

The Glory of Ezekiel's Temple

by George Kirkpatrick

As we study the Bible many things stand out as types and shadows. As Paul explained, the Law was only a shadow of things to come, Colossians 2:17. The Bible describes seven holy buildings. Two were tabernacles. Tabernacles are a shadow of God dealing with our flesh.

The first tabernacle was in the wilderness. It was also called the Tabernacle of the Congregation and Moses' Tabernacle. There were three areas in the Tabernacle of the Congregation:

The Outer Court
The Holy Place
The Holy of Holies

In this tabernacle God laid out His complete plan of salvation for His creation man. There were three entries into the Tabernacle of the Congregation:

The Gate
The Door
The Veil

There was no covering over the Outer Court. The Outer Court only had the natural light of the sun and moon. The Outer Court had no Spiritual anointing. To enter the Outer Court you entered through the gate. The Outer Court is the thirty fold realm.

Before one entered the Holy Place, it took an anointing and a change of garments. Then you entered through the door. As Jesus stated:

"... Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." John 10:7

Jesus is the door to the sheep. When we enter through the door, we discover the candlestick which represents the church. The church does not exist in the Outer Court. The Holy Place is the sixty fold realm, or the realm of suffering (change).

As we progress, our next step is the Holy of Holies. To enter into this realm requires the total dying to the flesh. As Paul related to the Hebrews:

"By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;" Hebrews 10:20

Jesus had to suffer the cross to reclaim His place as the Father (the Holy Spirit). Through His death, He showed us a new and living way to enter into His presence.

We, too, must pass through the veil of the flesh to enter again into the presence of God. Jesus prepared the way for us, and He is waiting for us to overcome all our fleshly desires, our self-rule, and our selfish attitudes to enter again into His presence. Only then can He walk and talk with us in the cool of the day.

The second tabernacle was the Tabernacle of David. David built this tabernacle to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant represents the presence of God. The Ark only sits in the Holy of Holies. On the Ark of the covenant is the Mercy Seat. This is where God meets with His creation man.

When Israel was defeated by the Philistines, the Philistines stole the Ark of the Covenant, putting it in the house of Dagon. Dagon, the Philistine's false god, kept falling down before the Ark until Dagon's head and hands were cut off. No false god or unclean thing can stand before the presence of God.

When David brought back the Ark, it was with much singing and playing of instruments.

"And they brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord." II Samuel 6:17

The Tabernacle of David is a type of our worship and praise before the presence of our God. David's worship and praise was without any inhibitions before his God. His uninhibited praise was pure before God. The early church knew this kind of worship and praise, but as we read in God's Word, the Tabernacle of David has fallen down. True worship and praise has gone out of the church, and out of God's people. But God has promised a day when His praise shall be heard throughout all the earth. An unknown Psalmist declared:

"This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord." Psalm 102:18

God is creating a people in the earth today who will worship and praise the Lord with their whole heart. This will be when God again rears up the Tabernacle of David. The prophet Amos prophesied:

"All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, which say, the evil shall not overtake nor prevent us. In that day will I raise up the Tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:" Amos 9:10-11

This was the same message Peter related to the apostles. Quoting Amos, Peter relates:

"And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the Tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things." Acts 15:15-17

The Tabernacle of David will be raised up by the Gentile nations. The Gentile nations are those Peter proclaimed:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." I Peter 2:9-10

This is God's chosen generation whom He has created to praise Him in all His glory. This end time chosen generation will become God's royal priesthood, His holy nation, His peculiar people (purchased possession). In ages past, these were not a people. Now they are called the people of God. These peculiar people of God are called the body of Christ in the earth today. These have obtained God's mercy in their lives. Jesus spoke of these true worshippers to the woman at the well:

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." John 4:23

God is raising up the Tabernacle of David, and He will set it upon its ancient foundation and His people will worship before the presence of God.

Besides these two tabernacles, there were five temples. The tabernacles were made of temporary materials. The temples were all constructed of eternal materials of gold, silver, and precious stones.

The first temple built was Solomon's temple. This temple was the temple David desired to build for his God, but God would not allow David to build His temple because David was a bloody man (a man of war). David supplied many of the materials to build the temple, but the temple was to be built by his son, Solomon (a man of peace).

Solomon's temple is a type and shadow of those who have taken the first step beyond the flesh realm to become God's permanent dwelling place. This temple was destroyed when Israel fell into gross sin, and worshipped idols. God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to not only capture old Israel, but He allowed him to destroy Solomon's temple because Israel had defiled it.

Zerubabel's temple was built out of the rubble of Solomon's temple. Zerubabel's temple is a picture of God rebuilding His eternal church in these last days after the true anointing has been restored.

Herod's temple stood in the days Jesus walked the earth. It was the most magnificent of all the temples. Herod's temple is a type of the mega churches in the earth today - - - all pomp and no anointing. The Ark of God was never present in Herod's Temple. Herod's Temple, as the mega churches today, do not have the presence of God dwelling in their midst. Herod's temple, as the mega churches today, was full of money changers. Their only intent is to make money on what is called "serving God."

The last temple God will construct is the Temple of the Holy Ghost. God gave Ezekiel a vision of this holy temple built out of living stones. Ezekiel's temple was never intended to be built in the physical. What God revealed to Ezekiel was a type and shadow of the Spiritual temple He would build in the last days in the earth. This is the temple Paul spoke of when he wrote to the church at Ephesus:

"In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord." Ephesians 2:21

Today we hear many referring to themselves as the temple of the Holy Ghost. They do not realize they are only a stone in this building which God is fitly framing together to become His holy temple.

God is shaping His living stones in the quarry so when He makes up His body, they will all fit together into a perfect body. It is on this body that God will place His head. There are no special stones. All must be shaped by the Master's hand to fit perfectly into the place God has designed for them to fill.

As we study this holy temple, we must begin with the writings of Peter who was given the keys to the Kingdom. After all, God's holy temple is what He will inhabit for all eternity.

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a Spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up Spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." I Peter 2:5

God's holy temple is a Spiritual house made up of those who have dealt with their flesh, their carnal thoughts, their carnal attitudes, and their carnal self-rule. These have caught the vision of the changed body.

Too many deal daily with the status quo and cannot see afar off where God is dealing with His holy priesthood who are offering up Spiritual sacrifices to their God. Those whom God is shaping in the quarry know the answer to the question Paul asked the church at Corinth:

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" I Corinthians 6:19

Those whom God will build into His holy temple are those who realize they are not their own, but are bought with a price. These only live to become what God has designed them to be.

The word **body** is singular, but it has a corporate meaning. It means *"number of men closely united into one society, or family as it were; a social, ethical, mystical body."* God speaks of His body only in the New Testament. There is no mention in the Old Testament of God having a corporate body.

Many men in the Old Testament were anointed with the Holy Ghost, but these were individuals who lived in different times. At the end of the age, God plans to have a corporate body whom He will anoint with His Double Portion Anointing. This is the same anointing Jesus obtained on the banks of the Jordan. With this anointing we will do the greater works Jesus spoke of.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father." John 14:12

Jesus could only do the works He did because He had the anointing of the Father. We can only do the greater works when we obtain the same anointing. Ezekiel's temple is a picture of this holy body who will receive the Double Portion Anointing at the end of the age. God showed the prophet Ezekiel the cleansing of His temple:

"And He said unto me, Son of man, the place of My throne, and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and My holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places." Ezekiel 43:7

The place of God's throne is where He will rule and reign. Jesus informed John on the Isle of Patmos who will rule and reign with Him:

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:6

The first resurrection consists of those who have been resurrected from their death state. When we were baptized (immersed in water), then our bodies were resurrected from the sin state to newness of life. Paul revealed to the church at Rome:

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:11

When we become alive in Christ, we are truly dead to sin because the sin nature has been dealt with. Through Ezekiel God has promised to dwell in the midst of Israel forever. He is not speaking of His ancient people, but to Spiritual Israel who have come alive unto God because of the anointing.

Ezekiel 43:7 also states, ". . . My holy name shall the house of Israel defile no more. . ."

Paul revealed this same promise to the church at Corinth:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Corinthians 3:16-17

Many today defile their bodies with overeating, indulging in alcoholic beverages, and promiscuous sex. But we are assured by God's Word that when He builds His glorious temple in the earth, defiled bodies will not fit into His final construction. Only His righteous, lively (living) stones will be used to make up His temple. God also revealed to Ezekiel:

". . . they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places. . ." Ezekiel 43:7

The kings are those with their mega ministries, with elaborate headquarters, and limitless finances. The whoredoms of many of these kings have already been found out. Many still remain in their high places, but God is about to dethrone them and expose them for what they are. Ezekiel continues to explain the fate of the mega ministries:

"In their setting of their threshold by My thresholds, and their post by My posts, and the wall between Me and them, they have even defiled My holy name by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in Mine anger." Ezekiel 43:8

The thresholds and posts of the mega ministries are parts of the door. These ministries proclaim they are the way to God if the people do as they say. But Ezekiel reveals these have built a wall between themselves and God. By doing this they have defiled His holy name by their abominable works, and God will destroy them with the brightness of His coming:

"Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from Me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever." Ezekiel 43:9

" . . . the carcasses of their kings . . ." Many today follow the teachings of those who founded their religions. The people who follow the teachings of these dead kings (religious founders) never go any further with God than their founding leaders. God has moved on but the people remain in their religious bondage. Those who follow their dead kings' teachings have put more faith in the words of their leaders, than they do in the Word of God. These dead kings have become their idols, and they worship their dead kings more than they do God Almighty. All God asks is for these to repent of their dead works, and He will restore them and dwell in the midst of them forever.

Just as Jesus cleansed Herod's temple of those who defiled it with their money changers, He will cleanse His future temple of all those who defile His holy name. Then God informed Ezekiel:

"Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern." Ezekiel 43:10

" . . . show the house to the house . . ." Ezekiel was admonished to show the house to those who will make up His holy temple. If we are to become God's holy temple, then we must measure the pattern. Jesus is the pattern the house is to look like when it is complete.

By God's Word we know God sent His only begotten Son so His creation man could have a pattern of what God expects of His holy people. In his letter to the Romans, Paul explained:

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." Romans 8:3

God sent His son to dwell in the same flesh as His creation man has done since the Garden of Eden. As Paul related, Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh - - - although there was no sin in His flesh. Paul explains this in his letter to the Hebrews:

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15

Jesus had to overcome every temptation of the flesh. We, too, must learn to overcome every temptation in our flesh if we are to measure up to the pattern. Peter recognized the importance of our becoming like the pattern son:

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps." I Peter 2:21

The only way we can expect to get to our final destination in Christ is to follow in His step by step progression, from glory to glory to enter again into His presence. When Ezekiel was admonished to show the house to the house, he stated he was to do this so those who were contrary would be ashamed of their iniquity, Ezekiel 43:10. Then God began to show Ezekiel the Spiritual form of the house (temple) He would build in the earth.

"And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them." Ezekiel 43:11

God has a great promise to show those who repent and are ashamed of all they have accomplished in the flesh. God informed Ezekiel to show the house of Israel the form and fashion of the house. The word **form** means "*shape or image of the house.*" The word **fashioned** means "*the arrangement and fixed places, or the likeness of God.*" God is going to build His temple out of those living stones (His people) who have come into His original perfection.

Ezekiel was to show the house God's ordinances and laws. This is the Word of God. The whole Bible is God's ordinances and laws, and God expects us to keep and become His Holy Word. Jesus was the Word made flesh. We, as flesh, must become God's living Word. We must become Spiritual flesh in the form of God's original laws and ordinances (His Word).

Ezekiel's temple is a picture of the temple Jesus spoke of when he was taken before the council:

". . . I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another without hands." Mark 14:58

When Jesus stated this, He was speaking of the third day when He would raise up His temple made of earthen vessels. This would come after the two one thousand year days of the church age. The third day is the millennial reign of Christ. The third day is when He will reign in His temple constructed of the living stones He is shaping by His own hand to be His peculiar treasure in the earth.

When the chiefs of the synagogues stirred up the people to stone Stephen, God gave Stephen a clear vision of where ancient Israel stood in His sight, and how God would deal with Spiritual Israel.

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet," Acts 7:48

Stephen was referring to Solomon's temple, Zerubabel's temple, and Herod's temple. Stephen knew by the Holy Spirit anointing, that God was not going to dwell in any of these temporary temples. He could see Herod's temple, and knew by the words of Jesus, that there would not be one stone left upon another. Herod's temple was destroyed in seventy AD by the Roman general Titus.

The Holy Spirit, through Stephen, asked the question:

"Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool: what house will ye build Me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of My rest?" Acts 7:49

What house will you build Me? When we see these mega churches, with their grandiose buildings, we need to ask, "Were these buildings built for God, or to glorify the occupants and to allure the world to their buildings?"

Heaven (the Spiritual realm) is God's throne and the earth is His footstool. If man covered the whole earth with a building made of the finest gold, silver, and precious stones, it would only become His footstool. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul relates:

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Corinthians 5:1

Paul was speaking of our earthly body, this body of flesh. Paul made it plain that if this tabernacle of flesh we dwell in were dissolved (destroyed), we have a building not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (the Spiritual realm). Our new bodies will be Spiritual flesh, the same body that Jesus walked in for the forty days after His resurrection. This body is the temple Jesus will raise up the third day, the day of His millennial reign.

As we study Ezekiel's temple with all its measurements and rooms, it is hard to visualize a physical building. But once our understanding is enlightened to the fact that this is not a physical building, but the Spiritual temple God is raising up in the earth for His eternal habitation, then through Spiritual eyes, we can visualize God's temple of the Holy Spirit He is building of His living stones.

There are many dimensions in Ezekiel's temple. When we compare these dimensions with those in the other tabernacles and temples, we discover a distinct difference.

"Then went He inward, and measured the post of the door, two cubits; and the door, six cubits; and the breadth of the door, seven cubits." Ezekiel 41:3

The post of the door was two cubits.
witness

Two is the number of God's

The height of the door was six cubits.

Six is the number of man

This door was just high enough for man to enter into.

The width of the door was seven cubits.
number

Seven is God's perfect

Ezekiel witnessed the place where God's creation man would again enter into God's perfection.

Next Ezekiel graphically directs us through his temple into the Most Holy Place:

"So He measured the length thereof, twenty cubits; and the breadth, twenty cubits, before the temple; and He said unto me, This is the Most Holy Place." Ezekiel 41:4

Ezekiel's temple, like Moses Tabernacle, Solomon's temple, Zerubabel's temple, and Herod's temples all had an Outer Court, a Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place.

Moses' Tabernacle, Solomon's temple, Zerubabel's temple, and Herod's temple were all on a horizontal plane. But in Ezekiel's temple, the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place were not on a horizontal plane.

"And the side chambers were three, one over another, and thirty in order; and they entered into the wall which was of the house for the side chambers round about, that they might have hold, but they had not hold in the wall of the house." Ezekiel 41:6

The chambers were one over the other, totaling three stories, and there were no holds in the walls. The walls were smooth, with no place one could hold onto in order to reach the Holy of Holies. Jesus explained this when He addressed the Pharisees:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." John 10:1

Ezekiel's temple gives us a picture of the only way we are going to gain access to God's presence:

"And there was an enlarging, and a winding about still upward to the side chambers: for the winding about of the house went still upward round about the

house: therefore the breadth of the house was still upward, and so increased from the lowest chamber to the highest by the midst." Ezekiel 41:7

There was an enlarging. This graphically portrays how we begin our walk with God on the strait and narrow way. But as we grow in the Lord, He gives us more latitude because He knows He can trust us and we have been proven faithful.

Ezekiel was shown that this path from the lowest chamber (the Outer Court) to the highest chamber (the Holy of Holies) was a winding about. This shows us that there is no clear path. We must be willing to step out in faith at every winding turn. There is nothing we can hold onto to make our trip shorter. We must wind around until we find the ancient path God has planned for His people.

Our walk in God is on an upward trek - - - upward, still upward - - - no matter what is placed in our path which seems to get us off our upward thrust, we must wind around until we find God's true way. As Paul related to the church at Corinth:

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Corinthians 3:18

We are all looking into a glass (a mirror). That mirror is the Word of God; and what is reflecting back is the life of Christ. As we become what we see in the mirror, we are changed from glory to glory. Our life is continually on an upward way until we again gain entrance into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies.

God showed Ezekiel this winding pathway we all must travel until we gain our goal. As Paul related to the Philippians:

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Philippians 2:12

We are to work out our own salvation in God. No matter how steep the path or how many twists and turns we encounter, we must continue our upward thrust, seeking God for His perfect will and His way. As Paul related to the church at Philippi:

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14

Paul had many twists and turns in his life, but he knew the prize he was searching for was in the high calling of God. The only way to reach this high calling was to continue upward until He received His crown of righteousness.

God showed Ezekiel many, small chambers in his temple. As Ezekiel proclaimed,

"These were thirty in number." The number thirty is the number of maturity.

In Ezekiel's temple, we discover several chambers placed one over the other. All these little chambers in Ezekiel's temple represent all the areas in our lives God wants us to yield unto Him. We all have these secret rooms we want God to leave alone, but if we are to become God's eternal habitation, then all these chambers need to be yielded to His indwelling Holy Spirit. We will never come into God's mature realm until we deal with these small chambers of resistance to His will.

When we reach the highest chambers, the Holy of Holies in Ezekiel's temple, we find that the Holy of Holies was 20 x 20 cubits.

In Moses' tabernacle the Holy of Holies was 10 x 10 cubits.

In Ezekiel's temple, the Holy of Holies represents the Double Portion realm of God's anointing.

As God continued to show Ezekiel the temple of His Holy Spirit filled people, He took Ezekiel to the eastern gate:

*"Afterward He brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and His voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with His glory."
Ezekiel 43:1-2*

Ezekiel was shown the glory of the God of Israel, whose voice was like many waters. And the earth shined with His glory. As we discover who it was Ezekiel saw, we must turn to the book of Revelation. John was in the spirit on the Lord's day which is the Seventh Day. John heard a voice in the midst of the seven candlesticks:

"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters." Revelation 1:13-15

What Ezekiel and John saw and heard was the earth shining with the risen, glorified Christ Jesus. Jesus revealed to John:

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Revelation 21:23

The city is the Holy City, New Jerusalem, and is made up of those who will be glorified by the all-glorious Christ (the Double Portion Anointing). Ezekiel continues:

"And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face." Ezekiel 43:3

God showed Ezekiel the glory He would put in the temple. But this was not the first time God had revealed this glory to Ezekiel. He had previously revealed this glory to Ezekiel by the River Chebar.

"The Word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the River Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him." Ezekiel 1:3

The word **Chebar** means "afar off." What God was showing Ezekiel was not for Ezekiel's day, it was for a day afar off.

"And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. Ezekiel 1:4-6, & 10

As we consider this living being, we witness God's glory. This living being had the face of a man, the face of a lion, the face of an ox, and the face of an eagle. As we look at the living being with the four faces through Spiritual eyes, it is easy to see these are the four natures of Jesus as He walked on the earth. These are the same four natures we must develop in our lives if we are to follow in the steps of Jesus.

We first knew Jesus as a man born of a virgin. Jesus' flesh had no particular virtue. He had the same flesh as every other man, born of woman. What made Jesus different was His bloodline. No other person on earth had His bloodline. The bloodline always comes from the Father. Jesus had no earthly father. His Father was the Holy Ghost.

As Ezekiel revealed the face on the right side of the face of the man was the face of the lion. The lion is called the King of the Jungle. The face of the lion reveals the overcoming attribute in each of our lives. Jesus revealed to John His overcoming nature:

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof." Revelation 5:5

Jesus was the son of David, Matthew 1:1. He also was the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He was the only one who had prevailed and could open the seven seals of God's judgment. Jesus had earlier spoken to John about His overcoming power:

"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

What was it that Jesus had to overcome? It was the world. Jesus overcame His worldly nature with its lust, desires, and temptations. He is our perfect example of overcoming the world.

The third face was the face of an ox. As we study the nature and use of the ox, we find the ox was used for sacrifice or service. By Jesus' own words, we come to understand that Jesus had the nature of the ox.

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

As the ox, Jesus' life was one of service, and His death was one of sacrifice for His whole creation man.

The face on the left side of the face of the ox was face of the eagle. Jesus also had the nature of the eagle. Jesus knew, as many today, His stay on earth was only temporary. His eyes were not focused on the things of this life, but like the eagle, His eyes were keen and fixed on the unseen realm of the Spirit. He was not attached in any way to this world or the life He was living. His focus was on the things of the Kingdom. His heart's cry was to His Father:

"And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was." John 17:5

This should be the heart's cry of all those who can see afar off, knowing that this life is only temporal, and that our eternal life is tied to our knowledge and relationship with the risen, glorified Christ. This is the message Paul related to Timothy:

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." II Timothy 2:3-4

A good soldier does not entangle himself with personal affairs, but is only there to serve the one who has called him into service.

Jesus also revealed the faces of the four living beings to John on the Isle of Patmos:

"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle."
Revelation 4:6-7

Our whole desire should be to become part of this sea of transparent glass. These are those who stand pure and clean before the throne of God with nothing to hide. Their lives are like pure crystal. These are those Paul revealed to the Ephesians who are without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish, Ephesians 5:27. These are those who have come again into the image and likeness of God. These are those, as Paul related, are God's glorious church.

When Jesus showed John the four beasts, the first was like a lion, the second like a calf (bullox or ox), the third like a man, and the fourth like a flying eagle. Jesus revealed to John the order of our overcoming.

First we must become like the lion.

The lion is called the King of the Jungle. Today, we truly live in a jungle of sin and religious confusion. If we are to be pleasing in the sight of God, we must overcome the jungle we live in and overcome our beast nature.

When Adam and Even sinned in the garden, God clothed them in skins of beasts. Peter spoke about dealing with the beast nature in man:

"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;" II Peter 2:10 & 12

Those who have not dealt with their beast nature will never be part of the Sea of Glass before the throne of God. Only those who have taken on the lion nature will overcome their flesh nature.

The second beast was like a calf or an ox.

The ox nature has a willing heart to do as God commands. When Moses was building the tabernacle in the wilderness, he informed the overseers of the work:

"Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass," Exodus 35:5

This same principle must be applied in all our offerings to the Lord. A willing heart must be present in our tithes and offerings, and in the giving of our time and labor. The ox nature, without a willing heart, is not acceptable before God. Jesus had a willing heart to lay down His life that we may live. Jesus was our example of the ox nature, and He made us a promise:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are My friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you." John 15:13-15

Abraham was the only man in the Bible called the friend of God, but each one of us can become the friend of God if we do whatsoever He commands us with a willing and joyous heart. But if we do His commandments grudgingly, with much complaining and murmuring, then our sacrifice and service is not acceptable in His sight. We must be willing to follow any command we receive from the Father, whether it be for sacrifice or service.

The third beast had the face of a man.

We are all born with the human nature. Our thoughts are carnal. Our whole carnal ambition is to serve the flesh. Overcoming the carnal, fleshly nature is the most difficult thing we are required to do.

Seven times Jesus informed John what was wrong in the seven churches. These same conditions exist in the church today. Seven times Jesus spoke, "He that overcometh. . ." Jesus knew if we are to enter again into His presence we must overcome this human nature. He knew man's most basic thought was to serve the flesh. So, overcoming is not a natural act, it is a supernatural act. This overcoming aspect of our new walk in Christ must be worked at daily. We must learn to walk the path that leads to the reproduction of the Christ life in us. God has made those who overcome their human nature ten wonderful promises:

1 He that overcometh shall eat of the Tree of Life in the midst of the paradise of God, Revelation 2:7.

2 He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death, Revelation 2:11.

3 He that overcometh shall eat of the hidden manna (knowledge of God), Revelation 2:17

4 He that overcometh will be given a white stone with His new name, Revelation 2:17

5 He that overcometh will be given power over the nations, Revelation 2:26

6 He that overcometh will be clothed in white raiment (righteousness), Revelation 3:5

7 He that overcometh, his name will be confessed (acknowledged openly and

joyfully) before the Father,

and his name won't be blotted out of the book of life. Revelation 3:5

8 He that overcometh will be made a pillar in God's temple, Revelation 3:12

9 He that overcometh will have the name of the Holy City, New Jerusalem, written upon him, Revelation 3:12.

10. He that overcometh, will God grant to sit with Him in His throne, Revelation 3:21

Ten glorious promises to those who overcome their fleshly, carnal nature, just as Jesus overcame His.

The last face is that of a flying eagle. The flying eagle represents those who have broken all earthly bounds, and are dwelling in the heavenlies. These have risen above the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Paul wrote of these in his letter to the Ephesians:

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" Ephesians 2:6

God will raise up all those who have severed all their earthly ties to sit in heavenly places with Him. This is where the body of Christ will dwell.

These are those who have the face of the lion, and have cast off their beastly nature.

These are those with the face of the ox, who have a willing heart to be of service in the cause of Christ or to be a sacrifice for the cause of Christ.

These also have the face of the flying eagle and have overcome their fleshly, carnal thinking and have been seated together with Christ in the heavenly, Spiritual realm.

Jesus spoke to His disciples about the day when He would gather His body together. He spoke of two being in one bed. One would be taken, the other left. Two would be grinding together, one would be taken, the other left. Two would be in the field, one would be taken, the other left. Jesus' disciples asked, "Where Lord?"

". . . and He said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together." Luke 17:37

The word **body** is the Greek word SOMA and means *"a number of men closely united into one family or mystical body."* The four faced, living creature on the Sea of Glass before the throne of God is the body of Christ He will put His head upon, to rule the nations for all eternity. Jesus spoke of His mystical body when He prayed to the Father:

"Father, glorify Thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." John 12:28

Jesus glorified His Father's name when He was on the earth. We are those who will glorify the Father's name IN the earth. Paul knew this when he wrote his second letter to the Thessalonians:

"When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe in that day." II Thessalonians 1:10

God will be glorified in His glorious temple He is building in the earth with the living stones He is shaping and molding after His will. Ezekiel continued his vision by the river. . .

"Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel." Ezekiel 1:15-16

Ezekiel was shown a wheel within a wheel. This wheel within a wheel represents our walk in God. Ezekiel was further shown:

"Whithersoever the Spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels." Ezekiel 1:20

The Spirit of God was in the wheels, yet the wheel within the wheel was going in one direction, while the wheel on the ground was going in another direction. This wheel within the wheel shows our struggle to find the way of God in our lives. We all desire to walk to be pleasing in the sight of God, but there seems to be another force taking us another way. As great a man as Paul was, he understood this dilemma:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good." Romans 7:15-16

The law Paul spoke of was not Moses' law, but the perfect law of liberty. James explained the perfect law of liberty:

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25

Those who are doers of the Word and are not forgetful hearers live their lives by the perfect law of liberty. Paul understood this law when he wrote to the church at Corinth:

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." I Corinthians 10:23

Paul knew, by the grace of God, that he was no longer under the law of sin and death, because in Christ he was free from the law of Moses and operated in a new law.

Paul continues explaining the dilemma we all face when man's natural inclinations go against the Word of God.

"Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Romans 7:17-18

Paul knew the sin in him was pulling him another way. The wheel within the wheel in Paul's life would not allow Paul to walk perfectly before His God upon the earth.

"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death!" Romans 7:19-24

As long as we are in this body of death we are not temple, but tabernacle (temporal). Ezekiel was shown God's permanent dwelling place in the four-faced living being, and the wheel within the wheel. When the overcoming process is complete, then this constant turmoil of the wheel within the wheel will cease.

As Ezekiel explained these four beings had one likeness. Each one who is striving to walk their Spiritual walk is dealing with that wheel within the wheel which continues to want to go its own way. Sometimes they fail to hear the still, small voice saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it," Isaiah 30:21

Ezekiel continues to show the house to the house:

"Afterward He brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar." Ezekiel 47:1

When we understand that Ezekiel was speaking of the temple God will build out of His Spiritual living stones, then we know this water is flowing from the innermost being of those who will become His temple. Jesus spoke of the water on the last day of the feast. He arose and proclaimed:

"He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of His belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." John 7:38-39

This water was issuing from the house (temple) that was facing east. Ezekiel was shown those who are looking for the new day, the day of God's Double Portion Anointing. God has a people who can see afar off and are looking for the change He has promised will come upon His people. Their minds are not on today, but the Lord's Day, the Seventh Day. Ezekiel continues:

"And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles." Ezekiel 47:3

When we first come into the anointing, our understanding and use of God's Word is very limited.

"Again He measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again He measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins." Ezekiel 47:4

When the waters (the anointed Word) comes to our knees, it begins to affect our walk, but when the waters come up to our loins, we can no longer move as we choose. Our direction can only be dictated by the Spiritual water.

"Afterward He measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over." Ezekiel 47:5

Once we are totally immersed in God's Word, our walk will be totally changed. We will no longer choose to walk as the old man directs, we will only move as the Holy Spirit directs. Paul explained this to the churches at Galatia:

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Galatians 5:16

When we are totally immersed in the Word, we will no longer desire to fulfil the lust of the flesh. Paul continues:

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

When we are totally immersed in God's Word, we begin to live in the Spirit. The word **live** means *"to enjoy real life, living our lives worthy of His name."* We need to look again at those whom Jesus revealed the living water would come forth in:

"He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:38

We are to believe on Jesus as the Scripture has revealed Him. Most believe on Jesus as their denominational system has taught them, or as some book has said. We need to believe on Jesus as the Holy Bible hath said.

After God showed Ezekiel the living water . . .

". . . He said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then He brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other." Ezekiel 47:6-7

This river that flows from the innermost being of God's people is going to be health to all His people. Jesus showed this same river to John on the Isle of Patmos:

"And He shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Revelation 22:1-2

This river was flowing from the throne of God. This river is flowing from those who have made their hearts (minds) the throne of God. The throne is where God rules from. These whom the river of life (the Word of God) is flowing from, have had their innermost being (their heart and soul) yielded to God to be used of the Father. Jesus is our example. He was totally yielded to His Father (the Holy spirit), and became the Saviour of the world.

Many times God uses trees when speaking of His people. On both sides of the river there was the Tree of Life which bear twelve manner of fruits. These twelve fruits are the fruit of the Spirit. Paul listed nine of these fruits in his letter to the churches at Galatia:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

There are three more fruit of the Spirit listed in God's Word:

- 1 Lowliness Ephesians 4:2
- 2 Righteousness James 3:18
- 3 Patience I Timothy 6:11

Those who produce these twelve fruit of the Spirit every month are those who Paul describes as. . .

" . . . they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."
Galatians 5:24

They that are Christ's or have become Christs (the anointed ones in the earth), have allowed the Holy Spirit complete and total access to their lives to shape them and mold them to become stones in Ezekiel's temple.

As Jesus proclaimed, these fruit are for the healing of the nations. Nations are peoples. The fruit of the Spirit is the only healing power to heal the body of Christ and make it whole. These will become His living temple where He will rule and reign for all eternity. Ezekiel continued his explanation of how this river will heal the nations:

"Then said He unto me, These waters issue out toward the east county, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth in the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh." Ezekiel 47:8-9

This river of life is going to touch every living thing. Everything this river (the Word of God) touches will be healed. Only the anointed Word of God can heal God's people. The prophet Isaiah was also shown this river of life:

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honour Me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to My people, My chosen. This people have I formed for Myself; they shall shew forth My praise." Isaiah 43:19-21

God has a people He has formed for Himself. These are those who will become His river of life flowing into all the earth. Ezekiel was shown the same vision Jesus showed John concerning His river of life:

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their

waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine." Ezekiel 47:12

As Jesus revealed, the leaves are for the healing of the nations. Ezekiel revealed one other aspect of those who are part of this river of life:

"And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat." Ezekiel 44:17-18

When God's people enter into the Inner Court (the Most Holy Place), they will be clothed in linen garments, linen bonnets, and linen breeches (pants). They will wear no wool or anything that causes sweat. These have ceased from their own labors. Paul explained this rest in his letter to the Hebrews:

"For if Jesus had given them rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His." Hebrews 4:8-10

We cannot enter into this rest in Jesus. We must enter into this rest in Christ Jesus the risen, glorified, all powerful Christ. This is God's seventh day rest. All who enter into this rest have ceased from their own labors (sweat) and have been clothed with the righteousness of God from their heads (bonnets) to the souls of their feet. Jesus revealed this elect group to John:

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." Revelation 19:7-8

Today, many claim to be the bride of Christ. But as Jesus showed John, the bride is the Holy City, New Jerusalem:

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And He carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:9-11

God's bride, His holy city, will be made up of those who are clothed in righteousness, and have become clear as crystal. These are those who will make up

the sea of glass before God's throne. Ezekiel gives us insight into what these who make up His holy temple will be:

"Neither shall they shave their heads, nor suffer their locks to grow long; they shall only poll their heads. And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean." Ezekiel 44:20 & 23

Today many churches are filled with those who have shaved heads, men with long hair, and with earrings dangling from their ears. Ezekiel makes it clear that the men are to poll (cut) their hair.

Those who shine in the firmament as stars will teach God's people the difference between the holy and the profane, and how His people can discern between what is clean (pure) in God's eyes, and what is unclean (evil).

God is cleansing a people who desire the things of God more than the things of this life. God is going to make these building stones in His Spiritual temple where He will dwell for all eternity. These will become a people of vision and substance to once again come into their original created place in God.