

The Form of the House - Eze 43:10-12

- I. The prophet Ezekiel was told by God to show the house of God to Israel (**Eze 43:10-11**).
 1. The purpose God gave for showing them the house was so "they may be ashamed of their iniquities" (**v. 10**).
 2. They were then to "measure the pattern" of the house (**v. 10**).
 3. Ezekiel was to show them *the form* of the house (**v. 11**).
 4. Why would showing Israel the form of the house and having them measure the pattern of the house make them ashamed of their iniquities?
 - A. The temple was symbolic of Jesus' body (**Joh 2:19-21**).
 - B. God's glory filled the temple in Ezekiel's vision (**Eze 43:4**).
 - C. God's glory filled Jesus Christ (**Joh 1:14**) when God was manifest in the flesh (**1Ti 3:16**).
 - D. When we look at *the form* of Jesus Christ, we see the *form of God* (**Phi 2:5-6**) since He is the *express image* of God (**Heb 1:3**).
 - E. Image *n.* - 1. An artificial imitation or representation of the external form of any object, esp. of a person, or of the bust of a person. a. Such an imitation in the solid form; a statue, effigy, sculptured figure.
 - F. We must *measure* ourselves against Jesus Christ (**Eph 4:13 c/w Eze 43:10**).
 - G. When one sees the glory of God in the form of Jesus Christ and measures himself against Him, he quickly realizes that he is a sinful man and is ashamed of his iniquities (**Luk 5:8 c/w Eze 43:10**).
- II. Ezekiel was to show Israel every aspect of the house of God (**Eze 43:11**), which was a type of the NT church (**1Ti 3:15**).
 1. The OT house of God (the tabernacle and the temple) was a *worldly sanctuary* (**Heb 9:1**).
 2. Jesus built His church at His first coming (**Mat 16:18**).
 3. His church is a *greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands* (**Heb 9:11**).
 4. Let's examine the form of the NT house of God.
 - A. The form of the house (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. Form - I. Shape, arrangement of parts. 1. a. The visible aspect of a thing; now usually in narrower sense, shape, configuration, as distinguished from colour; occasionally, the shape or figure of the body as distinguished from the face.
 - ii. The NT church is the temple of God (**1Co 3:16**).
 - iii. The NT church is a building (**Eph 2:21-22; 1Co 3:9**).
 - iv. It is built upon a foundation of Jesus Christ the chief cornerstone and the foundational stones of the apostles and prophets (**Eph 2:20; Rev 21:14**).
 - v. Unlike the OT temple, the NT church is built of *lively stones* which are the members of the church (**1Pe 2:5**).
 - B. The fashion thereof (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. Fashion *n.* 2. a. Make, build, shape. Hence, in wider sense, visible characteristics, appearance. Said both of material and of immaterial things.
 - ii. The fashion of the house of God is very similar to its form.
 - iii. Another visible characteristic of the church is that it is a body with members (**1Co 12:13-18**).

- iv. The NT church is a special body though, in that it is the body of *Christ* (**1Co 12:27**).
- v. Jesus Christ is the head of this body (**Eph 4:15-16**).
- C. The goings out thereof (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. There is a specific manner in which people go out of the church.
 - ii. This is done by the church withdrawing from a commonly known sinner (**2Th 3:6**).
 - iii. When the church does this they deliver the person unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh (**1Co 5:4-5**).
 - iv. The church *puts away* the person from their membership and no longer eats the Lord's Supper with him (**1Co 5:11-13**).
- D. The comings in thereof (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. There is a specific manner in which people come into the church.
 - ii. When a person believes the gospel and is baptized, he is added to the membership of the local church (**Act 2:41-42,47**).
 - iii. This *pattern* should be measured and followed when adding a person to church membership (**Eze 43:10**).
- E. All the forms thereof (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. One of the forms (*the visible aspect of a thing*) of the church is godliness (**2Pe 1:6**).
 - a. Good works of Christians should be visible to all (**Mat 5:16; 1Pe 2:12**).
 - b. There will always be false brethren who will have the *form of godliness*, but not the substance (**2Ti 3:5**).
 - ii. Another form of NT church worship is preaching and praying (**Act 2:42**) and singing (**Col 3:16**).
- F. All the ordinances thereof (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. Just as the OT house of God had ordinances (**Heb 9:1**), the NT house of God does likewise.
 - ii. The NT church ordinances are:
 - a. Baptism (**Act 2:38**)
 - b. Communion (**1Co 11:23-26**)
 - c. Feetwashing (**Joh 13:14-15**)
- G. All the laws thereof (**Eze 43:11**)
 - i. Just as the temple had laws that were specific to its service, so does the NT church.
 - ii. Women can't speak in the church service (**1Co 14:34-35**).
 - iii. Women can't hold positions of authority in the church (**1Ti 2:11-12; 1Ti 3:2**).
 - iv. Christians must not eat things sacrificed to idols, or blood, or animals that were strangled, and they must keep themselves from fornication (**Act 15:29**).

III. The reason for Ezekiel showing them the form of the house of God was so they would:

- 1. Keep the whole form thereof (**Eze 43:11**).
 - A. It likewise incumbent upon us as members of the NT house of God to keep the *whole form* thereof.

- B. We must observe *all things* whatsoever Jesus has commanded us (**Mat 28:20**).
- 2. Keep all the ordinances thereof (**Eze 43:11**).
 - A. The NT was written for the same reason: to tell God's people how to serve him acceptably.
 - B. We are likewise exhorted in the NT church to keep the ordinances as they were delivered (**1Co 11:2**).
- 3. And do them (**Eze 43:11**).
 - A. We must be doers of the word and not hearers only (**Jam 1:22**).
 - B. If we love Jesus we must do what He says (**Joh 14:15; Luk 6:46**).

IV. The *whole limit* thereof round about the house of God shall be most holy (**Eze 43:12**).

- 1. Limit *n.* - 1. a. A boundary, frontier; an object serving to define a boundary, a landmark.
- 2. The whole area around the temple in the OT was most holy, not just the inside of it.
- 3. In the NT, Jesus Christ saves people to the uttermost (**Heb 7:25**).
 - A. Uttermost - 1. Outermost; farthest out or off; remotest;
 - B. Jesus saves people out of every nation, people, and kindred (**Rev 5:9**).