

GOD'S PRESENCE RETURNS

CLAYTON KEENON | MARCH 23 & 24, 2024

EZEKIEL 40-48

The Story of God's Presence

God's presence means _____.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. As we wrap up Ezekiel, watch the Bible Project video on Ezekiel (Part 2) to look back and put some of the pieces together, as well as get an overview of Ezekiel 40-48 that we are talking about today.
 2. What do you do when you are reading the Bible on your own and you come across a passage that is hard to understand?
 3. What are some things you can observe in a passage that will help you figure out what it means? (Note: If you are not sure how to answer this question, try biblesavvy.com. Go to the page on the COMMA method and read what it says under "Observation.")
 4. What is the significance of the temple in the Bible? Why does it matter so much?
 5. Where was the original temple in the Bible? In other words, where did humans first come into God's place to encounter God's presence?
 6. Read Ezekiel 43:1-9, which describes the glory of God returning to the temple. What is the link between God's statement, "I will live among the Israelites forever," and his statement that "the people of Israel will never again defile my holy name" (Ezekiel 43:7)?
 7. How would your life change if God moved into a house down the street from you? How does that explain the expectations placed on Israel because they had God's temple?
 8. Recap the three interpretations of Ezekiel's vision that Pastor Clayton mentioned in the sermon. What are the arguments for each of these interpretations? Why did Pastor Clayton favor the interpretation he did?
 9. What does it mean to be holy? Why is it good news that God is holy? Why is it good news that we get to be holy?
 10. Is there an area of your life where you need to grow in holiness? What practical steps do you need to take towards that?
 11. Read Ezekiel 47:1-12. What is the significance of the fact that the river flows out of the temple?
 12. What effect does the river in Ezekiel 47 have on the places where it flows?
 13. Where else does the imagery from Ezekiel 47:1-12 occur in the Bible? (Hint: If you start from the back and flip forward, it won't take you long to find it.)
 14. How will the presence of God give us life in the New Creation? How does the presence of God give life to us here and now?
 15. How are you preparing yourself for the celebration of new life on Easter?
- PRAYER PROMPT: Share an area of your life where you need to grow in holiness. Have each person pray for someone else in the group. Pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit in their life would empower them to keep God at the center and live in holiness.