

Dr. Leslie Allen, Daniel, Session 21, Part 7: Visionary Tour of the New Temple (Ezek 40:1-42:20)

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Allen, Ezekiel, Session 21, Part 7: Visionary Tour of the New Temple (Ezek 40:1-42:20), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Leslie Allen's lecture focuses on Ezekiel 40-42, which describes Ezekiel's visionary tour of a new temple. The lecture divides the vision into five main sections: an introduction, gatehouses, the temple building itself, adjoining buildings, and a conclusion focusing on the perimeter wall. **Allen highlights the intricate architectural details** of the temple, including measurements and layouts, drawing comparisons to Solomon's temple. **He also explores the theological significance** of the vision, seeing it as a positive counterpart to earlier visions of a defiled temple, representing hope and God's renewed presence. **The lecture concludes by discussing the purpose of the vision** for Ezekiel and the exiles, emphasizing the temple as a beacon of hope and a reminder of God's holiness, whilst reminding readers of its complicated place within Christian theology, given the lack of a temple within the new Jerusalem.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Allen, Ezekiel, Session 21 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Ezekiel).



**Allen_Ezekiel_Sessi
on21.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 21, Part 7: Visionary Tour of the New Temple (Ezek 40:1-42:20)

Here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Leslie Allen's lecture on Ezekiel 40-42, "Visionary Tour of the New Temple":

Briefing Document: Ezekiel 40-42 - Visionary Tour of the New Temple

Overview: This lecture focuses on Ezekiel's detailed vision of a new temple complex, found in Ezekiel 40-42. This section is a positive counterpart to Ezekiel's earlier negative vision of the corrupted temple (Ezekiel 8-11). It represents a new beginning, offering hope after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. The lecture breaks down the structure of the vision, highlighting its architectural details and exploring its significance for Ezekiel and the exiled Israelites.

Key Themes and Ideas:

- **Visionary Tour and Architectural Detail:** The core of this section is a guided tour of the new temple led by an angelic figure who measures every component (Ezekiel 40:3). The vision provides extremely detailed architectural specifications, including dimensions, layout, and materials. "This vision presents a massive architectural detail."
- **Structure of the Vision:** Dr. Allen outlines the five main parts of the vision in Ezekiel 40:1-42:20:
 1. Introduction and Perimeter Wall (40:1-5)
 2. Gatehouses to the Outer and Inner Courts (40:6-37)
 3. Temple Building Itself (40:48-41:4)
 4. Buildings Adjoining the Temple (41:5-15a)
 5. Conclusion and Further Description of the Perimeter Wall (42:15-20)

- **Symbolism and Holiness:** The new temple complex is presented as a symbol of God's holiness and a physical expression of His presence. The gradations of holiness are emphasized, with different areas having varying levels of access (outer court, inner court, nave, Holy of Holies). "The temple area was a grand embodiment of God's holiness and a material expression of his holiness." The perimeter wall serves to separate the holy from the common. "In closing, we are told the purpose of the wall is to make a separation between the holy and the common, and holiness is here understood in spatial terms."
- **Hope and Restoration:** This vision provides a beacon of hope for Ezekiel and the exiled Israelites, promising the restoration of God's presence and a renewed relationship with Him through the re-establishment of the sanctuary. The reference to the city being "struck down" in 587 BC in 40:1 "hints at a hopeful reversal and paves the way for it."
- **Contrast to the Earlier Vision:** The lecture emphasizes the contrast between this positive vision of the new temple and the earlier negative vision of the corrupted temple. This contrast highlights the shift from judgment to salvation. "That vision was a negative experience, revealing the pagan practices being carried on in the temple area. This vision is a positive counterpart. It reflects the standpoint of salvation rather than of judgment. It represents a new start."
- **Significance for the Exiles:** The detailed description of the temple would have resonated deeply with the exiles, reminding them of the significance of the temple in their past and offering them hope for the future. Dr. Allen refers to the exiles relishing the details, stating, "They would have relished all these details like every note in the musical score of a favorite piece of music in the case of a musician. They would have drunk in every detail of this intricate account." The lecture connects these feelings back to memories of the first temple, with citations from Psalms 42, 43, and 84 included.
- **Gatekeepers:** Allen refers to a security check within the new temple, citing Psalm 24 and Revelation 21 as parallels. "But Psalm 24 asks this question: who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully...Next time we will be studying chapters 43 through 46."

- **The Empty Temple:** Though architecturally complete in the vision, the temple is currently empty, lacking God's presence. "The temple stands empty, ready for use but so brand new it has not yet been put to use. Something vital is missing, not just priests and people and worship and offerings, but God's glorious presence, so next time, we will find that essential ingredient supplied so that the temple can be put into operation."
- **New Testament Considerations:** Allen states that this vision is something that they will return to, referencing that Revelation 21-22 tells us "that there was to be no temple in the new Jerusalem and so this whole account in 40-42 will need to be addressed at a later point from a New Testament standpoint. For now, we need to think about the message in its Old Testament setting."

Key Figures:

- **Ezekiel:** The prophet who receives the vision. "Mortal, look closely and listen attentively and set your mind to all that I shall show you...declare all that you see to the house of Israel."
- **Angelic Guide:** The figure who leads Ezekiel on the tour and provides measurements and explanations. "When he brought me there, a man whose appearance shone like bronze was there. He had a linen cord and a measuring reed in his hand, and he was standing in the gateway."
- **Zadokite Priests:** A special line within the tribe of Levi.

Next Steps: The next lecture will address chapters 43-46, focusing on God's glorious presence returning to the temple.

4. Study Guide: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 21, Part 7: Visionary Tour of the New Temple (Ezek 40:1-42:20)

Ezekiel's Visionary Temple Tour: A Study Guide

I. Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the date provided in Ezekiel 40:1, and what historical event does it reference?
2. Describe the role and appearance of the man Ezekiel encounters at the gateway (Ezekiel 40:3).
3. What is the purpose of the perimeter wall, according to Ezekiel 42:20?
4. How many gatehouses lead to the outer court, and on which sides of the perimeter wall are they located?
5. What was the unique feature of the north gatehouse compared to the other gatehouses in the inner court?
6. Describe the three rooms that made up the temple building itself (40:48 through 41:4).
7. What was the purpose of the two buildings located on the north and south sides of the building directly behind the temple?
8. What were the alternating carvings on the wooden paneling inside the temple, and what did they represent?
9. According to the lecture, what is the intended effect of the vision of the new temple on the exiles in Babylon?
10. How does the lecture explain the spatial gradations of holiness within the temple area?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The date provided is April 573 BC. It references the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 587 BC, hinting at a hopeful reversal.

2. The man has an appearance that shone like bronze. He carries a linen cord and a measuring reed to measure the various parts of the temple area and report the measurements to Ezekiel.
3. The perimeter wall's purpose is to create a separation between the holy (the temple area) and the common (the area outside the temple), thus dedicating the temple area to God.
4. Three gatehouses lead to the outer court, located on the east, north, and south sides of the perimeter wall. There were no gatehouses on the west side.
5. The north gatehouse had a separate room in the vestibule at the top of the steps where sacrificial animals were washed after being slaughtered. The vestibule was also used for the slaughtering of the animals.
6. The temple building had three rooms: a porch in front, a nave, and a room at the back called the most holy place or the holy of holies.
7. These two buildings were meant mainly for the priest's eating arrangements and contained storage areas and eating places for the food presented as a gift to God and passed on to the priests. They also contained vestries or changing rooms for the priests.
8. The wooden paneling was decorated with carved reliefs of cherubim and palm trees. Palm trees represent the tree of life, and cherubim stand for God's heavenly attendance.
9. The lecture suggests the vision is meant to be a beacon of hope for the exiles, reminding them of the temple as their spiritual home and a means of access to God in worship. It demonstrates what it would mean for God to set his sanctuary among them once more.
10. The temple area was set on a very high mountain. The outer gatehouses rose by seven steps, the inner gatehouses by another eight steps, and the temple building itself by ten steps. The whole structure was like a three-tier wedding cake rising up in ever greater holiness.

II. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the detailed measurements and architectural descriptions within Ezekiel's vision. What might be the purpose of such specificity, and how does it contribute to the overall message of the vision?
2. Analyze the role of the angelic guide in Ezekiel's visionary tour. How does the guide facilitate Ezekiel's understanding of the new temple, and what does their presence suggest about the nature of divine revelation?
3. Compare and contrast Ezekiel's vision of the new temple (chapters 40-42) with his earlier vision of the corrupted temple in chapters 8-11. How does the new temple serve as a "positive counterpart" to the earlier vision, and what theological themes are emphasized in this contrast?
4. Explore the symbolic meaning of the perimeter wall in Ezekiel's vision. How does the wall function as a physical and spiritual boundary, and what does it reveal about the concept of holiness within the temple area?
5. Examine the implications of the lecturer's assertion that "something vital is missing" from the new temple described in Ezekiel 40-42. What is lacking, and how does this absence shape the interpretation of the vision within the broader context of the book of Ezekiel?

III. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Visionary Tour:** A supernatural experience in which a prophet is guided through a symbolic space to receive divine revelation.
- **Perimeter Wall:** The outer boundary of the temple area, designed to separate the holy space from the common area.
- **Gatehouse:** A large structure in the perimeter wall, acting as a gateway and security checkpoint for those entering the temple area.
- **Outer Court:** The outer area of the temple accessible to the people.
- **Inner Court:** The inner area of the temple, accessible only to priests.
- **Nave:** The main hall of the temple.
- **Holy of Holies:** The innermost room of the temple, considered the most sacred space.
- **Annex Buildings:** Structures that adjoin the temple on the north, west, and south sides, serving various functions.
- **Showbread (Bread of the Presence):** Loaves of bread placed on a table in the nave as an offering to God.
- **Zadokite Priests:** A special line within the tribe of Levi, responsible for performing sacrifices at the altar.
- **Cubits:** An ancient unit of measurement based on the length of the forearm.
- **Cherubim:** Winged angelic beings often associated with the presence and protection of God.
- **Exiles:** The Jewish people who were deported to Babylon after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
- **Sanctuary:** A holy or sacred place, especially a temple or church.

5. FAQs on Allen, Ezekiel, Session 21, Part 7: Visionary Tour of the New Temple (Ezek 40:1-42:20), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Ezekiel's Vision of the New Temple (Ezekiel 40-42)

- **What is the primary focus of Ezekiel chapters 40-42?**
- These chapters present a detailed visionary tour of a new temple, meant to be a positive counterpart to Ezekiel's earlier negative visions of the corrupted temple in chapters 8-11. It's a hopeful vision representing a fresh start after the destruction of the original temple. The vision includes detailed measurements of the temple complex and its various parts.
- **When did Ezekiel have this vision, and what significance does the timing hold?**
- Ezekiel received this vision on April 573 BC, which is after the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC. This timing is significant because the destruction of the city and the temple was a traumatic event for the exiles. The vision of a new temple provides hope and the promise of restoration.
- **Who guides Ezekiel through the new temple, and what tools does he use?**
- An angel, described as having an appearance shining like bronze, guides Ezekiel through the new temple. The angel uses a linen cord and a measuring reed (papyrus measuring rod) to take precise measurements of the temple area. This emphasizes the detail and accuracy of the vision.
- **What are the main components of the temple complex described in Ezekiel's vision?**
- The temple complex includes a perimeter wall, gatehouses (three each leading to the outer and inner courts), the outer and inner courts, the temple building itself (with a porch, nave, and Holy of Holies), annex buildings surrounding the temple, open yards, and buildings for the priests' eating arrangements and vestries.
- **How does the new temple in Ezekiel's vision compare to Solomon's temple?**
- The new temple shares many similarities with Solomon's temple, particularly in its layout and the presence of elements like a porch, nave, Holy of Holies, and annex buildings. The new temple was about the same size as Solomon's, but just slightly larger. The vision also describes decorative elements reminiscent of Solomon's temple, such as cherubim and palm tree carvings.

- **What was the purpose of the perimeter wall around the temple complex?**
- The primary purpose of the perimeter wall was to create a clear separation between the holy and common areas. It served as a boundary, designating the temple area as a space dedicated to God and distinct from the outside world. Within the temple area itself, there were further gradations of holiness.
- **Who was allowed access to the different areas of the new temple, and what does this signify?**
- The outer court was accessible to the people, but the inner court was reserved for priests. Even Ezekiel, a priest, was not allowed into the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies). These restrictions emphasize the holiness of God and the need for reverence and proper protocols in approaching Him. The gradual rising of the temple area from the outer courts to the Holy of Holies symbolized a progression towards greater holiness.
- **What is the significance of this vision for Ezekiel, the exiles, and, potentially, for Christians?**
- For Ezekiel, a priest without a temple, the vision was a beacon of hope. For the exiles, it offered a tangible promise of restoration and a renewed relationship with God. The detailed description of the temple would have resonated deeply with their memories of the original temple. For Christians, while Revelation 21-22 indicates no temple in the New Jerusalem, Ezekiel's vision highlights the theological concept of God's holiness and sets the stage for understanding the coming of God's glorious presence to inhabit the new temple.