

Message #50**Ezekiel 46:1-24**

In Revelation 20:1-7, there is a prediction of a very unusual time period that lasts 1000 years. Six times in seven verses the number is mentioned. Now when God repeats something multiple times in a few short verses, He is doing so to make a point. Obviously one key point is that something is going to take place on this earth that will last for 1000 years.

Now there are some preachers who say this 1000 year period has already occurred or is presently occurring. The problem is nothing fits the description of what is predicted to happen. That is especially true when we come to Ezekiel 46.

To those who suggest that this was all fulfilled in past time, we have three questions:

- #1) When was this fulfilled; Show us any place in history when this happened.
- #2) Where in history do you see anything like this; Show us where this happened.
- #3) Who was involved in fulfilling it? Show us who was involved in what is described here.

The truth is this hasn't happened. There is no place in ancient or modern times when anything like what is described here has happened. The only sane, logical conclusion is this is a prediction of what will be fulfilled during the 1000 year millennium.

IN THE MILLENNIUM, WHEN ISRAEL IS IN HER LAND ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD, THERE WILL BE NEW SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AT THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM.

Now when we read these chapters, we must admit they have not yet occurred. Nothing like this has ever occurred. Now what is described here is the "prince" (who is King David) will worship and then he will lead the people in worship.

What we do clearly see from these chapters is that God carefully monitors worship. He sees who comes to worship and who sets home and watches TV. He sees who makes an effort to be at worship services and who doesn't. He keeps track of those who make sacrifices for Him and those who don't. This is obvious.

MILLENNIAL WORSHIP REGULATION #1 – Regulation of the gate. 46:1

I want us to observe how **verse 1** begins, "Thus says the LORD GOD" (Jehovah Adonai). These details are not coming from Ezekiel or any other man; these are coming from Almighty God. Those who want to spiritualize or allegorize this passage, better think very seriously about this.

Now the first thing that is mentioned is that a key to this worship will be the inner east gate. During the six working days, the east gate of the inner court will be closed, but on the Sabbath Day and the new moon day, the gate will be opened.

We may recall that the outer east gate is permanently closed (**44:1-2**).

Now this inner east gate is only going to be opened on special occasions of worship; however, it appears that no one will enter it. The prince will worship before it. No tourist is going to use this gate, because this gate featured the sacred presence of God.

A. C. Gaebelien said he believed that a case can be built for a six day work week and then the Sabbath rest. Since a day is with the Lord as 1000 years, he believed that the world will operate for 6000 years and then there will be this 1000 year Sabbath rest period known as the Millennium. He said after the 1000 year Millennium, all will enter into eternal rest (*Ezekiel*, p. 326).

MILLENNIAL WORSHIP REGULATION #2 – Regulations for the prince. **46:2**

The prince (David) will worship at the threshold or entrance of the east gate. He will stand by the gate and the priests will provide his burnt offering, peace offerings and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate and then go out, but the gate will not be shut.

MILLENNIAL WORSHIP REGULATION #3 – Regulations for the worshippers. **46:3-10**

Now when the people of Israel gather to worship they will follow strict regulations. This will not be a free-for-all:

Regulation #1 - The people will also worship at the doorway of the east gate. **46:3**

Why does this take place here? Because this gate will force all worshippers to honor Jesus Christ as God, throughout the Millennium. They will stand before this door and worship and realize that this door is the key to entrance to a relationship with God. They will realize how sacred Jesus Christ is and how sacred His sacrifice was. They realize He is the only door to give access to God.

Regulation #2 - The burnt offering the prince will offer will be six unblemished lambs and one unblemished goat. **46:4**

This regulation is clearly different than the Mosaic regulation, which in itself proves this is a very unique and different time period. Under the Mosaic law the Sabbath day burnt offering consisted of two male unblemished lambs and two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil (Numbers 28:9-10). Obviously during the millennium there is a change in the system.

Regulation #3 - The grain offering will be given in proportion to one's means. **46:5**

God never expects anyone to give what they don't have. He expects people to give what they are able to give.

Regulation #4 - The new moon Festival. **46:6-7**

The New Moon offering will be special because it will be a time of a wonderful new relationship between God and the people of the land, Israel. It will feature some special offering matters:

- 1) A young bull without blemish. **46:6a**
- 2) Six lambs and a ram without blemish. **46:6b**
- 3) A grain offering will be offered with the bull. **46:7a**
- 4) A grain offering will be offered with the ram. **46:7b**
- 5) A grain offering and oil offering will be offered with the lambs. **46:7c**

Regulation #5 - The prince shall enter and leave via the porch of the east gate. **46:8**

David, who is the prince, will have special access privileges that others do not have. He holds a prominent place in the plan of God. He is given very specific details as to how he enters and exists the worship area. He will exit by the porch of the east inner gate, which is the same way he entered. Keep in mind that David is coregent with Jesus Christ in this reign and therefore everything he does will be connected to Him.

Regulation #6 - The people shall enter one gate and go out another gate. **46:9**

Worship will be decent and orderly. Now the people will either enter the north gate and go out by the south gate or enter the south gate and go out by the north gate. No reason is stated for this. Many commentators believe this is a crowd control matter. Certainly if there are thousands of people coming to this worship, there would need to be some sort of crowd control.

Regulation #7 - The prince (David) will be among the people. **46:10**

This will certainly be a reminder that one from the Davidic line made it possible for them to be there worshipping God. He will be, as Gaebelin said, a “blessed reminder” of the One who went to Calvary (*Ezekiel*, p. 329). It shall also testify of the fact that David is a sinful human just like the rest of them. Even though David is high-ranking, he is still on their level.

MILLENNIAL WORSHIP REGULATION #4— Regulations for the festival offerings.
46:11-15

At various festivals and feasts offerings will be made.

Regulation #1 - An offering is to be made with grain and oil. **46:11**

This particular offering will be based on what a person is able to give.

Regulation #2 - At these festivals one may give free will offerings. **46:12**

As we mentioned last time, most of the offerings at this Temple are mandated, legal offerings.

However, God will also accept free will offerings. There will be those who will give more prompted by their own hearts. By the way, what does this teach us about God and offerings? He knows the heart attitude of one who gives the offering. He knows who gives because it is the Biblical thing to do and He also knows who gives because they have a heart that loves Him.

This “freewill offering” will be an expression of thankfulness for all that God has done. These offerings are not prescribed, but are self-motivated. Whenever a free will offering is to be given by the prince, the east gate is to be opened so that he may observe the offering and then it will be shut.

I find this fascinating because what we learn here is that during the millennium, when all people are worshipping the true God, there will still be those who have more of a sense of the grace of God that saved them.

Regulation #3 - At the festivals, offerings are to be given every morning. **46:13-15**

The daily offerings in the O.T. Law consisted of morning and evening offerings. Notice that no evening offering is given here. Offerings are presented every morning. Why morning and not evening? **The bright morning has come and the long night is over. Nothing dark will ever again enter Israel for the dawn of a new era has come. The morning star and the morning blessings have finally come to the entire earth.**

I have known of places of worship who do not think offerings should be taken. Truth is offerings are a part of worship in any dispensation. Those who don't think offerings should be given certainly did not get that concept from Ezekiel.

MILLENNIAL WORSHIP REGULATION #5 – Regulations for the Prince, his sons and his servants. **46:16-18**

There are three land regulations that will be operative during the millennium, directly related to David. During the millennium life will be lived with a major focus on the Promised Land. David and his family will literally live and have an inheritance, which we have already seen. His land will be east and west of the most holy places.

Regulation #1 - David may give a land inheritance gift to his sons. **46:16**

Verse 16 says that should David decide to give a certain part of his land to any of his sons, it will belong to them as an inheritance. In other words, one from the Davidic line will always have it.

Regulation #2 - David may give a land inheritance gift to his servants. **46:17**

If he gives a gift to one of his servants, it eventually must revert back to the sons. No one, not even the highest ranked person in the land may give any inch of land to someone other than the family of Israel.

Regulation #3 - David may give a land inheritance out of his own land inheritance. **46:18**

Even though David is a King, he cannot take land that belongs to other families. He must give land out of his own allotment.

There will be careful restrictions concerning the land during the Millennium and even the highest ranked officials will have to follow them.

This mandate is a good one for every leader. Every leader is responsible to God to obey His Word. You cannot get loose or irresponsible when it comes to worship and when it comes to that which God entrusts to us. Leaders must never oppress the people. They have no right to infringe on their rights. We all have what we have by God's grace and wise are those who do not try and take more than what God has given to them.

MILLENNIAL WORSHIP REGULATION #6 – Regulations for the Temple Kitchens.
46:19-24

What we see here is the priests functioning in the temple kitchens. The priest's kitchens where they prepare the food will be located in the back of the western end of the Temple. They will be in the four corners of the outer courts.

These kitchens are considered to be sacred places and those offerings are holy. In fact, **verse 20** makes it clear that they are not to go out into the outer court "to transmit holiness to the people."

This is where the offerings will be prepared and the bread will be baked. There will be four kitchens that are 40 cubits long and 30 cubits wide, 70 feet long by 52.5 feet wide.

These kitchens clearly show that the Israelites will have fellowship with God and partake of fellowship meals. So not only will this place be a sacred place of worship, but also of sacred fellowship.

It is serious and sacred business to worship God and wise are those who view it that way.