

Sunday School Lesson

January 7, 2024

God's Divine Glory Returns

Ezekiel 43:1-12

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Sunday School Lesson

Questions for Us Today

January 7, 2024

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Have you (or someone you know) had a spiritual vision?

If so, how did it affect you (or them)?

Sunday School Lesson

Objectives

January 7, 2024

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To seek an understanding of the Prophet Ezekiel's writing regarding the return – to the Temple – of the Glory of the Lord.

To determine an application to our lives.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

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1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Ezekiel

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

January 7, 2024

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Ezekiel

Ezekiel is one of the four Major Prophets in our Bible – along with Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. They are considered “major” due to the relative length of their writings, not because they are thought to be more important than the (twelve) Minor Prophets.

Points of Information – Ezekiel

Prior to the Call by God to be a Prophet, Ezekiel was in training to be a priest.

Ezekiel 1:3.

Ezekiel received the Prophetic Call from the Lord when he was 30 years of age.

The Lord said this to Ezekiel: “Son of Man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from Me, warn people immediately.” Ezekiel 3:17.

Points of Information – Ezekiel

Ezekiel was taken into exile along with 10,000 other Israelites. His ministry was done during this Babylonian exile, primarily by a river (Kebar).

Points of Information – Ezekiel

Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah (who was much older) and Daniel.

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Lesson Context - 1

In earlier Chapters of the Book of Ezekiel, God called Ezekiel from his training as a priest to be the prophet to the Israelites in exile.

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Vivid descriptions of Ezekiel's visions are provided – including of wheels in the air and of the Valley of Dry Bones.

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Lesson Context - 2

Ezekiel told the Israelites how their sinfulness led to punishment in exile.

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The Prophet witnessed the departure of the Glory of the Lord from the Temple, which enabled the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar to conquer the Israelites and destroy their Temple.

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Lesson Context - 3

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"The man" was introduced in Ezekiel 40:3-41. He served as a spiritual guide for the prophet. With precise measurements and other details, he provided a tour for Ezekiel.

The Prophet then witnessed the return of the Glory of the Lord to the Temple. It was an overwhelming experience, from which he was directed to share.

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Text – UMI Outline #1

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Ezekiel 43:1-5

The Return of Glory

Ezekiel 43:1-2 [NLT]

After this , the man brought me back around to the east gateway.

Suddenly, the glory of the God of Israel appeared from the east. The sound of His coming was like the roar of rushing waters, and the whole landscape shone with His glory.

Ezekiel 43:3-4

This vision was just like the others I had seen, first by the Kebar River and then when He came down on the ground.

And, the glory of the Lord came into the Temple through the east gateway.

Ezekiel 43:5

Then the Spirit took me up and brought me into the inner courtyard, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

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Text – UMI Outline #2

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Ezekiel 43:6-9

Return to the Glory

Ezekiel 43:6

And I heard someone speaking to me from within the Temple, while the man who had been measuring stood beside me.

Ezekiel 43:7

The Lord said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place where I will rest my feet. I will live here forever among the people of Israel. They and their kings will not defile My Holy Name any longer by their adulterous worship of other gods or by honoring the relics of their kings who have died.

Ezekiel 43:8-9

They put their idol altars right next to mine with only a wall between them and Me. They defiled My Holy Name by such detestable sin, so I consumed them in My anger.

Now let them stop worshiping other gods and honoring the relics of their kings, and I will live among them forever.

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Text – UMI Outline #3

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Ezekiel 43:10-12

The Requirements for the Glory

Ezekiel 43:10

“Son of man, describe to the people of Israel the Temple I have shown you, so they will be ashamed of all their sins. Let them study its plan

Ezekiel 43:11

and they will be ashamed of what they have done. Describe to them all the specifications of the Temple – including its entrances and exits – and everything else about it. Tell them about its decrees and laws. Write down all these specifications and decrees as they watch so they will be sure to remember and follow them.

Ezekiel 43:12

And this is the basic law of the Temple: absolute holiness! The entire top of the mountain where the Temple is built is holy. Yes, this is the basic law of the Temple.

Remember these things:

We must obediently strive for holiness.

Let yourself be prayerfully open to what the Lord may put on your mind and into your heart.

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