

Introduction

- Ezekiel 40-48 is the most challenging section in the entire book.
- It has plenty of parallels to the end of Revelation, especially 20-21.
- The main message of Ezekiel is that exile is going to come again.
- Their immediate future will be filled with suffering, but one day they will be restored.
- There is hope of resurrection.

General Interpretations

- Literal, prophetic, short-term interpretation (vision not carried out).
- Symbolic Christian interpretation (this is the church right now).
- Dispensational interpretation (vision literally carried out in the millennium).
- Prophetic Apocalyptic interpretation (metaphor to show spiritual principles).

Gog and Magog

- This is the only other mention of these places, and no one knows who it is.
- They appear to gather a great host of other nations to fight God's people.
- A thought comes to their mind to fight God's restored people (deception).
- The phrase "latter days" is repeatedly used in this section.
- They are judged in a great day of wrath that includes a great earthquake.
- Sulphur and fire will rain down from heaven in judgment on them.
- Their defeat means God's holy name will never be profaned.

Aftermath of Battle

- It will take 7 years to burn up the weapons and spoils from the battle.
- It will take over 7 months to bury the dead and the bones.
- Every bird is invited to come eat and drink at a great banquet.

Israel Restored

- Israel may forget their sin and shame.
- They will be secure and "no one will make them afraid."
- Every single Jew will be brought back to the land.
- God's face will be revealed and no longer hidden.

Temple Restored

- Ezekiel gets a long and very detailed reconstruction of the temple.
- The temple has exact measurements and is unlike anything that has ever been built.
- God's glory comes to fill the temple and promises to never leave.
- Israel is commanded to study this to encourage their obedience (43:11).

Sacrifices Restored

- Sacrifices will resume when this temple is rebuilt.
- The feasts, including the Sabbath, New Moons, and Passover.
- There is one gate that is only to be used by the "Prince."
- The "Prince" will be the only one who eats the offering bread.
- The Levites will continue to serve, but their role has been diminished.
- Only the priests descended from Zadok will be allowed to enter the inner court.

Great River

- A trickle of water will flow from the temple and become a great river.
- This river will restore the Dead Sea.
- The Dead Sea will be filled with life again and plenty of fishing.
- Trees will grow on every side of the river and bear every kind of fruit.
- The fruit grows fresh every single month and the leaves are for healing.

The City

- There will be a square city around the temple.
- The city will have 12 gates named after the tribes of Israel.
- The city will be named "The LORD Is There."
- It does not match New Jerusalem in dimensions, but is similar.

Conclusion

- There are obviously similarities between Ezekiel and Revelation, but I am unclear how they tie together.
- The primary spiritual principles are the same: The immediate future will be negative, but ultimate redemption awaits and is better than you can imagine.
- I don't think this will be fulfilled literally in the 1,000-year reign of Christ because death, sin, and the sacrifices remain.