

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ The Papou Study Bible is a daily study provided by me to



help folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis) never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory

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Ezekiel 40 Part 2²



Last time we saw a Scripture in Revelation that gave me room to pause and reconsider what this prophecy might just mean. It was in Revelation 20:22. It reads this way:

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

If this is the case, then why is this very detailed prophecy in Ezekiel given about a literal temple with places for sacrifices and singers and priests. I have begun to discern that God has been speaking to us in parables for much longer than the day of Jesus. What does this parable mean? Let’s read and learn.

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

New Jerusalem: God and the Lamb are the Temple³

In Revelation 21:22 John tells us, **“I saw no temple in it [New Jerusalem], for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”** By faith we have entered.

The New Testament was written in Greek, which has distinct words for “in” and for “into.” According to the New Testament we do not merely believe in Jesus Christ, acknowledging something about Him. Rather, we believe “into Him.”

- “these little ones who believe into Me” Matthew 18:6
- “believe into His name” John 1:12
- “every one who believes into Him may have eternal life” John 3:15, 16
- “Do you believe into the Son of God?” John 9:35

*Revelation says that God Himself, God and the Lamb, will be the temple for us who serve Him to dwell in. Our dwelling place in eternity is God Himself....We will dwell in God. He is our temple and we are His tabernacle. He dwells in us and we dwell in Him, and this mutual dwelling is the New Jerusalem, which to God is the tabernacle and to us is the temple. We enjoy a foretaste of this today when we abide in the Lord and the Lord abides in us (John 15:5). This mutual abode will be enlarged in eternity to be the New Jerusalem where God will be our dwelling place and we will be His dwelling place.**

It is not only in New Jerusalem that God will be our dwelling and we will be His dwelling. This is true since the Lord’s resurrection, as He spoke in John 14:20 and 15:5.

John 14:20 New International Version (NIV)

²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

John 15:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

³ <https://newjerusalem12.wordpress.com/2020/02/14/new-jerusalem-god-and-the-lamb-are-the-temple/>

So with that being said . . ., let’s faithfully study this chapter, first for what it says literally, and then plumb its meaning for us.

Ezekiel 40 New International Version (NIV)

The Temple Area Restored

40 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the LORD was on me and he took me there. ² In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. ³ He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. ⁴ The man said to me, “Son of man, look carefully and listen closely and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the people of Israel everything you see.”

These were Ezekiel’s marching orders, and by extension our marching orders too.

- 1. Look carefully**
- 2. Listen closely**
- 3. Pay attention to everything.**
- 4. Tell the people of Israel what you say**

We must pay the most careful attention , therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. Hebrews 2:1
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The literal phrase in this passage means “put your heart” to this---or “set your heart” on this. I’m going to switch to the CSB translation, because it uses “feet” instead of cubits.

The Wall and Outer Gates

5 Now there was a wall surrounding the outside of the temple.

Designed to separate the sacred from the secular.

The measuring rod in the man’s hand was six units of twenty-one inches; each unit was the standard length plus three inches.

Without getting into too many details here, Ezekiel used the “long cubit,” which was about seven handbreadths, or 21 inches. This was an older measurement than the shorter cubit, which was about six handbreadths, or 18 inches. Ezekiel was describing what the NIV calls “the new community” of the restored people of God. He was going back to a more ancient measure. This is interesting, because it implies “older” (hence more original) is better.

He measured the thickness of the wall structure; it was 10½ feet,] and its height was the same.

6 Then he came to the gate that faced east and climbed its steps.

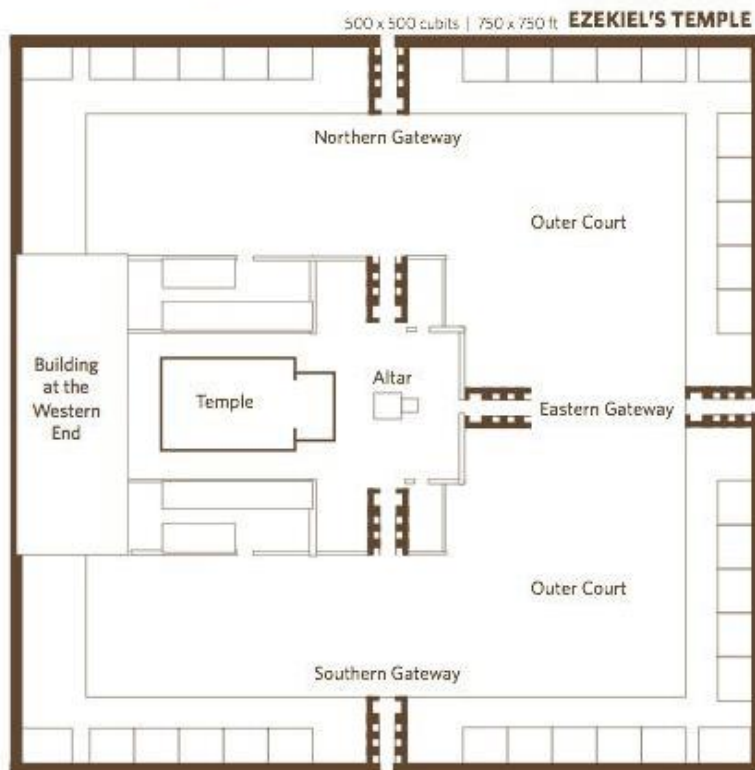
So let's try visualize. A wall 10.5 feet thick, and 10.5 feet high. This is two feet higher than your normal ceiling in a house. Ten foot thick walls is probably like the shorter dimension of a small bedroom.

He measured the threshold of the gate; it was 10½ feet deep—one threshold was 10½ feet deep. 7 Each recess (NIV calls these “alcoves”) was 10½ feet long and 10½ feet deep, and there was a space of 8¾ feet between the recesses. The inner threshold of the gate on the temple side next to the gate’s portico was 10½ feet. 8 Next he measured the gate’s portico; 9 it was 14 feet, and its jambs were 3½ feet. The gate’s portico was on the temple side.

Ok. I have a very difficult time visualizing this. What is a “portico” and a “jamb” and a “recess” (or “alcove”)? Since God told us to pay attention, I’m going to. Let’s look up these words⁴, and see if we can find some pictures that help.

Portico	Jamb	Recess	Alcove
A porch or walkway with a roof supported by columns, often leading to the entrance of a building.	vertical sides of a doorway or window	An indentation or small hollow	A recess or partly enclosed extension connected to or forming part of a room.

Here is a picture of the way it possibly looked. This may help as we read it.⁵



⁴ <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/portico>

⁵ <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/34/09/c1/3409c11284abfe52fc0e88c30e4ce6e8.jpg>

I'll do a close up on the gates, and see if it helps us visualize it better as we read it.



10 There were three recesses on each side of the east gate, each with the same measurements, and the jambs on either side also had the same measurements. 11 Then he measured the width of the gate's entrance; it was $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet, while the width of the gate was $22\frac{3}{4}$ feet. 12 There was a barrier of 21 inches in front of the recesses on both sides, and the recesses on each side were $10\frac{1}{2}$ feet square. 13 Then he measured the gate from the roof of one recess to the roof of the opposite one; the distance was $43\frac{3}{4}$ feet. The openings of the recesses faced each other. 14 Next, he measured the porch—105 feet. 15 The distance from the front of the gate at the entrance to the front of the gate's portico on the inside was $87\frac{1}{2}$ feet. 16 The recesses and their jambs had beveled windows all around the inside of the gate. The porticoes also had windows all around on the inside. Each jamb was decorated with palm trees.



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/be/94/1f/be941f926a6fd6013d436d77bba04717.jpg>

Ok. I'm seriously trying to pay attention here. Let me see if I can grasp what I'm reading. I'm trying to be a bit of an Indiana Jones here discovering an ancient artifact.

You climb up the steps of the gate (7, it will say later in verse 22 of this chapter). You come to a Threshold that is $10\frac{1}{2}$ foot deep. You're in a "room" in which on either side are three alcoves or recesses (closets without doors?) 10.5 feet long and 10.5 feet deep. There are about 9 feet between each recess. There is an inner threshold 10.5 feet wide. And the gate has a portico (a porch or walkway with a roof supported by columns, often leading to the entrance of a building). It was 14 feet and had $3\frac{1}{2}$ foot jambs. This portico is inside the courtyard, on the temple side of the wall. Plus, you are seeing reliefs of palm trees carved onto the jambs. We're about to go into the outer court. We'll do that tomorrow.