

God is Holy and His People, His dwelling place, are Holy

God is Holy

Ps 99:5

Exalt the LORD our God; worship at his footstool! Holy is he!

Ps 99:9

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy!

Re 4:8

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

God is a holy God.

- What does that mean?
- He is altogether pure, good, perfectly loving and righteous.
- This is in the very essence of who He is and
- He cannot be anything but Holy
- He would not want to,
- because He is Holy.

He is holy in the sense that there is no sin in Him at all

- There never was and never will be
- Not only is there no sin in Him
- but no sin, no darkness can remain in the presence of His magnificent holiness

One day His light will come and darkness will be no more

His holiness truly is magnificent,

- Full of splendour and pure, pure light
- When the light of His holiness shines on anything
- only what is not sinful can remain
- The rest is consumed by the glory of His holiness.
- God could manifest Himself in the fullness of His holiness anywhere, any time,
- But for our sake He does not

But we must not think that God's holiness is harsh.

- It can be terrifying
- But it is not harsh at all
- It is too much for us to bear in its magnificence
- But it is beautiful,
- breath-taking,
- awe inspiring,
- full of light

Those who love the light will see this

Those who love darkness will hate it and fear it – they will see it as harsh

God is light

1 Jn 1:5

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

Re 21:22–27

²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³**And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.** ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Everything He created was created holy

- it was all good
- and that is how it will be again (and more) at the end of the age

The light of God, His glory, His love and His holiness will fill that city

- and no darkness will be able to approach that holy light

This distinction was there from the beginning

Ge 1:3-4

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

- It is there because God IS light
- He IS holy

The fall resulted in this being shattered and,

- because it was man that fell
- (to whom dominion on earth had been given),
- the effect of the fall was felt by everything on earth
- The entire creation.

Sin touched and defiled everything in one way or another

- Un-holiness came into the holiness of God's creation and defiled it
- It has had that effect ever since
- and now we **all** fall short of God's glory; (Rom 3:23)
- we cannot stand in the presence of His holiness and live
- The light of His holiness would kill us if we were to look on that while still in this body

Ro 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

You see, because holiness flows from the essence of who God is,

- it is not a moral code,
- a set of rules and regulations
- that God has decided we should live by
- He IS holy and holiness (being holy) is being like Him, our creator.

He is holy and made everything holy, and He made everything to be holy

- Everything was created to be in right relationship with Him
- In fellowship
- To worship Him
- especially His people who He made
- To enjoy fellowship with,
- And to enjoy fellowship with Him

There is no other way to be that fits with who God is and with the universe He made

- but to be holy

When we say that we fall short of His glory

- it does not simply mean that we fail to live according to a set of rules
- it means that we cannot,
- because of our fallen state,
- be holy like He is
- no matter how hard we may try

It also means that we can never stand in His presence

- or enjoy Him
- and fellowship with Him
- based on our merit
- The works we do,
- in and of ourselves,
- can never come close to His holiness

Even worse,

- the distorting effect of darkness, sin – un-holiness is such
- that humanity has actually come to love the darkness
- and hate the light

Jn 3:19–21

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Humanity has become trapped in the power of sin

Do you see what the real problem that the world needs solving is?

God his holy

- and there is no way for us,
- who are prisoners of darkness
- to approach Him
- because we cannot overcome the darkness on our own

But at the same time that God is Holy,

- and God is light,
- God is love
- And love makes a way

God is love

His love is what it is because He is holy and...

His holiness is what it is because He is love

These cannot be separated,

- although our minds do battle to focus on them at the same time
- Both these aspects of who God is are simply too marvellous for us

But we can understand them enough,

- and He wants us to know Him and grow in our understanding of Him
- As a God who is Holy
- As a God who is love

God is a God who wants to be known

- and who makes Himself known
- Because He is love.

1 Jn 4:7-8

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Jn 4:16

¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

A part of the problem we spoke of is that we cannot know Him

- Not while we are trapped in sin and its consequence

But His love was always going to make a plan to rescue us

His plan

- to bring us back into fellowship with Him
- is the most powerful way to see the power and glory of His love
- a love that always displays perfect holiness

His love made a way...

Jn 3:16–17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God found a way that was perfectly holy AND perfectly loving

- that way is in Jesus
- It is in the death and resurrection of Him who paid the price for our sin
- (our un-holiness),
- in full,
- to spare us from eternal death
- and who rose again to give us eternal life

When we put our faith in Jesus,

- and in the work He has done,
- We do not simply have a change of mind.
- It is not simply a decision to be a Christian.

It is God who speaks to our hearts and says,

- “Let light shine out of darkness,”
- and He shines in our hearts
- to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God,
- in the face of Jesus Christ.

Because He shines His light in our hearts

- We see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
- who is the image of God
- 2 Cor 4:3-6

2 Co 4:3–6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. ⁶ For God, who said,

“Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

When we see this we can come to saving faith

- and when we put our faith in this gospel,
- in Jesus as savior,
- We are born again

That is far more than a change of mind, which is only one part

The Holy Spirit does a work in us (called regeneration) that makes a new creation

We are not simply someone who now has a new set of beliefs

- We also regain what was lost in the fall – and more
- We have fellowship with God
- We have access to His Holy presence (Heb 10)

We have this by grace

- a free gift
- and it is given to us based only on the work Jesus has done

We are made righteous in God’s sight

- Because of Him and by Him

We are made holy

- Sanctified by His blood
- Because of Him and by Him

Even more:

The HOLY Spirit comes to live in us because we are now His temple

What do you think He (the HOLY Spirit) will stir up in us?

Holiness...

There is both the ‘already’ and the ‘not yet’ aspect to our holiness

- We are made holy in Christ and can enter in the holy of holies in heaven
- because of His blood that completely covers our sin and sanctifies us
- He makes us holy

We are also works in progress

- in that we now need to work out this great salvation that God has given us

What we have in Christ by grace

- now starts to become who we are through the obedience that comes from faith

God's holiness is the reason we work with the Holy Spirit

- as He works in us to change us
- which is really about making us into what we were always meant to be

Holiness is therefore never about living up to a set of rules

- Or keeping to a moral code
- It is about being like Him
- as was his plan from the beginning

He has been working this out throughout history

When He called Abraham and said to him that in him all nations would be blessed

- He was talking about the fact that Christ would come through his line
- as THE blessing for all nations
- the blessing that would bring salvation,
- that would bring the treasure of God's heart,
- Bring His creation, back to Him

It was the gospel in advance

When He took Israel out of Egypt

- He put in place a way of life for them
- that was designed to show to the world that he was a holy God
- something we have to see if we are to understand our need for salvation

He gave the meticulous instructions for the tabernacle

- and of how everything about it was to be holy
- Set apart exclusively for worship to Him.

This was also so that they would learn that He is a holy God.

They had no idea what that meant before this

They did not really know who God was

When the tabernacle was complete and consecrated

- His glory has come down
- And they had another glimpse of what His holiness is like

What God did with His Israel

- Was to establish them as a witness of His desire to dwell with His people
- a people who were holy

He was still working toward the promise given to Abraham

- that all nations would be blessed in Him
- Now that promise was carried in Israel

He then gave them extensive instructions

- in Leviticus
- about how to live as His holy people
- because He is a holy God

He uses what looks like it is only a set of rules,

- a moral code,
- if you do not see and understand this message of holiness
- He uses this to teach them
- because humanity had no idea what it meant that God is Holy

He put in place an entire nation to teach the world this

- and He also showed them that being His people
- did not only mean being a people who worshipped Him in every aspect of their lives,
- it also meant that they walked in His blessing
- Because of His presence
- He is a holy God dwelling with His holy people
- And that is where blessing flows

As long as they walked on that path

- they knew His presence among them
- and walked in His blessing

Ex 19:5–6 *

⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be **my treasured possession among all peoples**, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a **kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

Ex 29:43–46 *

There (the tabernacle) **I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory.** ⁴⁴ I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. ⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God. ⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

Le 11:43–45

⁴⁴ For I am the LORD your God. **Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.** You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. ⁴⁵ For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. **You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.**”

Le 19:1–2

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, **You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.**

Le 20:6–8

⁷ Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and **be holy, for I am the LORD your God.** ⁸ Keep my statutes and do them; **I am the LORD who sanctifies you.**

Le 20:26 *

²⁶ **You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.**

The OT tabernacle and temple represented the place of His dwelling

- In the midst of His people
- His holy place amongst a Holy people

Even though God’s people did not always get it right,

- God’s message was still clear
- He is a Holy God
- and wants to dwell in the midst of His people
- a holy people

Once Jesus came there was no need any more for the OT temple

- Because those things were only a shadow of the reality
- They pointed to what was to come

His plan is still the same

His desire for a holy people is still the same

1 Pe 1:13–16

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

But now His temple is everyone who is born again

- We are his dwelling place
- His **holy** dwelling place

But now it is not only one nation

All nations can receive the blessing that there is in the gospel

He is still fulfilling His plan to dwell among His people

- A holy people

But now He lives in everyone who has been born again

1 Cor 3:16-17 *

¹⁶ Do you not know that **you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?** ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For **God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.**

1 Jn 3:1–3 *

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

Eph 1:3–6 *

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love** ⁵ he predestined us for

adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

1 Th 4:6–8

⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Do you see what this means?

We make every effort

- In the power of the Holy Spirit
- who lives and work in us
- to walk in holiness
- **because** He is holy

He is our reason,

- our motivation,
- our desire...
- As His holy temple

We worship him in the beauty of holiness

1 Pe 2:5 *

⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a **holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

1 Pe 2:9-12 *

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a **holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but **now you are God's people**; once you had not received mercy, but **now you have received mercy.**

Now, in the light of those mercies, Peter writes...

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Paul put it this way in writing to the Romans...

Ro 12:1-2 *

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.** ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

And like this in his second letter to the Corinthians...

2 Co 6:14-7:1

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For we are the temple of the living God;** as God said,

“I will make my **dwelling among them and walk among them,**
and I will **be their God,**
and they shall **be my people.**

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and **be separate from them,** says the Lord, (*i.e. be holy*)
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

7 Since we have these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.**

Do you see how the pattern remains constant?

God is a Holy God

He dwells with His holy people

They are a witness of who He is and what He has done

- working with God to be His holy people
- in a dark and desperate world

So that all nations should be blessed (in Christ) through their witness

So that the treasure of all nations should come in

We can read the promises of God in the light of His holiness

- And stand in awe at what He has called us to
- We have this as a strong hope

Even though we could not ever come close to His holiness

- In and of ourselves,
- He has made us His holy people
- and called us to be that in this world
- and walk in the blessing of that in this world
- And be a blessing to all nations

We can also read the warnings of the New Testament in the light of His holiness

- and understand that He is not cracking the whip when He warns us
- He is not threatening us
- He is simply saying what He has always said about His people,
- Be holy, because I am holy...

He disciplines those He loves

- So that we can become all He has planned for us to be
- and receive all that He has planned for us to receive

He is reminding us that His blessing is where He is and where He walks

- on the highway of holiness

He is reminding us that everything He has done in this world

- has always been focused on Him dwelling with His people
- a holy God and a holy people

He is telling us not to neglect this calling...

The truth is that we can neglect this call of God,

- This great salvation...

Our love can grow cold

We can become self-absorbed

We can start to live like the world and not even realise it

We can become lukewarm

We can be blind to our spiritual poverty – thinking we are rich

We can lose the immediacy of His presence

We can grieve the Holy Spirit

We can be fast asleep

We can fail to fulfil God's plan for us as His people

There is something that we can lose as a result

1 Co 3:11–17

¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

One day God's holy light will shine on everything and everyone in the fullness of His glory

- Only that which is holy will remain

We who are in Christ

- Can have the assurance that we will be saved
- because that is not gained by our work
- but by His

But every one of our works will be judged in the light of God's holiness

Some will prove to be gold, silver and precious stones

- and we have a reward in those

Some will prove to be wood, hay or straw

- and will simply be burned up

The most important thing about your life when you are born again

- Is that you are now His temple
- His holy dwelling
- That comes as a gift of grace
- It comes with blessing
- It comes with a calling
- To be His holy people
- In the midst of the darkness of this world
- So that all nations will be blessed

That is the church God wants the world to see

- A church in whom our holy God is visible

There are times when God comes to His church to revive that is us

This is one of those times

Ezk 43:10-12

¹⁰ "As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and they shall measure the plan. ¹¹ And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, its whole design; and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out. ¹² This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.

Where to start?

In receiving His conviction...

Saying yes to His call to change

- As He works in us
- By His Holy Spirit

This is what is at stake when God sends His word to His people through the prophet Haggai

Hag 1:1–2:19

The Command to Rebuild the Temple

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ²“Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.” ³Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ⁴“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

⁷“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. ¹⁰Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. ¹¹And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.”

The People Obey the LORD

¹²Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. ¹³Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD’s message, “I am with you, declares the LORD.” ¹⁴And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, ¹⁵on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

The Coming Glory of the Temple

2 In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet: ²“Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ³‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? ⁴Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. ⁶For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is

mine, declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.' ”

Blessings for a Defiled People

¹⁰On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, ¹¹“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Ask the priests about the law: ¹²‘If someone carries holy meat in the fold of his garment and touches with his fold bread or stew or wine or oil or any kind of food, does it become holy?’ ” The priests answered and said, “No.” ¹³Then Haggai said, “If someone who is unclean by contact with a dead body touches any of these, does it become unclean?” The priests answered and said, “It does become unclean.” ¹⁴Then Haggai answered and said, “So is it with this people, and with this nation before me, declares the LORD, and so with every work of their hands. And what they offer there is unclean. ¹⁵Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the LORD, ¹⁶how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. ¹⁷I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the LORD. ¹⁸Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the LORD’s temple was laid, consider: ¹⁹Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you.”

The warnings of Hebrews are about fulfilling the plan of God for His people

We can miss out on the reward in that

Heb 12:1–17

Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Do Not Grow Weary

³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but

he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Eze 42:20–43:12

²⁰He measured it on the four sides. It had a wall around it, 500 cubits long and 500 cubits broad, to make a separation between the holy and the common.

The Glory of the LORD Fills the Temple

43 Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. ²And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. ³And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. ⁴As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

⁶While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, ⁷and he said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places, ⁸by setting their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger. ⁹Now let them put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

¹⁰“As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and they shall measure the plan. ¹¹And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, its whole design; and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out. ¹²This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.

Eze 48:35

And the name of the city from that time on shall be, The LORD Is There.”