

***Study Hints for Thinking Further***  
***International Bible Lessons***

**Ezekiel 43:1-12**

**Sunday, November 2, 2014**

**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

**Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

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

The house of Israel (Ezekiel 40:4; 43:11, 12).

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

Facing the east might have been symbolic for these reasons:

1. The Garden of Eden was east of Jerusalem.
2. The sun rises in the east, so the early morning light, the first light of day, would shine on the gate and the temple.
3. The Jews had been taken to the east from Jerusalem to Babylon. Those who returned to Jerusalem would return from the east.
4. God would return from the east to the temple after it was built, because He was with His people in Babylon during their exile.
5. Wise men, perhaps descendants of Daniel and other Jewish exiles who did not return to Jerusalem after their exile, came from the East to worship Jesus.

**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?**

The man’s appearance shone like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring reed in his hand, and he spoke to Ezekiel to guide him in his vision (Ezekiel 40:2-4). The God of Israel came to the Temple in His glory with the sound of mighty waters and the earth shone with His glory. The LORD came as Ezekiel had seen Him before (see Ezekiel 1 and 10). In his vision, the LORD would speak to Ezekiel from the temple.

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

After the LORD left Jerusalem and His people, He would return to Jerusalem and His people. He showed them what to do so they could properly worship Him again in a new temple.

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

Neither they nor their kings were to defile His holy name, worship idols, or bring their corpses onto holy temple grounds.

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