 15
(The Resurrection) – Part 21
(The Millennial Age)

“Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. Then I heard Him speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. 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 children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever. “Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern” ’ ” (Ezekiel 43:1–10).

I believe we have made a strong case for the coming Millennial Kingdom. It is a literal 1000-year Kingly reign of Jesus here on the earth—from Jerusalem. It is then and there that Jesus will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords with David as His prince.

The coming temple will be unlike any other in history—and of a greater size than the present Temple Mount can support. Therefore, we understand that the topography will be radically changed to meet the need (see Zechariah 14:9–11). Although there is some dispute about the measure, it seems that the Temple Square will be approximately 5,250 feet long on each side or 27,562,500 square feet, equaling approximately 1 square mile. (See Ezekiel 40:1–42:14, 42:15–20).

Below is an artist's rendering of the coming Ezekiel Temple:



There are many changes that take place in this future dispensation. Some include the absence of a wall of partition excluding the Gentiles; (the Gentiles were previously welcome in the Outer Courts, but excluded from the inner courts on threat of death.) There is also no mention of a Court of Women; the Laver (symbolic of a need for self-reflection and continual cleaning); the Table of Showbread (representing the 12 tribes of Israel and physical body of Christ); the Lampstand/Menorah (representing Jesus as light of Israel to the whole world); the Golden Altar of Incense (representing the prayers of the saints); the Veil (separating man from God); and the Ark of the Covenant containing the tablets of the Old Covenant Law of Moses, Aaron's rod that budded (symbolic of God's sovereignty),

a jar of manna (representing God provisions—in Christ: the Bread of Heaven), and the Ark itself—made of acacia wood and overlaid in pure gold (representing the “hypostatic union” of Jesus’ human/divine nature).

Israel and the completely sanctified/redeemed saints from every previous dispensation will be physically present—as will be our Lord and Savior Jesus the Messiah. Therefore, these items will no longer be necessary in representation. However, it does seem that the Mercy Seat will be present as the Throne of our Lord Jesus (see Ezekiel 43:7).

Another major change is with the then-present sacrificial Brazen Altar. It will have a ramp ascending from the East. (Previously the Brazen Altar was approached from the South.) Moreover, there will be stairs to this altar, not a ramp as under the previous Levitical standard—further reinforcing the distinctions of the dispensations.

We all know that The Old Covenant is fulfilled and abolished in Christ (see Ephesian 2:14–16, Colossians 2:14 and Hebrews 8:1–9:10), making way for a new priesthood “*according to the order of Melchizedek*” (see Hebrews 4–7).

Of great interest to many is the presence of sacrifices. However, we should not be alarmed by this as the sacrifices offered in the pre-cross dispensations (Conscience, Human Government, and Old Covenant) were looking forward to the cross; the Millennial sacrifices will be in memorial, pointing back. Moreover, they serve as a teaching ministry for the Jews—helping them see their earlier significance.

It also appears that two of the special feasts will be kept during the Millennial Kingdom with the exclusion of the Feast of Firstfruits (fulfilled in Jesus’ Resurrection and the resurrection of all the saints), Pentecost (the giving of the Law—both old and new), the Feast of

Trumpets (a call to ingathering), and the Day of Atonement (payment for sin and reconciliation with God). These will have been climactically fulfilled and are therefore no longer significant to the times. Those two observed will be Passover which includes the Feast of Unleavened Bread (symbolic of Jesus our Messiah as the Lamb of God in the sacrifice of Himself) (see Ezekiel 45:21), and the Feast of Tabernacles (symbolic of the deliverance, provisions, and sojourn of Israel in the wilderness) (see Zechariah 14:16).

We have much to look forward to, my friends, in the literal physical 1000-year Kingdom of our Lord. *“The Kingdoms of this world [shall] become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever”* (see Revelation 11:15).

I love you all,
Pastor Paul