**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 25—Ezekiel 40-42**

**We have now reached the home stretch of our study of the book of Ezekiel, but you could be forgiven for thinking that these last several chapters of the book would be more at home in a book like Leviticus or Deuteronomy. This is because the final nine chapters of Ezekiel are devoted to describing the new temple that God’s people would build in Jerusalem after they returned from their exile in Babylon. Meticulous measurements and descriptions are given of every feature of the temple and its decorations, and we Christians twenty-five centuries later might wonder what all of that has to do with us. Admittedly, some of the more detailed explanations probably do not need to be closely examined and can just be skimmed over. However, there are certain aspects of these chapters that are well worth reading and considering, as they do have applications for God’s people today as well.**

**1.) Read Ezekiel 40:1-4. When did this particular vision come to Ezekiel? Where does that place this vision in the overall chronology of the book of Ezekiel?**

**2.) Where did God take Ezekiel to see the vision?**

**3.) Who met Ezekiel in this place? What did this person tell Ezekiel he would do, and what was Ezekiel then supposed to do?**

**4.) Skim the rest of Ezekiel 40. What does Ezekiel’s guide show him? What particularly sticks out at you about this description of the temple?**

**5.) According to verses 45-46, who will be the priests in the new temple? How is this different from before the exile?**

**6.) Skim all of Ezekiel 41. What does Ezekiel’s guide describe in this chapter? What sticks out to you in particular?**

**7.) What are some of the most interesting features and decorations of the inner temple?**

**8.) How does the inner temple compare with that of the first temple? What about with the design of a Christian church building?**

**9.) Skim all of Ezekiel 42. What does Ezekiel’s guide describe in this chapter? What sticks out to you in particular?**

**10.) According to verses 13-14, what were the priests supposed to do with the offerings? Does this remind you of any practice we currently have in the Christian church?**

**11.) What were the priests supposed to do with their holy garments when they left the holy chambers? Why?**

**12.) What do all of these regulations tell us about how God views the worship of His people? How can we Christians apply these principles to our own worship, even though God has not given us as specific instructions as He did in the Old Testament?**

**Although it may be tedious for us to read through biblical literature like these chapters of Ezekiel, it does show us how important true and orderly worship are to God. He wants His people to take their worship seriously, and in the Old Testament He gave very specific regulations on how to do this. We Christians have fewer specific instructions to follow, but the basic principles remain the same: we should be reverent and serious in our approach to the holy things of God. God has not changed His fundamental character in the time of the New Testament, even though He has revealed Himself to us in a new way in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. He wanted His people of Israel to worship Him properly, and He wants us to do the same as well.**