

## Ezekiel Lesson 46

Ezekiel Chapter 46

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**Introduction:** In Chapter 45, we found description of millennial Jerusalem and the Temple. Ezekiel also described the dimensions of the Temple complex and some of the duties of the Prince in the Millennium. In chapter 46, the descriptions of the workings of the millennial Temple continue noting the schedule for opening the eastern gate and further details concerning the sacrifices of the Temple.

### I. Description of the Inner Court

*Eze 46:1 Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened.*

*Eze 46:2 And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate without, and shall stand by the post of the gate, and the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate: then he shall go forth; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening.*

Announcement is made how the eastern gate of the inner courtyard of the Temple proper will be closed for the first six days of the week. But on the Sabbath Day it will be opened. It also will be opened on the first day of each month (i.e., the new moon) when special sacrifices will be offered. On the Sabbath Day each week, the Prince (i.e., the Messiah) will enter the Temple by way of the above noted eastern gate. He will stand by the prescribed pillar of the Temple.

*2Ch 23:13 And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.*

On the Sabbath Day the Prince Himself will offer a burnt offering and peace offerings, both of which are sweet savor offerings, are voluntary, and are not sacrifices for sin.

(1) The Messiah will set an example for others to so worship, thank, and honor God.

(2) The Messiah will worship His Father at the threshold of the main gate of the Temple proper.

(3) After He departs, the eastern gate will remain open the rest of the day until sundown.

As stated before in previous lessons, sacrifices in the Millennium will be memorials to Christ's finished work and basic worship: thanks, praise, and devotion.

*Eze 46:3 Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons.*

*Eze 46:4 And the burnt offering that the prince shall offer unto the LORD in the sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish, and a ram without blemish.*

*Eze 46:5 And the meat offering shall be an ephah for a ram, and the meat offering for the lambs as he shall be able to give, and an hin of oil to an ephah.*

The Messiah enter through the eastern gate of the millennial Temple to worship on the Sabbath Day and new moon days. The people may stop for worship from the eastern gate. They will not be allowed to enter through this gate. See verse 9. The Messiah will offer six lambs and one ram, all without blemish, each Sabbath Day. These will be for a burnt offering.

The Levitical burnt offering was a sweet-savor offering which means it was not for sin. It was a voluntary offering for worship, devotion, and thanks- giving to God. It likely will be the same during the Millennium. The Messiah will set the example for the worship of God the Father. The meal (i.e., meat) offering (again a sweet savor offering not for sin) will be an ephah of flour (about 40 liters) for the ram offered. The Messiah will also offer a meal offering by his hand for each lamb. The Messiah will also provide a hin of olive oil (about six liters) for each ephah of flour.

*Eze 46:6 And in the day of the new moon it shall be a young bullock without blemish, and six lambs, and a ram: they shall be without blemish.*

*Eze 46:7 And he shall prepare a meat offering, an ephah for a bullock, and an ephah for a ram, and for the lambs according as his hand shall attain unto, and an hin of oil to an ephah.*

On the first day of the new month (i.e., the new moon), the Messiah will offer a young bullock (i.e., steer) free of blemish, six lambs, and a ram—all free from any physical blemish. With the bullock, ram, and lambs, the Messiah will also offer a meal (i.e., flour) offering of an ephah (40 liters) for each mixed with a hin (six liters) of olive oil.

These various offerings will be non-efficacious. That is, they will not be for sin. Rather, they will be as an memorial of Christ's finished work and of worship of God the Father.

*Eze 46:8 And when the prince shall enter, he shall go in by the way of the porch of that gate, and he shall go forth by the way thereof.*

*Eze 46:9 But when the people of the land shall come before the LORD in the solemn feasts, he that entereth in by the way of the north gate to worship shall go out by the way of the south gate; and he that entereth by the way of the south gate shall go forth by the way of the north gate: he shall not return by the way of the gate whereby he*

*came in, but shall go forth over against it.*

When the Messiah enters the millennial Temple, He will do so by the portal of the eastern gate. He also will leave by that gate. All who entered by way of the northern gate, he then will be required to depart by way of the southern gate and vice versa. The implied thought may be he that entered the house of God should not return to his former ways. Coming near the presence of God should alter one's way of living.

*2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

*Eze 46:10 And the prince in the midst of them, when they go in, shall go in; and when they go forth, shall go forth.*

*Eze 46:11 And in the feasts and in the solemnities the meat offering shall be an ephah to a bullock, and an ephah to a ram, and to the lambs as he is able to give, and an hin of oil to an ephah.*

The Messiah, Jesus Christ, will not be isolated from His people in the millennial Temple, but will be in their midst. A parallel thought is found in Psalm 42:4.

*Psa 42:4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.*

When God's people come to the holy place, Jesus Christ will come with them. When they depart, He will be with them. It is mentioned in the last part of the great commission.

*Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Again, in the various holy feasts, the Messiah will be in the midst of the congregation of God. The word translated as solemnities (dewm mow'ed) is most frequently rendered as 'congregation' and refers to the appointed place for the assembly of God's people and in this case refers to the millennial Temple.

The greater point is that the Messiah will be in the midst of the people of God in the Temple on the prescribed holy days. Regarding the phrase, "as he is able to give," see comments in verse 5 for "as he is able to give." The point simply is that the Messiah, by His own hand, will provide the necessary sacrifices and their accouterments. Our Lord in that day will lead by example in the worship of God the Father.

## **II. Christ Will Come Through the Eastern Gate**

*Eze 46:12 Now when the prince shall prepare a voluntary burnt offering or peace offerings voluntarily unto the LORD, one shall then open him the gate that looketh toward the east, and he shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings, as he*

*did on the sabbath day: then he shall go forth; and after his going forth one shall shut the gate.*

*Eze 46:13 Thou shalt daily prepare a burnt offering unto the LORD of a lamb of the first year without blemish: thou shalt prepare it every morning.*

*Eze 46:14 And thou shalt prepare a meat offering for it every morning, the sixth part of an ephah, and the third part of an hin of oil, to temper with the fine flour; a meat offering continually by a perpetual ordinance unto the LORD.*

*Eze 46:15 Thus shall they prepare the lamb, and the meat offering, and the oil, every morning for a continual burnt offering.*

On week days when the eastern gate normally is not officially open, the Messiah may come and offer his voluntary burnt offering or peace offerings. A delegated person (i.e., a Levite) then shall open the eastern gate for Him to enter. He may come to offer such sacrifices to God the Father at His pleasure. In each case, the eastern gate will be opened on His arrival and then closed when He departs.

In verse 13, we find that God directed that during the Millennium, a daily burnt offering of a yearling lamb (free of any blemish) be prepared and offered every morning. Again, these sacrifices were for ongoing worship at the beginning of each day. Implicit is that God's people ought to begin each day in worship of their Creator and Savior.

In addition to the burnt offering offered each morning, a meal (i.e., meat) offering of fine flour, moistened with olive oil will be offered each morning. This will be done in perpetuity. The meal offering was one of thanksgiving and devotion to God. Thus, God's people ought to give thanks to God and show devotion to Him each morning.

These basic sacrifices will be offered every morning in the millennial Temple in perpetuity. Worship of God will go on there on a daily basis continually.

*Eze 46:16 Thus saith the Lord GOD; If the prince give a gift unto any of his sons, the inheritance thereof shall be his sons'; it shall be their possession by inheritance.*

*Eze 46:17 But if he give a gift of his inheritance to one of his servants, then it shall be his to the year of liberty; after it shall return to the prince: but his inheritance shall be his sons' for them.*

*Eze 46:18 Moreover the prince shall not take of the people's inheritance by oppression, to thrust them out of their possession; but he shall give his sons inheritance out of his own possession: that my people be not scattered every man from his possession.*

The Messiah is spoken of having sons during the Millennium and the inheritance which will be theirs. Though our Lord certainly has a physical male body, the whole of Scripture otherwise points toward His spiritual sons. See John 1:12.

*Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

That being the case, implied is special rewards to deserving sons to whom our Lord deems worthy of special gifts in that day. The possession mentioned undoubtedly refers

to a gift of land. Evidently, those who have faithfully served their Lord in this life may be awarded choice real estate in the kingdom coming. A distinction is here made in verse 17 between the sons of the Messiah and His servants. The latter may refer to those in the Millennium still in their physical bodies—those who entered the Millennium physically or their descendants.

Gifts of property by the Messiah to them will return back to Him in the year of liberty which likely refers to the year of Jubilee. Presumably, the Messiah may renew that option to them again at that time. However, gifts of real estate to His sons will be permanent. A spiritual application is how that our salvation in Christ is eternal.

In the day of the millennial Kingdom, the Messiah will not seize the duly inherited land of His people, oppress them, or evict them from their lands. Kings through the ages certainly have done so. But Jesus Christ will rule in righteousness. “And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins” (Isaiah 11:5). In giving gifts of land to His sons, the Messiah will only do so from His own possessions. What a privilege it will be in that day to receive a gift of the Messiah’s own private land.

### **III. Ezekiel Tells What He Saw Through the Entry Way at the Side of the Gate**

*Eze 46:19 After he brought me through the entry, which was at the side of the gate, into the holy chambers of the priests, which looked toward the north: and, behold, there was a place on the two sides westward.*

*Eze 46:20 Then said he unto me, This is the place where the priests shall boil the trespass offering and the sin offering, where they shall bake the meat offering; that they bear them not out into the utter court, to sanctify the people.*

The narrative now returns to Ezekiel being given a further tour of the millennial Temple. As a priest himself (see Ezekiel 1:3), Ezekiel had the privilege of being taken into the holy chambers of the priests in the millennial Temple. These chambers were on the north side of the Temple courtyard. Rooms there were to the west side.

In these privileged chambers, Ezekiel was shown the kitchen where the priests will prepare the various offerings which will then be offered on the altar outside. There, the trespass offering and sin offerings will be prepared as well as the meal offerings. These offerings will be prepared in private and not before the people where they might touch them.

*Eze 46:21 Then he brought me forth into the utter court, and caused me to pass by the four corners of the court; and, behold, in every corner of the court there was a court.*

*Eze 46:22 In the four corners of the court there were courts joined of forty cubits long and thirty broad: these four corners were of one measure.*

Ezekiel’s heavenly guide then took him back out into the outer courtyard of the Temple and led him around the four corners of that courtyard. In each corner, there will be a smaller courtyard for more specialized activities. These corner courtyards will be 40

Temple cubits (i.e., 80 feet) by 30 Temple cubits (i.e., 60 feet) wide. They all were of the same dimension.

Note: On Cubits, these are approximations. Most historians believe a cubit to be between 1.5 to 2 ft per cubit.

*Eze 46:23 And there was a row of building round about in them, round about them four, and it was made with boiling places under the rows round about.*

*Eze 46:24 Then said he unto me, These are the places of them that boil, where the ministers of the house shall boil the sacrifice of the people.*

These smaller courtyards evidently will have a row of four support pillars around them. In these smaller and enclosed areas were additional places to boil sacrifices with some shelter from the elements. These smaller courtyards in the corners of the outer courtyard of the Temple complex will be where Levites will boil the sacrifices of the people in preparation for sacrifice. Again, these sacrifices will be for memorials to Christ or of basic worship of God the Father.

John Gill said this about verse 24.

#### **Ezekiel 46:24**

**Then said he unto me, these are the places of them that boil,**.... The kitchens, in which those whose business it was to boil the sacrifices did it; and who they were are next declared:

**where the ministers of the house shall boil the sacrifice of the people;** these seem to be the Levites, as distinct from the priests before mentioned; though in this prophecy they are both used of the same persons; see [Eze 44:15](#), the sacrifice of the people were the peace offerings, which the people might eat of, but were first to be boiled; typical of peace and reconciliation made by Christ, held forth in the ministry of the word, called from thence the word of reconciliation: of the boiling of sacrifices; see Gill on [Eze 44:15](#). It is:

"the holy sacrifices of the people;"

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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*Email:* [KjvBibleStudiesMail@gmail.com](mailto:KjvBibleStudiesMail@gmail.com)

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