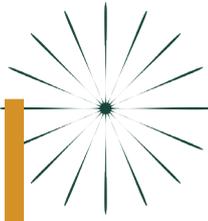


EZEKIEL



MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

PART 7

Calm after the Storm

READ EZEKIEL 43:1-12

INTRODUCTION

After Ezekiel goes through and watches the bronze man measure out the entire Temple (see chapters 40-43) there is a parenthetical part to the vision where God explains His return to the Temple. God explains to Ezekiel what he is looking at and even what it means: God is coming back to rule His people. (v. 7-12) God told Ezekiel that His children would no longer defile His Holy name and that they would be under His rule once again. Again, we note here that God is not finished with His chosen people. He has promised to take His place as their King once again in the Millennial Kingdom into eternity.

Revelation 20 gives us an image of this Kingdom and what it will be for us as believers. Many times in the Old and New Testament we see God and Jesus referring to a time where we will reign alongside Jesus and work for Him in this world before He brings about the world to come. God, in Ezekiel 43, is telling His prophet that there will be a time that the nation of Israel no longer turns to their false gods and idols but only rely on and turn to Jesus. This will be the day that their “house” will be the same “house” of God. (v. 8) God says that He will dwell in their midst forever and that is such an encouragement.

We do not serve a God that is distant and unreachable. He is unknowable but He has made Himself known through Jesus and His Holy Spirit and we have a real relationship with Him because of that. It means that we, as Christians, do not need to wait for this millennial reign to experience God living in our midst but have that opportunity right now. When we allow Christ to “rule” in our lives then He is able to dwell with us. This means that we do not call the shots but allow Him to guide and direct our path. This is uncomfortable for most because we have convinced ourselves that we are in control of our lives and to have Him be “Lord” in our hearts means that we no longer are the captain of our own ships. It requires a love for Him above all other things and a humility to trust that He knows better.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the people that will be around for the Millennial Kingdom? Read through some Scripture and discuss.
2. Where will the Millennial Kingdom be centered? (hint: you can find it in the reading) Why do you think God has chosen this place above all other spots?
3. How can we set up a house for the Spirit to dwell in right now? What does it look like to have a life that He “dwells” in? What can you do to change your life to better allow Him to dwell with you?
4. Do you think that God’s Kingdom is fair? Why or why not? Do you think that our view of His Kingdom may be wrong or influenced in certain directions that aren’t found in Scripture?
5. Have you given thought to the word “Lord”? What does it mean to you that Jesus is Lord of our lives? (or should be) Do you think that you have given Him His proper place in your heart?

WRAP UP

Ezekiel was commanded to give the children of Israel many messages. Most of those messages were not that encouraging. This message can be encouraging if you are a person who makes Jesus Christ the Lord over your life and He dwells with you. It can be just as scary though if Jesus is not Lord in your life but you have just given Him lip service. Following Jesus means that our hearts change towards the things of God. We desire to serve Him more and to see His will be done in our lives. Ultimately, we desire to see His Kingdom and we look forward to the day when He will rule and we will see Him face to face.