

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 43 Part 2 ²




The Glory of the Lord returns to the Temple, by the same way which it came. And God seems to have a point to all this. To help the Israelites realize the difference between what is holy, and what is not. It seems that past kings ensured that their memorial monuments were set up near the Temple. That was too near---for God, and for Ezekiel. The distinction between God’s Temple and the rest of the world is a central theme in this book. God had told the Israelites: ^{Lev 11:44} I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Kings, it seems had a special issue with this. I wonder what “kings” are parables for---perhaps our role we assume, as “king” or sovereign of ourselves. Enjoy!

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.)

I'll pick back up where I left off. I'm still in the Christian Standard Bible³.



¹⁰“As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, so that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Let them measure its pattern, ¹¹ and they will be ashamed of all that they have done. Reveal^d the design of the temple to them—its layout with its exits and entrances—its complete design along with all its statutes, design specifications, and laws. Write it down in their sight so that they may observe its complete design and all its statutes and may carry them out. ¹² This is the law of the temple: All its surrounding territory on top of the mountain will be especially holy. Yes, this is the law of the temple.

Our Tour Guide – The Bronze Angel

Photo Credit Bronze Angel dreamstime_m_168332963

When I first read this, it seemed to me God wanted them to be ashamed of their iniquities. But notice how

this translation reads:

(CLV) Ezk 43:11

^{+ if}When they are mortified ^fover all ^wthat they have done, ^cmake known [»]to them the form of the house and its established arrangements, ⁺ its exits and its entrances, ⁺ all its forms and [»]all its statutes, ⁺ all its forms and all its laws, and write it down [']before their eyes ⁺that they may observe [»]all its forms and [»]all its statutes and [˘]do [»]them.

Here's what this sounds like to me. When they are so ashamed they can no longer lift their heads, show them the temple that I've arranged to forgive all their sins so thoroughly. That will encourage them!

Next, in vision Ezekiel is taken to the altar, where forgiveness takes place.

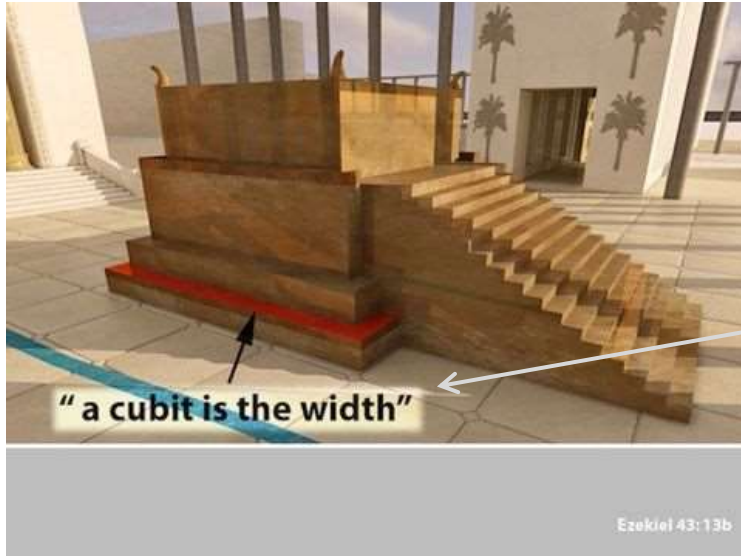
Perhaps that's why this vision was given to these people. Not to remind them of what they haven't been doing, but to help them see what God has been doing for them!

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The Altar

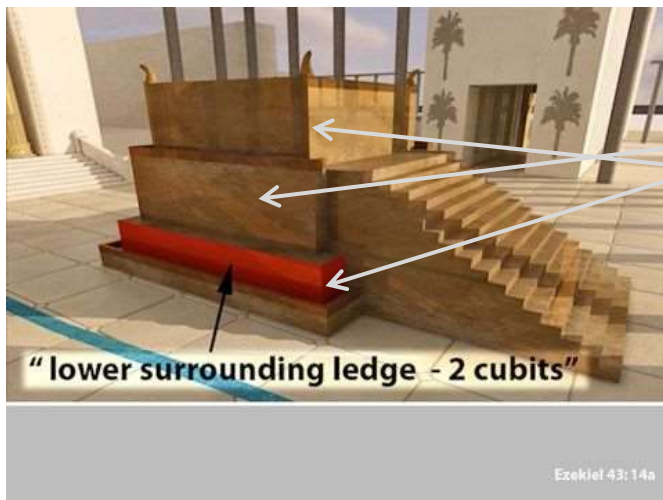
As I study these verses, I'm going to use pictures from "Free Bible Images" accessed at:

<https://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ezekiel-43-temple/>



¹³ "These are the measurements of the altar in units of length (each unit being the standard length plus three inches):^[e]

The gutter is 21 inches^[f] deep and 21 inches wide, with a rim of nine inches^[g] around its edge. This is the base^[h] of the altar.



¹⁴ The distance from the gutter on the ground to the lower ledge is 3½ feet,^[i] and the width of the ledge is 21 inches. There are 7 feet^[j] from the small ledge to the large ledge, whose width is also 21 inches.

¹⁵ The altar hearth^[k] is 7 feet high, and four horns project upward from the hearth.

¹⁶ The hearth is square, 21 feet^[l] long by 21 feet wide. ¹⁷ The ledge is 24½ feet^[m] long by 24½ feet wide, with four equal sides. The rim all around it is 10½ inches,^[n] and its gutter is 21 inches all around it. The altar's steps face east."

¹⁸ Then he said to me, "Son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says: These are the statutes for the altar on the day it is constructed, so **that burnt offerings** may be sacrificed on it and blood may be splattered on it: ¹⁹ You are to give a bull from the herd as **a sin offering** to the Levitical priests who are from the offspring of Zadok, who approach me in order to serve me."

Everything from the offering to the Offerer represent Jesus.

This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. ²⁰“You are to take some of its blood and apply it to the four horns of the altar, the four corners of the ledge, and all around the rim. In this way you will purify the altar and make atonement for it. ²¹Then you are to take away the bull for the sin offering, and it must be burned outside the sanctuary in the place appointed for the temple.

²²“On the second day you are to present an unblemished male goat as a sin offering. They will purify the altar just as they did with the bull. ²³When you have finished the purification, you are to present **a young, unblemished bull and an unblemished ram** from the flock.

²⁴You are to present them before the LORD; the priests will throw salt on them and sacrifice them as **a burnt offering** to the LORD.

Notice the order here. First, sin offerings offered for human sin to make atonement and cleanse the priests and the altar from human imperfection, human sin. That was followed by a “burnt offering,” which was basically a gift to God by the offerer completely given over to the Lord in flame.

²⁵You will offer a goat for a sin offering each day for seven days. A young bull and a ram from the flock, both unblemished, are also to be offered. ²⁶For seven days the priests are to make atonement for the altar and cleanse it. In this way they will consecrate it^[o] ²⁷and complete the days of purification. Then on the eighth day and afterward, the priests will offer your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar, and I will accept you.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

Once the altar is cleansed, the other kind of offerings-wholly given burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings are made.

Footnotes:

- a. **43:3** Some Hb mss, Theod, Vg; other Hb mss, LXX, Syr read *I*
- b. **43:7** Or *monuments*, also in v. 9
- c. **43:7** Some Hb mss, Theod, Tg read *their death*
- d. **43:10–11** LXX, Vg; MT reads *pattern*. ¹¹ *And if they are ashamed ... done, reveal*
- e. **43:13** Lit *in cubits (a cubit being a cubit plus a handbreadth)*
- f. **43:13** Lit *one cubit*, also in vv. 14,17
- g. **43:13** Lit *one span*
- h. **43:13** LXX reads *height*
- i. **43:14** Lit *two cubits*
- j. **43:14** Lit *four cubits*, also in v. 15
- k. **43:15** Hb obscure
- l. **43:16** Lit *12 cubits*
- m. **43:17** Lit *14 cubits*
- n. **43:17** Lit *one-half cubit*
- o. **43:26** Lit *will fill its hands*

I can see it now. It’s about the reassurance of the lengths God has gone for our forgiveness. Spoken in terms Ezekiel would understand. We now know it to be done in Christ!