

“Worship Reorganized!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Mark Ritter** – sharing next week & I want him to wet your appetite for his topic.
- 1.2. Ezekiel wrap up!

2. WORSHIP REORGANIZED! (44)

- 2.1. Note the emphasis on the word “My”. (vs.7,8)
 - 2.1.1. My sanctuary; My house; My food; My covenant; My holy things.
- 2.2. (15) **Unfaithfulness in service** can lead to **loss of privileges**, but **faithfulness** can mean bring able to **draw near** to serve the Lord.
- 2.3. (10-31) Somebody must **serve** in the temple, so God gave Ezekiel instructions concerning the Levites & priests.

3. FUTURE SACRIFICES! (45)

- 3.1. (18-25) **Future sacrifices!** – Since Jesus has fulfilled all the OT sacrifices in Himself, why would God reinstate them in future temple worship?¹
- 3.2. [1] These sacrifices are **not propitiatory!** (designed to appease or win favor)
 - 3.2.1. It was certainly not for the purpose of dealing with **sin**, for Christ’s sacrifice did that **once for all**, & the blood of bulls & goats **never did** talk away sin (Heb.10:1-4).
- 3.3. [2] These sacrifices are **memorial!**
 - 3.3.1. It seems that these future sacrifices, **like** the **Lord’s Supper today**, will be memorials of what Jesus **did**. They will teach the Jews the meaning of their ancient religion in the light of the cross.
 - 3.3.2. Remember, the **Lord’s Supper** is only for the Church age, “**for as often as you eat this bread & drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.**” – It will never be celebrated again, after the saint of God leave this earth.
 - 3.3.2.1. So it seems that the sacrifices will be **the new memorial** of the cross & the whole wonderful story of the redemption.
 - 3.3.2.2. **And what a memorial these sacrifices will be!** (how much more visual, & less sterol)
- 3.4. [3] These sacrifices are **not** a reinstatement of the **Levitical system!**
 - 3.4.1. There are some similarities, but many **differences**.
 - 3.4.1.1. Temple doesn’t have the same dimensions; ark is absent; tables of the law are missing; as is Aaron’s rod; mercy seat; high priest; veil; showbread; lamp stand; & the feast of Pentecost & Atonement don’t exist.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.556

3.4.1.2. In view of these differences, these sacrifices **cannot** be a reinstatement of the Levitical System.

3.5. That's why I called this "*Worship Reorganized!*"

4. **NEVER LEAVE AS YOU CAME! (46)**

4.1. (9) We should not **return** from worship **as we came!**

4.1.1. Things should be different because we have met the Lord.

5. **COME ON IN...THE WATERS FINE! (47)**

5.1. (1-12) Similarities between this event & Rev.22 yet they are distinct.

5.1.1. **Rev** deals with the eternal state; **Ezekiel** deals w/the millennium.

5.2. **Q: Remember learning how to swim?** (I was 10, late)

5.3. **Q: Remember the 1st time you went in the deep end of the pool?** (fear, faith, trust)

5.4. This **river** speaks of the **healing & life giving power** of the H.S. of God.

5.4.1. Let's look at its **Source, Course, & Force!**

5.5. **[1] SOURCE!** – From under the threshold of the Temple. (vs.1a)

5.6. Jerusalem had **no natural river**(like most ancient capitals); **but** here a **supernatural river** is seen flowing from the house of God.

5.6.1. Doesn't the Holy Spirit flow down to us as rivers of living water?

5.6.1.1. **Read Jn.7:37-39 (esp.39)**

5.6.2. This **river** speaks of the **healing & life giving power** of the H.S. of God.

5.7. **[2] COURSE!** – Toward the East. (vs.1b)

5.8. **Why eastward?** – Toward the east country is the **desert** & the **Dead Sea**(*explain*).

5.8.1. Which needs to be healed (1 from its barrenness & 1 from its bitterness)!

5.8.2. The **barren** will become **fruitful** & the **bitter** to be **healed**.

5.8.3. **Barrenness becomes Loveliness & Sterility becomes Productivity!**

5.8.4. What a picture of the **Spirit-filled, & Spirit-controlled Christian life!**

5.9. **Illustration: In Blythe** it's mostly farmland. They have many cement water troughs that surround their fields. At each turn they have a "**sluice-gate**"(flood-gate) that controls the flow.

5.9.1. Jesus opened the **Spirit-gate** at Pentecost. And as water seeks its own course, **He seeks to channel His course through consecrated believers**, so as to communicate **new life & abundance** in the midst of surrounding **spiritual death & unfruitfulness!**

5.10. **[3] FORCE!** – ankles, knees, waist, swim. (vs.3-5)

5.11. 1st it reaches his **ankles**, then **knees**, then **waist**, then deep enough to **swim** in.

5.11.1. To the babes in Christ, there are the **shallows** for **wading**.

5.11.2. For others, the waters are **knee deep**, enough for **splashing**.

- 5.11.3. Then there are **waters up to the waist**, for those **learning to swim**.
- 5.11.4. And finally, the **deep waters** for the **well-trained swimmers**.
- 5.12. God wants us to be **swimmers** not “*puddlers*”!
- 5.12.1. **We must** grow up to full Christian manhood/womanhood until we can **live in the deep waters of the Spirit**.
- 5.12.2. **Q: How can you learn to swim if you avoid the water?**
- 5.13. No matter **how deep** you want to go into the things of God the opportunity is there.
- 5.13.1. It's tragic that too many linger in the **shallows** when they could be enjoying the **depths**.
- 5.14. Some **young believers** are swimming in the deep end right away!
And unfortunately some **older Christians** are only up to their ankles!
- 5.14.1. The **fullness** is for you just **down stream** a little bit!
- 5.14.2. **Another words**, the **deeper the channel** through our **hearts & lives**, the more **deeply** the Holy Spirit will **flow through us**.
- 5.14.3. It's not **claiming** it, it is **yielding** to it.
- 5.14.4. You **can't commandeer** these waters, so stop asking, claiming, praying, begging, & start yielding. **Let them start having there ways in us**. There is no restraint on the part of the Holy Spirit.
- 5.15. **The fresh-flowing, ever-deepening, heart-gladdening, life-transforming river is there for us! Oh that we might find those waters to swim in.**
- 5.16. (13-23) Borders – The divisions & geographical changes in the land.
- 5.16.1. Israel was **promised the land** under the *Abrahamic Covenant*.
- 5.16.2. It was **unconditional** – its fulfillment was based on **God's promise alone**. (reiterated in Deut.30:1-10)
- 5.16.3. It is **divided equally** between the 12 tribes, with Joseph receiving a **double portion** through his sons (Ephraim & Manasseh)

6. **JEHOVAH SHAMMAH! (48)**

- 6.1. God assigns **our inheritance** & He will keep his covenant to Abraham & give Israel her land.
- 6.2. The important thing about the land is not the **river** or the **border** but **the glorious presence of God**.
- 6.3. (35) **Jehovah Shammah** (**The Lord is there**) is one of 9 special names of God in OT.
- 6.3.1. **Jehovah Jireh** “The Lord will **provide**/see to it” (Gen.22:14);
Jehovah Rophe “The Lord who **heals**” (Ex.15:26);
Jehovah Nissi “The Lord our **banner**” (Ex.17:15);
Jehovah M'Kaddesh “The Lord who **sanctifies**” (Lev.20:8);
Jehovah Shalom “The Lord our **peace**” (Judges 6:24);
Jehovah Tsidkenu “The Lord our **righteousness**” (Jer.23:6);
Jehovah Rohi “The Lord my **shepherd**” (Ps.23:1);
Jehovah Sebaoth “The Lord of **hosts/armies**” (Ps.46:7).

- 6.4. **Jehovah Shammah** – The Lord had **departed** from Jerusalem because of the sins of the people, **but** He will **return to dwell with them & bless** them.
- 6.4.1. **Jehovah Shammah** emphasizing the Lord's **preeminence & presence** in millennial Jerusalem.
- 6.5. As we've consider God's name we see **His magnificence**.
- 6.5.1. We've been introduced to the God who **created** us and desires to have a **relationship** w/us.
- 6.5.2. We've been forced to **think rightly of Him!**
- 6.6. **Story:** Pastor **Harry Fosdick** often counseled w/students from **Columbia University**. One evening, a student told him that he could no longer believe in God. Dr. Fosdick asked the student to **describe the God he didn't believe in**. When the student finished sketching his idea of God, Dr. Fosdick stated, "Well, we're in the same boat. I don't believe in that God either."
- 6.7. **Look up** suffering Christian! **Rejoice** discouraged believer! Jesus Christ is coming again, & He will institute righteousness, comfort every believer, & wipe away every tear.
- 6.7.1. Joy, peace, comfort, & gladness will belong to all believers – for eternity!