

Chapter 40-47

Was the fulfillment of the temple mentioned Zerubbabel's temple?

1. Yes
 1. Because it was the only temple built after this prophecy was given
2. No
 1. Zerubbabel's temple did not fit the description of the Ezekiel passage

Will this temple be built in the millenium?

1. Yes - Since there was no temple like it in the past, it must be yet to be built
2. No - No such system of worship can be valid post New Covenant
 1. **Centralized worship is replaced by spiritual worship**
 - i. John 4:20-24
 20. "'Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.'"
 - The Samaritan woman tells Jesus that Jews worship in Jerusalem
 21. "Jesus *said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."
 22. "'You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."
 23. "'But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."
 24. "'God is [fn]spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'"
 - This would have been a great place for Jesus to correct the Samaritan woman and tell her there will one day be a temple at Jerusalem that even Samaritans can worship in.
 - Instead, we see that Jesus calls Himself a temple that He will raise on the 3rd day and repeated references from His apostles that the Church is a temple of God and part of Christ's body.
 2. **Ezekiel makes it clear these sacrifices are not for a memorial, but as a means of atonement and acceptance by God**
 - i. Ezekiel 43:27
 - "So they will complete the days. And it shall be that on the eighth day and onward, the priests shall [fn]offer on the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you,' declares Lord Yahweh."
 - God's acceptance seems contingent on these burn and peace offerings
 - Burnt offerings were for atoning for one's sins
 - Was Christ's atonement not good enough?
 - ii. Ezekiel 45:15
 - "and one sheep from each flock of two hundred from the watering places of Israel—for a grain offering, for a burnt offering, and for peace offerings, to make atonement for them," declares Lord Yahweh."
 - This is not a memorial sacrifice. These sacrifices are meant to make atonement for sins, which should not be done under the New Covenant.
 - See Daniel Chapter 9 where Jesus as Messiah ends sacrifices with the New

Covenant of His blood

iii. Ezekiel 45:17

"“And it shall be the prince’s part to provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the drink offerings, at the feasts, on the new moons, and on the sabbaths, at all the appointed times of the house of Israel; he shall [fn]provide the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make atonement for the house of Israel.”"

-Again, these sacrifices are to make atonement.
That doesn't look like a memorial to me.

iv. Ezekiel 45:20

"“And thus you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who errs or is simpleminded; so you shall make atonement for the house.”"

-**This Ezekiel temple will have sacrifices for sin

v. Eternal redemption only comes through Christ's blood

Hebrews 9:12

"and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy places once for all, [fn]having obtained eternal redemption."

vi. God does not take pleasure in the burnt offerings

Hebrews 10:8-10,18

8. "After saying above, “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them” (which are offered according to the Law),"

9. "then He [fn]said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second."

10. "By [fn]this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

18. "Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin."

3. Physical circumcision is no longer relevant

i. This Ezekiel temple requires physical circumcision to enter the temple, which is no longer required under the New Covenant

a) Ezekiel 44:9

**"“Thus says Lord Yahweh, “No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary.”"

b) Gal.5:2-4,6, Gal 6:15

The apostle Paul tells Christians that they have fallen from grace if they believe they must add circumcision on top of Christ for their salvation.

4. There will never again be a levitical priesthood

i. Are these guys still around?

Ezekiel 40:46

"but the chamber which faces toward the north is for the priests who keep the responsibility of the altar. These are the sons of Zadok, who from the sons of Levi come near to Yahweh to minister to Him.”"

ii. Again, the mention of not only Levites, but Levites of the descendants of Zadok is pretty specific. It's logically possible, but the generational specificity suggests this is a fulfillment that had to have happened pretty soon.

Unless we "spiritualize" Zadok.

Ezekiel 43:19

"**And you shall give to the Levitical priests who are from the seed of Zadok, who draw near to Me to minister to Me,**' declares Lord Yahweh, 'a bull from the herd for a sin offering."

iii. Heb 7:11-17

Says that if the Levitical priesthood through the order of Aaron was good enough, then a priest according to the order of Melchizedek would not have had to come.

3. **No - The description cannot describe circumstances after the second coming of Christ**

1. **No marriage (nor, presumably, child-bearing) in the resurrection**

i. Ezekiel 44:22

"**And they shall not [fn]take a widow or a divorced woman as a wife but shall take virgins from the seed of the house of Israel or a widow who is the widow of a priest.**"
-This is another reference to the Old Testament, Levitical law.

****Are Old testament Levitical laws enacted in the Dispensational's millenium?**

ii. Ezekiel 47:22

"**And it will be that you shall divide it by lot for an inheritance among yourselves and among the sojourners who sojourn in your midst, who bring forth sons in your midst.** And they shall be to you as the native-born among the sons of Israel. They shall be allotted an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel."

iii. Mark 12:23,25

23. "**In the resurrection,** [fn]when they rise again, whose wife will she be? For [fn]all seven [fn]had married her."

25. "**For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.**"

-Jesus said that marriage does not happen after the resurrection.

Notice that Jesus does not correct the questioner and say that there are multiple resurrections.

2. **There is no temple in the New Jerusalem**

i. Rev 21:22

"**And I saw no sanctuary in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its sanctuary.**"

4. **A potential temple which never came to be.**

1. **Contingent upon a degree of repentance that did not exist among the exiles in 539 BC**

i. God tells Ezekiel to only tell the Israelites about the plans of the temple **only IF they** "feel dishonor" (aka **repentance**) "for all that they have done".

The earlier verses say that God wanted Israel to repent of their harlotry against Him. Ezekiel 43:11

"**If they feel dishonor for all that they have done, make known to them the [fn]design of the house, its structure, its exits, its entrances, all its designs, all its statutes[fn], and all its laws. And write it in their sight so that they may keep its whole [fn]design and all its statutes and do them.**"

ii. Zechariah is another place where God seems to only permit a temple reconstruction that is contingent on Israel being obedient.

In the New Testament, Jesus came first to the Jews, then when they rejected Him, Christ started the Church, which are the true Jews.

The remnant of Israel who are united with Gentiles in the Church are now seen as one, with no distinctions between ethnic Jew or Gentile.

The Church is the body of Christ, who do listen to the voice of Yahweh their God. This does not necessitate a physical temple that is a building.

Zechariah 6:15

"“And those who are far off will come and [fn]build the temple of Yahweh.” Then you will know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me to you. And it will happen if you utterly listen to the voice of Yahweh your God."

2. The design details were intended to correspond to spiritual realities in the Church

Which since ethnic Israel did not repent, God instead made the Church the spiritual temple.

i. 1 Cor 3:16

"Do you not know that you are a [fn: The inner part of the temple]sanctuary of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

ii. 2 Cor 6:16

"For we are a sanctuary of the living God; just as God said,
"I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM;
AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

which quotes

Ezekiel 37:27

"“My [fn: tabernacle]dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."

-Dare we accuse the apostle Paul of "spiritualizing" the Church as the temple of God while citing the Ezekiel chapter which Dispensationalists say must be a future, physical temple?

-Paul adds "**I WILL DWELL IN THEM**" in addition to "with them".

iii. Ephesians 2:20-22

20. "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,"

21. "in whom the whole building, being joined together, is growing into a holy [fn: innermost part of the temple]sanctuary in the Lord,"

22. "in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

-There was a temple in Jerusalem when the apostle Paul wrote this.

Instead, Paul emphasizes that the Church is the true temple of God.

-If Paul knew about a future temple, now would be a good place to mention it.

iv. 1 Tim 3:15

NKJV

"but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

-house indicates "temple" of God

LSB

"but [fn]in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how [fn]one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth."

-household indicates 'descendants' of God

v. 1 Peter 2:5

"you also, as living stones, [fn]are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

-Peter is not quoting Ezekiel, but like Paul, fails to mention a physical temple even though he clearly knew the Jewish temple at his time was still standing.

-only spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to God.

Old Covenant sacrifices are no longer accepted Per Daniel 9:27 and the 70th week of Daniel having been completed and capstoned by the AD 70 temple destruction.

vi. Heb 8:1-6

Hebrews talks about Christ as from the order of Melchizedek.

1. "Now the main point in what is being said is this: **we have such a high priest, who sat down** at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty **in the heavens,**"

2. "a minister [fn]in the [fn]holy places and [fn]**in the true [fn]tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.**"

3. "For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer."

4. "Now **if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;**"

5. "who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses [fn]was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

6. "But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of **a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.**"

-Christ is the superior priest who has completed His work because that is what priests do when they are finished their work.

-Christ is in the tabernacle in the heavens.

If there is a new temple, it's in the heavens, not one on earth that is made with human hands.

-**Here we have another reference to **temple activity** (gifts) being **according to the Old Covenant** (the law)