

Ezekiel 40 - 48: Restoration of Israel

John Gill Exposition of the Whole Bible, Introduction to chapter 40:

This and the eight following chapters contain a vision of a city and temple herein described, and are thought to be the most difficult part of the whole Bible. The Jews forbid the reading of it till a man is arrived to thirty years of age; and then he must expect to meet with things in it he does not understand, and which must be left until Elijah comes to explain them. Many Christian commentators have omitted the exposition of these chapters; and all acknowledge the difficulties in them.

Ezekiel: Restoration of Israel

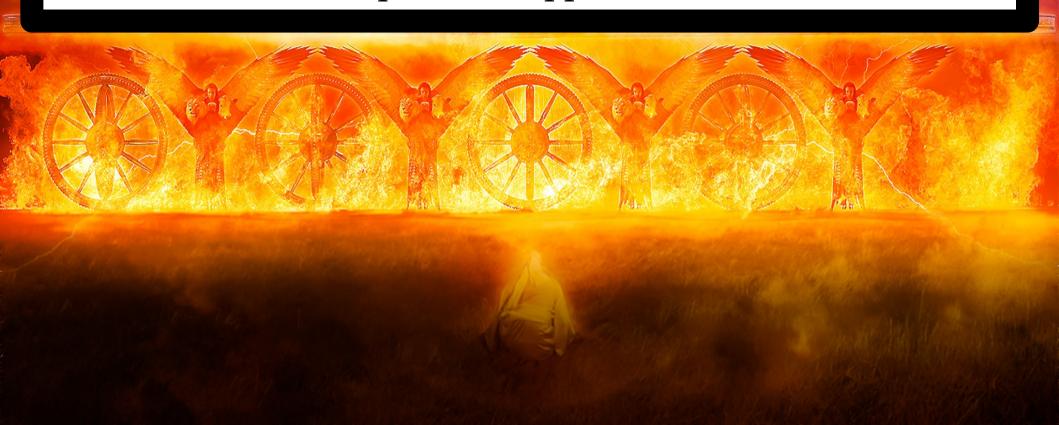
Three aspects of restoration:

- The presence of the LORD (Eze 40:1-43:12)
- The worship of the LORD (Eze 43:13-46:24)
- The people of the LORD (Eze 47:1-48:35)



Review: The LORD had left the temple

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Eze 11:22 Then the cherubim, with the wheels beside them, spread their wings, and the glory of the God of Israel was above them.

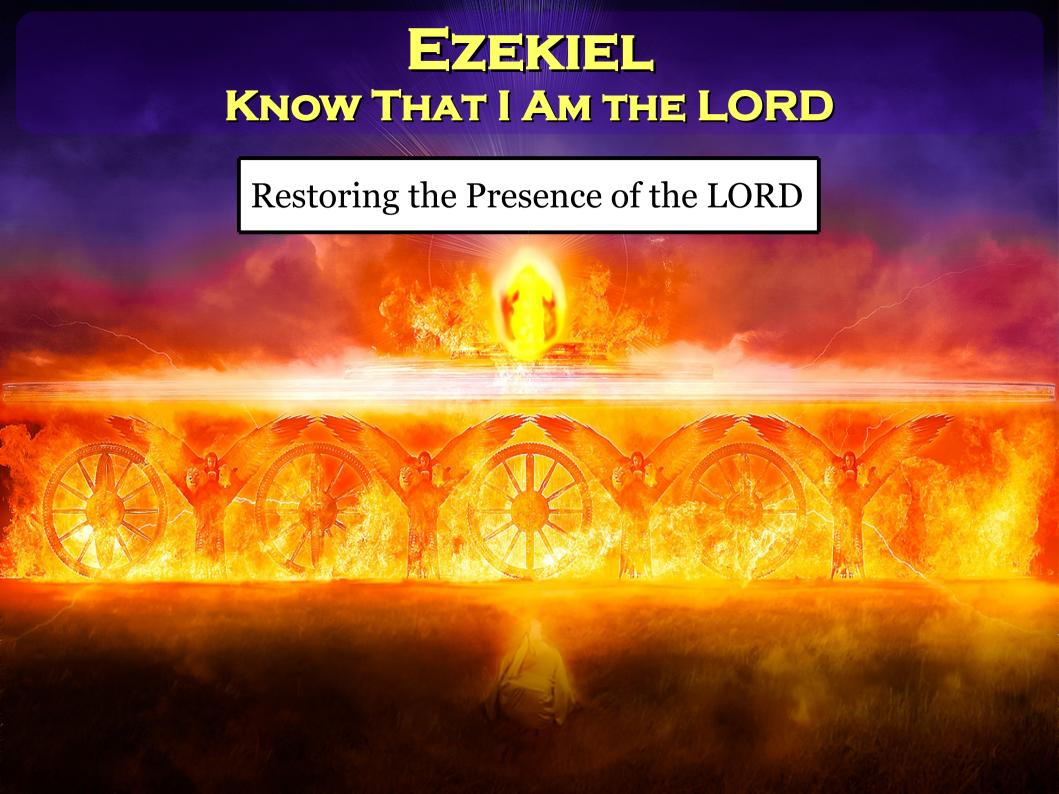
Eze 11:23 The glory of the LORD went up from within the city and stopped above the mountain east of it.



Review: The temple had been destroyed

Lam 2:6 He has laid waste his dwelling like a garden; he has destroyed his place of meeting. The LORD has made Zion forget her appointed feasts and her Sabbaths; in his fierce anger he has spurned both king and priest.

Lam 2:7 The Lord has rejected his altar and abandoned his sanctuary. He has handed over to the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have raised a shout in the house of the LORD as on the day of an appointed feast.



Restoring the Presence of the LORD

Eze 40:1 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the LORD was upon me and he took me there.

Eze 40:2 In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city.

Eze 40:3 He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand.

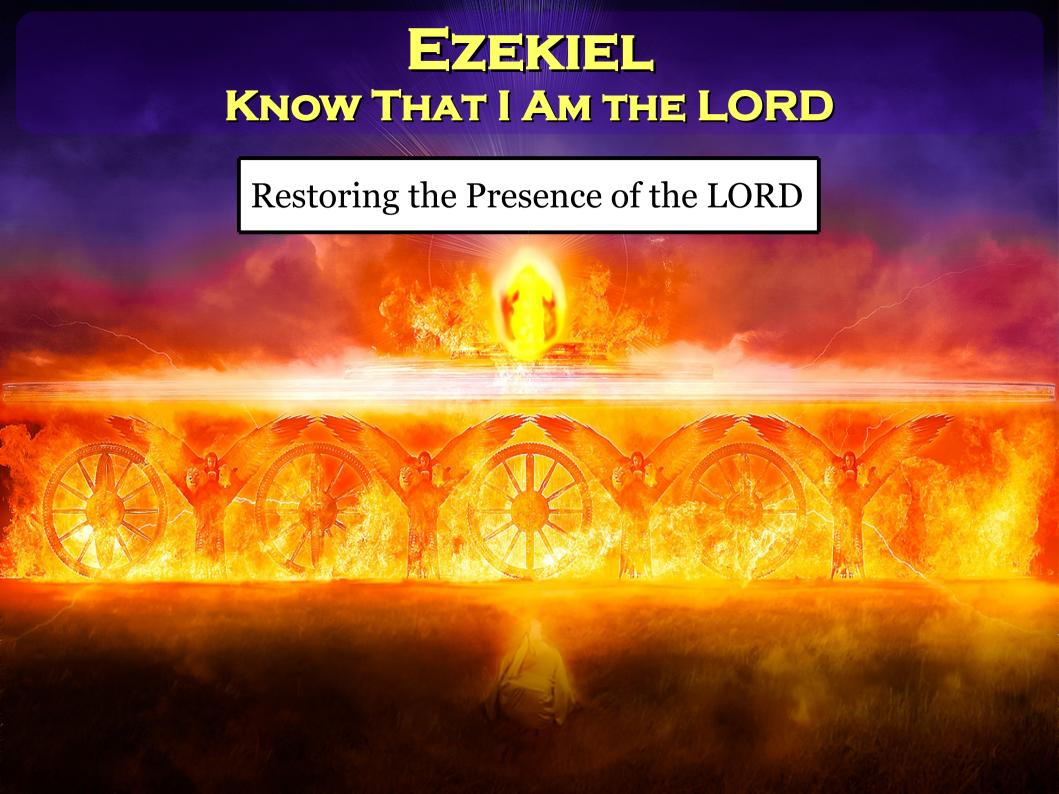
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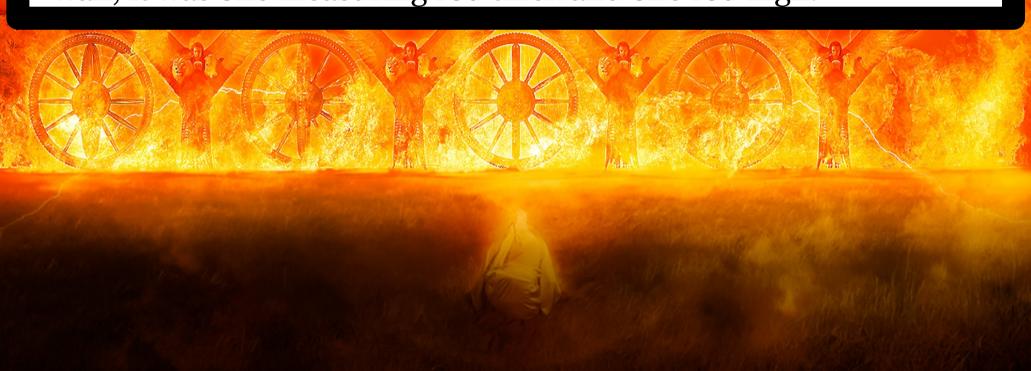
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A man with a measuring rod



Restoring the Presence of the LORD

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Measuring the Temple!

Great news to the exiles

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Eze 43:1 Then the man brought me to the gate facing east,

Eze 43:2 and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.

Eze 43:3 The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the visions I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown.

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Vision: The LORD returns to the temple

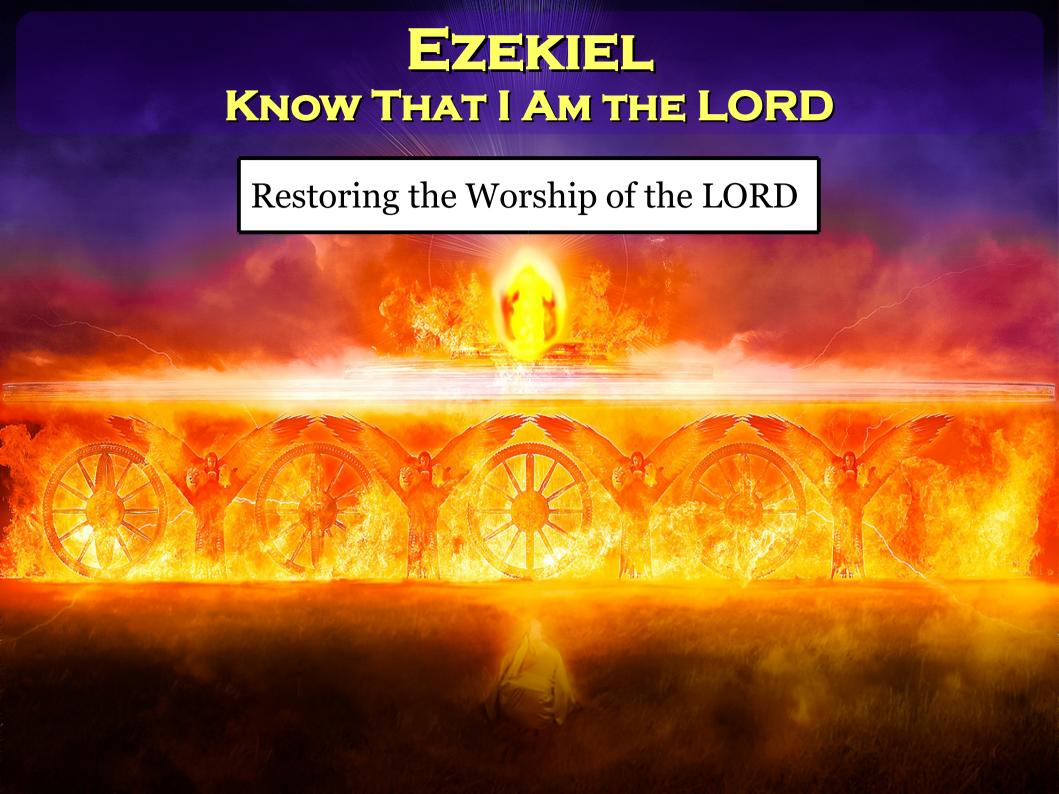
Restoring the Presence of the LORD

Eze 43:7 He said: "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name—neither they nor their kings—by their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings at their high places.

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Eze 43:10 "Son of man, describe the temple to the people of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their sins. Let them consider the plan, Eze 43:11 and if they are ashamed of all they have done, make known to them the design of the temple—its arrangement, its exits and entrances—its whole design and all its regulations and laws. Write these down before them so that they may be faithful to its design and follow all its regulations.



Restoring the Worship of the LORD

Eze 44:10 "The Levites who went far from me when Israel went astray and who wandered from me after their idols must bear the consequences of their sin.



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Eze 43:25 "For seven days you are to provide a male goat daily for a sin offering; you are also to provide a young bull and a ram from the flock, both without defect.

Eze 43:26 For seven days they are to make atonement for the altar and cleanse it; thus they will dedicate it.

Eze 43:27 At the end of these days, from the eighth day on, the priests are to present your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar. Then I will accept you, declares the Sovereign LORD."

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This must refer to worship before Christ (Heb 10)

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Eze 44:15 "But the priests, who are Levites and descendants of Zadok and who faithfully carried out the duties of my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, are to come near to minister before me; they are to stand before me to offer sacrifices of fat and blood, declares the Sovereign LORD.

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Vision: The priesthood is restored

Restoring the Worship of the LORD

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The distinction between the holy and the common

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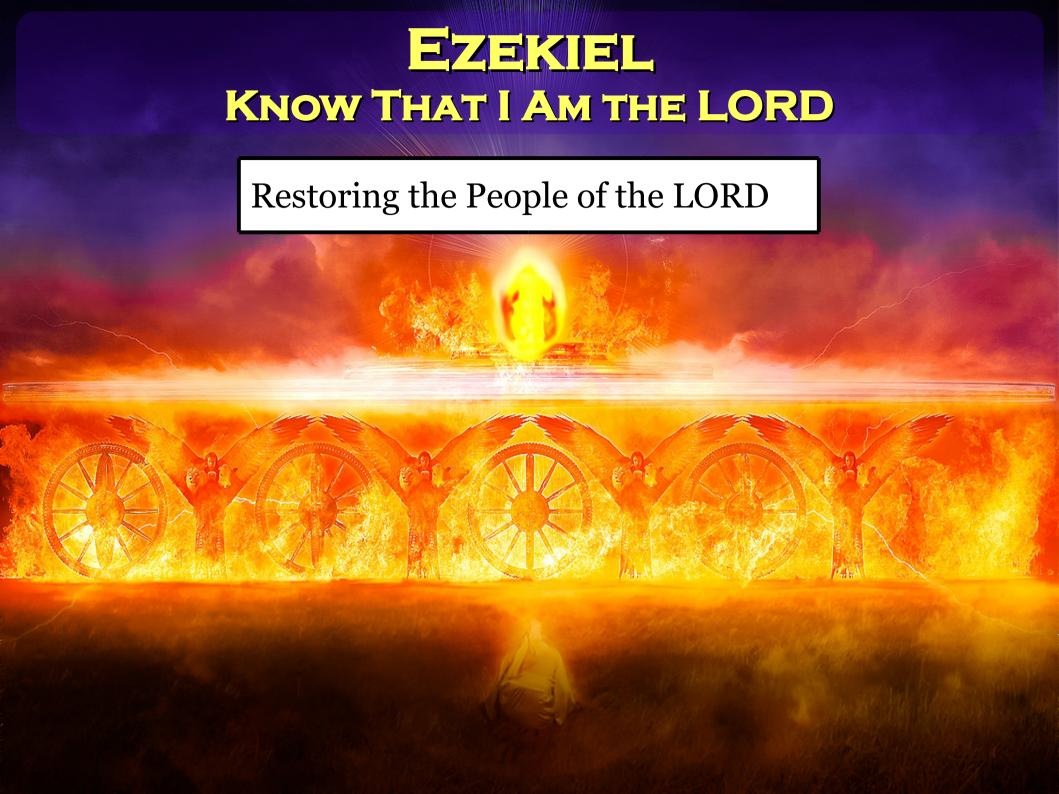
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The priests as judges, and responsible for proper worship



Restoring the People of the LORD: The River

Eze 47:1 The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.

Restoring the People of the LORD: The River

Eze 47:3 As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep.

Eze 47:4 He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist.

Eze 47:5 He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross.

Restoring the People of the LORD: The River

Eze 47:9 Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

Eze 47:10 Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Great Sea

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The river provides food for the people

Restoring the People of the LORD: The River

Eze 47:12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

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Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb Rev 22:2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Restoring the People of the LORD

Eze 47:13 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "These are the boundaries by which you are to divide the land for an inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel, with two portions for Joseph. Eze 47:14 You are to divide it equally among them. Because I swore with uplifted hand to give it to your forefathers, this land will become your inheritance.

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Eze 48:35b "And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE."

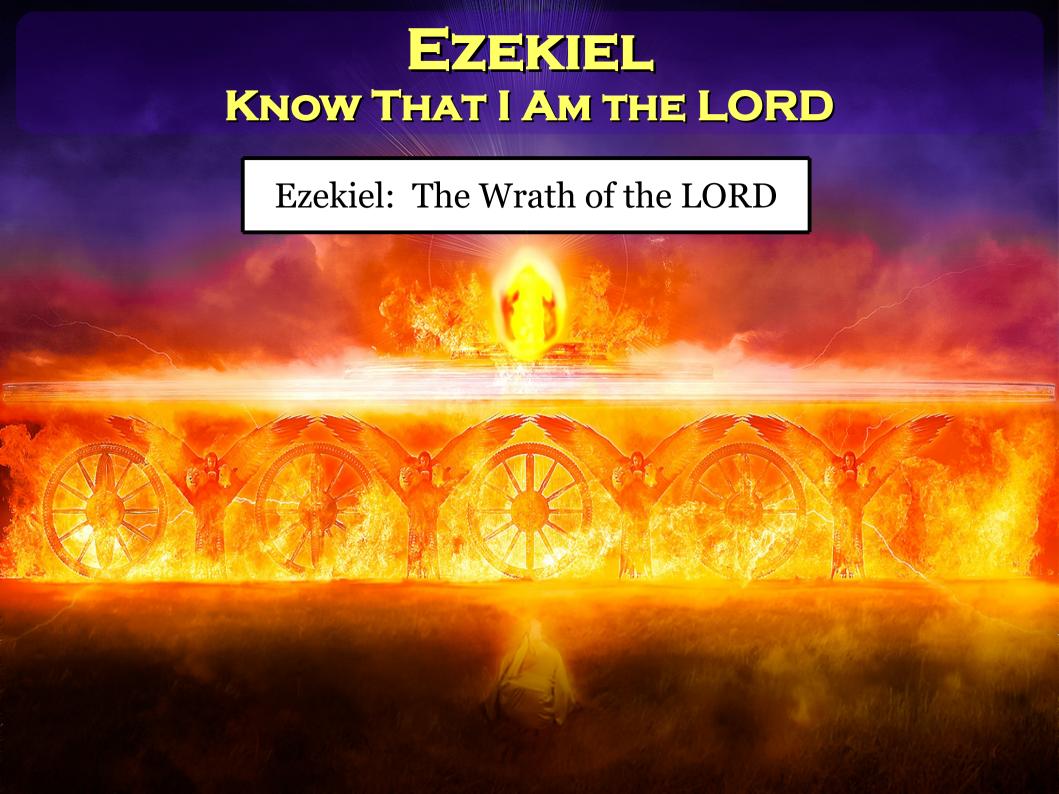
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Living in the City of the LORD

The Message of Ezekiel: "Know that I am the LORD"

- The Wrath of the LORD
- The Justice of the LORD
- The Holiness of the LORD
- The Faithfulness of the LORD
- The Mercy of the LORD

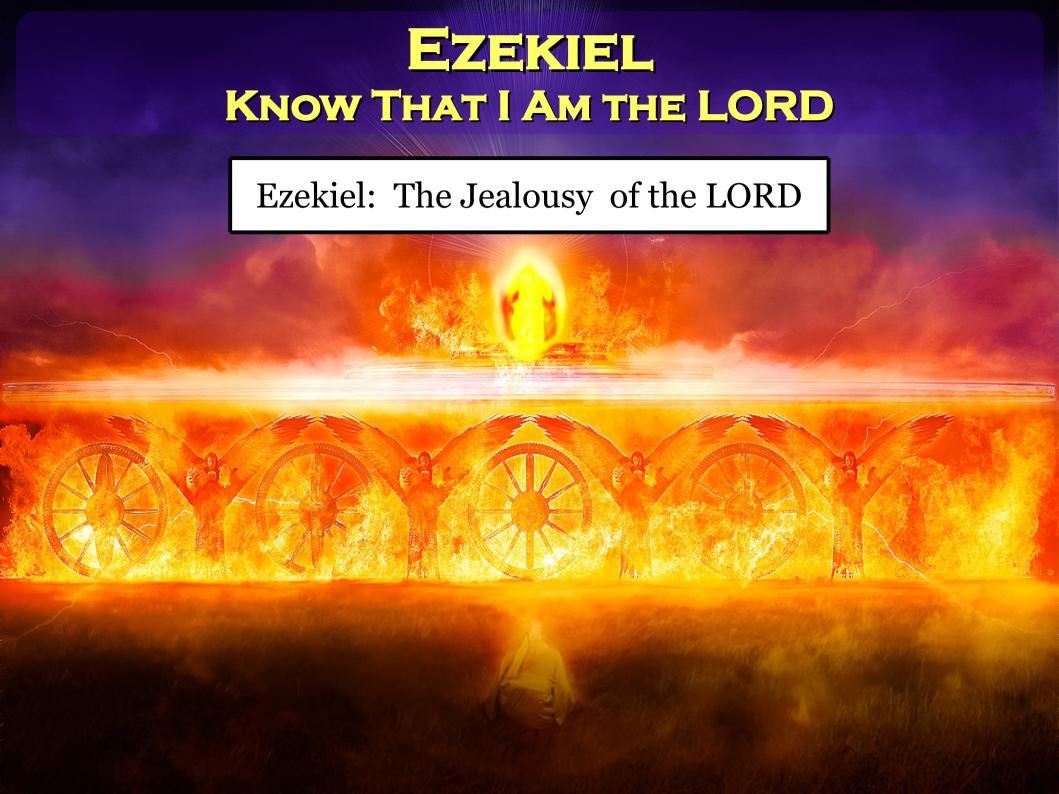


Ezekiel: The Wrath of the LORD

Eze 5:11 Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your vile images and detestable practices, I myself will withdraw my favor; I will not look on you with pity or spare you.

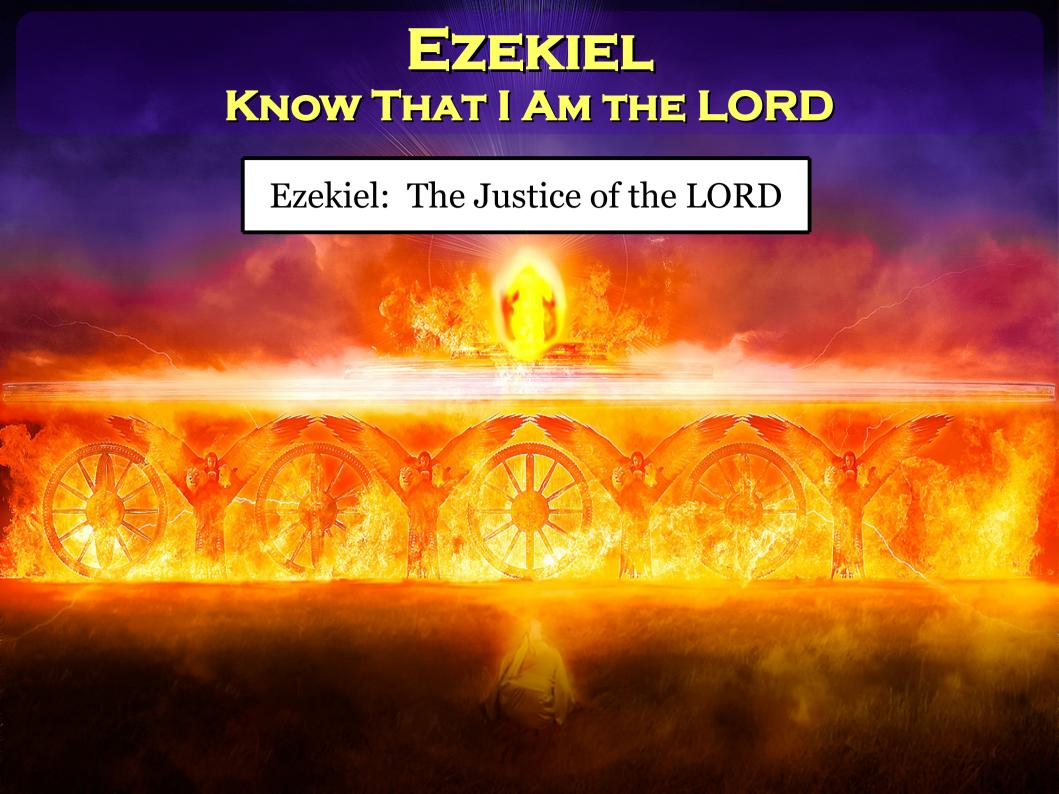
Eze 5:12 A third of your people will die of the plague or perish by famine inside you; a third will fall by the sword outside your walls; and a third I will scatter to the winds and pursue with drawn sword.

Eze 5:13 "Then my anger will cease and my wrath against them will subside, and I will be avenged. And when I have spent my wrath upon them, they will know that I the LORD have spoken in my zeal.



Ezekiel: The Jealousy of the LORD

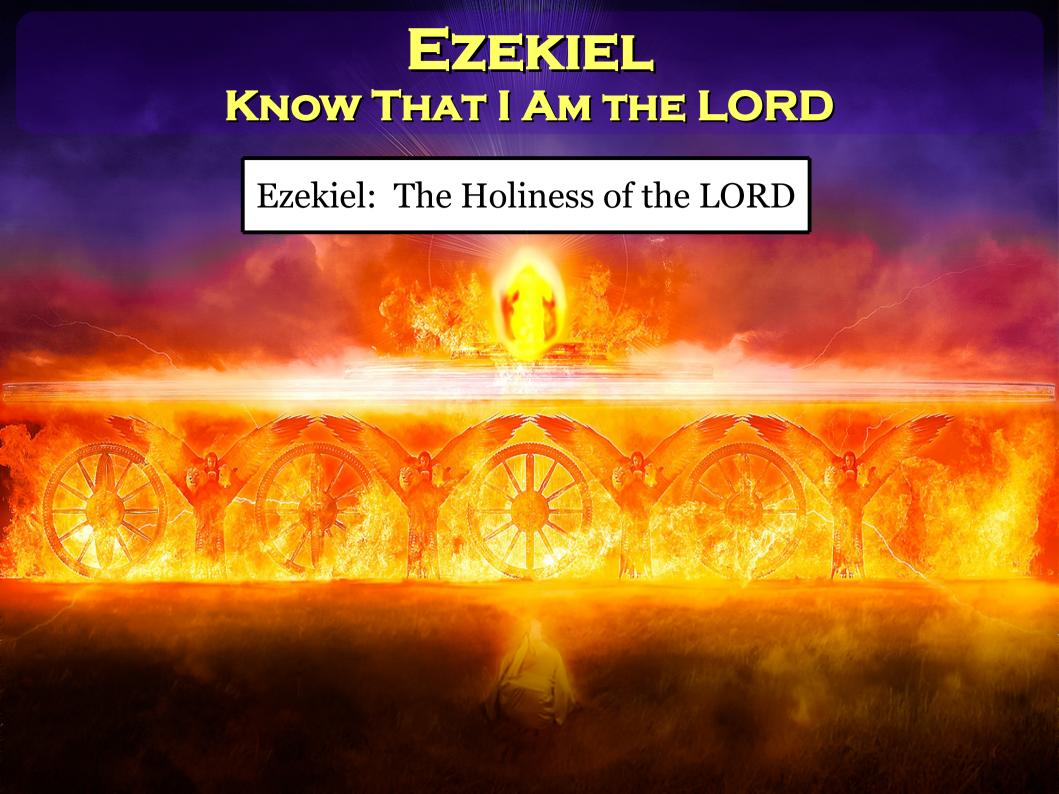
Eze 11:21 But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."



Ezekiel: The Justice of the LORD

Eze 18:29 Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

Eze 18:30 "Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.



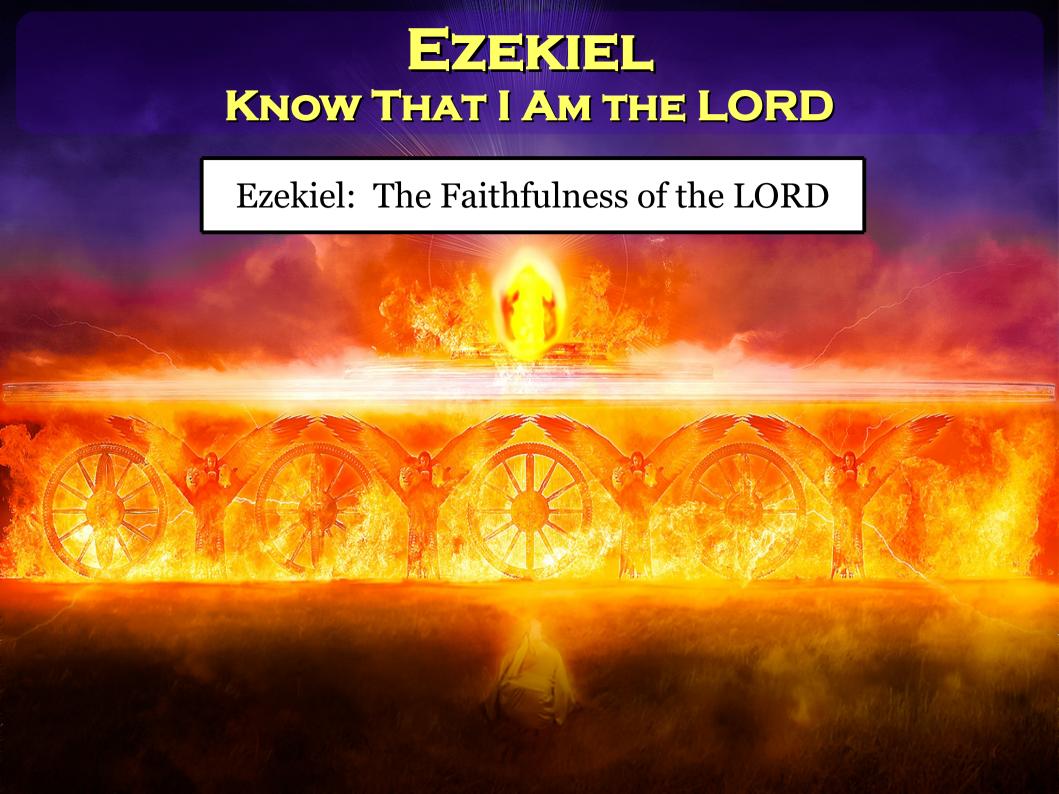
Ezekiel: The Holiness of the LORD

Eze 43:8 When they placed their threshold next to my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them, they defiled my holy name by their detestable practices. So I destroyed them in my anger.

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Ezekiel: The Faithfulness of the LORD

Eze 36:35 They will say, "This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited."

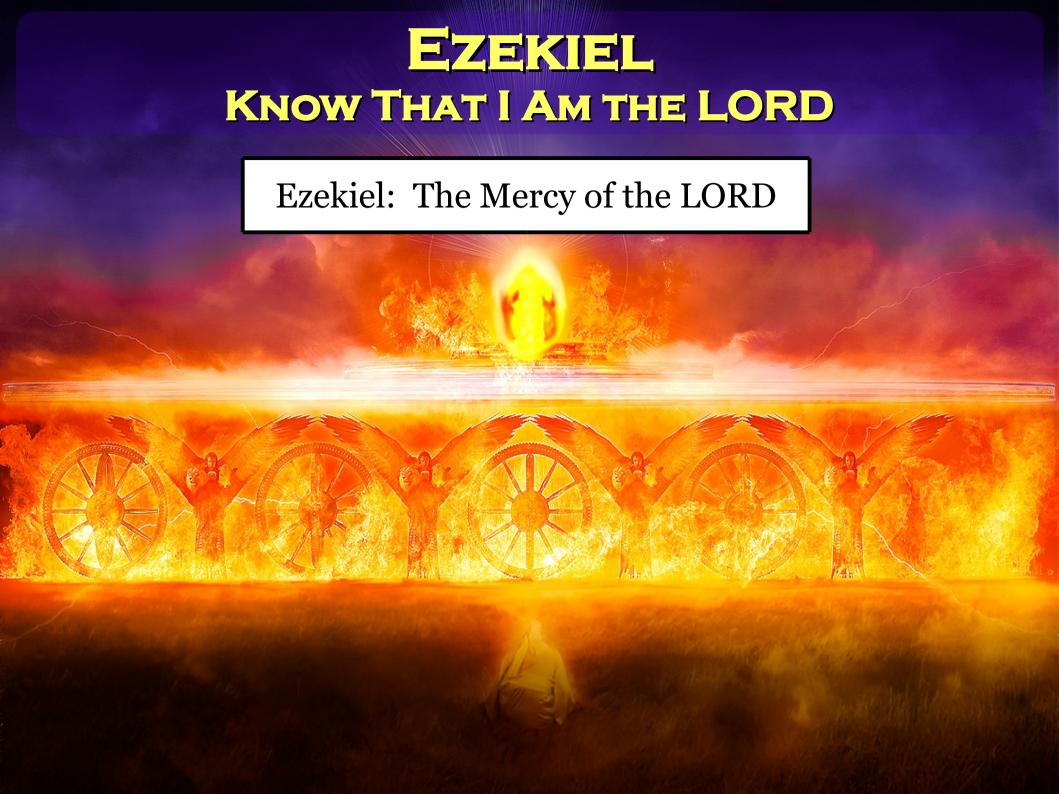
Eze 36:36 Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.'

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Eze 47:14 You are to divide it equally among them. **Because I swore with uplifted hand** to give it to your forefathers, this land will become your inheritance.



Ezekiel: The Mercy of the LORD

Eze 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

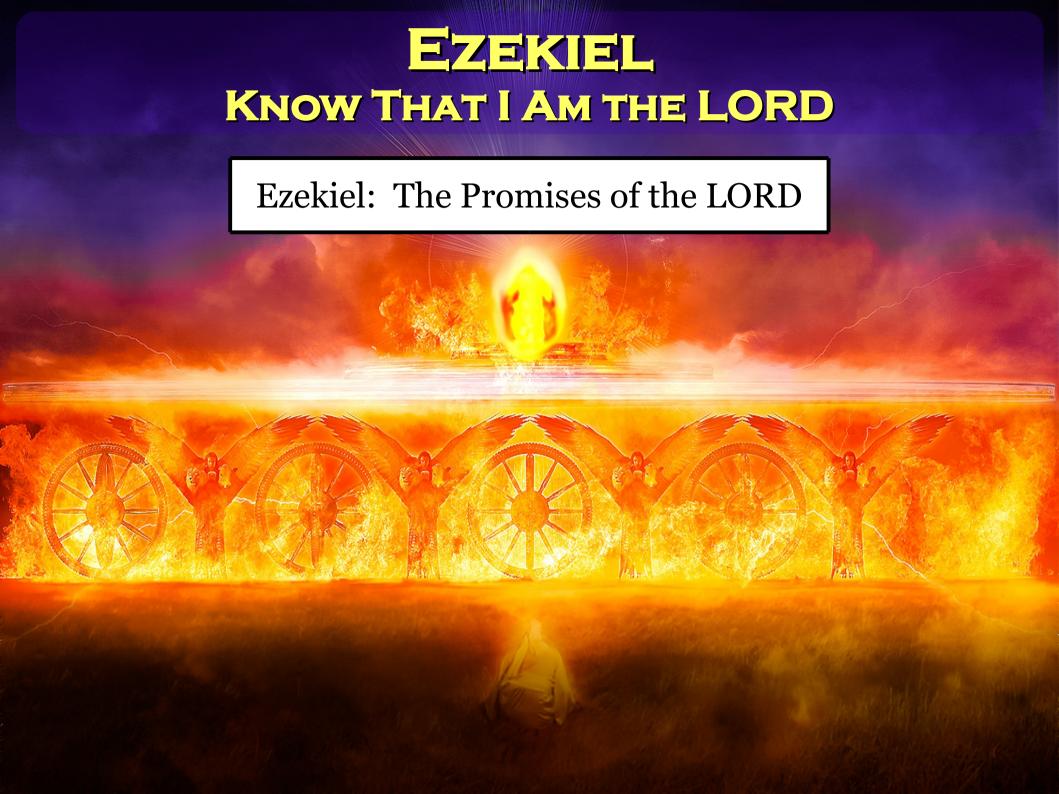
Eze 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

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Restoration of their hearts!



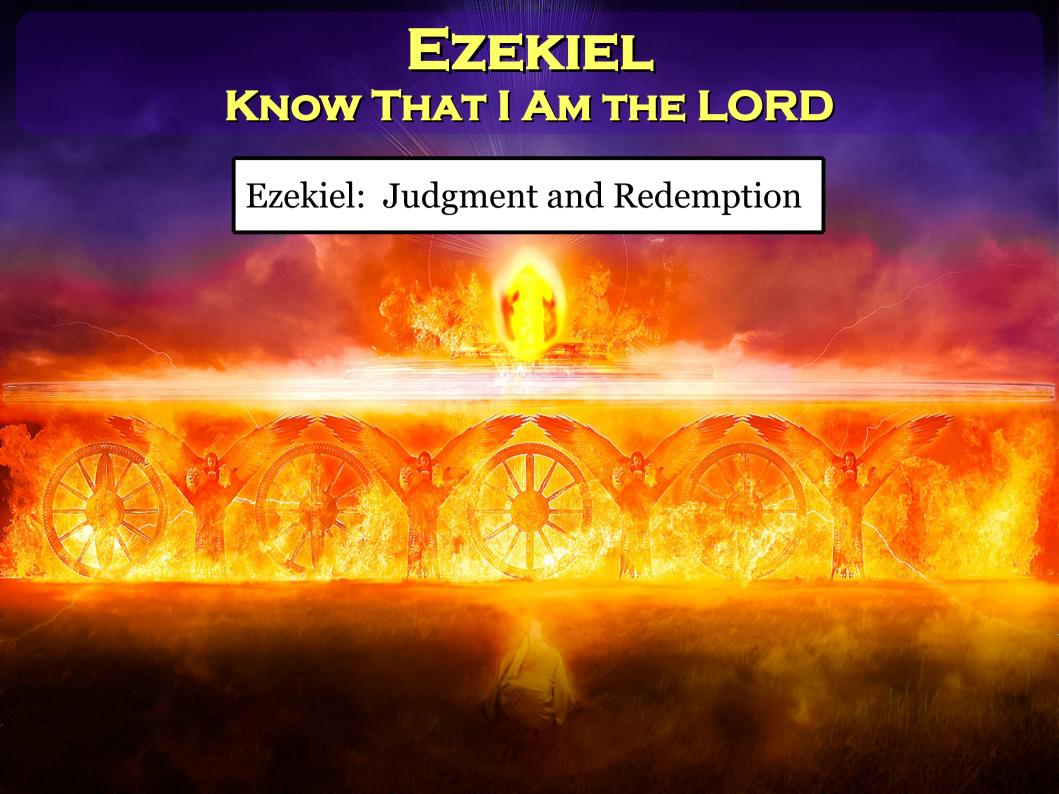
Ezekiel: The Promises of the LORD

Eze 37:25 They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.

Eze 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever.

Eze 37:27 My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Eze 37:28 Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever."



Ezekiel: Judgment and Redemption

Eze 39:23 And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.

Eze 39:24 I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them.

Eze 39:25 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.



Eze 39:22 From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.



