

THE LORD IS PRESENT

March 23, 2014

I. Introduction

A. Jehovah-Shammah (a title for God) is found: Ezek. 48:35

Eze 48:35 "The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'The LORD is there.'"

B. Definition

Jehovah = "I am all that you need Me to be when you need Me to be it"

Shammah = "is there;" "is present"

Meaning "Jehovah is there or present;" "The Lord is there or present;"

C. Ezekiel's prophecy goes along with Jeremiah, Zachariah and John

Ezekiel's says that the new city of Jerusalem is Jehovah-Shammah; "the LORD is there."

Eze 48:35 "The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'The LORD is there.'"

Jeremiah says that the restored city of Jerusalem will be called: 'the LORD is our righteousness.'"

Jer 33:14-16 'Behold, days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: 'the LORD is our righteousness.'"

Zachariah also declares that "a man whose name is branch will build the temple of the Lord;" this goes together with Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Zech 6:11-15 "Take silver and gold, make an ornate crown and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. 12 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD. 13 "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices." ' 14 "Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the LORD to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 "Those who are far off will come and build the temple of the LORD." Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And it will take place if you completely obey the LORD your God.

John the apostle also saw this city, which he described in Rev 21:1-4; 7:13-17.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

Thus the new name of the city represents the permanence of the divine presence as well as the availability of God to his people. This revelation to Ezekiel of the name of the city is the greatest gem of this passage, if not the entire book. This revelation of love, fellowship, and salvation is a grand and glorious future prospect.

D. Background:

1. Ezekiel's name means "God strengthens." Ezekiel is strengthened by God for the prophetic ministry to which he is called (3:8-9).

2. Ezekiel came from a family of priests and served as a priest in the temple.
3. He was carried away into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon with Daniel, in the first of three deportations.
4. His prophetic ministry was during the darkest days of Judah's history; the 70 year time period of the Babylonian captivity. He delivered his prophecies during this captivity, somewhere along the Chebar River (a tributary of the Euphrates). Ezekiel uses prophecies, parables, signs, and symbols to dramatize God's message to His exiled people.

His theme: "present judgment will be followed by future glory," so that "you shall know that I am the LORD."

E. Contents of Ezekiel

When Nebuchadnezzar captured the temple in Jerusalem, he stunned the Israelites. They believed God would never allow their enemies to violate the holy sanctuary. But Jeremiah had predicted this would happen, and Ezekiel reminds his fellow exiles that God had brought it to pass, and justly so.

1. He began with a vision of the Lord's chariot - throne, which revealed the God of Israel as supremely glorious and everywhere active.
2. Ezekiel saw God's glory depart from the temple and from Israel. The Lord was forced to depart from the city and the temple because of the wickedness of the Israelites (8:6; 10:18).
3. He predicted the fall and destruction of Jerusalem, after the city was destroyed, Israel had no temple, no king, and no capital, and the people had no hope.
4. In the dark days of exile, Ezekiel is realistic about God's judgment and certain of a future restoration for Israel. God promised that he would be merciful to a remnant. He promised the exiles that God would make a new covenant with his people, to give them a new heart and dwell with them forever. "The Lord is There!" This name embodies the idea of the eternal residence of God with his people and the assurance that he will never again depart. Also his presence will no longer be confined to the holy of holies in the sanctuary, but he will dwell in the city whose name preserved the promise, "The Lord is There!"
5. He received a vision of the future, with a new temple, priesthood, land and city, all reflecting and expressing God's perfect holiness. In a wonderful new era of the kingdom of God, God's people would be indwelt by the Spirit and would have new hearts of obedience (36:24-27). God would live in their midst (48:35) and a Davidic King (37:24-28) would rule in righteousness (34:23-24).
6. His awareness and portrayal of the glory of God is unsurpassed in the Old Testament. His prophecies and visions hold high the hope that God will one day bring all things to completion and make all things new.

F. Ezekiel's temple and blood sacrifice have been fulfilled.

There are many teaching today that a temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem before the second coming of Christ. Animal sacrifices will be offered once again in fulfillment of Ezk 40- 48 and others (Isa. 56:5-7; 60:7; 66:20-23; Jer. 33:15-22; Zech. 14:16-21). Many believe that Ezk 40- 48 describes a yet-future restoration of Israel under Jesus the Messiah in literal fulfillment of these prophecies.

I disagree, my problem is theologically based. Since Christ's one sacrifice won our salvation, what need would there be for further animal sacrifices?

Heb 10:1-4 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make

perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins

Heb 8:13 When He said, " A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Jn 19:30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, " It is finished !" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Jn 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work .

Jn 17:4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Col 2:14-17 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. 16 Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- 17 things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Even more, wouldn't such future sacrifices deny the salvation won for us by Jesus? Most of the worship practices seen here in Ezekiel are similar to those in the Mosaic system, but certain offerings and sacrifices are omitted or modified. Perhaps most important, however, is the fact that O.T. sacrifices never cleansed from sin, but rather prefigured the sacrifice of Jesus. Since animal sacrifices in O.T. times looked forward to the cross of Christ, there is no compelling reason why such sacrifices after Israel is restored to her land might be implemented once again.

Heb 8:4-5 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things,

Heb 9:8-10 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

Heb 9:22-24 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Heb 9:28-10:1 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. 1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

G. Comparison of Ezekiel to Revelation & various NT references

Ezekiel	NT references	Ezekiel	NT references
1:1	Rev 19:11	27:1-36	Rev 18:11-19
1:5	Rev 4:6	28:13	Rev 17:4; 18:16
1:10	Rev 4:7	31:6	Mt. 13:32; Mk. 4:32 Lk. 13:19
1:13	Rev 4:5; 11:19	32:7	Rev 6:12
1:18	Rev 4:6, 8	32:7-8	Mt 24:29; Mk 13:24-25; Lk 21:25-26; Rev 8:12
1:19	Rev 4:7	34:23	Rev 7:17
1:22	Rev 4:6	36:20, 22	Rom 2:24
1:24	Rev 1:15; 14:2; 19:6	36:27	1 Thes 4:8
1:26	Rev 1:13; 4:2-3; 9-10; 5:1, 7, 13; 6:16; 7:9-10, 15; 14:14; 19:4; 21:5	37:5, 10	Rev 11:11
1:18	Rev 4:6, 8	37:9	Rev 7:1
1:28	Rev 4:3; 10:1	37:24-25	Jn 7:42
2:8-3:3	Rev 10:9-10	37:14	1 Thes 4:8
2:9-10	Rev 5:1	37:27	2 Cor 6:16
5:12, 17	Rev 6:8	38:1-23	Rev 20:8
9:2	Rev 1:13	38:2	2 Thes 2:4
9:4	Rev 7:3; 9:4; 14:1; 20:4	38:22	Rev 8:7; 14:10; 19:20; 20:9-10; 21:8
10:12	Rev 4:8	39:1-29	Rev 16:14, 16
10:14	Rev 4:7	39:6	Rev 20:9
11:20	Rev 21:7	39:9	Rev 20:8
12:2	Rev 8:18	39:17-20	Rev 19:17-18; 21
14:21	Rev 6:8	40:2	Rev 21:10
17:23	Mt 13:32; Mk 4:32; Lk 13:19	40:3	Rev 11:1
20:34, 41	2 Cor 6:17	43:2	Rev 1:15; 14:2; 19:6
20:35-36	Rev 12:6, 14	43:7	Rev 7:15; 21:3
22:31	Rev 16:1	44:4	Rev 15:8
24:7	Rev 18:24	44:17-18	Rev 15:6
26:13	Rev 18:22	47:1	Rev 22:1
26:16-17	Rev 18:9-10	47:12	Rev 22:2
26:21	Rev 18:21	48:15, 35	Rev 21:10-21

II. God's presence represents His desire for fellowship with His people

Man's relationship with God was disrupted by sin but established through Jesus Christ, which provides the only proper basis for true human fellowship.

A. Man was created for God's presence and fellowship

Gen 3:8-10 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of

the garden. Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, " Where are you?" He said, " I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."
(Gen 4:16; Ex 20:18-21; 2 Ki 13:23; 2 Ki 24:20; Ps 51:11; Jer 23:39-40)

B. Sin separates people from fellowship with God

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.
(Gen 3:8; Eze 39:23; 1Jn 1:5-6)

C. Israel and the presence of God

Ex 33:14 And He said, " My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."
(Lev 26:12; Isa 63:9; Hag 1:13)

1. God's presence in the tabernacle

Ex 25:8 Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.
(Ex 29:45-46; 40:34-36; Lev 26:11; Dt 12:11)

2. God's presence in the temple

1 Ki 6:12-13 "Concerning this house which you are building, if you ... then I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."
(1 Ki 8:29; 2 Ch 6:20; 2 Ch 7:1-2; Isa 6:1)

3. God's presence in the new Jerusalem

Eze 48:35 ... and the name of the city from that day shall be, ' The LORD is there.'"
(Eze 37:26-28; 43:4-5; Zec 2:10-13; Rev 21:3)

D. Fellowship with God is made possible through Jesus Christ

1 Jn 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.
(Jn 17:3; Eph 2:18-19; Rom 5:10; 2 Co 5:18-19; Col 1: 20-22; Heb 10:19-22)

E. Our (believers, church) fellowship is with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Jn 14:7, 16-17, 23; Mat 28:20; 1 Cor 10:16; Phil 3:10)

The final verse of Ezekiel expresses the heart of God to be with His people.

"The name of the city from that time on shall be, The Lord is There".

How encouraging is to know that the God who created the universe desires to be with His people.

The Holy Spirit declares:

Mt 1:18-25 (the birth of Christ)

Mt 1:23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Heb 13:5-6 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

Mt 28:20 ... "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jn 14:17 that is the Spirit of truth, ... but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

See also Ge 28:15; Ex 33:14; Lev 26:11-12; Nu 14:9; Dt 4:7; Ps 46:7,11; Eze 37:27; Hag 2:4;

Jn 14:17-18, 23; 15:4-5,7; Ro 8:9-11, 31; 1Co 3:16; 2Co 1:22; 6:16; Eph 2:22; Gal 2:20; 2Ti 1:14; 1Jn 4:13; Rev 21:3

F. Fellowship with God is inseparable from fellowship with one another

1Jn 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.
(Mt 18:20; Mk 9:37; Jn 17:21; 2Co 13:11)

G. Jerusalem is referred to as God's dwelling-place

Isa 24:23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.
(Ps 135:21; Isa 31:9; Jer 3:17)

H. The new Jerusalem is to be God's dwelling-place

Eze 48:35 ... and the name of the city from that day shall be, "The LORD is there."
(Rev 3:11-13; 21:1-5, 9-27; Gal 4:25-26; Heb 12:22-24)

Vincent compares Ezek 48:35 to Rev 3:12

(From Word Studies in the New Testament by M R Vincent)

Eze 48:35 "The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'The LORD is there.'"

Rev 3:12 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

New Jerusalem

The believer whose brow is adorned with this name has the freedom of the heavenly city. Even on earth his commonwealth is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). "Still, his citizenship was latent: he was one of God's hidden ones; but now he is openly avouched, and has a right to enter in by the gates to the city".

The new Jerusalem is not a city freshly built, but is new in contrast with the old, outworn, sinful city. The city is called:

Jerusalem is called by 17 Names

1. The city of David - 2 Sam 6:12
2. The city of the great king - Mt 5:35
3. The holy city - Isa 48:2; 52:1; Mt 4:5
4. Salem - Gen 14:18
5. The city of God - Ps 46:4; 48:1; 87:3
6. The city of the Lord of hosts - Ps 48:8
7. The city of righteousness - Isa 1:26
8. The city of truth - Zec 8:3
9. The city of the Lord - Isa 60:14
10. The perfection of beauty - Lam 2:15
11. The joy of the whole earth - Lam 2:15
12. The Lord our righteousness - Jer 23:6; 33:16
13. The Lord is there - Eze 48:35
14. Ariel - Isa 29:1
15. Jerusalem which is above - Gal 4:26
16. The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem - Heb 12:22
17. The great and holy city - Rev 21:10

A place for God's name:

The place chosen as a dwelling for His name

(Deut. 12:5 Deut. 12:11; Deut. 12:21; Deut. 14:23-5; Deut. 16:2; Deut. 16:6; Deut. 16:11; Deut. 26:2; 1 Kgs. 14:21; 2 Ki 23:27; 1 Chr. 22:19; 2 Chr. 6:6; 2 Chr. 6:20; 2 Chr. 12:13; Neh. 1:9);

1. God promised Israel, in the wilderness, that He would choose a place as His dwelling in the promised land for His name (Dt 12:5, 11, 21, 23- 25; 16:2, 11; 26:2).

2. The Temple was the chosen place, a house for His name (1 Ki 5:3, 5; 8:16-20, 29, 43-44, 48; 9:3; 1Ch 22:19; 2Ch 2:1, 4; 7:16; 20:8; 33:7; Ez 6:12; Jer 7:10-12, 14; 32:34)

Jerusalem was the chosen place for His name (1 Ki 11:36; 14:21; 2 Ch 6:6; 12:13; 21:4, 7; 33:4; Ne 1:9; Dan 9:18; Jer 25:29; Ezk 48:35)

The following References were used in this study:

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