

Life-Study of Ezekiel Summary – Messages 24 to 27

The Return of God's Glory to the House

After the completion of the building of the house, the glory of the Lord returned. **The glory of the Lord returned because the building of the temple was completed.** God's concern is not merely with salvation or with spirituality but with the building. The building is nothing other than the church. We need to be deeply impressed with the fact that the glory of God returned only after the building of the temple was completed. **If we want to dwell in the church and manifest His glory in the church, the church must be complete.**

In order for the Lord to come back to earth, He needs a built up church as His standing on the earth. **The living of the people of God must match the temple of God.** Our main concern today should not be with behaving ourselves or even with becoming spiritual. Our concern should be with fitting into God's house, that is, with how we conduct ourselves in God's house.

The Priests and the Offerings

If we would serve the Lord in His house, the church, we need to be circumcised. Circumcision typifies dealing with the flesh, the natural man, and the old man by the cross. To us as believers in Christ, **circumcision** today is not something outward but an **inward dealing by the cross with the flesh, the natural man, and the old man.** We all need to be like the sons of Zadok, who were circumcised and absolutely faithful to the Lord. The circumcised, faithful, and qualified ones serve by offering the fat and the blood of the offerings. In our service to God, **we must present to Him the precious person of Christ and the redemptive work of Christ.**

The River Flowing from the House

In the book of Ezekiel, the flowing of the water did not begin until chapter 47. Several crucial factors brought in the flow of the river. The first was the **building up and completion of the house.** Following this, the people began to have their **living according to the house,** according to its pattern, laws, and statutes. Next, the serving ones were **serving the Lord in a proper way.** Finally, there were **all the offerings.**

If we would have the flow, we must have the **dealing of the cross.** If we want to enjoy the flow out of the house, we need to be **measured completely.** As we are judged by the Lord, we need to make a thorough confession. We need to allow the Lord to be our Judge and let Him bring us into the light and expose us. We all need to be measured and taken over by the Lord. For His measuring the Lord needs our cooperation.

Before we enjoy the grace of the Lord as the flow, we are able to do whatever we like. But when the flow becomes deeper, reaching up to the knees, walking becomes much more difficult. We have **grace,** but the amount of grace we have is not sufficient, so we continue to exercise our **own effort.** Once the flow of grace becomes so deep that we cannot pass over, we will praise the Lord and begin to swim in the river. As we swim, we will no longer try to stand on our feet. Instead, we will abandon our self-effort and begin to swim in the river.

The Holy Land and the Holy City

Apart from the land, there can be no temple. **The temple, which typifies the church, is the issue of the land, which typifies Christ.** The church is the issue of the enjoyment of the riches of Christ. Ezekiel ends with Jerusalem. Because we will eventually become the New Jerusalem, we should **apply the things mentioned in Ezekiel.** God dwells in the temple, and He also dwells in the city. May this be the situation in all the local churches.