

# EZEKIEL

## THE PROPHET

### Part Six - When will this take place?

ISAIAH 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;  
It shall not return to Me void,  
But it shall accomplish what I please,  
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (NKJ)

What has the LORD said?

What did HE promise ISRAEL thru Ezekiel the prophet?

I will bring you back to the land that I promised to Abraham.  
I will raise you from the dead, and bring you back to the land.  
You will build a Temple to me in this land.  
This Temple will be served by a Priesthood.  
I will heal the land and the people.  
You will build a city - Yahweh Shammah - "THE LORD IS THERE."  
Gog and Magog will seek to destroy this city.  
When they come up to attack - I will destroy them.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you belong to Jesus Christ, then you ARE an Israelite!

There is a study at [ProphecyViewpoint.com](http://ProphecyViewpoint.com) which I pray will convince you that you are indeed an Israelite - "grafted in." These promises to Israel are for you! A great book, available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) is called "Grafted In - Israel, Gentiles, and the Mystery of the Gospel" by D. Thomas Lancaster.

### WHEN WILL THESE THINGS TAKE PLACE? - THAT'S THE QUESTION .....

#### THREE SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

The prophecy of Ezekiel presents:

1. What would have happened for Israel IF they had repented and remained faithful to covenant.
2. What will happened during the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium,  
immediately following the return of Christ to the earth.
3. What will happen during the 8<sup>th</sup> millennium (The 8<sup>th</sup> Day).  
The earth will be desolated by the 7 last plagues and will remain void of human habitation during the 7<sup>th</sup> (Sabbatic) millennium.

THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE a glorious being IS going to appear -  
and will set up a kingdom.

He will “stand in the Holy Place.”  
He will “make fire come down from heaven.”  
He will demand worship.  
He will “think to change time-law.”  
I believe he will appear at the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet.

If you are expecting Messiah to set up His kingdom on the earth immediately upon His expected soon return - and if He is NOT going to set up His kingdom at that time - then you will be deceived by the Evil One, who will “deceive, if possible, the very elect.”

The Evil One will appear,  
claim to be Messiah,  
set up his kingdom  
and demand worship - as Messiah.

If you understand that Jesus Christ will appear in the clouds, (Matt 26:64) then catch up the righteous (both the resurrected and the living) to “meet Him in the clouds” (I Thess. 4:16-17) - then transport them to His “Father’s House” - if you understand this - then you will not be deceived. You will know that the one who has set his throne in Jerusalem, in a rebuilt Temple, is the Evil One. [Please see the study at the website on the second coming.]

NOTE: Jesus Christ may touch down on the Mt of Olives, because that is the last spot on earth where He stood. (Zechariah 14:4, Acts 1:9-12) “He will so come in like manner as you have seen Him go” (Acts 1:11). But He will NOT stay on the earth to set up His kingdom. He will return to the Father’s House with His redeemed ones.

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY FINDING THE ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION IS SO IMPORTANT.....

WHEN WILL THE EVENTS OF EZEKIEL CHAPTERS 37 TO 48 TAKE PLACE?

To answer our question, we will need to understand:

1. Death as sleep, until resurrection
2. The condition of the earth during the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium, following the 7 last plagues.
3. The first resurrection. [Israel judged - The Day of Atonement]
4. Israel's role as a kingdom of priests
5. The preparation of the priesthood
6. The 8<sup>th</sup> Day - The Second Resurrection - Messiah's Future Reign
7. Ancient prophetic types of the 8<sup>th</sup> day (Please see the study @ the website.)
8. The Gog Magog Battle - The Last Rebellion
9. Final Judgment and a Lake of Fire

**So you see - there are MANY pieces to find, - before we can put this whole picture together.**

**1. Let's start with death as sleep.**

(There is a written study and a recorded study @ the website.)

**2. The condition of the earth following the 7 last plagues.**

(There is a written study and a recorded study @ the website.)

Even if we conclude that the earth IS utterly destroyed by the last plagues, this does not rule out a restoration, by Messiah, during the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium. To exclude that, we must study the priesthood, and the "Father's House."

**3. The "first resurrection"**

(There is a written study and a recorded study @ the website.)

**4. Israel's Role as "a kingdom of priests"**

## THE PRIESTHOOD

**Exodus 19:5-6** "... if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Priests - #2409 in the Septuagint.)

So - here we have the LORD's original intent, prophecy and promise.  
Remember - His word will be fulfilled.

*When Israel worshiped the golden calf image at the foot of Sinai, God named the tribe of Levi to serve the Sanctuary (Exo. 32:26, Num. 1:50-53). They had not participated in the idol worship. Within that tribe, Aaron and his descendants would serve as priests.*

*This Aaronic priesthood was a temporary measure, until the death of Messiah. Jesus then became our High Priest, and all of those who come into covenant with God through Him become priests "after the order of Melchizedek." Today we call this "the priesthood of all believers."*

**I Peter 2:5, 9, 10** (New Testament) "... you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." ... "but you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (Israelites), His own special people ..."

**Revelation 7:9, 13-14** The "great multitude" who "come out of great tribulation," are "arrayed in white robes" and "serve Him day and night in His temple." These are priests.

**Revelation 2:17** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." (NKJ)

NOTE: The "hidden manna" refers to the shewbread - the 12 loaves which were set before the LORD, in the holy place of the Sanctuary (later the Temple). Only the priests ate of this bread. It was hidden from the rest of the people.

**Revelation 1:6, Revelation 5:9-10** The twenty four elders proclaim that Christ "has made us kings and priests to His God and Father." You Jesus "were slain"... "and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

NOTE: The verbs in these verses (has made, made) are in **the aorist tense**, meaning this is an ongoing process, not a completed one. These 24 elders are being made, or are being prepared to be, priests and kings. But notice where they will reign - "on the earth." They will reign - future. We will refer to this again when we realize that those from the first resurrection will also be made "priests" who will "reign with Him."

## THE PRIESTHOOD WILL REIGN WITH CHRIST ON THE EARTH

**Revelation 2:26** “And he who overcomes ... to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces.’”

**Revelation 3:21** “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

*The government of Christ on the earth will have structure. The 12 apostles form the core, supported by the 24 elders of Revelation chapter five, the 144,000 of Revelation chapters seven and fourteen, and the priesthood (Israel). As priests, they will teach the law, judge, settle disputes and administer justice.*

*(Eze. 44:23-24, Lev. 9:1, Exo. 29:35, Lev. 8 33-35, Deut. 21:5, Deut. 33:8, ).*

*The priests acted as mediators between man and God. They taught the law of God, and helped men to approach God thru sacrifices. They acted as an extension of the great Mediator - Christ. God’s plan was to use Israel, as His priests, to teach and govern the nations. This He will finally accomplish.*

*(The Israel of God includes all of those Gentiles grafted in through Christ.) They will rise in the first resurrection. They will prepare for the priesthood - for 1000 years - spent in the Father’s House (Heaven itself). After 1000 years they will return to the earth. They will build Ezekiel’s Temple and prepare to serve Christ, their High Priest/King when “the nations” rise in the second resurrection. Then “the Law will go forth from Zion.” (Isa 2:1-4). Those who have never heard the name of Christ, or known of the Father’s love will learn of HIM. Then the “gospel of the kingdom will be preached to EVERY nation, kindred, tongue, and people” (Matthew 24:14). Then the final END will come.*

## MY FATHER’S HOUSE

**John 2:16** “And He said to those who sold doves, ‘Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!’

*Jesus referred to the Temple as “My Father’s House.” The Sanctuary (later the Temple) was a copy of “Heaven itself,” according to Hebrews 9:24, where Jesus, as our High Priest, has “entered the presence behind the veil” (Heb. 6:19-20), “now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

*This lends support to the belief that those raised first will become priests. The place which Christ would “prepare” was to be “in My Father’s house” - that is - in “heaven itself.” **Only priests could enter the Temple proper, therefore only priests will enter this place which Jesus has gone to prepare in His Father’s House.** (John 14:2-3).*

## THE FUTURE PRIESTHOOD

**Ezekiel 28:25-26** “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob.  
26 "And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely

**Isaiah 61:4-9** “And they shall rebuild the old ruins. They shall raise up the former desolations. And they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. Strangers (non-Israelites) shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner (non-Israelite) shall be your plowmen and your vine dressers. **But you shall be named the Priests of the LORD.** Men shall call you the Servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double.

(Isaiah 61:4-9 cont) Everlasting joy shall be theirs.” “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and **will make with them an everlasting covenant.** Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed..”

*NOTE: The firstborn inherited a “double portion.” Their inheritance included a “double portion of the land, and the “priesthood” - “double honor.” Each firstborn son became the representative of the family unit before God. God said, “Israel is my son, even My firstborn” (Exodus 4:22). Therefore Israel - the firstborn - will become the priesthood.*

*NOTE: The “covenant” which the LORD will make with His priests is the “New Covenant” (Jeremiah 31:31-34, 32:40; Ezekiel 36:24-27; Hebrews 8:10; Deut. 30:6).*

## THE ROLE OF THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE COMING KINGDOM OF MESSIAH

The priests will teach the law, judge, settle disputes and administer justice.  
(Eze. 44:23-24, Lev. 9:1, Exo. 29:35, Lev. 8 33-35, Deut. 21:5, Deut. 33:8, ).

They will also offer up sacrifices to God - prayers offered in the name of Messiah Yeshua.

**Malachi 2:7** “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.”

## WHY A PRIESTHOOD?

Our study begs the question - **What further need will there be for a priesthood, AFTER the return of Christ in glory?** The system of animal sacrifice is now “abolished.” Christ Himself was the ultimate sacrifice, making all others “obsolete.” Whatever the service of the priesthood in a future kingdom, it will not include the offering of animals for sacrifice. (See the study: “Grace and the Law: Part Three - What Was Abolished?”)

The role of the priesthood is one of mediation. They act as judges helping to settle disputes. They teach the law and the truths of God (Ezek. 44:23-24) They guide the one who would approach the Lord. **I believe that the priesthood will continue, with Christ as High Priest, because there will be many won to the Father, of those who are raised “second” after the 1000 years (Revelation 20:5).**

## WHEN WILL THOSE RAISED “FIRST” BEGIN TO MINISTER ON THE EARTH AS PRIESTS?

**ANSWER - NOT UNTIL THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY.**

**(“... one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,  
and a thousand years as one day” 2 Peter 3:8 )**

## THE PRIESTS MUST FIRST BE CONSECRATED

**Exodus Chapter 29 and Leviticus Chapter 8:** Aaron and his sons and all future priests

Exodus 29:35 “seven days you shall consecrate them.”

Leviticus 8:33-35 They were to not to go “outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended.”

**JUST SO - THOSE CONSECRATED AS PRIESTS WILL REMAIN INSIDE THE TABERNACLE (HEAVEN ITSELF) UNTIL “THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY” (8<sup>TH</sup> MILLENNIUM)!**

NOTE: Jesus remained with the disciples for 40 days after His resurrection. Then He ascended to Heaven, and completed 7 days of consecration - after which, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day (Pentecost) He was glorified as High Priest, and poured out His Spirit upon the disciples who had waited for just this sign from Heaven.

Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;”

Leviticus 9:1 “It came to pass **on the 8<sup>th</sup> day**, that Moses called Aaron and his sons...v. 4 “for today the LORD will appear to you” ... v.6 “the glory of the LORD will appear to you.” v.7 Go to the alter, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people.”

### **The priestly ministry begins on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.**

After the sacrifices and the Aaronic blessing - Lev. 9:23

“Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, and fire came out from before the LORD, and consumed the burnt offering

On this SAME 8<sup>th</sup> DAY - (10:1-5) Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire (not from the alter of burnt offering) and “fire went out from the LORD and devoured them and they died. v.4-5 Their brethren came near and carried the bodies “from **before** the sanctuary” out of the camp (by their tunics). So they died in the courtyard (symbolic of earth) - not in the Holy Place (not in Heaven).

READ 10:16-19 Moses looked to find the sin offering, which should have been eaten by the priests, in the holy place, and it was all burned up. He was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar (the sons of Aaron) but Aaron said, “**this day** they have offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD and such things have befallen me. If I had eaten the sin offering today, would it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD? And Moses held his peace.” **The two sons of Aaron died on the 8<sup>th</sup> day!**

SYMBOLIZES: LUCIFER - who offered strange fire. He challenged the LORD.  
AND HE WILL BE CONSUMED ON THE 8TH DAY, ON THE EARTH.

NOTE: The alter of sacrifice was also to be sanctified for 7 days (v.36-37)

Ezekiel 43:27 The alter in the courtyard of Ezekiel’s Temple is NOT considered consecrated and UNTIL the 8<sup>th</sup> day. (Exo. 29:37).

II Chronicles 29:17 The consecration of the priests took 8 days. Then the cleansing of The House (Temple) took 8 days. This in the days of King Hezekiah, after the evil King Ahaz had trashed and desecrated the Temple.

OUR STUDY WILL CONTINUE:

6. The 8<sup>th</sup> Day - The Second Resurrection - Messiah’s Future Reign  
(There is a written study and a recorded study at the website.)
7. Ancient prophetic types of the 8<sup>th</sup> day  
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8. The Gog Magog Battle - The Last Rebellion
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