

## Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious! - 33

In the guided tour in his vision, Ezekiel passed through into the inner court into the centre-piece of the vision, "the Temple."

The combined beauty, utility and size of the building goes far beyond any previous architectural design. More arresting of the prophet's attention is the event which he witnessed after surveying the external approaches to the building. This event, which he saw from the eastern gate of the outer wall, he describes -

- "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...4 And THE GLORY OF THE LORD CAME INTO THE TEMPLE by way of the gate which faces toward the east" - Ezekiel 43:2.

Ezekiel is then conveyed by the spirit of God into the inner court, and standing there, he watches while the house is filled with the glory of the Lord. He then hears the divine voice speaking to him, saying,

- "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" - Ezekiel 43:7.

Later, Ezekiel is led back by the way of the eastern gate, and notes that it is shut, and receives the following explanation -

- "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. 3 As for the prince, because he is the prince, he may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way" - Ezekiel 44:2-3.

Later on, Ezekiel received the following information about this gate:—

- "Thus says the Lord God: The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.
- 2 "The prince shall enter by way of the vestibule of that gateway from the outside, and stand by the gatepost. The priests shall prepare his BURNT OFFERING AND HIS PEACE OFFERINGS. He shall worship at the threshold of the gate. Then he shall go out, but the gate shall not be shut until evening.
- 3 "Likewise the people of the \*earth shall worship at the entrance to this gateway before the Lord on the Sabbaths and the New Moons" - Ezekiel 46:1-3. \*Hebrew, 'eretz = earth, or land, depending on the context, which here concerns the temple which Jesus refers to in Mark 11:17, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for ALL NATIONS'."

The temple, we are informed by Ezekiel, stands at the south of an area around Jerusalem, about forty-two miles from east to west, and about seventeen miles from north to south. This district will be occupied by a class described as "the sons of Zadok," who were faithful in ancient times.