ENCOURAGEMENTS FROM EZEKIEL - BR 9

this title for the series - the name of Ezekiel means 'God is my strength' Ezek39 we saw Israel defended by God when attacked by her last enemy Russia that time is over & the Lord is back on earth to begin the great millennial reign of a 1000 years - we come now to what we call Ezekiel's temple - let's think of all the temples in Bible :

1 **The Tabernacle** (the tent) - known as a 'temple' in 1 Sam1 V9 & in the Psalms of David - but still only the tent which was brought thru' the 40 year wilderness journey & existed for 400 years mainly at Shiloh before Solomon's temple was built.

2 **Solomon's temple** - 1 Kgs 6 V5 - built by the king with the material his father David had gathered in 970 BC - this temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC much of contents in it taken to Babylon.

3 **Zerubbabel's temple** - Ezra 4 V1 - rebuilt by the returning exiles in the days of Ezra & Nehemiah - this was so insignificant to Solomon's temple many people wept - this temple completed in 516 BC stood for 500 years & then was destroyed by Antiochus Epiphanes

4 **Herod's temple** in the time of Christ - Jn 2 V20 - this temple was built by Herod & destroyed by Titus the Roman emperor in 70 AD as the Lord predicted in Mt 24 V2 - the western or 'wailing' wall is only remaining part of that temple - still seen to day in Jerusalem

5 Antichrist's temple - 2 Thes 2 V4 - the Dome of the Rock mosque will be demolished & a new temple built for the Anti Christ to sit in - Jews have plans already to build it

6 **Ezekiel's temple** - Ezek 40 to 48 - the millennial temple built for Christ's return to earth at the end of the great Tribulation period

7 Heaven's temple - Rev 21 V22

Begin by reading Ezek 40 V1 & expound

Let us come now to Ezekiel's Temple in these last 9 chapters of Ezekiel. This vision of Ezekiel was not that of the temple that Zerubbabel built on his return from Babylon for it in no way corresponds to the magnificence of Ezekiel's temple. The glory of the Lord did not return in the days of Zerubbabel. It is not an imaginary vision of no value. Nor is it to be spiritualised & taken as symbolical of the church this is to be taken literal & prophetical - something that one day will be real to see.

THE PARTS OF THE TEMPLE

Ezek 40 V5 the house....the building V7 the porch V17 the outward court V19 the inner court Ezek 41 V1 the temple V4 the most holy place - yet there is no mention of the veil, or the ark of the covenant or the high priest - there has been a search by many of what became of the ark - where is ti does it still exist ? - would appear that it is no more & will never be found

THE PRAISE IN THE TEMPLE

Ezek 43 V2 the glory of the God of Israel is in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ & then V5, V6 & V7 - Christ coming in by the eastern gate - so many rich Jews are buried outside

THE PRINCE IN THE TEMPLE

Ezek 44 V3 'the prince' is mentioned again & again now & in succeeding chapters - who is he ? - it can only be the Lord Jesus Christ

THE PURPOSE IN THE TEMPLE

Ezek 45 V21 the feast of the Passover kept & the feast of Tabernacles - but there is no mention of the feast of Pentecost, or Trumpets or the day of Atonement. Sacrifices are offered but they are for memorial purposes - Heb 10 V12 is not violated - just like we today in the church have our table for breaking bread in remembrance & as a memorial of what was accomplished at Calvary

THE PICTURES IN THE TEMPLE

Ezek 46 In the Millennium the nation of Israel will see Christ in the offerings - something that the nation as a whole have never seen before

Ezek 47 V8 the healing waters flowing from the temple south in the Dead Sea which will be made alive V9 there shall be a very great multitude of fish

THE PORTIONS TO THE TRIBES

V13 the borders & divisions of the land given to each tribe - Joseph shall have 2 portions - if he does who looses out ?

Ezek 48 V1 the portion for Dan, (truly repentant & forgiven since Rev 7 & land once again given) V2 the portion for Asher, V3 the portion for Naphtali, V4 a portion for Manasseh (son of Joseph) V5 a portion for Ephraim (other son of Joseph - so Joseph & who else is out - Levi the priestly tribe who was never given a separate inheritance) V6 a portion for Reuben V7 a portion for Judah, V23 Benjamin, V24 Simeon, V25 Issachar, V26 Zebulun, V27 Gad,

THE PRESENCE IN THE CITY

Ezek 48 V35 the name of the city from that day shall be 'Jehovah Shammah' - the Lord is there - it started with the glory of God Ezek 1 V28 & it ends the same way - Amen.

Howard McNally 03.04.13 Enniskillen Baptist Church