

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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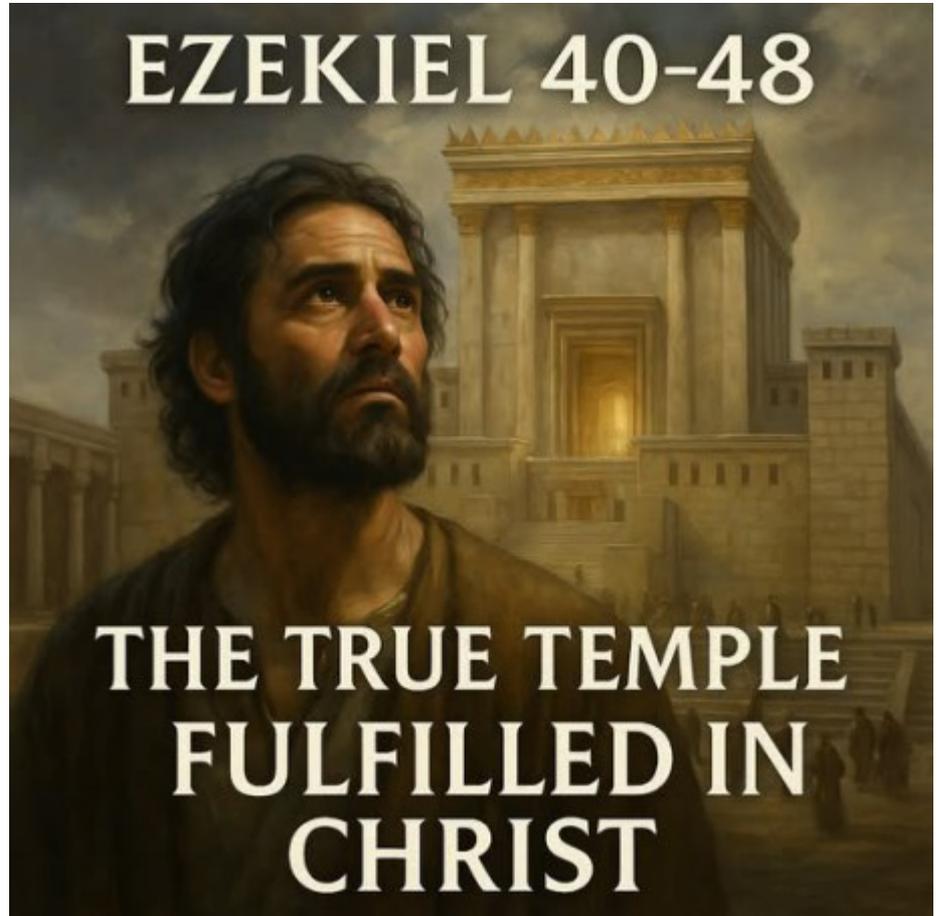
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## Ezekiel 40-48 and the Fulfillment in Christ



By Dan Maines

## Ezekiel 40-48 and the Fulfillment in Christ

### Ezekiel 40:2-4

In the visions of God He brought me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, and on it to the south there was something like the structure of a city. So He brought me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze, with a thread of flax and a measuring rod in his hand, and he was standing in the gateway. And the man said to me, Son of man, see with your eyes, hear with your ears, and pay attention to all that I am going to show you, for

you have been brought here in order to show it to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything that you see.

† Ezekiel's temple vision came after the first temple had been destroyed by Babylon. The people longed for restoration, but what God revealed was not a blueprint for another physical temple, but a symbolic vision of His future dwelling with His people.

† The angel with the measuring rod is the same image later used in Revelation 21, showing continuity between Ezekiel's temple and the New Jerusalem.

† Josephus writes that the Jews who returned from Babylon built a modest temple (Ezra 6), but it never matched Ezekiel's vision. This shows the prophecy was pointing to something greater.

### **Ezekiel 43:4-5**

And the glory of the Lord came into the house by way of the gate facing east. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner courtyard, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house.

† The glory that Ezekiel saw filling the temple is fulfilled in Christ. John 1:14 says, And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory.

† The old temple had lost its glory and was destroyed. The true temple was Christ Himself, filled with the glory of God.

† Eusebius testifies that after Christ's coming, the church understood itself to be the new temple of God, indwelt by His Spirit (Ecclesiastical History 2.3).

### **Ezekiel 47:1, 9**

Then he brought me back to the door of the house, and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under the right side of the house, from south of the altar. And it will come about that every living creature which

swarms in every place the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh. So everything will live where the river goes.

† This river of life is not physical water, but the Spirit of God flowing from Christ to the nations.

† Jesus declared this openly in John 7:38, The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

† Tacitus mentions that after the fall of Jerusalem, the Christian movement spread rapidly across the empire, like living waters reaching many nations (Histories 5.13).

### **Ezekiel 48:35**

The city shall be eighteen thousand cubits round about, and the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there.

† This is the climax of Ezekiel's vision. The city is not literal, it is the dwelling of God with His people.

† Revelation 21:2, 22 explains this clearly: the New Jerusalem is the bride, the church, and there is no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

† This shows the complete fulfillment: God no longer dwells in stone buildings, but among His people forever.

### **How it applies to us today**

† Ezekiel's temple was never about physical architecture. It was about God's promise to dwell with His people in a greater way.

† That promise is fulfilled in Christ, who is the true temple, and in His church, which is His body.

† The river of life flows today as the Spirit works through the gospel, bringing life to all who believe.

† We live in the reality of the New Jerusalem, where God is with us, and His glory fills His people.

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

## Source Index

- † Josephus – Antiquities 11.4-6
- † Tacitus – Histories 5.13
- † Eusebius – Ecclesiastical History 2.3
- † Philo – The Embassy to Gaius

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