

# ***When God Built the New Temple***

***International Bible Lesson***

***Ezekiel 43:1-12***

***Sunday, November 2, 2014***

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*“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—KJV).*

*“When they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the plan of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, and its whole form—all its ordinances and its entire plan and all its laws; and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe and follow the entire plan and all its ordinances” (Ezekiel 43:11—NRSV).*

God appeared to Ezekiel when he lived in Babylon among many of the most important exiled religious and political leaders. God wanted Ezekiel to foretell that He would destroy Jerusalem and the temple because the people continued to rebel against Him. God told Ezekiel that after they felt ashamed for their sins he could tell them the vision of how they were to build a new temple in Jerusalem that He could inhabit. God commanded them not to profane the new temple as they had desecrated their former temple. In the closing chapters of Ezekiel, God revealed the temple specifications that He expected the builders to obey. Unfortunately, just as they had disobeyed God earlier, when they returned to Jerusalem they disobeyed God again by refusing to build their second temple as God had commanded them. If God had not sent later prophets to those who returned to Jerusalem from exile, they might never have built a second temple at all. Because they did not build their second temple the way God commanded, God never indwelt it. However, God did return to His people when He sent Jesus Christ into the world. After Jesus rose from the dead, He sent God’s Spirit into believers so they could become the new temple of God. What God’s people refused to do, God did in a better way through His Son.

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## Thinking Further

1. Who was supposed to build the temple in Ezekiel's vision according to the plan God gave Ezekiel?

2. Why do you think the most important temple gate faced east?

3. In his vision, how was the person who met Ezekiel on the very high mountain in Jerusalem different from Ezekiel's vision of the Lord?

4. What was the most encouraging and hopeful part of Ezekiel's vision?

5. What were the people who returned from exile supposed to stop doing when they returned to their land?