

## Redeemer C.S.I. Church Kansas -Bible study

### Ezekiel Chapter 40 on 03/20/2025 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. SureshKumar Nelson

**Ezekiel 40 begins the final section of the book of Ezekiel (chapters 40–48), often referred to as the Vision of the Restored Temple.** This vision occurs in the 25th year of the Babylonian exile, offering a prophetic glimpse of God’s future restoration and His presence among His people.

#### Contextual Overview

- **Historical Context:** The Israelites were in Babylonian captivity, and their temple in Jerusalem was destroyed (586 B.C.). This vision brings hope of renewal and restoration.
- **Literary Context:** The temple vision follows Ezekiel’s oracles of judgment and the promise of restoration (chapters 33–39). It marks a shift from despair to hope.
- **Theological Context:** The detailed temple description is not merely architectural but symbolic of God’s holiness, order, and covenant faithfulness.

#### 1. Ezekiel 40:1-4 — The Setting of the Vision

- “In the twenty-fifth year of our exile”: This date is significant, marking 14 years since the fall of Jerusalem. The vision comes as a sign of restoration and reassurance.
- “Set me on a very high mountain”: Mountains often symbolize divine encounters (e.g., Sinai, Zion). This evokes the grandeur and spiritual significance of the temple.
- “A man whose appearance was like bronze”: Likely an angelic figure, symbolizing divine authority and purity.
- “Measure the temple”: Measurement conveys divine order and sovereignty. Similar imagery is found in Revelation 11:1 and Zechariah 2:1-2.

#### 2. Ezekiel 40:5-16 — The Outer Wall and East Gate

- “A wall all around”: The wall signifies separation, representing God’s holiness and protection.
- “Measuring rod”: A common prophetic symbol (cf. Revelation 21:15) representing God’s precise standards.
- “East Gate”: This gate is significant as the direction from which God’s glory will return (Ezekiel 43:1-4). East often symbolizes divine presence.

#### 3. Ezekiel 40:17-27 — The Outer Court

- “Thirty chambers”: Likely used for storage and preparation for temple rituals.

- “Pavement”: Reflects order and careful construction, symbolizing the dignity of worship.
- “The gates faced each other”: This symmetrical design emphasizes harmony and God’s perfection.

#### **4. Ezekiel 40:28-49 — The Inner Court and Temple Entrances**

- “The inner court”: Access to the inner court symbolizes increasing nearness to God.
- “Seven steps”: In biblical numerology, seven often represents completion or divine perfection.
- “The chamber for washing”: Priestly cleansing was a necessary act before approaching God’s presence, emphasizing purity and reverence.

### **Theological Themes**

#### **1. God’s Holiness and Order**

- The meticulous measurements and symmetrical design reveal God’s holiness and the importance of approaching Him with reverence.

#### **2. Divine Presence Restored**

- While God’s presence had departed from the former temple (Ezekiel 10), this vision assures its return.

#### **3. Hope and Restoration**

- For the exiled Israelites, the temple vision symbolized a future restoration — not just of a building, but of relationship and worship.

#### **4. Christological Foreshadowing**

- Some interpret this temple as a typological representation of Christ, who fulfills the role of the true temple (John 2:19-21) and through whom believers have access to God (Hebrews 10:19-22).

### **Application for Today**

- **Reverence in Worship:** Just as the Israelites were reminded of God’s holiness; believers are called to approach God with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:28).
- **Hope in God’s Promises:** Even in times of spiritual exile or despair, God’s plans for restoration remain certain.
- **God’s Dwelling Among His People:** Through Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, believers experience the reality of God’s presence (1 Corinthians 3:16).