

Start Here

Does Ezekiel 40-48's say there is a future hand-made temple that God wants to be built?

No hand-made temple has fit the description of the temple

Therefore some assert it must be future.

▼worship now spiritual, not in Jerusalem; church as temple

Centralized Worship Replaced by Spiritual Worship

Jesus' Teaching (John 4:20-24: Samaritan woman: Jews worship in Jerusalem (v20). Jesus: Worship won't be in Jerusalem but in spirit and truth (v21-24). Implication: Jesus didn't predict a future temple but called Himself the temple, raised in three days. Apostles call the church God's temple (1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 6:16, Eph 2:20-22, 1 Timothy 3:15, 1 Peter 2:5).

▼animal sacrifices for atonement contradict Christ's final work

Sacrifices in Ezekiel Are for Atonement, Not Memorial

Ezekiel's Purpose (Ezekiel 43:27, 45:15, 45:17, 45:20): Sacrifices for atonement, not memorial. Burnt offerings atone for sin—God's acceptance tied to them (Ezek 43:27). Conflict with Christ's Work: Christ's atonement is final (Hebrews 9:12, 10:8-10, 18). God doesn't desire burnt offerings (Heb 10:8). Jesus ends sacrifices (Daniel 9:27, Luke 22:20). These sacrifices would have been perfectly fine under the Old Covenant, but it's obsolete now(Heb 8:8-13).

▼Ezekiel 44:9 requires circumcision, reverting to the law, thereby nullifying Christ's sacrifice

Physical Circumcision in Ezekiel's Temple Invalid

Ezekiel's Requirement (Ezekiel 44:9): Physical circumcision needed to enter the temple (Ezek 44:9). New Covenant Rejection: Circumcision nullifies Christ's work (Galatians 5:2-4, 6, 6:15).

▼Priests of Zadok - no Levitical priesthood Post-Christ

Levitical Priesthood Obsolete

Ezekiel's Priesthood (Ezekiel 40:46, 43:19): Levites from Zadok's line as priests (Ezek 40:46, 43:19). New Covenant Reality: Levitical priesthood replaced by Melchizedek's order (Hebrews 7:11-17). Zadok's specificity suggests near fulfillment, not future. Levite is broad; Zadok is very specific.

▼Marriage, childbearing. No marriage post-resurrection

Marriage and Childbearing in Ezekiel Impossible Post-Resurrection

Ezekiel's Laws (Ezekiel 44:22, 47:22): Priests marry virgins; sojourners bear sons (Ezek 44:22, 47:22). Post-Resurrection Reality: No marriage or childbearing after resurrection (Mark 12:23, 25). Implication: Ezekiel's temple can't be post-second coming. Are the priests unbelievers? Or pro-creating glorified believers?

▼no temple in New Jerusalem; God and Lamb are the sanctuary

No Temple in New Jerusalem

Revelation's Vision (Revelation 21:22): No sanctuary in New Jerusalem—God and the Lamb are the temple (Rev 21:22). Implication: No future man-made temple aligns with eternity.

▼temple conditional on repentance; Israel didn't repent

Ezekiel's Temple Contingent on Repentance. Was the temple that could have been. But wasn't.

It wasn't, until Jesus came, because Jesus is that temple. The living waters flow from His body (John 7:38; 4:10,13-14, Isa 44:3-5;55:1;58:11,Zech 14:8, Eze 47:1-12,Jer 2:13) into us as His Church, and out into the whole world. Conditional Vision (Eze 43:11, Zech 6:15): God shares the temple design only if Israel repents (Ezek 43:11). Temple building tied to obedience (Zech 6:15). Historical Failure: Exiles in 539 BC didn't repent; temple wasn't built by them. Instead, Jesus built it.

Church is temple

Conclusion

Ezekiel 40-48 isn't future—sacrifices (Ezek 43:27, 45:15), circumcision (Ezek 44:9), and Levitical laws (Eze 40:46) contradict Christ's work (Heb 9:12, 10:10). Church is the temple (1 Cor 3:16); no physical temple in eternity (Rev 21:22). Rebellion: Building a future temple with sacrifices nullifies Christ (Gal 5:2-4, Heb 10:18)—abject rebellion against God.

▲Conclusion - Future man-made temple + sacrifices contradicts Christ. Is rebellion.

Christ's Priesthood and Heavenly Temple

Christ's Role (Hebrews 8:1-6): Christ, a Melchizedek priest, ministers in the heavenly tabernacle (Heb 8:1-2). Earthly temples are shadows; Christ's work is final (Heb 8:5-6). Implication: Any new temple would be earthly, made by hands—against Christ's heavenly priesthood.

▲Christ's heavenly priesthood; no earthly temple needed.

Christians didn't mention another man-made temple to 1st-century Jews desiring one

There were many perfect opportunities in the Bible for these guys to say "hold on guys, this temple destruction is only temporary - God has plans for another hand-made one with sacrifices to be built right before a 7-year period where God destroys the Earth afterwards". Stephen: Accused of speaking against the temple (Acts 6:12-14); He responds that God doesn't dwell in man-made temples (Acts 7:44-50). Jesus: Accused of threatening to destroy the temple (Matt 26:59-61, Mark 14:57-59); He was Silent, but NT clarifies His body as the temple (John 2:19-21). Paul: Accused of defiling the temple (Acts 21:27-28, 24:5-6), yet he focuses on repentance, not a future temple (Acts 26:20-21). Peter: Christ's lordship, no temple defense (Acts 2:16-21, 29-36). Heb: Old Covenant obsolete, church as heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 8:13, 10:18, 12:22-24).

▲Did the aposostles comfort Jews by speaking of a future temple made with hands?

Christians Didn't Mention a Future Temple Despite Jewish Desire

Christians faced challenges but never mentioned a future man-made temple to 1st-century Jews desiring one—no claim of a temple before a 7-year destruction period. Stephen: Accused of opposing the temple (Acts 6:12-14), says God doesn't dwell in man-made temples (Acts 7:44-50, Isa 66:1-2). Jesus: Charged with threatening the temple (Matt 26:59-61, Mark 14:57-59), silent, but NT clarifies His body as the temple (John 2:19-21, 2:21). Paul: Accused of defiling the temple (Acts 21:27-28, 24:5-6), foc-uses on repentance (Acts 26:20-21). Peter: Christ's lordship, no temple defense (Acts 2:16-21, 29-36, Joel 2:28-32). Hebrews: Old Covenant obsolete, church as heavenly Jerusalem (Heb 8:13, 10:18, 12:22-24). Silence shows Christ fulfills the temple (John 4:21, Rev 21:22, 1 Cor 3:16, Eph 2:20-22), ending its system (Matt 24:2, 24:34, Luke 22:20, Heb 10:10).

▲Early Christian Challenges on Temple Destruction

Church as the True Spiritual Temple

New Testament Reality: Church is God's temple (1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 6:16, Eph 2:20-22, 1 Tim 3:15, 1 Pet 2:5). God dwells in the church (Eze 37:27, quoted in 2 Cor 6:16). Apostolic Silence: Paul and Peter don't mention a future temple despite the standing Jewish temple (Eph 2:20-22, 1 Pet 2:5). We have many challenges to Christians by apostate Jews in the Bible, yet no one gives the defense that God still has a plan for a future temple, so Jesus proclaiming the 1st century temple destruction was no big deal (Matt 24:1-2, Mark 13:1-2, Luke 21:5-6)

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