



## DEVOTIONAL FOR EZEKIEL 40-48

AUTHOR: PHILLIP HOPKINS

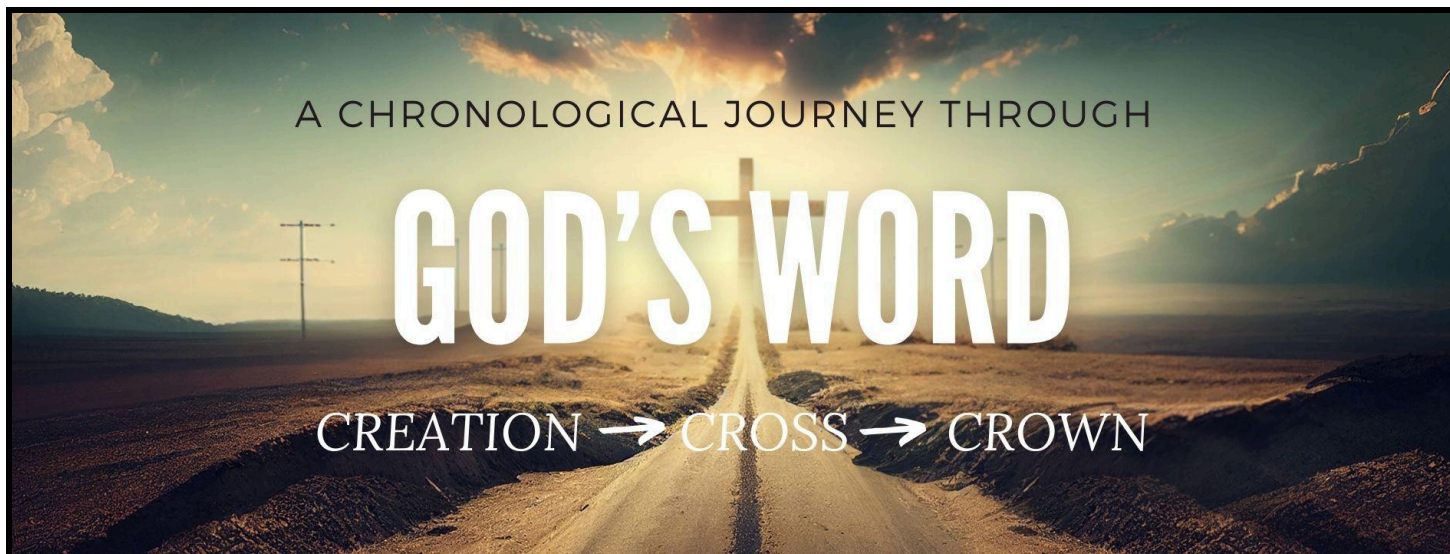
When I first read these verses, I thought to myself, "Ah man, not the verses on the measurements of the Temple!" Thankfully though that didn't last long! There is a vast richness to the details and precision in which God wanted His temple built. All throughout scripture we see God creating and establishing order, from the beginning with Creation to the end with Judgement. Why would His temple be any different? It's easy to skim over these passages and miss the importance of the precision in which the temple was made and how it relates to us.

First Corinthians 3:16-17 says, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." Paul is telling us that we are now the temple of God and we are to treat it as holy! How important do you think this is to God? He gave us His Spirit to dwell within us to help us and direct us, Do you not think that what you do with your body matters to Him?

In Ephesians 2:19-22 we can see that we are a part of the holy temple, which God established in Christ, with the apostles being the foundation and Christ being the cornerstone. We are being refined so that the Holy Spirit will dwell within us. Even in this we see order. The apostles laid the foundation for all nations to be a part of God's temple by coming into Christ, who is the support for all who reside in Him!

First Corinthians 6:18-20: "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." Paul makes a specific charge about our body as the temple. Immorality affects the body, which is the temple! How much more do you think God will pursue us to cleanse the defilement of His temple? We aren't our own; we were bought with a price. What price was that? The life of Christ, His blood shed on the cross. When we accept Christ as Lord, we become a bond servant to Him! Bond servant is a term Paul used often to refer to himself and means that you give up your own interests for the interests of the one who you are aligning yourself to. For Christ to be your savior, He first has to be your Lord! Again, there is an order to the things of God.

When we look at the world we can see how chaotic and out of order it is. I see that without God to create order, we move into disorder. We can see how the world has created chaos in such areas as marriage, sexuality, science,



religion, morality, and truth. As the world has moved to redefine these in a manner contrary to what God prescribed, we have disorder and chaos. Many of these affect the body in one way or another. Our enemy is trying to tear down the temple, which God established in us by the blood of Christ. He has been successful in many ways and if we, as believers, don't remove the idols from the temple and restore it to the glorious dwelling place it is designed to be, we may find that God will do it with force! James 4:4-6 says, "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us?" But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.""

Humble yourself before God, repent of how you have defiled the temple of God and opposed His authority in your life so that you can receive forgiveness and be cleansed!

*(All Scripture references in the devotional above came from the NASB1995 Bible version.)*

#### Questions:

1. Do you view yourself as Paul did, a bond servant of the Lord?
2. Christ is the life giving water described in Ezekiel 47. Do you crucify your desires so you can find life in Him? Or are there areas in which you struggle with this and you need to submit to the Lord?
3. Repentance is a major act needed to be in right standing with God. Have you repented of your sins and sought forgiveness from God?