

- God's house will be rebuilt.
- Jerusalem is to be measured – as it needs to expand.
- It must have no walls because of the multitude of people.
- But God will be a fiery wall of protection (similar to cherubim guarding Eden, and chariots of fire protecting Elisha).
- Shekinah (fiery) glory previously confined in the Holy of Holies now expands over all of Jerusalem

“...Zechariah speaks not merely about the enlargement of Jerusalem but refers to its entirety as a holy sanctuary in which God's flaming glorious presence will reside.” (74)

- All of Jerusalem and even Judah is now holy to the Lord – Zech. 14:20-21.
 - More than just God's presence – He calls his people to spread abroad and “plunder” the nations (Zech. 2:9).
 - Worldwide expansion of Eden will include Gentiles coming to join themselves to the LORD (Zech. 2:11) who will inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land (Zech. 2:12).
3. **God's Heavenly Temple Comes Down** & His Presence Dwells even with **Gentile Nations** (Isa. 63:15; 64:1-2; 66:18-21; Rom. 15:16-20).
- Isaiah asks God to look down from His heavenly Temple and come down bringing His mountain-quaking presence (like Sinai).
 - This makes God's name known to the nations on earth.
 - God will gather all nations & show His glory to them (66:18-21).
 - From the nations brothers will be brought (returned Israel, but also Gentiles themselves) to “my holy mountain” to the house of the Lord. And from them some will be priests & Levites. Paul viewed this as a reason for his Gentile mission (and “priestly service”) – to bring the Gentiles as an offering (Rom. 15:16-20).
 - **Application:** this vision of God's presence going out to the nations should compel us to evangelism and mission.

Based on: *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth* by G.K. Beale and Mitchell Kim (Crossway, 2014)

Review

- Adam's commission to extend Eden's “Temple” (be fruitful & multiply living images of God) was passed on to the patriarchs who built mini sanctuaries (altars & tents) where God appeared to them in the land.
- God focused on Abraham & his family, blessing the world through him.
- At Sinai, God's presence was displayed to the entire nation and plans for a Tabernacle (mobile Temple) were revealed.
- The Tabernacle/Temple had levels of holiness:
 - Holy of Holies – God's presence in the heavenly/unseen realm.
 - Holy Place – The Communion (table of shewbread); Mission (lampstand); and Prayer of God's people blessed by God's presence extending into the visible heavens.
 - Outer court – Altar of earth/stone and brass laver/sea are how God deals with sin allowing earthly people to enter His presence.
- *Israel never lived up to its calling and God abandoned the Temple allowing it to be destroyed. Will God still dwell among us now?*

I. God's Goal for the Temple Frustrated

- A. **A Place for Prayer** – *Where he promised to set His name, and where His presence extends to earth (2 Chron. 6:18-21).*
- B. **A Witness to the Nations** – *That all may know God's Name (2 Chron. 6:32-33).*
- C. **A Place of God's Fiery Presence** – *The glory of the LORD filled the Temple (2 Chron. 6:40-7:3).*
- D. **But Israel did not stay faithful** – *The Temple did not shine forth God's glory to the nations.*
 1. Their worship was hollow as they presumed God's blessing because of their Temple and rituals (Jer. 7:3-7).
 2. Secret abominations and worship of idols polluted the Temple (Ezek. 8:6-13, 16-18).
- E. **God abandoned (Ezek. 10) & destroyed (Jer. 7:14-20) His Temple** – *God's presence was not bound up in a man-made temple.*

II. God Prophesied a Restoration of His People & Temple

A. Return from Exile is described as Restoration of Eden.

1. Restoration will turn their land which had become a desolate wilderness into **Eden**... the garden of the LORD (Isa. 51:2-3).

Isa. 51:3 "For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song."

Ezek. 36:35 "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited."

2. This Eden-Restoration involves **multiplication** and **fruitfulness**.
 - Israel had become bereaved & barren (Isa. 49:21), but would be fruitful again with children (Isa. 54:1) – like Sarah (Isa. 51:2).
 - Ezek. 36:10-11 – multiplied cities, multiplied man and beast.
3. This Eden-Restoration involves God setting His **sanctuary** in their midst, & His **dwelling place** with them, forever (Ezek. 37:26-28).
 - Hebrew preposition 'al [with] may be better translated "over".
 - God's dwelling place would be over his multiplied people – implying a stretching out of Eden to encompass more.
 - God's goal of expansion is fulfilled as the *nations* know –37:28.

B. Eden will Expand to Fill the Whole Earth Blessing all Nations.

1. **God's Enlarged Tent** (Isa. 54:2-3)
 - The place of God's tent will be enlarged, the curtains of His habitation (i.e., the Tabernacle) will be stretched out.
 - 54:11-12 lists precious stones adorning Israel – indicating a Temple theme is in view here.
 - God's heavenly dwelling stretches a curtain/tent out over the heavens (Isa. 40:22; 66:1).
 - That this call to expand God's tent (vs. 2) will happen is bolstered by the promise that they will **spread** and **possess** the **nations** (vs. 3).
 - 54:3 alludes to Gen. 28:13-14 (Jacob's promise his offspring would **spread**) and Gen. 22:17 (Abraham's promise his offspring would **possess** the gate of his **enemies** [the nations]).
 - This all fulfills Adam's call to fill and subdue the earth.
 - The Eden-Restoration (Isa. 51:2-3) blesses the nations by spreading God's law and salvation, giving light to the peoples

(51:4-5) – in this way bringing the nations to God's expanded end-time Temple to hear the Word of the Lord (Isa. 2:2-3).

2. An Enlarged Stone (Dan. 2:31-45)

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream showed a great image (representing four earthly kingdoms) destroyed by "a stone... cut out by no human hand"; the stone "became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."
- The stone represents God's kingdom, and likely refers to God's Sanctuary expanding to cover the whole earth.
 - Uncut stones are only used in the OT for altars (Ex. 20:25; Deut. 27:6; Josh. 8:31).
 - The NT contrasts Jesus' resurrection body and God's Heavenly abode with temples "made with hands" (Mk 14:58; Acts 17:24; 2 Cor. 5:1; Heb. 9:24)
 - Mountains typically refer to the Temple.
- Gen. 1 and Adam's call to fill the earth is alluded to here in Daniel 2:38 which almost quotes Gen. 1:28b.
- Key point: God's temple presence expands to fill all the earth.
- **Application:** small beginnings (small stone) could seem insignificant or be discouraging, but it does not limit God.

C. God's Presence Extends to All of Jerusalem and Stretches Out to Include the Nations, and the Whole of a New Earth.

1. God's presence but **no ark** in the Restoration (Jer. 3:16-17).
 - In response to Israel's repentance – God will restore them and they will multiply and be fruitful in the land (Jer. 3:11-14, 16a)
 - But there is no ark of the covenant anymore – and it won't be missed (Jer. 3:16b).
 - Even so, God's presence will be in Jerusalem & all of Jerusalem will be God's throne – not just the ark His footstool (3:17).

"...the essence of the old temple, God's ruling and special revelatory presence, which was sequestered in the back room of the Holy of Holies, will be expressed in an unfettered way at the end time. A greater temple with a greater glory than a mere physical one will not only encompass all of Jerusalem... but the entire earth as other biblical texts will testify." (73)

2. **Jerusalem is enlarged** & filled with God's presence (Zech. 1:16-17; 2:1-5, 10-13).