

EZEKIEL: JUSTICE FOR ALL

WEEK 6: CHAPTERS 40-48 (HOPE FOR ALL CREATION)

WARM UP: How hopeful do you feel about the future of the world? *i.e. are you more D:ream (Things can only get better) or The Chemical Brothers (Eve of Destruction) ?*

Context: In chapters 40-48, Ezekiel receives a vision from God about the restoration of the Temple and the worship that will occur there. He also reveals to Ezekiel that His people will return to their land and establish a city called: "The Lord is there".

1. **Read Ezekiel 43:1-5.** This is a vision of the glory of God returning to, and filling, the temple. What do you notice about the characteristics of the glory of God?
2. **Read Isaiah 6:3.** From this verse, and whatever other verses you can think of from the Bible, how would you describe what the glory of the Lord is?
3. **Read John 1:14.** In what ways is Jesus a fulfilment of Ezekiel's vision? Is Jesus' coming to earth a complete fulfilment of Ezekiel, or only a partial one?
4. **Read Ezekiel 43:6-9.** God is speaking to Ezekiel about a time when his people will no longer sin or disobey him... when they will worship him purely. Has this happened yet? When do you think this will happen?
5. **Read Ezekiel 43:10-11.** The right response to an encounter with the glory of the Lord is to become aware of our own sinfulness and be ashamed of it. Have you ever experienced this kind of encounter with God?
6. God says "*if they are ashamed*". Why are some people not ashamed of their sin and failure to properly worship God? Might this instinct also be present in your life?
7. God's will for us doesn't end in shame, it ends in faithful action... a persistent motivation to seek God's glory and be obedient to his law. Jesus himself reminded his followers of this many times (see Matthew 5:48 for the summary!). How committed are you to complete faithfulness and obedience in your relationship with God?
8. As we looked at during the Freedom to Bless series, Ezekiel 47 gives a vision of God's blessing flowing out of the temple to bring healing and provision to the nations. In what ways are people experiencing God's blessing through you today?

PRAY: That we would seek the glory of God and out of our encounters with him be moved to obedience, faithful worship and be a blessing to the world we live in.