

Ezekiel – Land, City, & Temple

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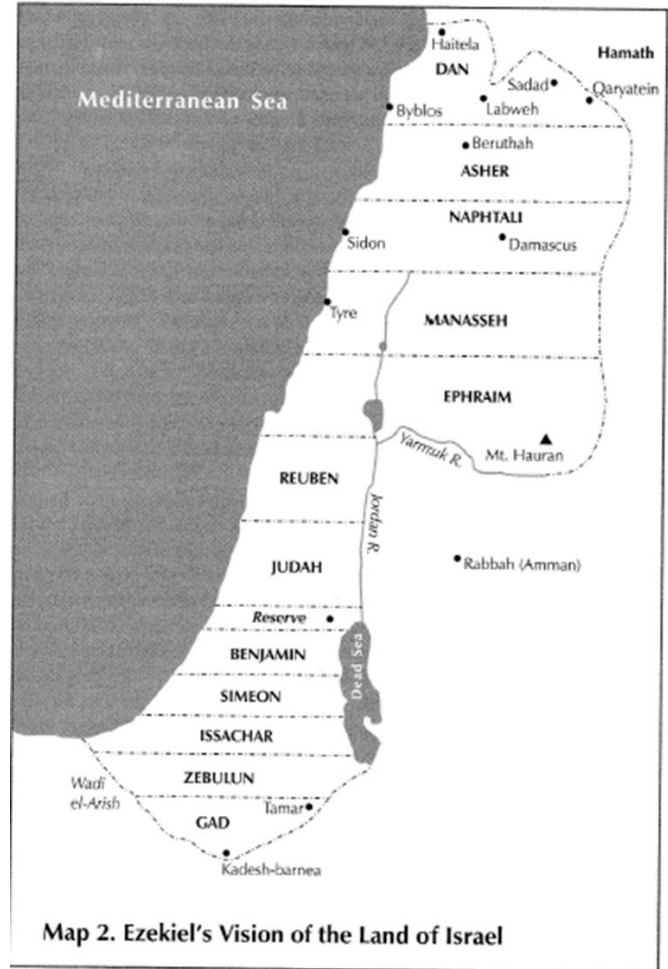
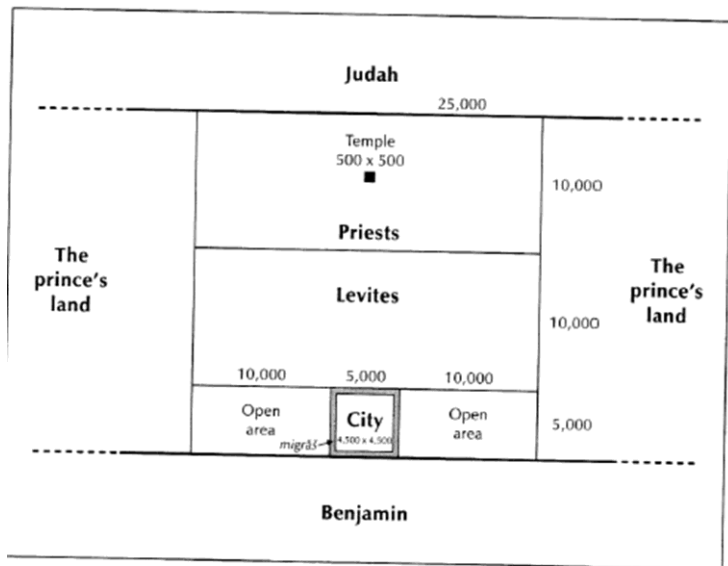
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The New Temple is all about “Holiness”. God will teach humanity “Holiness” starting with New Israel (Ez39:21a,22a). Ezekiel was given a vision of the Land of Israel, the New City (Ez40:2), the New Temple (Ez42:15,20b), and the Sacrificial Service (Ez43:26,27b).

Introduction to the Temple Vision: God summarizes his purpose for Israel and for the nations (Ez39:21-24).

God describes the purpose of the Temple Vision (Ez39:25-29). As throughout his book, Ezekiel’s immediate audience remained the exiles (Ez40:1-4). But the message of the vision is eternal (Ez43:10-12).

The Allocation of the Land: Each tribe is given a strip of land extending from the Mediterranean Coast to the eastern boundary (Ez47:13-23, 48:1-29). Note the “Reserve” between Judah and Benjamin. At the center of the “Reserve” is a square of 25,000 cubits on each side – about 8 miles. The “Holy District” comprises the areas of the Priests and the Levites (Ez45:1-6, 48:8-14). The New City is confined to a square 4,500 cubits on each side - about a mile and a half (Ez48:15-19,30-35). The allotment to the “Prince” is on each side of the “Reserve” and extends to the boarder of the land in each direction (Ez45:7-8, 48:21-22).

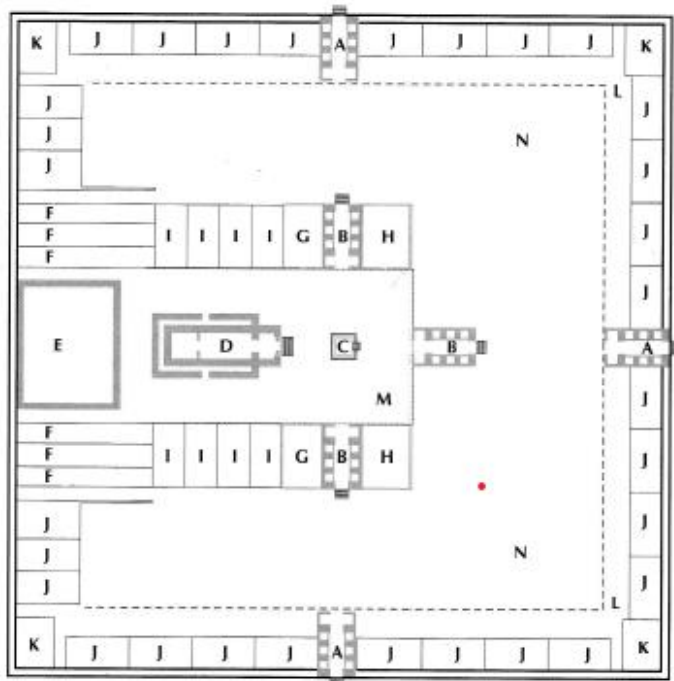


Map 2. Ezekiel's Vision of the Land of Israel

All these diagrams are from: Block, D.I., *The Book of Ezekiel Chapters 25-48*, New International Commentary on the Old Testament, (NICOT), William B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1998.

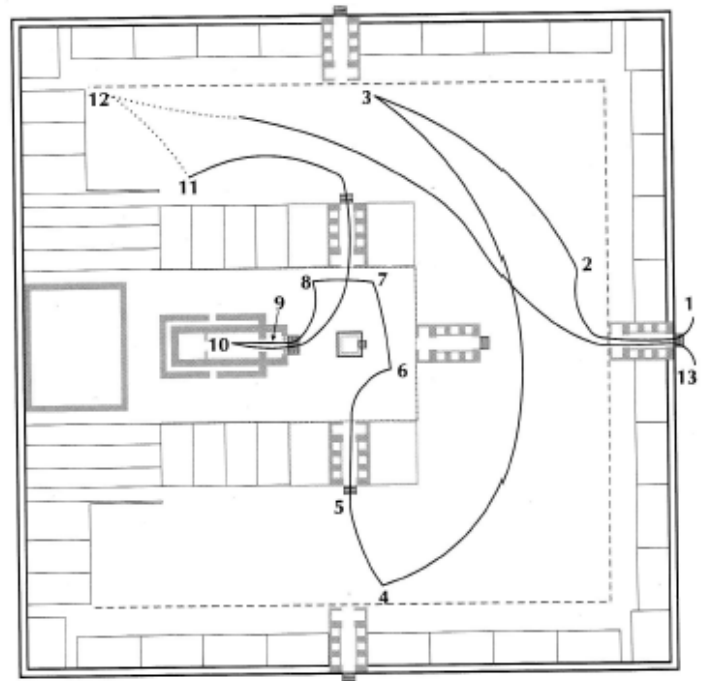
The Temple Area: The Temple Area is described in Ezekiel 40:5-49, and all of chapters 41 and 42. The “key” below the diagram points to specific features. General features: outer wall, inner wall, gates, outer court, inner court, temple proper, altar, various rooms and buildings. The Courts are described in Ezekiel 40:17-19, 29-34. The Outer Court is a square of 400 cubits (~685 feet). Any “clean” person is allowed in the outer court. The Outer Court is 100 cubits broad to the north and south of the Inner Court and 150 cubits on the east. Only officiating Priests are allowed in the inner court. In the Inner Court, the area in front of Temple Proper is 100 cubits square. The altar is in the middle of this area. **If you read through the text, a large part of it follows the “tour” depicted on the diagram.** The “key” below points to the scriptures at each location in the tour.

The Temple Gates: There are three gates in the outer wall and three gates to the inner court. All gates are identical, only the outer east gate is described in detail in Ezekiel 40:6-16; other gates are briefly mentioned in Ezekiel 40:20-37. The total length of the gate structure about 86 feet (50 cubits) and the width is about 43 feet (25 cubits).



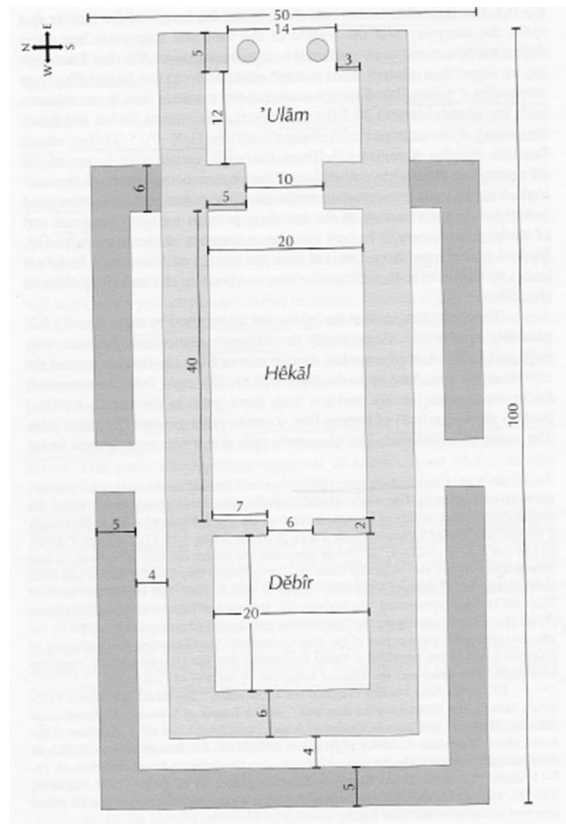
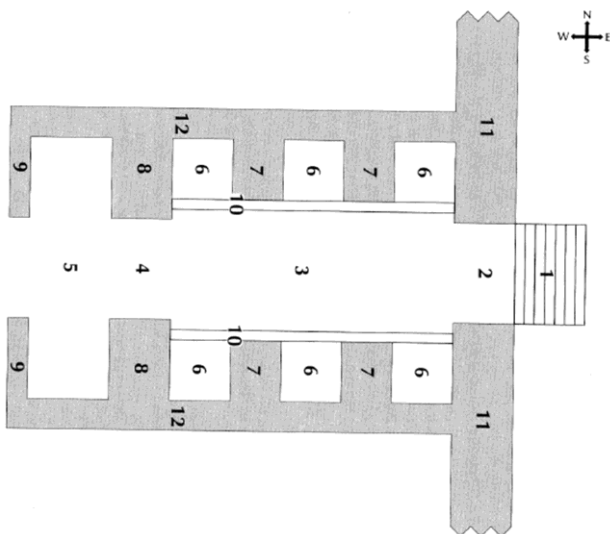
Key

A Outer gates (40:5-16, 20-27)	H Chamber of offerings (40:38)
B Inner gates (40:28-37)	I Outer chambers (41:9b-10)
C Altar (43:13-17)	J Worshiper's chambers (40:17)
D Temple (40:48-41:11, 15-26)	K Kitchens (46:19-24)
E Binyān (41:12-14)	L Lower pavement (40:18)
F Priestly sacristies (42:1-14)	M Inner court (40:44)
G Priestly chambers (40:44-46)	N Outer court (40:17-19)



Key

1 40:1-16	6 40:32-34	10 41:1-4
2 40:17-19	7 40:35-37	11 42:1-14
3 40:20-23	8 40:44-46	12 46:19-24
4 40:24-27	9 40:48-49	13 42:15-20
5 40:28-31		

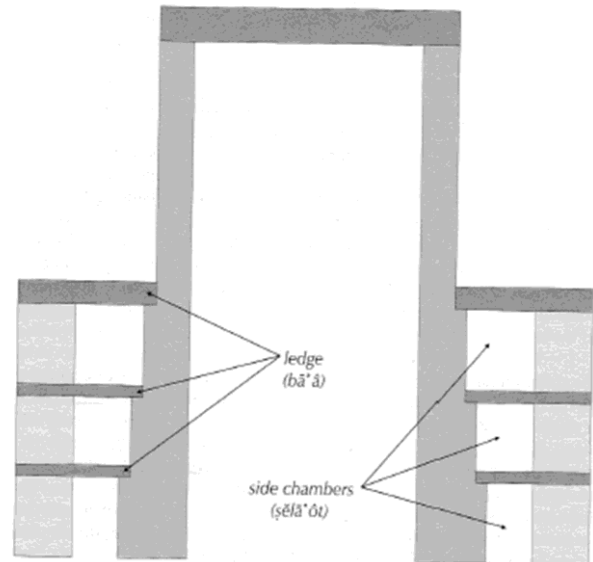


- #1 There are seven steps
- #2 the width of the Gate is about 17 feet
- #11 the outer wall is about 10 feet thick
- #6 each gate has six small rooms each about 10 feet square. The rooms have small openings to function as windows for air and light
- #5 the "vestibule" is a larger room at the inner end of the gate about 14 feet deep and perhaps 36 feet wide

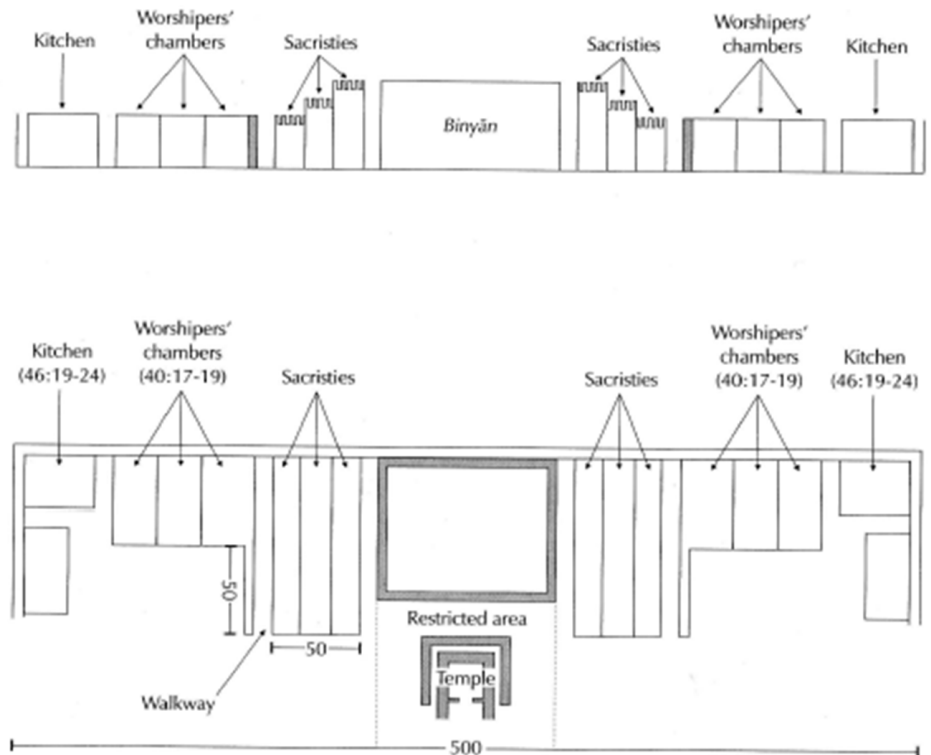
The Temple: The Temple is described in Ezekiel 40:48-49, 41:1-4, 15b-26. The Temple is 50 cubits by 100 cubits. The “ulam” is the vestibule, the entrance, 22 cubits long and 20 cubits wide. The “hekal” is the “Holy Place”, 20 cubits by 40 cubits. Officiating Priests go into the “Holy Place”. The “debir” is the “Most Holy Place”, 20 by 20 cubits. Only YHWH is in the “Most Holy Place”. The only furniture mentioned is an altar in the “Holy Place” before the entrance to the “Most Holy Place”.

The Temple is surrounded by three stories of side rooms.

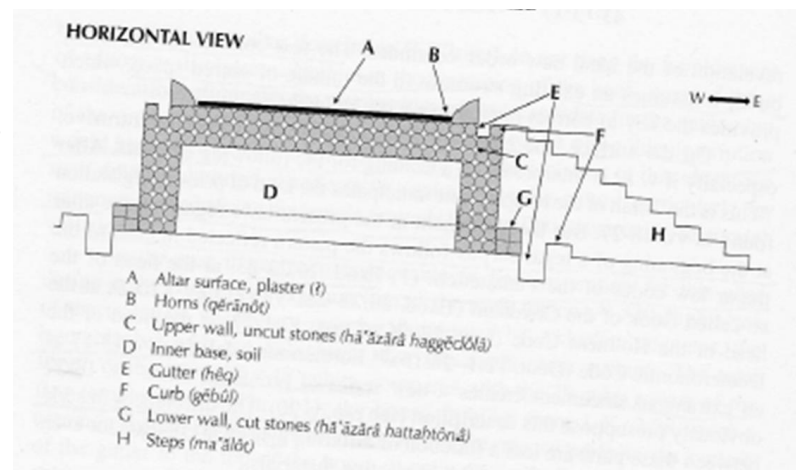
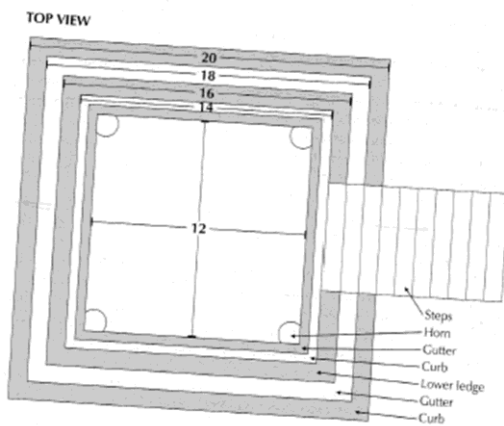
The side rooms are described in Ezekiel 41:5-11. There are 30 rooms in each story – modelled after Solomon’s Temple. Note the “ledges” supporting the floors and roof – these are to prevent the Temple wall from being used as a support. The rooms get wider in each ascending story.



The West Wall: The buildings along the West Wall are described in Ezekiel 41:12-15a, 42:1-12, 46:19-20. The use of much of this space remains to be specified. Building “E” is called the “ban^eyan”, there is no discussion of its use. The building containing rooms marked “F” is for use of the officiating Priests. The building appears to have “observation galleries” on its roof. There is no explicit description of the building containing rooms marked “J” – they are probably for the Levites. In each corner of the Temple Area is a “kitchen”, marked “K”, where the Levites boil the people’s sacrifice, see Ezekiel 46:21-24.



The Altar:



The Altar is described in Ezekiel 43:13-17. **It is very similar to the Altar of Solomon's temple.** The Altar is the only part of the Temple for which **a consecration ceremony** is specified (Ez43:18-27). This will occur as the last step in the construction of the Temple. Note that it is the "altar" for which atonement is required: the altar was made with human hands, therefore, "atonement" is necessary.

Assessment of the Temple Description: Ezekiel reports what he saw in vision – he is NOT describing a blueprint.

The purpose the vision is clear: there will be a physical Temple constructed in the World Tomorrow. There are a lot of similarities to Solomon's Temple, but also a lot of differences. In many points, the details of the Temple are obscure, but there is enough description that proper architectural designs can be produced when the time comes.

The "Guide" is mostly passive, he doesn't say much, but just leads Ezekiel around the vision and takes measurements.

The real purpose of vision is to provide context for the teaching that God gives to Ezekiel regarding the Temple Service.

The PowerPoint slides for this presentation are available at <https://mikewhytebiblicalresearch.ca/presentations>