

Does Ezekiel 40-44 Describe a Millennial Temple? The Answer in Ezekiel 39-40 and Its Parallel Passages

Ezekiel

Revelation

Luke

Revelation 1:7

Zechariah 12:10

The Second Coming of Christ

19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse,
and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True,

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS,

The Future Conversion of Israel

39:29b for I **will have poured out**
39:29d **on** the house of Israel," declares the Lord God.

39:29c My **Spirit**
39:29a I will not hide My face from them any longer,

and every eye **will see Him,**
even those who pierced Him;
and all the tribes of the land²
will mourn over Him....

"I **will pour**
out **on** the house of David
and **on** the inhabitants of Jerusalem,
the **Spirit** of grace and of supplication,
so that **they will look on Me**
whom they have pierced;
and they
will mourn for Him,
as one mourns for an only son,
and they will weep bitterly over Him
like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

The Wrath of God

and in righteousness He judges and wages war.
19:15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword,
so that with it He may strike down the nations,
and He will rule them with a rod of iron;
and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

The Battle of Har-Magedon

39:17 "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, '
Speak to every kind of bird
and to every beast of the field,
"Assemble and come,
gather from every side to My sacrifice
which I am going to sacrifice for you,
as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel,
that you may eat flesh and drink blood.

19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun,
and he cried out with a loud voice,
saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven,
"Come, assemble for the great supper of God,

39:18 **You will eat the flesh of mighty men**
and drink the blood of the princes of the earth,
as though they were rams, lambs,
goats and bulls, all of them fattlings of Bashan.
39:19 So you will eat fat until you are glutted,
and drink blood until you are drunk,
from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.
39:20 You will be glutted at My table
with horses and charioteers, with mighty men
and **all the men** of war," declares the Lord God.

19:18 **so that you may eat the flesh** of kings
and **the flesh** of commanders
and **the flesh of mighty men**

and **the flesh of horses** and of those who sit on them
and **the flesh of all men,**
both free men and slaves, and small and great."
19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth
and their armies assembled to make war against Him
who sat on the horse and against His army.
19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet
who performed the signs in his presence,
by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast
and those who worshiped his image;
these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire
which burns with brimstone.
19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword
which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse,
and **all the birds** were filled **with their flesh.**

The Millennium

- 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven,
holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.
- 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old,
who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;
- 20:3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him,
so that he would not deceive the nations any longer,
until the thousand years were completed;
after these things he must be released for a short time.
- 39:21 And I will set My glory among the nations;
and all the nations will see My judgment
which I have executed
and My hand which I have laid on them.
- 39:22 And the house of Israel will know
that I am the LORD their God from that day onward.
The nations will know
that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity
because they acted treacherously against Me,
and I hid My face from them;
so I gave them into the hand of their adversaries,
and all of them fell by the sword.
- 39:24 According to their uncleanness
and according to their transgressions I dealt with them,
and I hid My face from them.""
- 39:25 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
"Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob
and have mercy on the whole house of Israel;
and I will be jealous for My holy name.
- 39:26 They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery
which they perpetrated against Me,
when they live securely on their own land
with no one to make them afraid.
- 39:27 When I bring them back from the peoples
and gather them from the lands of their enemies,
then I shall be sanctified through them
in the sight of the many nations.
- 20:4 Then I saw **thrones**, and **they sat on them**,
and judgment was given to them.
And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded
because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God,
and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image,
and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand;
- 22:30c judging the twelve tribes of **Israel**.
- 39:28 Then they will know that I am the LORD their God
because I made them go into exile among the nations,
and then gathered them again to their own land;
- and I will leave none of them there any longer.
- 20:4 and they came to life and **reigned** (Greek: *basileuo*) with Christ
for a thousand years.
- 22:29 and just as My Father
has granted Me a **kingdom**,
I grant you
- 22:30a that you may eat and drink at My table
in My **kingdom** (Greek: *basileia*),
- 40:2 In the visions of God He brought me into the land of Israel
and set me on a very high mountain,
and on it to the south there was a structure like a city.
- 40:3 So He brought me there;
and behold, there was a man
whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze,
with a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand;
and he was standing in the gateway.
- 40:4 The man said to me, "Son of man, see with your eyes,
hear with your ears,
and give attention to all that I am going to show you;
for you have been brought here in order to show it to you.
Declare to the house of Israel all that you see."
- 40:5 And behold, there was a wall on the outside of the temple¹....

The New Heavens and the New Earth

- 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth passed away....
- 21:22 I saw no temple in it,³

for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

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End Notes

¹ In the following five chapters (Ezek 40-44) there is a detailed account of the millennial temple. It is significant that whereas in Ezekiel Har- Mageddon language (39:17-20) is followed by a description of Israel's return to the land and a description of their temple (39:21-44:31), in Revelation 19-20 the description of the battle of Har-Mageddon (19:17-21) is followed immediately by the description of the millennium (20:1-6). In other words, the temple of Ezekiel 40-44 is the millennial temple.

² The second half of Revelation 1:7 is a direct quotation from the Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament, of Zechariah 12:10-14 except for the phrase "even those who pierced Him" which is not found in the Septuagint but is a direct translation of the Hebrew. For a full explanation of this, see Robert Horton Gundry, *The Use of the Old Testament in Saint Matthew's Gospel with Special Reference to the Messianic Hope* (London:Brill,1967), 52-54. In the Septuagint, the Greek word *ge* is the translation of the Hebrew word 'erezt translated "land" (Zech 12:14) and therefore it is best translated "land" here as well.

³ On the new earth it is necessary to state that there is no temple, in contrast to the millennial earth which will have a temple.. However, it should be noted that the New Jerusalem itself is a giant cube (Rev 21:16), a giant holy of holies (1 Kings 6:20; Ezek 41:4), a temple-throne room..

