

All this talk about a temple and its detailed construction. Now we're studying the priests and the sacrifices. If this temple is in the future, why are we talking about sacrifices? Wasn't Jesus the final sacrifice?

Ezekiel is not yet done communicating God's thoughts and plans to us. God's glory is going to come back to shine on His people. We look forward to the time when God will dwell with His people, but there are still some events that need to occur first. God is still at work bringing His plan to fruition, and His desire is to make that known to us in part now, but in His time, His plan will be revealed in its entirety. What an honor to know that the King of the universe wants to be our friend and reveal His plan to us just as He did with Abraham. God entered into a covenant relationship with Abraham and considered Abraham His friend (II Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). As his friend, God revealed to Abraham what was about to happen to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:17-19). In John 15:14-16, Jesus tells us that we are His friends if we do what He commands. We are no longer slaves who don't know what their Master is doing, but we are His friends and He makes known to us the things of the Father. What a privilege! God is wonderful!

DAY 1

1. To begin our study this week, read Ezekiel 43:1-5. This will put you into context for chapter 44. You will also want to refer to the pictures on page 161 from last week's lesson.
2. Now let's observe Ezekiel 44. Ezekiel was told that he was to "mark well, see with his eyes, hear with his ears . . ." all that God says. Why has so much emphasis been put on this temple and the sacrificial system? If this temple is something in the future, why the sacrifices? Wasn't Jesus the final sacrifice? There is something here that must be important. Something that needs to be seen and heard. As you observe mark the following words or phrases. Some may already be on your card, but this will act as a reminder, so you don't miss them.
 - a. *prince* (add this to your card - you will see it repeated in these last chapters)
 - b. *sanctuary* (*house, house of the Lord*)

c. *Levites (priests)* - The *sons of Zadok* are also priests but mark these differently - maybe the same marking but add a “Z” to it. We saw this group mentioned in Ezekiel 40:46 and 43:19. Go back and mark those as well.

d. *offerings*

e. *iniquity*

f. *abominations*

g. *sabbath*

h. *gate facing east*

3. Read through this chapter again and record paragraph themes.

a. 44:1-3

b. 44:4-8

c. 44:9-14

d. 44:15-27

e. 44:28-31

4. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 44 on your Observation Worksheets and “At a Glance” chart.

DAY 2

Today we are going to look at the sons of Zadok. As we seek answers on who these people are and how they live, we want to look for applications to our own lives.

1. Read Ezekiel 44:10-31 and list what you learn about the priests and their labor in the house of the Lord. What sets them apart from other people. I Peter tells us that we are a kingdom of priests (I Peter 2:5, 9) so does any of this apply to us?
 - a. Numbers 18:8, 19
 - b. Numbers 25:1-13
 - c. Malachi 2:1-8
2. We are told that those who have gone far from God will remain as ministers in God's sanctuary. They won't come near to God and serve as priests; they won't come near God's holy things, yet God appoints them to keep charge of the house and its service. Why would that be? Why wouldn't God banish them to some far away place? These are all good questions that need to be thought through and answered to the best of our ability. Read the following verses and see if they help us to answer these questions. It may seem confusing, but it will clear up as you go. Just read slowly and carefully, making careful observations asking the 5W's and H questions.

d. Jeremiah 33:14-18

3. Who are the sons of Zadok? Are they priests, and if so why did we mark them differently? Let's dig deeper into God's Word and see what we can discover. Read the following passages and record what you learn.

a. Ezekiel 40:45-46; 43:19

b. I Chronicles 6:3-8. Show the genealogy of Zadok.

c. I Samuel 2:11-17, 27-36. This doesn't mention the sons of Zadok, but it gives you great insight into how corrupt the priests were getting and how God dealt with them. Record what you learn.

d. I Kings 2:10-35. Zadok will be mentioned at the end, but you need to understand the events surrounding the appointment of Zadok.

4. Application time. What can you learn from the sons of Zadok, the corrupt priests, and God's dealings with them. How does that apply to your life? What warnings need to be heeded? What does it mean when God makes a covenant promise? What have you learned about a covenant of peace?

DAY 3 AND 4

1. You are going to observe Ezekiel 45 and 46 together. There is a map at the end of this lesson that may help clarify these chapters. You will also want to continue to refer to the Temple Complex pictures located on page 161 of last week's lesson. Look for and mark these words as well as others that are on your Bible marking card.
 - a. any references to the *land (of Israel)*
 - b. *atonement*
 - c. *festivals and feasts*
 - d. *city (when referring to Jerusalem)*
2. Let's read through it again and record paragraph themes.
 - a. 45:1-5
 - b. 45:6
 - c. 45:7-8
 - d. 45:9
 - e. 45:10-12
 - f. 45:13-17

g. 45:18-20

h. 45:21-25

i. 46:1-10

j. 46:11-12

k. 46:13-15

l. 46:16-18

m. 46:19-20

n. 46:21-24

3. Record chapter themes for Ezekiel 45-46 on your Observation Worksheets and “At a Glance” chart.

DAY 5

1. Are you getting weary yet? Hang in there, we’re almost done. Finish strong! Most of us aren’t familiar with the sacrificial system and the offerings that are mentioned in Ezekiel. Unfortunately, we have been trained to just read right through it and even if we don’t have a clue of what is being said, we haven’t been encouraged to take the time to look it up. Well, it is worth the time, and we are going to stop long enough to look this up, so we can hear with our ears and see with our eyes and mark it well.

a. Leviticus 1:1-5, 14 (burnt offering)

b. Leviticus 2:1-3 (grain offering)

c. Leviticus 4:1-12 (sin offering)

d. Leviticus 5:1-6 (guilt offering)

e. Leviticus 7:11-18 (peace offering)

2. There is an observation worksheet for Hebrews 10:1-18 at the end of this lesson. Take time to observe this passage and as you read, mark the following key words.
 - a. *sacrifice*
 - b. *offering*
 - c. *Law*
 - d. *sin*
3. What did you learn from Hebrews 10:1-18. Be specific and detailed and don't forget to include the verse number with each point.

Hebrews 10:1-18

¹ For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

³ But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

“SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED,
BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

⁶ IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE
TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

⁷ “THEN I SAID, ‘BEHOLD, I HAVE COME
(IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME)
TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.’”

⁸ After saying above, “SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE in them” (which are offered according to the Law),

⁹ then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰ By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

¹¹ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

¹² but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

13 waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.

14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,

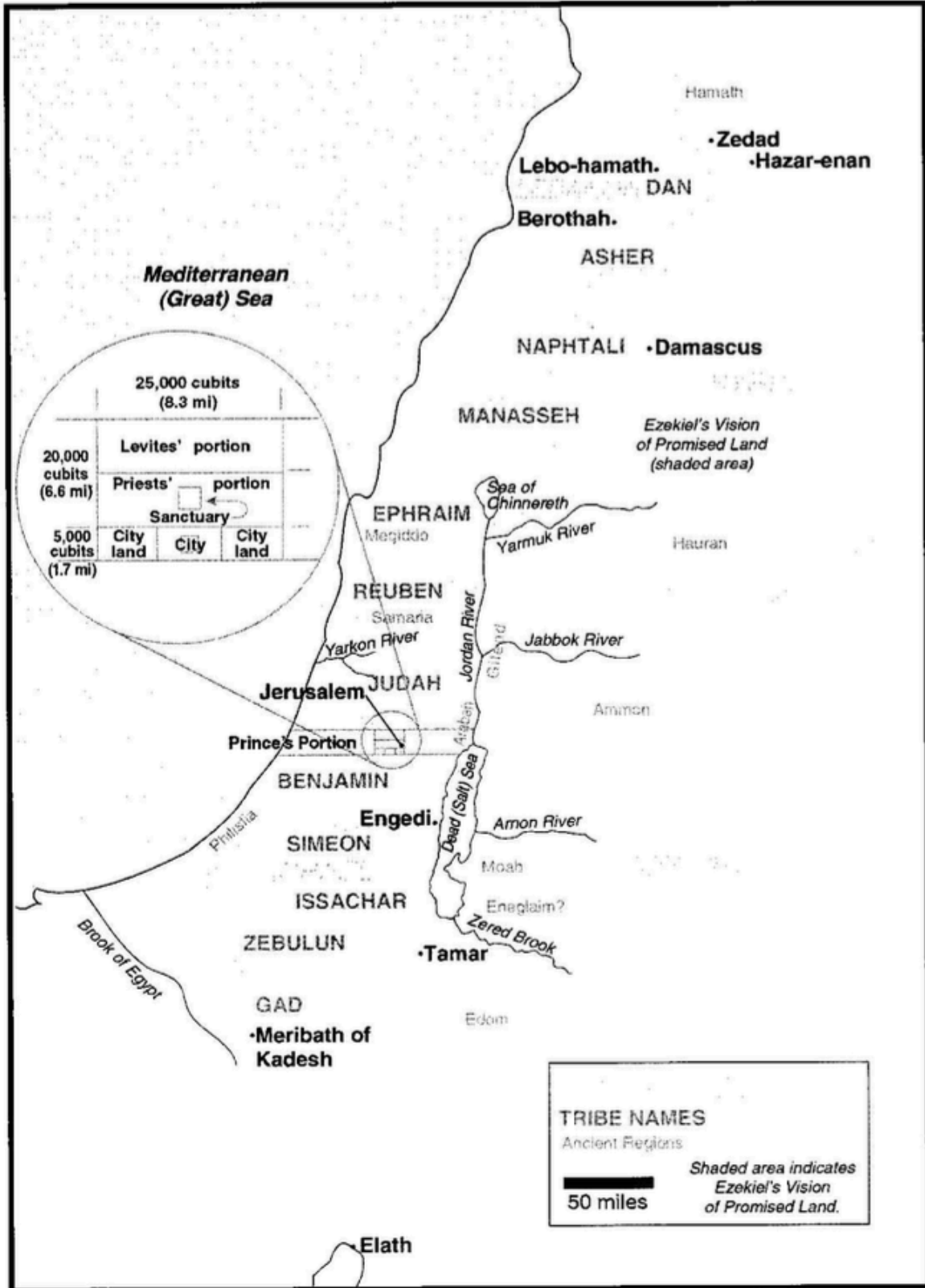
16 “THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM
AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD:
I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART,
AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM,”

He then says,

17 “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS
I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.”

18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

EZEKIEL'S VISION



Ezekiel

Lesson 14, Chapters 44-46