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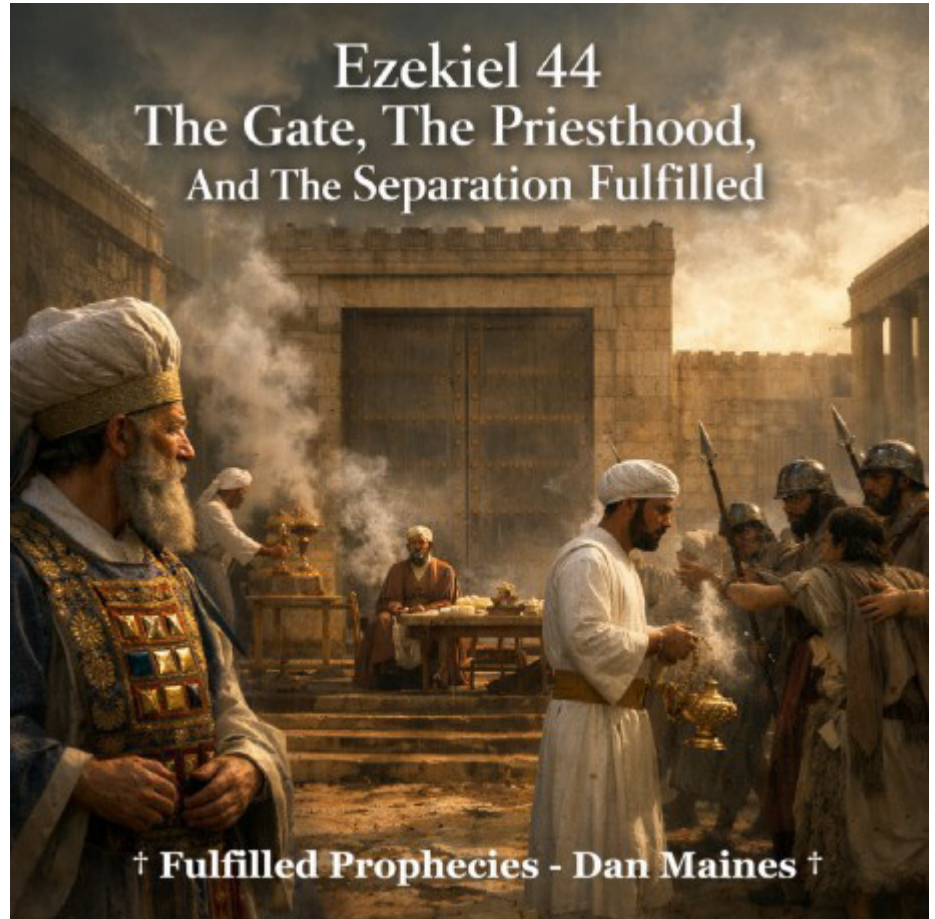
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Ezekiel 44 The Gate The Priesthood And The Separation Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 44 The Gate, The Priesthood, And The Separation Fulfilled

Introduction

† Ezekiel 44 continues the vision of the temple, but now the focus shifts from structure to access, authority, and holiness (Ezekiel 44:1)

† God establishes who may enter, who may serve, and who is excluded, showing a clear separation between the holy and the profane (Ezekiel 44:9)

† This was fulfilled in Christ and brought to completion in AD 70 when the old covenant priesthood was removed and the true priesthood in Christ was established (Hebrews 7:12)

Ezekiel 44:1-2

Then He brought me back by way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut. And the LORD said to me, This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.

† The shut gate shows that God's presence had already entered, and no man could repeat or duplicate that entrance, it was final (Ezekiel 43:4)

† This points to Christ, once He entered and fulfilled the work, no other entrance or system could replace Him (John 10:9)

† The shutting of the gate reflects the closing of the old covenant system after fulfillment, no return to temple access through that system (Hebrews 10:18)

Ezekiel 44:3

As for the prince, he shall sit in it as prince to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by way of the porch of the gate and shall go out by the same way.

† The prince represents a ruler with access, but not equal to God, showing a distinct but honored position (Ezekiel 46:2)

† This points to Christ as the ruler who has fellowship with the Father, yet remains distinct in role (Revelation 3:21)

† It also shows covenant access is now mediated through the appointed ruler, not through the old priesthood

Ezekiel 44:4-5

Then He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the house; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD, and I fell on my face. And the LORD said to me, Son of man, mark well, see with your eyes and hear

with your ears all that I say to you concerning all the statutes of the house of the LORD and all its laws; and mark well the entrance of the house with all the exits of the sanctuary.

† The glory filling the house confirms God's presence, not a future hope but an established reality (Ezekiel 43:5)

† The emphasis on ordinances shows that access to God is governed by His terms, not man's ideas (Leviticus 10:1-2)

† This was fulfilled when Christ established the true dwelling of God among His people, no longer tied to a physical temple (John 4:21-24)

Ezekiel 44:6-8

You shall say to the rebellious ones, to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD, Enough of all your abominations, house of Israel, when you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, My house, when you offered My food, the fat and the blood; for they made My covenant void, this in addition to all your abominations. And you have not taken responsibility for My holy things yourselves, but you have appointed foreigners to take responsibility for My sanctuary.

† Israel allowed defilement into God's house, showing a complete failure to guard holiness (Ezekiel 22:26)

† Uncircumcised in heart shows the issue was spiritual, not merely physical (Deuteronomy 10:16)

† This corruption led directly to judgment and removal of the system in AD 70 (Matthew 23:38)

Ezekiel 44:9

Thus says the Lord GOD, No foreigner uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary.

† God now defines access by the heart, not lineage alone, pointing forward to the new covenant (Romans 2:28-29)

† This was fulfilled when entrance into God's presence became spiritual, through Christ, not temple rituals (Ephesians 2:18)

† The separation remains, but it's now based on faith and transformation, not ethnicity

Ezekiel 44:10-14

But the Levites who went far from Me when Israel went astray, who went astray from Me after their idols, shall bear the punishment for their wrongdoing. Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the house and ministering in the house; they shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister to them.

† The unfaithful priests are demoted, showing accountability for leadership failure (Malachi 2:7-9)

† They still serve, but in a limited role, showing consequences without total removal

† This reflects the transition period before full judgment came upon the system in AD 70

Ezekiel 44:15-16

But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who took responsibility for My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood, declares the Lord GOD. They shall enter My sanctuary; they shall come near to My table to minister to Me and assume responsibility for Me.

† The faithful priests are honored with direct access, showing God rewards faithfulness (1 Samuel 2:35)

† This points to the true priesthood in Christ, those who remain faithful have access to God (1 Peter 2:5)

† In fulfillment, believers become the royal priesthood with direct access through Christ

Ezekiel 44:17-19

And it shall be that when they enter at the gates of the inner courtyard, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and wool shall not be on them while they are ministering in the gates of the inner courtyard and inside.

† Linen represents purity and righteousness, not human effort or sweat (Revelation 19:8)

† God required holiness in appearance and function, pointing to inner purity

† This is fulfilled in Christ where righteousness is given, not earned (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Ezekiel 44:20-23

Also they shall not shave their heads, nor let their hair grow long; they shall only trim the hair of their heads. The priests shall not drink wine when they enter the inner courtyard. They shall not marry a widow or a divorced woman, but shall take virgins from the descendants of the house of Israel, or a widow who is the widow of a priest. Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the common, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

† The priesthood was to model discipline, purity, and discernment (Leviticus 10:10)

† Their role was to teach the difference between holy and common, which Israel failed to do (Ezekiel 22:26)

† This is fulfilled in Christ and His people, who now discern truth spiritually (Hebrews 5:14)

Ezekiel 44:24-31

In a dispute they shall take their stand to judge; they shall judge it according to My ordinances. They shall also keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed feasts, and keep My Sabbaths holy.

† The priests were to uphold justice and truth according to God's law (Deuteronomy 17:9)

† Israel failed in this, which brought judgment upon the nation (Micah 3:11)

† Fulfilled in Christ, who is the final judge and lawgiver, bringing true justice (John 5:22)

Historical References

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6, describes the corruption of the priesthood before the destruction of Jerusalem

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13, confirms the temple's destruction and the collapse of the Jewish system

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5, records the departure of believers before the judgment of AD 70

How It Applies To Us Today

† God still requires holiness, but it's now inward, not tied to a physical temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)

† Access to God is only through Christ, no other gate remains open (John 14:6)

† We're now the priesthood, called to discern truth and live set apart lives (1 Peter 2:9)

† The old system is gone, and we live in the reality of fulfilled access and presence (Hebrews 12:22-24)

Q & A Appendix

Q: When was Ezekiel 44 fulfilled?

A: It was fulfilled through Christ's ministry and completed in AD 70 when the temple system ended, confirming the new covenant priesthood (Hebrews 8:13)

Q: What does the shut gate represent?

A: It represents the finality of God's entrance and the closing of

the old covenant system (John 10:9)

Q: Who are the true priests today?

A: Believers in Christ are now the priesthood with direct access to God (1 Peter 2:5)

Q: Why were some priests demoted?

A: Because of unfaithfulness, showing God holds leaders accountable (Malachi 2:7-9)

Q: What replaced the temple system?

A: Christ and His people became the true dwelling of God (Ephesians 2:21-22)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 44

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 6; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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