

Mountain of Vision

Question

Is vision something that we see or is it something that enters us?

Is The Mountain of Vision a place that you go too or does The Mountain of Vision get inside of you?

Ezekiel 40:2-4

²In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. ³He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. ⁴The man said to me, "Son of man, look carefully and listen closely and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the people of Israel everything you see."

Context

1. 25 years of bone crushing humiliating captivity.
2. Babylonian had captured them and now they were reduced to servanthood.
3. Lost land, people, culture, language, national identity.
4. The focus of all that Israel was about Jerusalem and the Temple.
5. 14 years since the destruction of Jerusalem.
6. He is taken by the H.S. to the mountain of vision.
7. It is that window that the Holy Spirit allows us to enter into a new area where we perhaps see things we have seen before **BUT** we did not behold or grab hold of or realize.
8. It is a place where the hands of God draw back the curtain and says look in here and see with your eyes and listen with your ears.
9. I have brought you to this place for this exact purpose that you might see this and understand.
10. Ezekiel.
 - a. Chapter 1 vision of God
 - b. Ch. 8 saw the sin of Jerusalem in a vision – the women caught up in a occult like blasphemous religion called Tamous. Creeping evil saw that in a vision.
 - c. Chapter 9 looked out over a city that had perfect health and he saw death.
 - d. Chapter 10 the glory of the Lord departing from the Temple.
 - e. Chapter 11 the glory of God departing from the entire city
 - f. Chapter 37 a vision of dry bones
 - g. Chapter 40
 - 1.) End of ministry after 25 years in exile.
 - 2.) God takes him out to a mountain where he sees the last great vision of his ministry.

- 3.) A vision of Glory.
- 4.) A vision of HUGE significance.
- 5.) Every word is important.

I. **God reveals himself to those with eyes to see.**
Ezekiel sees Jesus.

Ezekiel 40:3

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

- A. Vs. 3 is Jesus.
 - 1. Everything he needed is there.
 - 2. The man shining like burnished bronze.
 - 3. Referred to in Rev. 1:15 the exact same way.

Revelation 1:15

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

- 4. It is a picture and revelation of the pre-incarnate son of God.
- 5. The second person of the trinity.
- 6. Speaking to a prophet in **386 BC** of the foundation of the **Kingdom City**.
- 7. A city **Built** and **Designed by God**.
- 8. A vision of Christ.

Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you

Unpack

- 1. Spirit of wisdom.
- 2. Spirit of revelation
- 3. So that you may know him better.
- 4. Eyes of your heart enlightened...
- 5. Why so that ... you may know the hope to which he has called you.

Application

My hope is that today you would see Christ.
You would see Jesus Christ in a glorious, powerful way.

II. Jesus died to make me part of the temple that he is building and making.

- A. We are the Temple City and God is the builder and maker of this city.
 1. God is the builder and maker of this godly city.
 2. We are the temple and he is our builder and maker.

What is the City like?

Psalm 119:89

Forever, O Lord, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.

1. It is firmly fixed in heaven.

- a. I am seeing the foundation of everything we believe about God and our relationship with him.
- b. The essence of everything we believe to be true about God and our relationship with God.
- c. The place where our faith is.
- d. It is settled.

2. This city is a walled city.

- a. That means that it is both separated and protected.
- b. The wall is a wall of separation.
Separated from the world – called to holiness.

2 Corinthians 6:16-17

¹⁶ ...For we are the temple of the living God.

¹⁷ Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate says the Lord.

Application

- We are called to be separate.
- We are called to be different.
- We are called to look different and walk different and talk different.
- We are not called to look like and talk like and sound like and act like and smell like eat like or drink like the world.
- We are a "WALLED CITY"
- Separated out from the environment and culture that surrounds us.

- Come out from them and be separate!

c. The wall is a **wall of protection**.

- 1.) He is protecting us.
- 2.) Encouragement.
- 3.) There is protection within the city that is separated.
- 4.) When I obey God's command to be separate and come out from among them... I am protected.

3. **Layered city**.

- a. City filled with rooms.

John 14:2-3

² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4. **Windows filled with light**.

- a. Building city that is filled with light.
- b. I'm going to let light come in so you can see as you have never seen before.
- c. You will be able to see things that you have never been able to see before.

5. **Posts throughout the city**.

Ezekiel 41:17-20

¹⁷ In the space above the outside of the entrance to the inner sanctuary and on the walls at regular intervals all around the inner and outer sanctuary ¹⁸ were carved cherubim and palm trees. Palm trees alternated with cherubim. Each cherub had two faces: ¹⁹ the face of a human being toward the palm tree on one side and the face of a lion toward the palm tree on the other. They were carved all around the whole temple. ²⁰ From the floor to the area above the entrance, cherubim and palm trees were carved on the wall of the main hall.

- a. They alternate from palm trees and two faced creature.
- b. **Palm Trees** – statement of fruitfulness
- c. **Two Faced Creature** – one face like a man and one face like a Lion
 - 1.) Could it be that Ezekiel in Babylon understood the incarnate son of God?
 - 2.) He is at one and the same time **both man** and the **lion of the tribe of Judah**.

Revelation 5:4-5,9-10

I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

"You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

3.) He is both altogether man and all together God.

6. Filled with steps.

- a. Higher and higher.
- b. Keep stepping up with God.
- c. Growth in maturity in holiness and progress in our relationship with God.
- d. Keeps going higher and higher.
- e. Christians are never meant to remain still but to keep growing.
- f. Keep growing with God.
- g. Keep moving further and further. Stronger and stronger.

7. Filled with light.

- a. Not a dead building with precise measurements.
- b. Priests everywhere constantly praying and making sacrifices.
- c. Constant fires of sacrificial worship.
- d. Very vital place.

B. Ch. 43 vision of glory

1. In Vs. 3 We see that this same vision that he had by the river Kebar.
2. In other words, the god is the god of judgment and destruction is the god of renewal, return and restoration and indwelling glory.
3. In Vs. 5 the glory of God fills the house with radiant power and presence and light.
4. In Vs. 6-12 he beholds the throne, God in the midst.
5. Vs. 19-27 an altar of sacrifice constant everyday sacrifice 7 days a week.
Goat a bull and a ram.
6. Everyday a first born male sacrifice.
7. THE FIRST BORN MALE CHILD sacrificed on once and for all.
8. And it's on there every day!!!! 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

C. Ch. 44 priesthood of holiness

1. Vs 16 the ministry is unto God.
2. Their call is to “Keep my charge”

Ezekiel 44:16

They alone are to enter my sanctuary; they alone are to come near my table to minister before me and serve me as guards.

3. In other words -- **they obey God.**
4. Their ministry is unto God and their ministry is **one of obedience.**

Ezekiel 44:23

They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.

Unpack

- The work and ministry of the priesthood is to cause the people to grow up into the **maturity** and **wisdom** and **knowledge** to be able to **discern what is holy and what is unclean.**
- The priesthood is to be called into higher and higher levels to be able to see and measure as Christ sees and measures.

Application

- That corner is crooked. To be able to see it and to discern.
- This foundation won't last. That building won't cover. This wall is no good.
- To have the experienced eye of one who is trained by a master carpenter.

D. Ch 45 - A priesthood with an inheritance.

1. NT – Royal priesthood or kingdom of priests.
2. A whole kingdom full of priests – ministering unto God.
3. Living lives of obedience. Growing up in salvation and maturity.
4. Walking in holiness.
5. Making sacrifices of praise 365 days a year.
6. Priesthood with an inheritance.

E. Ch. 46 The Prince

Vs. 10

The **prince is to be among them**, going in when they go in and going out when they go out

Vs. 16

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: If the prince makes a gift from his inheritance to one of his sons, it will also belong to his descendants; it is to be their property by inheritance

Ephesians 4:8

“When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.”

Vs. 18

The prince shall not take any of the inheritance of the people, thrusting them out of their property. He shall give his sons their inheritance out of his own property, so that none of my people shall be scattered from his property. (ESV)

F. Ch. 47 the river busts out from under the Altar.

G. Ch 48 – a nation is described.

Application

We are a “covenant temple tabernacle people.”

III. God reveals himself to me as he builds me and makes me into his image.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works

Ezekiel 48:30-35

³⁰ “These will be the exits of the city: Beginning on the north side, which is 4,500 cubits long, ³¹ the gates of the city will be named after the tribes of Israel. The three gates on the north side will be the gate of Reuben, the gate of Judah and the gate of Levi.

³² “On the east side, which is 4,500 cubits long, will be three gates: the gate of Joseph, the gate of Benjamin and the gate of Dan.

³³ “On the south side, which measures 4,500 cubits, will be three gates: the gate of Simeon, the gate of Issachar and the gate of Zebulun.

³⁴ “On the west side, which is 4,500 cubits long, will be three gates: the gate of Gad, the gate of Asher and the gate of Naphtali.

³⁵ “The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits.

“And the name of the city from that time on will be:
the Lord is there.”

North - Reuben, Judah Levi.

East – Joseph, Benjamin Dan.

South - Simeon, Issachar Zebulun.

West - Gad, Asher Naphtali.

SO WHAT ????

Translate the names.....

Translate the names in the order of appearance.

1. Reuben = Behold a son
2. Judah = Praise
3. Levi = Joined as in “married”
4. Joseph = Let him add
5. Benjamin = His mother named him Ben-oni – Son of sorrow Father named him Son of my right hand. When Mary saw Jesus she said son of sorrow but when Father God saw him he said son of my right hand. Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father.
6. Dan = Judging
7. Simeon = Hearing
8. Issachar = He will bring a reward.
9. Zebulun = Dwelling or habitation
10. Gad = A Troop “gather the troops” - as in a multitude.
11. Asher = Blessed.
12. Naphtali = Wrestling

Every gate speaks of Christ as a person or his relationship to the church here below or above. They form a composite picture of our relationship with God – through the person Jesus Christ. A picture of you individually.

1. **Behold a son** – The message of the N.T. message. For unto us a child is born a son is given.
2. **Praise** – Praise that Son.
3. **Joined as in “married”** – Not only are we to praise him but we are to join him as in marriage. Married to God. Chosen by him to be his and his alone. Exclusively his. Marriage supper of the Lamb. Christ, savior, redeemer, forgiver but he is our husband. I’m ok with that. Thrilled.
4. **Let him add** – The book of Acts uses the phrase a lot. The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
5. **Son of my right hand** – Mary said son of sorrow but his father named him son of my right hand. The father looked over at Jesus on the cross and said “son of my right hand”
6. **Judging** – 2 Timothy 4:1 in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead...
7. **Hearing** – Let him that have ears let him hear. Jesus said this at least 6 times.
8. **He will bring a reward** – Rev. 22:12 – Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me.

9. **Dwelling** – And the word became flesh and dwelt among men.
10. **A Troop as in a multitude** – Jude 14 “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints.

Revelation 7:9

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

11. **Blessed** – we are blessed in HIM!
12. **Wrestling** – condition and present tense of the church in the condition that it is in now.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

What does it all mean?

1. A city that looks like a temple and a temple that looks like a city.
2. Filled with the presence of God.
3. Windows to let the light in.
4. Places of worship and altars of sacrifice.
5. There will be a river.
6. We are a temple of the Holy Spirit. **Don't you know that you are a temple of the HS!?**
7. This temple does not have a court for Gentiles – there is only one wall.
 - a. It means that I do not have to be born to a certain tribe or tongue or nation but that no matter who I am I must be born again.
 - b. Born of water and spirit. Born the first time and born again.
 - c. I must be born again.
 - d. Washed in the blood and named inscribed in the lambs book of life.

What does it mean?

1. Behold the son
2. Praise the son
3. For you are joined to him.
4. He will add to us daily
5. He is the son of God's right hand sitting there
6. He will return judging
7. Therefore, we must hear him
8. Because when he returns he must bring his reward.
9. He will dwell with us and we will dwell with him and he will be in the midst of us.

10. There will be a multitude too vast to be counted
11. For in him we are blessed and he is our blessing
12. Until Christ returns we must wrestle with the powers of darkness and occupy until he comes.

IV. God calls me into the river of growth and maturity.

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught...

A. Ch 48 – a nation is described.

1. Name after name after name.
2. Genealogy, tribe after tribe
3. The whole point to talk about these names is to say that God knows every name that is written in the Lambs Book of Life.
4. There is a role of names that are constantly before the eye of God.
5. He keeps records, they are precise and he knows those whose names are written in the Lambs Book of Life!
6. Every tribe, every kindred, every family and the least child in that family, in the most distant outpost.
7. There is not one single member of the family of God that whose name is not personally known to the God of the temple.
8. Holy Nation.

There is no court for gentiles. There is only one wall. In means in and I must be born of the spirit, etc.... talk about. Elaborate on it. There are no gentiles here.

B. The Vision is filled with measurement.

- a. Strange, Jesus goes through the last few chapters and measures **everything**.
- b. He walks through with a ruler in his hand.
- c. Ezekiel is watching and he measures every post and every wall, ceiling and floor.
- d. He is in the constant posture of measuring.
- e. This is my temple and I am the author and finisher and **I want it right**.
- f. **I want it straight** and **I want it's corners perfect**.
- g. It's **designed by me** – I am it's **builder** and **maker** -
- h. I am going to **measure** it and **measure** it and **change it** and **change it**.

- i. I'm going to measure it and change it until all of its rough edges are smoothed off.
- j. Until it's perfect.
- k. Until it's holiness reflects my own character and nature. Until it is right.

C. Ch. 47 the river busts out from under the Altar.

1. This man Jesus takes the prophet Ezekiel and says... see these rooms, wall upon wall, layer upon layer, see these windows, see the light streaming in here, see this sacrifice, see the smoke curling up into the nostrils of God.
2. See this priesthood holy filled with discernment righteousness growing, see all this voices, see all this light and all this glory of God.
3. Now watch this... Look at the Altar...

Ezekiel 47:1-2

¹ In my vision, the man brought me back to the entrance of the Temple. There I saw a stream flowing east from beneath the door of the Temple and passing to the right of the altar on its south side. ² The man brought me outside the wall through the north gateway and led me around to the eastern entrance. There I could see the water flowing out through the south side of the east gateway.

Unpack

1. River Runs down along the side of the building and it runs out.
2. The man Jesus says come out here and he leads him out.
3. Now step into the water.
4. He steps into the water and he can feel it is moving so swiftly and powerfully as if his feet are going to be jerked out from under him.
5. Ezekiel says wait a minute. This is as far as I want to go. Let me just hold your hand.
6. Reaches for Jesus

Constant fruitfulness.

Healing - Everything that touches it is healed.

The trees and the leaves of the trees are healed.

Ezekiel 47:11 - But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

The back areas where water used to flow.

It flowed in and got trapped.

Now the major stream flows another way – they will not live they will die.

If it is not touch by the river will die and not live.

If there be any place in my life that I used to feel the flowing river of the Holy Spirit but now it has become nothing but a low-lying backwater / a swampy marshy remnant of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion**Application**

- Don't be dry. Don't be stagnant.
- Swim in the river. Step out into the river.