

Ezekiel 43:1–27 — When God Returns to Dwell Among His People

Ezekiel 43 stands as one of the most breathtaking chapters in the book. After chapters filled with measurements, gates, chambers, and walls, the prophet is suddenly confronted with the greatest reality of all:

The glory of God returns.

What sin once drove away, grace will restore.
What human rebellion pushed out, divine mercy brings back.
Where God once departed, God will dwell again.

This is not simply architecture—it is reconciliation.

1. The Glory of God Returns (Ezekiel 43:1–5)

Ezekiel is brought to the east gate, and he sees something he once watched depart in sorrow:

“The glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east... and the earth shone with His glory.”
Ezekiel 43:2 (NKJV)

Earlier in the book, the glory of God left the temple because the people defiled His name. Now, the same glory returns by the same route.

There is a message here for us:

The God who judges is also the God who restores.

The description echoes the risen Lord of Revelation 1, whose voice is “like the sound of many waters.” His return is radiant, authoritative, undeniable. And when His glory enters the temple, Ezekiel says:

“The glory of the LORD filled the house.” Ezekiel 43:5 (NKJV)

This is what the human heart longs for—the presence of God filling every part of life.

2. A Place for God’s Throne (Ezekiel 43:6–9)

A voice speaks to Ezekiel from within the temple:

“This is the place of My throne... where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.”
Ezekiel 43:7 (NKJV)

No more idolatry.
No more spiritual betrayal.
No more wandering hearts.

God declares that His people will no longer defile His name. Their relationship with Him will be healed. Their worship will be pure. Their devotion will be undivided.

This is God’s desire—not simply that people visit Him, but that He **dwells** among them.

3. The Altar and Its Meaning (Ezekiel 43:10–17)

God instructs Ezekiel to show this vision to Israel so they will:

“...be ashamed of their iniquities.” Ezekiel 43:10 (NKJV)

Seeing God’s holiness awakens repentance.

Seeing God’s mercy stirs humility.

Then Ezekiel is shown the altar—the place where sacrifices will be offered.

This raises a common question:

Why does Ezekiel describe offerings in a future age when Jesus’ sacrifice has already put away sin once and for all?

The answer lies in understanding what sacrifices could and could not do.

- Old Testament sacrifices never removed sin; they only pointed forward to the perfect sacrifice of Christ.
- These future sacrifices do not replace or repeat Christ’s work—they look back to it.

Just as the Lord gave the church communion as a memorial (“Do this in remembrance of Me”), these offerings serve as a visible reminder of the cross:

- not adding to it,
- not repeating it,
- but declaring what Jesus accomplished.

In the age of restoration, worship will revolve around the One who gave Himself for us.

4. The Consecration of the Altar (Ezekiel 43:18–27)

Ezekiel describes a series of offerings—sin offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings. These are not substitutes for Christ’s atonement. They are:

- memorials of His saving work,
- expressions of gratitude,
- symbols of devotion,
- reminders of the holiness of God,
- and visible proclamations of the gospel.

The chapter ends with God saying:

“On the eighth day and thereafter... I will accept you,” Ezekiel 43:27 (NKJV)

Not because of the offerings themselves,
but because the God who judges also forgives, restores, and welcomes.

Practical Application

1. God Desires to Dwell With You

The heart of Ezekiel 43 is not a building—it is God’s presence.

Where God’s glory dwells:

- fear is replaced by peace,
- despair is replaced by joy,
- guilt is replaced by forgiveness.

If you know Jesus, His Spirit dwells in you. Make room for Him daily. Nurture a life where His presence is your highest treasure.

2. Let God’s Holiness Lead You to Repentance

God wanted Israel to look at the temple and feel genuine conviction. Likewise, when you see the cross, allow God’s holiness to expose anything unclean, anything cold, anything careless.

Repentance is not shame—it is cleansing.
It opens the door for God’s presence and peace.

3. Remember What Jesus Has Done for You

Communion reminds us today of the sacrifice that saves. Ezekiel’s altar reminds us that worship must be centered on the Lamb who was slain.

Never let the cross become a distant doctrine.
Let it be the living heartbeat of your faith.

A Challenge for Believers

- Does the presence of God shape your daily decisions?
- Is your worship marked by reverence and gratitude?
- Are there patterns in your life that no longer belong in the company of God’s glory?

Let Ezekiel’s vision call you to renewal.

Ask the Lord to cleanse anything in your life that pushes His presence to the margins.

Make room for His glory.

An Invitation to Non-Believers

The glory of God left because of human sin.
The glory of God returned because of divine mercy.

Today, God calls you—not to religion, but to relationship.
Not to fear, but to forgiveness.
Not to distance, but to nearness.

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to cleanse you.
He rose again to declare that He is God, Savior, and Lord.
He is ready to make you His own.

If you desire that new life, you can respond:

*“Lord Jesus, I come to You in faith.
I believe You died for my sins and rose again.
I ask You to forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new.
I surrender my life to You.
Be my Savior and my Lord. Amen.”*

If you prayed that sincerely, Jesus has welcomed you.
And I would be glad to help you take your next steps of growth in Him.