

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”  
October 23, 2016**

**Ezekiel 45:1–46:24.** Regulations for the New Temple.

**Revelation 22:1–21.** The Tree of Life.

**Job 39:11–23.** God’s unsearchable ways.

**COMMENTS.**

**Ezekiel 45:1–46:24.** The events described in this reading occur during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on the Earth. In the future allotment of the land a portion must be reserved for the Lord (and His priestly servants) directly in the center of the land (45:1–6). The prince (identified as David in 34:24) would possess the land bordering the Lord’s portion on the east and west (45:7–8). This mention of the future prince leads to an exhortation to the civil leaders of God’s people in Ezekiel’s day. They were not to oppress the people but were to promote justice and fairness in the socioeconomic sphere (45:9–12). The Lord also provided detailed regulations pertaining to offerings and feasts (45:13–46:24), including the New Year festival, Passover, and Tabernacles. Various regulations pertaining to the prince highlight chapter 46. On Sabbath days and New Moons the prince would lead the people in worshiping the Lord by presenting offerings at the threshold of the east gate of the inner court.

**Life in God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and proper love.** The prince mentioned in this section is mostly likely David as per Ezekiel 34:24 *"And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken,"* and Ezekiel 37:24 *"David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. 25 "Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.* David will have this special place of honor and privilege before the Lord in the millennium and “forever.” What we do in this life with regard to the Lord counts forever. David was a man after God’s own heart and as such will be honored for all of eternity. While no believer can lose his salvation, many will not be honored as people who honored and loved God in this life. All will be happy, but some more than others. David will enjoy a happiness that other believers will not enjoy as he will have more intimate associations with Christ in His earthly ministry in the next life. Note how Christ offers all believers the blessings of fellowship with Him in this life *and its connection* fellowship Him in His kingdom: Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me [fellowship here and now]. 21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne [fellowship in the next life], as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.* Moreover, those who fellowship with Him now look forward to privileges of intimate fellowship with Him through eternity. Those who do not value Christ enough to fellowship with Him in this life will not be motivated to live their lives in way that guarantees more of it in the next life. Moreover, the very notion of overcoming requires overcoming the distractions of this world and walking with the Lord by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper

knowledge and proper love. In sum, God knocks on the door of our hearts with circumstances and when we invite Him in, the supper room becomes a throne room. It is through communion with Christ that we find victory and become truly overcomers as our minds and hearts, which are designed to always seek the greatest good discovers what it truly seeks, the Lord Jesus Christ, the God-man, in the Christ-centered life.

**Revelation 22:1–21.** In the last chapter of the Bible, John sees the river of the water of life. It flows from God’s throne and throughout the new Jerusalem. This is a picture of the life-giving grace of God flowing out to transform the world. Jesus himself is the source of this river (John 7:37–39), which is a symbol of God’s Holy Spirit. On the banks of the river grows the tree of life—one of the two forbidden trees that grew in the Garden of Eden. God had banished Adam and Eve from the Garden. Now the great work of salvation is completed, and the fruit of the tree of life is freely available. The leaves of the tree are to be used for the healing of the nations. Grace and giving and nourishment are provided for all of eternity for the children of God.

**Life in God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and proper love.** Whatever the “healing” refers to in this eternal state, one thing is certain, and that is that the eternal state is anything but static. The eternal state will be filled with human beings doing what human beings do, but all basking in the blaze of the glory of God, as they were intended—all because of grace. There will no longer be any temptation to sin because finally man will see God clearly and *walk with Him in proper knowledge and love in a full and unimpeded light like never before*. The only reason we sin now is because those things all have something that seems good enough to partake. When we are face-to-face with the absolute goodness and beauty of God nothing else will even come close to drawing us from Him. By nature, we always choose the greatest “perceived” good and in the eternal state the perception of God will be overwhelming good.

**Job 39:11–23.** God turns to a description of two birds, the peacock, and the ostrich (13–18). God asked Job no questions in this paragraph; He simply reminded him of the bizarre anatomy and behavior of the ostrich and suggested that perhaps Job could explain it. The stork has beautiful wings that are very serviceable, but all the ostrich can do with her wings is fan the air! Why did God make a bird that couldn’t fly but that could run faster than a horse? Why did He make a bird that puts her nest in such a vulnerable place where her eggs might be destroyed or eaten by a predator? Unlike most birds, why does she seem to be unmindful of her young? The horse was next in line (19–25), an animal that was greatly admired and valued for strength and courage. This is a description of a war horse, not a farm horse; and you can visualize it prancing and pawing and eager to rush into the battle. When he hears the trumpet, he can’t stand still, but runs so fast that he seems to be “eating up the ground.” It was God, not Job, who made the horse with the strength and ability it needed to face danger and serve effectively on the field of battle.

**Life in God by 2<sup>nd</sup> person proper knowledge and love.** Even in dealing on this natural level, one has to agree with Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! God is Esse who pours existence into all creatures and actualizes all of their natures after He decided what would exist. As a matter of fact, all things that exist are results of His mind. It is not as if God in His omniscience looks out in creation and by looking*

knows things—that truly would not be omniscience as it would require Him to look at things to know them. The truth is that He thinks all things into existence. In other words, God’s knowledge is creative rather than observational. God is the only true and valid idealist. These are very deep thoughts and this is only dealing with God on a natural level. We are not even touching truths of love, grace, redemption, the incarnation, and the Trinity. Such a God we cannot fully know, but thank God we can have a love for Him that exceeds what we know. Is this not what Paul, a true lover of the Lord, is saying in Romans 11:33? He walked with God *by proper knowledge and proper love* at the same time could never “*search out His ways.*” God is marvelously higher than anything we can imagine and we have been invited to a life in Him through knowledge, though obscure in many ways, and love that seeks Him more than all else. This just is the solution to all that ails us. True lovers of God understand this very well.

*Life in God by proper knowledge and by proper love.*

*Pastor Don*