

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
October 21, 2016

Ezekiel 41:1–42:20. Pure worship restored—what is missing in the Temple?

Revelation 20:7–21:8. Satan’s revolution.

Job 38:34–41. Young birds praying to God? What we believe about this reveals our philosophical framework: realism or modernism.

COMMENTS.

Ezekiel 41:1–42:20. The chambers and ornaments of the Temple are outlined in **41:1-26**.

The temple sanctuary had three divisions: (1) a porch, (2) an outer sanctuary known as the holy place, and (**41:3**) an inner sanctuary known as the most holy place or holy of holies. Ezekiel’s guide took him into the outer sanctuary. As he entered, he measured the door jambs that were six cubits on each side, and the entrance was ten cubits wide. The outer sanctuary was twenty cubits wide and forty cubits long (**41:1–2**). Then he was taken into the inner sanctuary that had door jambs two cubits wide, and the entrance was six cubits wide. The walks on either side of the entrance were seven cubits wide. The inner sanctuary was twenty by twenty cubits, and the guide with Ezekiel said, “This is the Most Holy Place” (**41:4**). This all speaks of restoration—priests, offerings, holy of holies, altar, and river. In **42:1-20** we see the chambers of the priests. Use of these buildings and rooms was reserved for the priests when they ate communal offering meals. The buildings and rooms were used for both dining and storage of offerings until they were needed (**42:13–14**). According to the Mosaic system, the priests received a portion of some offerings that were eaten. These regulations for the priests were observed in the tabernacle and temple. The offerings were types of the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ the Messiah.

Life in God by proper knowledge and by love. While the chambers and the ornaments speak of restoration and God matchless grace, there are a few items that are noticeably missing that speak of things even more awe-inspiring. First, nothing is said about a veil between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, because the Messiah will be present with His people, the veil is not necessary. Believers will have *a direct 2nd person love relationship with Him*. Second, there is also no mention of the ark of the covenant or the mercy seat on which the blood was sprinkled on the annual Day of Atonement because the Messiah Himself is the Atonement. Third, there is nothing said about a golden altar of incense or the seven-branched golden lampstand. The altar of incense symbolized the prayers of God’s people ascending to the Lord, but since the Lord is present with them, there is no need for symbolic prayer. They will be able to communicate face-to-face with God. As for the lampstand, which symbolized the light of God’s truth through the nation of Israel, the Shekinah glory was present in the temple of the Lord. While we are on this earth we can have a 2nd person loving relationship with Him, but in comparison to standing before Him face-to-face, it is only dim and shadowy, even if it is the greatest privilege we have in this life. Life is about *knowing and loving God*. All else are just details. The details of life are only necessary as means to sustain us so that we can enjoy *a growing life in God by knowledge and by love*.

Revelation 20:7–21:8. At the close of the Millennium, Satan will be released from the pit and permitted to lead one last revolt against the Lord. Why? as final proof that the heart of man is desperately wicked and can be changed only by God's grace. Imagine the tragedy of this revolt: people who have been living in a perfect environment, under the perfect government of God's Son, will finally have children who will grow up and rebel against the King! Imagine that, children born in perfect environment with the influences of godly parents will reject it all and join in Satan's rebellion against God. Note the judgment of unbelievers in **20:11-15**: Jesus Christ will judge these unsaved people on the basis of what is written "in the books." What books? For one thing, God's Word will be there. "The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Every sinner will be held accountable for the truth he or she has heard in this life. There will also be a book containing the works of the sinners being judged, though this does not suggest that a person can do good works sufficient to enter heaven (Eph. 2:8–9; Titus 3:5). Why, then, will Jesus Christ consider the works, good and bad, of the people before the White Throne? To determine the degree of punishment they will endure in hell. All of these people will be cast into hell. Their personal rejection of Jesus Christ has already determined their destiny. But Jesus Christ is a righteous Judge, and He will assign each sinner the place that he deserves. There are degrees of punishment in Hell (Matt. 11:20–24). Each lost sinner will receive just what is due him, and none will be able to argue with the Lord or question His decision. God knows what sinners are doing, and His books will reveal the truth. "The Book of Life" will be there, containing the names of God's redeemed people (Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27; 13:8; 17:8). No unsaved person will have his or her name in the Lamb's Book of Life; only true believers are recorded there (Luke 10:20). When the judgment is finished, all of the lost will be cast into Hell, the lake of fire, the second death. Many people reject the biblical doctrine of Hell as being "unchristian," and yet Jesus clearly taught its reality (Matt. 18:8; 23:15, 33; 25:46; Mark 9:46). A sentimental kind of humanistic religion will not face the reality of judgment, but teaches a God who loves everyone into heaven and sends no one to Hell. Hell is a witness to the righteous character of God. He must judge sin. Hell is also a witness to man's responsibility, the fact that he is not a robot or a helpless victim, but a creature able to make choices. God does not "send people to Hell"; they send themselves by rejecting the Savior (Matt. 25:41; John 3:16–21). Hell is also a witness to the awfulness of rejection of grace.

Life in God by proper knowledge and by love. The most important thing in all of these fascinating details about the renewed creation—a time of new heavens and earth: no need for the sun, no longer night, no more curse, no more death, man restored to paradise, and no more tears or pain—is in Revelation 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.* This really what it is all about: life with God by 2nd person proper knowledge and by proper love. It is why you and I are alive and *the* solution to all that ails us in this broken, angst-filled world.

Job 38:34–41. In verses **34–38**, the Lord called Job’s attention to the clouds. Since Job “knew” the laws of the heavens, could he order the clouds to give rain? Was the lightning his servant, reporting for duty? Could Job take inventory of the clouds and “tip them over” like jars to make the rain come? Creating all these things is one thing; maintaining them for man’s good is quite something else. The Lord moved next into a series of questions about His providential working in the world. He moved from the inanimate world to the animate. Did Job know how to feed the lion cubs or the young ravens? (**38:39–41**) Would he even know that they were hungry? Where could he find food for them? The ravens would know to find the carcasses left behind by the lions because God is the efficient cause in the birds’ (even unclean ravens!) ability to find food. God supervises the whole universe and makes sure that His creatures are cared for.

Life in God by proper knowledge and by love. Note **38:41**, *Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?* The Bible believer who is a philosophical realist understands how it is that young birds pray to God. The Bible believer who does not understand realism has been brainwashed by modern philosophy, and one of the results is that this truth is not understood—in fact, if you cite this verse to a modern Bible believer, who has unknowingly been brainwashed by the kosmos as far as the philosophy he uses with Bible study, he will likely laugh at you. I recall a few years ago when I cited this verse in a Bible class when I was first teaching realism, a “doctrinal believer” laughed at me and the verse, and then shortly afterwards left our church because of dislike for philosophical realism I was teaching as part of Bible class (there are certainly no hard feelings on my part . . . I wish them well . . . everyone must make his own decision based on his relationship with the Lord, just as I must teach the Whole Truth based on my relationship with the Lord whether believers like it or not; it is not my job to make any believer feel better about his false ideas . . . by the way, I do expect to get persecuted and blamed by fellow believers because I do not go along with their modernistic political views). He/she just wanted to me to teach the Bible and only the Bible, yet he/she thought this biblical idea was ridiculous—thus, laughing at this verse, God, God’s lesson to Job, and the Bible. The fact is is that everyone does philosophy. It is just that those who do not understand it do it poorly to the point that it affects their view of reality and the Word of God. The realist understands how all of creation was created for God and is geared to God as existence. To grasp this is to move into *deeper knowledge and love of God as BE* (Exod. 3:14) who gives all things existence continuously . . . and it is self-evident that all things seek existence and so metaphysically do, in fact, seek God. Ignorance always comes with a very high price, especially for those who think they will just do a “Bible-only” approach – all the while mocking its truths in their hearts because their hearts are shaped by modern kosmic philosophies (like deism, Baconianism, conduitism, idealism, and Cartesianism). Without realizing it, this ignorance always collapsing into some form of legalism and pragmatism with an attitude and heart that just wants something that works to fix their problems, all the while going through the motions being blind to the majesty of God. Without true dianoetic knowledge, it reduces to mechanics of confessing sins to get in a conduit system and fill the soul with doctrine to obtain divine viewpoint and use faith-rest and move through the gates to maturity—all without examining these notions to what is real. What a mess! Of course, given the nature of the system (idealism rather than realism) it is never seen for what it is. The only way to check anything is through realism. All else is but an example

of Godel's theorem. If one starts with concepts (such as word studies and systems) instead of reality as such, one can never get out of beings on reason—mental constructs based on the mind only. There is nothing like the Real, nothing like a *second person proper knowledge and love of God* that is grounded in reality and not mental constructions and systems shaped by the world or some pastor's mental predilections.

Life in God by proper knowledge and by proper love.

Pastor Don