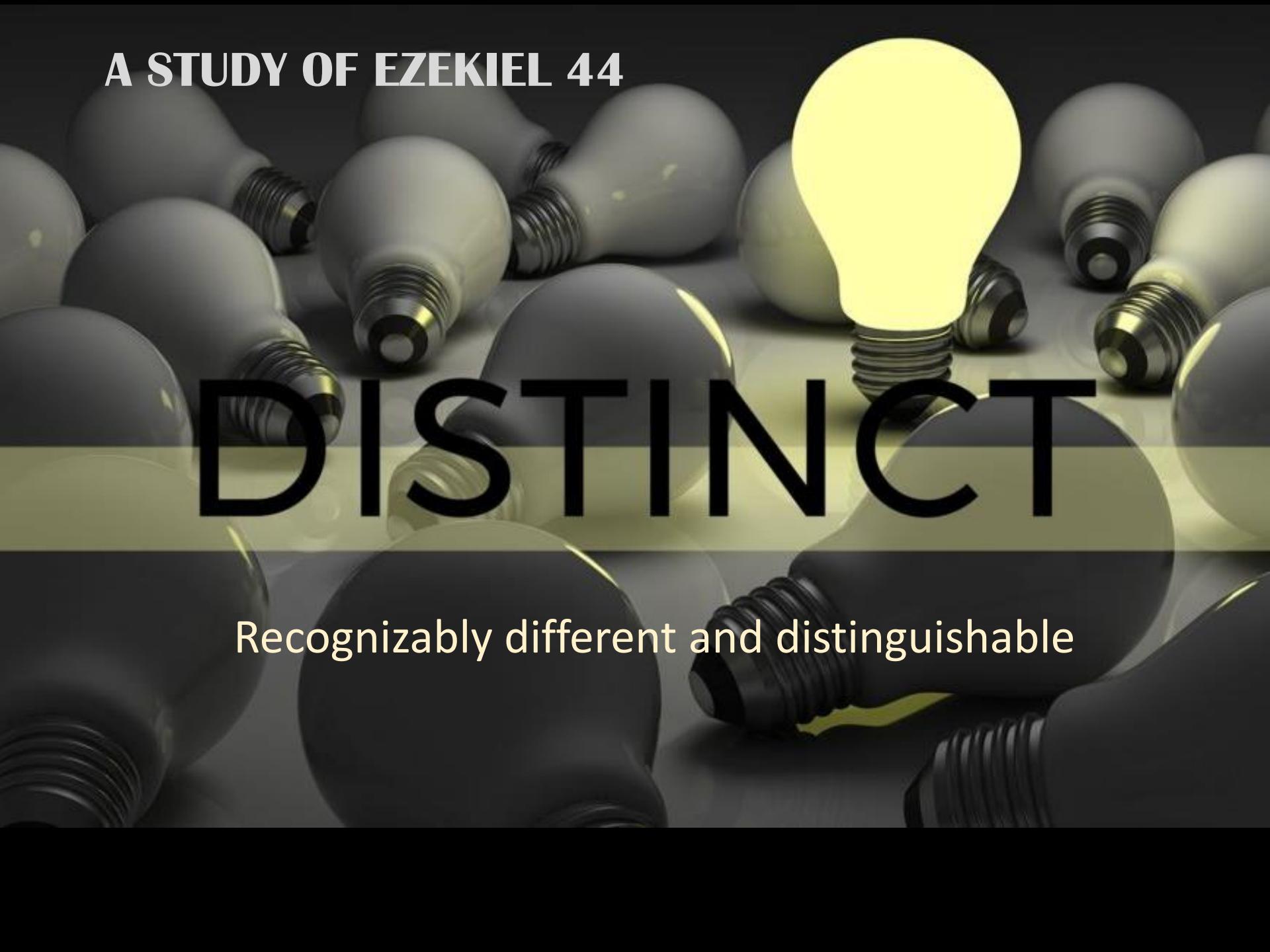


A STUDY OF EZEKIEL 44



DISTINCT

Recognizably different and distinguishable

DISTINCT:

**The life & death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

The Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Ascension to Heaven.

The Holy Spirit.

Recognizably different and distinguishable



WHAT

NEXT?





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.

1 PETER 2:9

Ezekiel

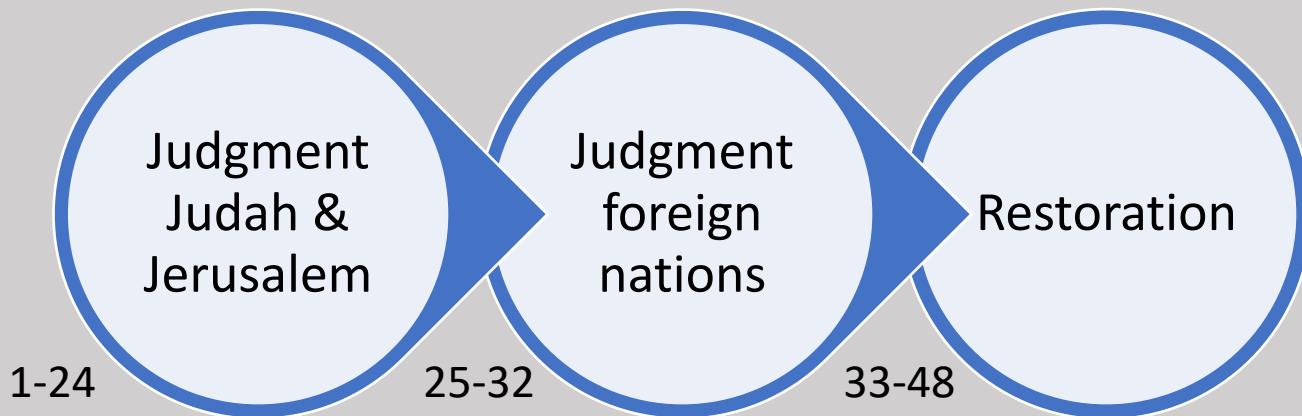
*The Living Creatures and the Glory of
the LORD*

In the ^a thirtieth year, in the fourth month
on the fifth day, while I was among the
exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were
opened and I saw visions of God.

^bOn the fifth of the month—of May (the fifth
year of the exile of King Jeconiah)—the

word of the Lord came to
the son of Burki, ^b by the
land of the Babylonians.
The Spirit was upon him,
he spoke, and I said,
“Lord, what is it?”
He answered, “Come with me
into the desert, up
to the mountain,
and I will speak with you
there.”

SUMMARY OF EZEKIEL: 3 BOOK DIVISIONS / PROPHECIES



40 The temple area restored - details to the gates & courts



41 Details to inside the temple



42 Rooms for the priests (outer part of the temple)



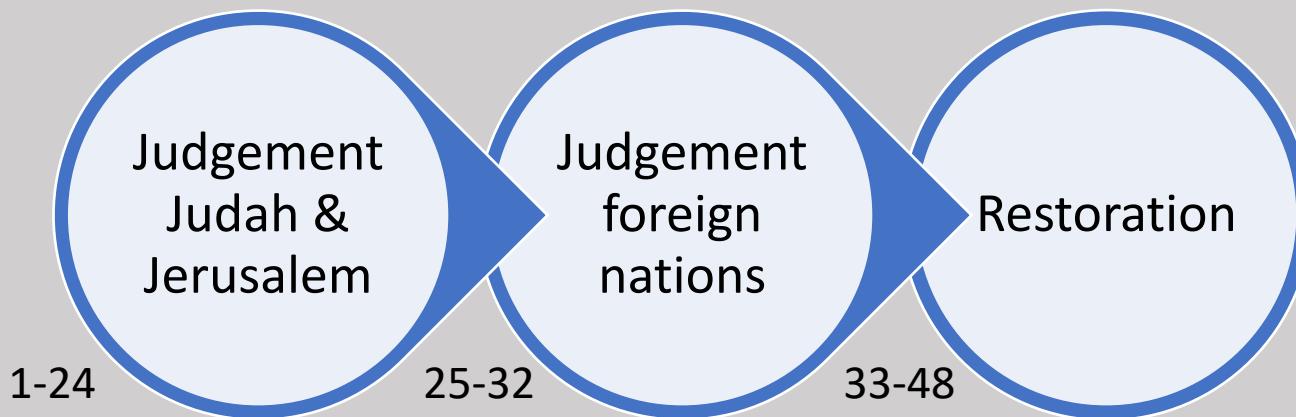
43 God's glory returns. The altar and the sacrifices



44 Who may enter the temple and the priests



SUMMARY OF EZEKIEL: 3 BOOK DIVISIONS / PROPHECIES



40 The temple

Ezekiel 44

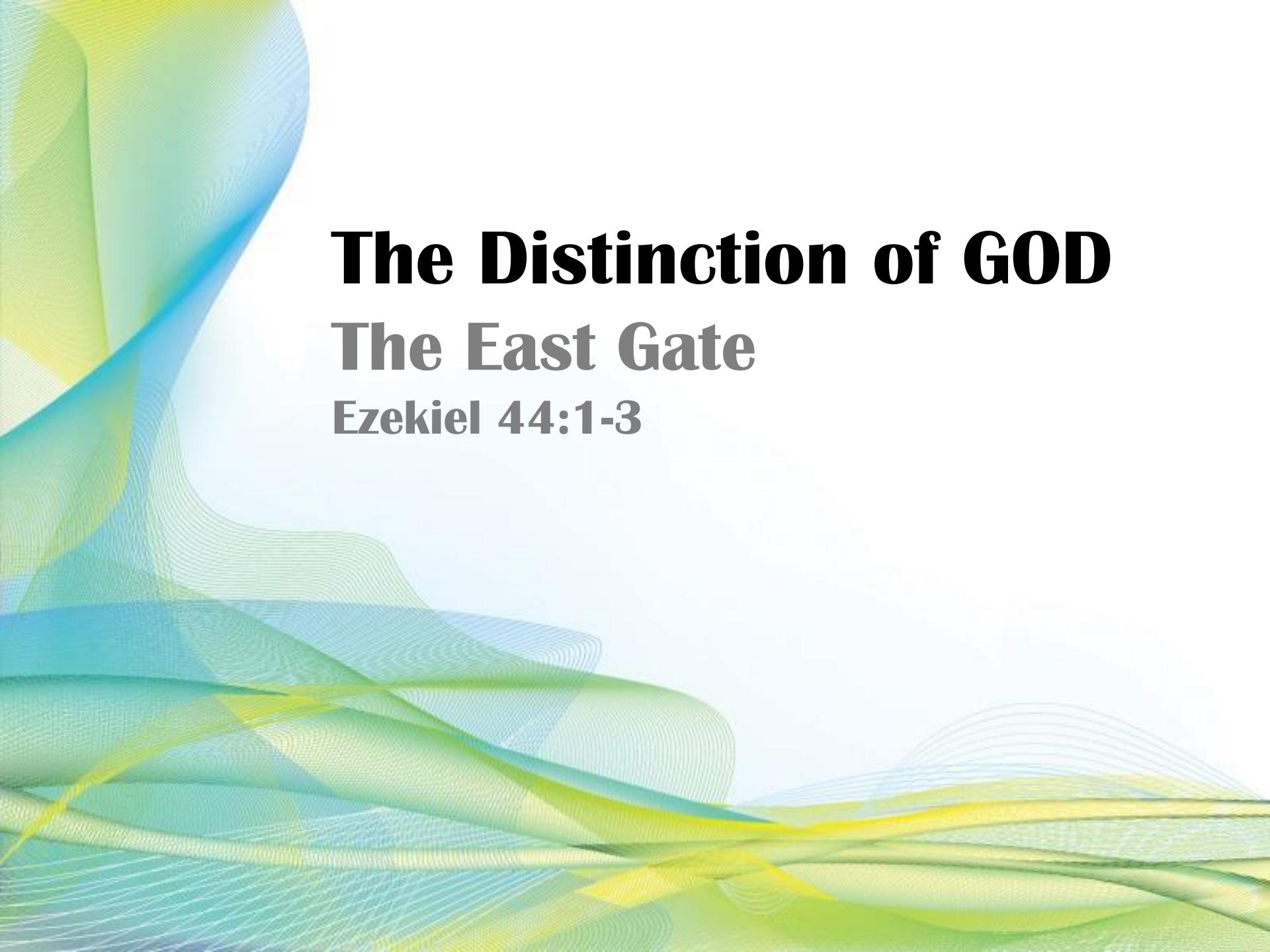
1. The East Gate
2. The North Gate

42 R

1. Those who cannot enter
2. The Levites
3. The Levitical Priests

43 C

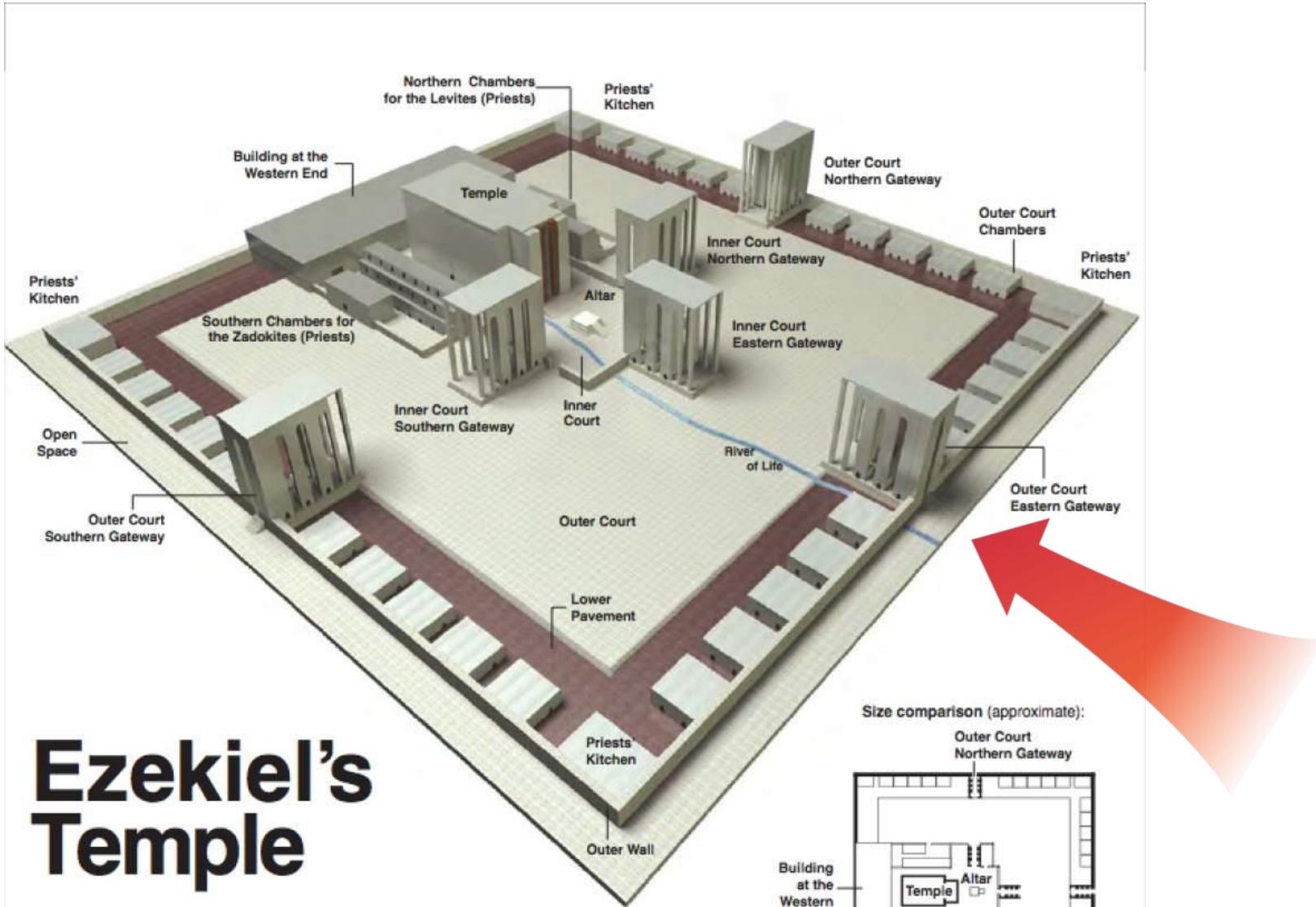




The Distinction of GOD

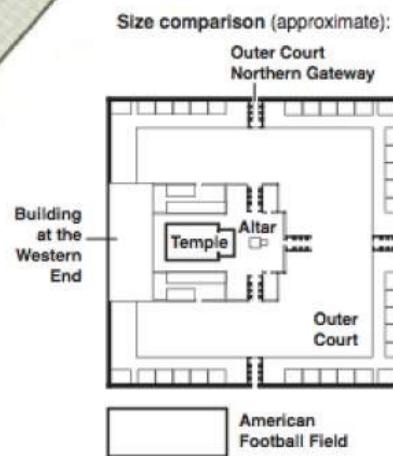
The East Gate

Ezekiel 44:1-3

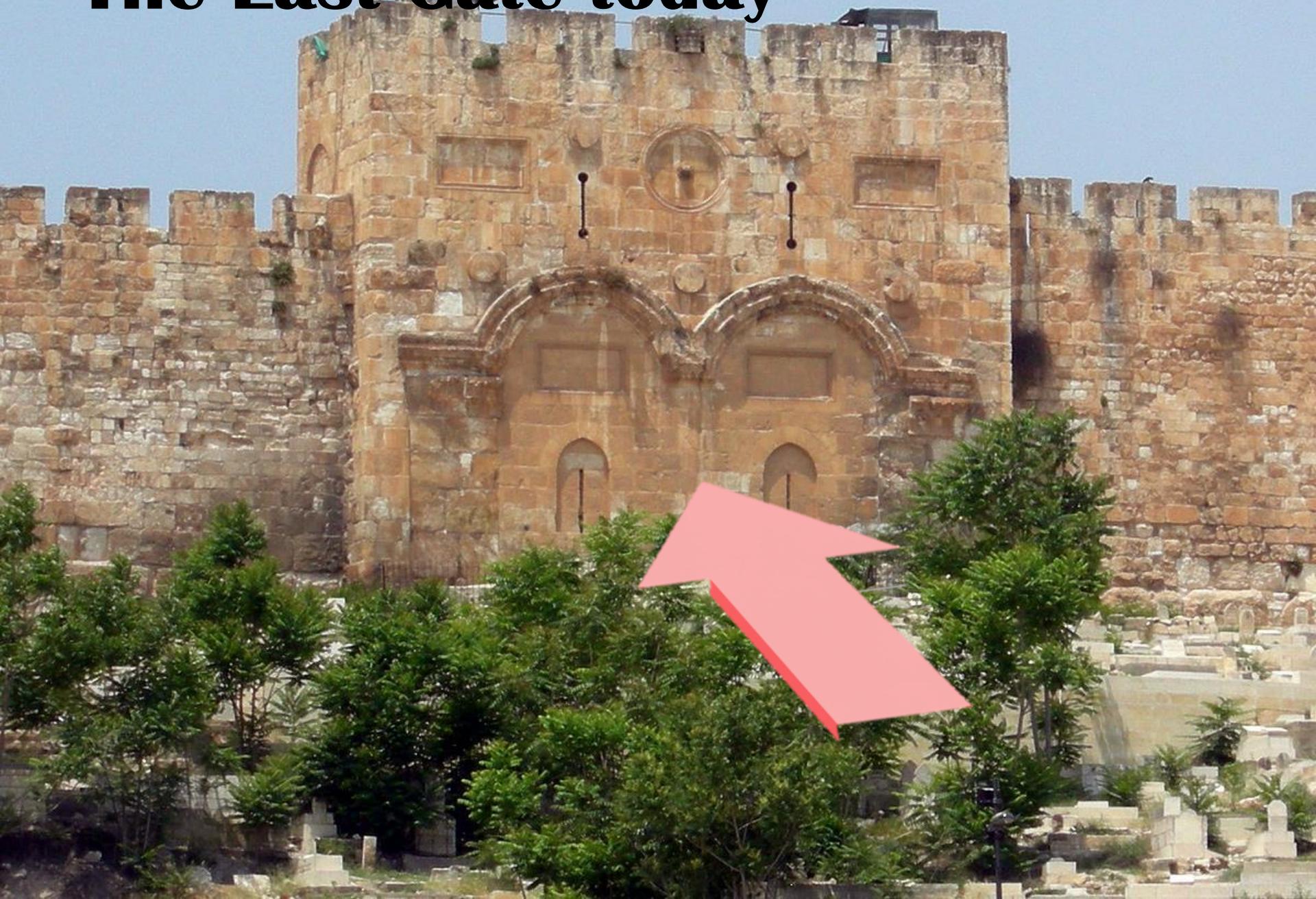


Ezekiel's Temple

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in AD 70, a third temple has not yet been constructed.



The East Gate today



The East Gate today (v.1-2)

- It was shut (for emphases, repeated 3 times).
- A gate reserved for God himself.
 - John 10:1-3 - “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him ...
 - There is no other way to God except the way He has made through Christ (north gate with acceptable sin offering).

The Prince

V.3

He may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord: This this prince has special access to the gate complex. The gate itself is not open to him, but he may sit in its chambers and vestibule there in fellowship with the Lord.

The Prince

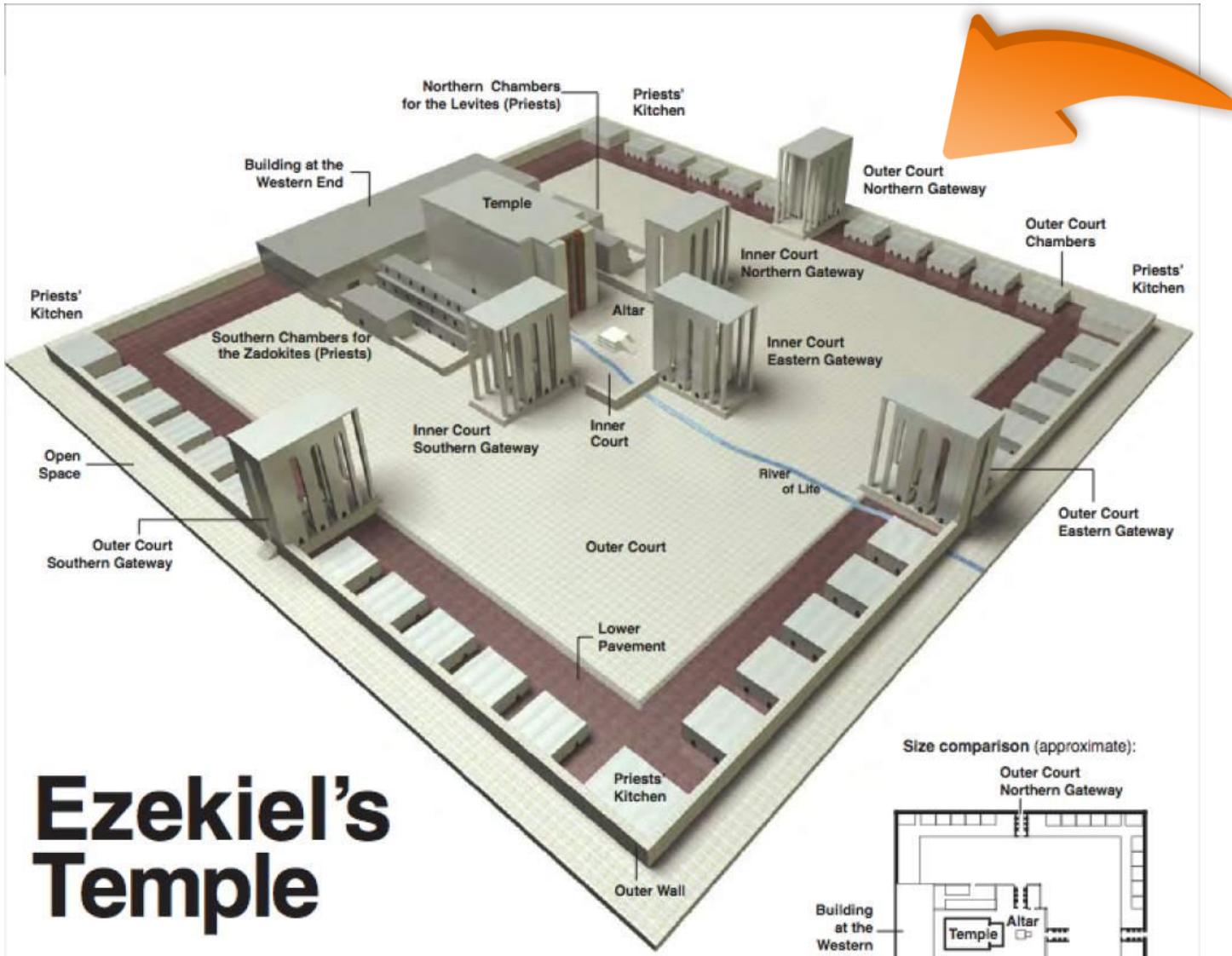
- i. The identity of the prince is a matter of much discussion among Bible commentators and teachers. A few take it to be Jesus the Messiah, and some that he is a high priest.
- ii. The fact that the prince must offer a sin offering (Ezekiel 45:22) and has sons (Ezekiel 46:16) means it is unlikely that the prince is Jesus Messiah.

The Prince

My thoughts: Approach the historical and symbolic. Historically it can't be Christ. Symbolically High Priest is Christ.

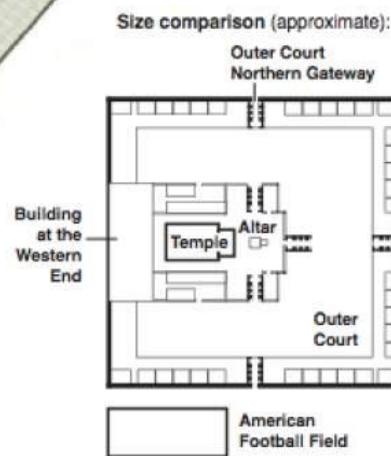
The Distinction of ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

The North Gate
Ezekiel 44:4-9



Ezekiel's Temple

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in AD 70, a third temple has not yet been constructed.



The Glory of God v.4

Saw the glory of the Lord filling the temple and feel facedown.

The privilege of entering God's glorious and holy presence.



Look carefully, listen closely, give attention v.5

Again, a threefold emphasis.

**About what? All the regulations and instructions regarding
the temple.**



Not all may enter v.6-9

- 1. Detestable practices**
- 2. Uncircumcised heart and flesh**
- 3. While you gave sacrifices**



Not all may enter v.6-9

1. Detestable practices

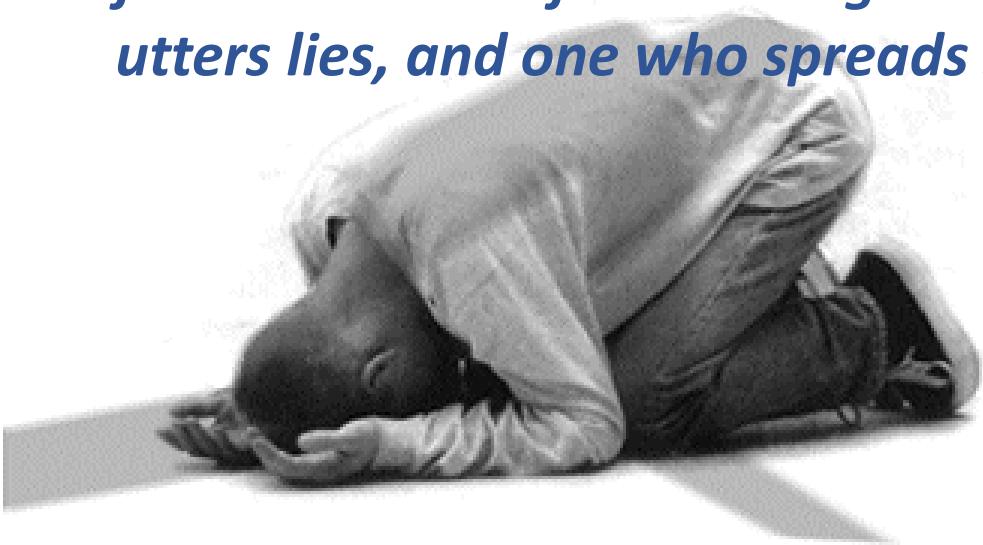
Abominations (**disgusting**, An abomination in English is that which is exceptionally loathsome, hateful, sinful, wicked, or vile. -- especially idolatry) – E.g. Deut 7:25



Not all may enter v.6-9

1. Detestable practices

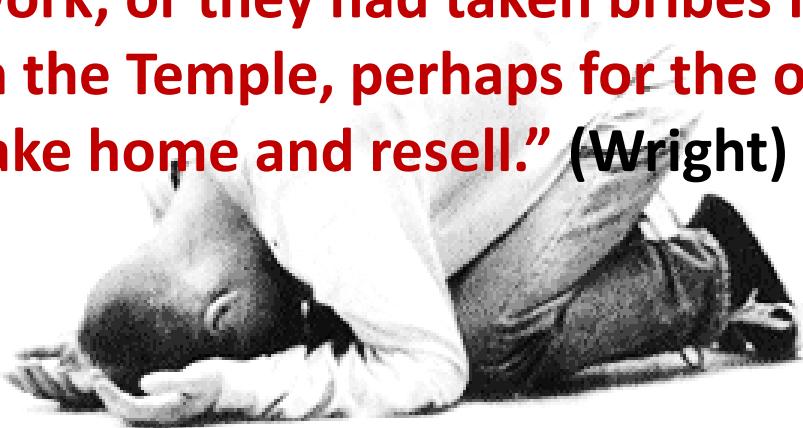
Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven things which are also abominations: "*haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.*"



Not all may enter v.6-9

2. Uncircumcised heart and flesh

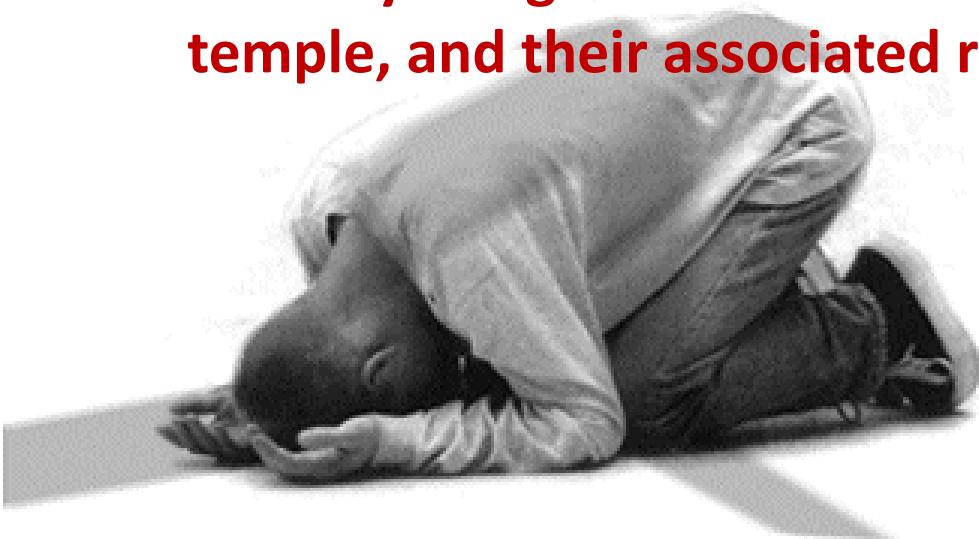
It is clear from vs. 7-8 that in the last days of Solomon's Temple the priests had allowed anyone, even uncovenanted pagans, to act as priests and temple servants. Either they had been lazy or busy with their own affairs, and had hired others to do their work; or they had taken bribes from pagans who wanted to serve in the Temple, perhaps for the offerings that they were able to take home and resell." (Wright)



Not all may enter v.6-9

3. While you gave sacrifices

- While offering food, fat & blood ... Some “form of worship”
- Instead of carrying out your duty ... Israel did not care for the holy things God entrusted to them in His law, the temple, and their associated rituals.



The way to God's presence is open to ALL.
But not all (desire to) enter it. Matt 7:13-14 (Wide & Narrow gate)



The Distinction of 'indifferent' saints

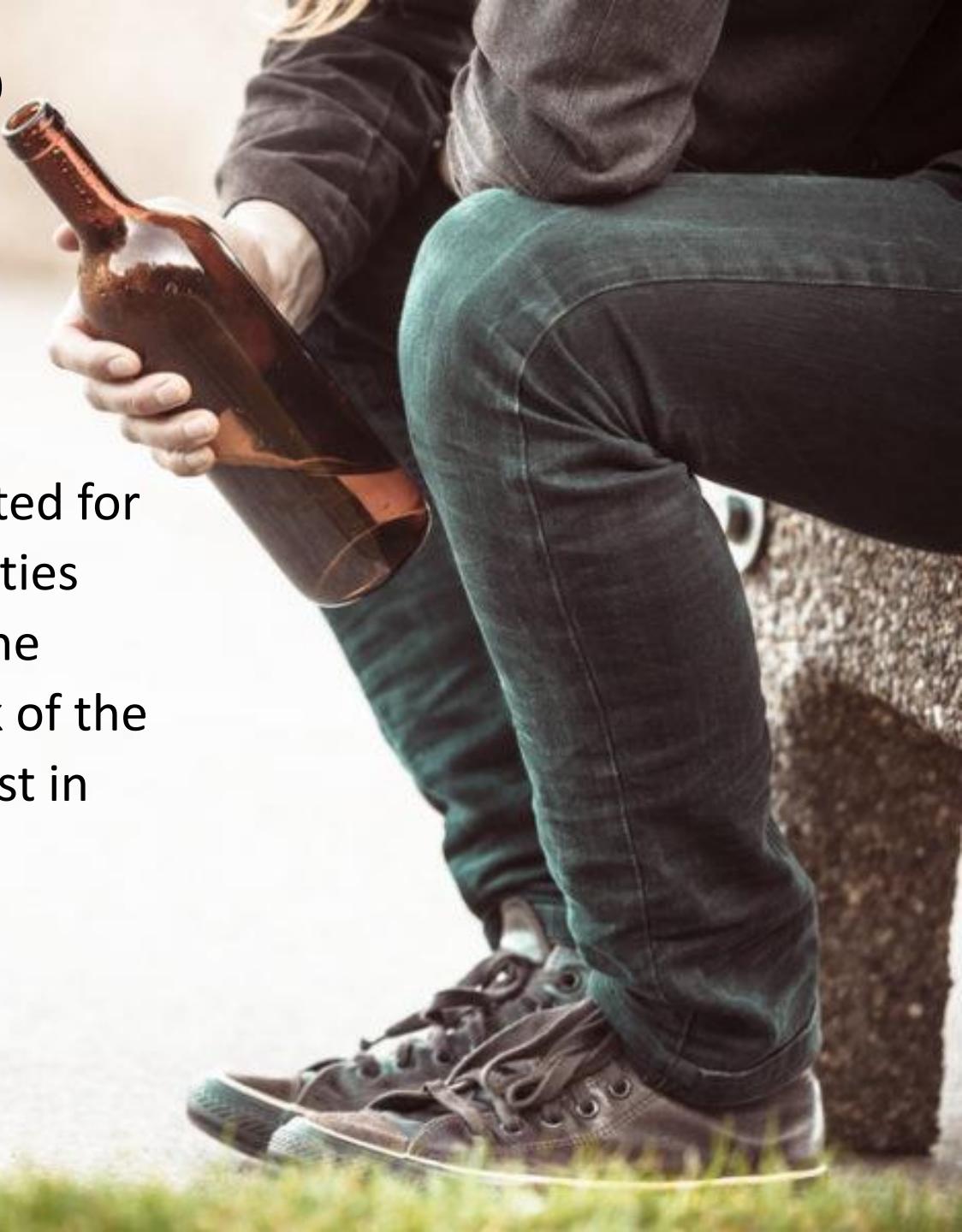
Ezekiel 44:10-14

THE LEVITES (1) – WHO WENT FAR FROM ME

Verse 10.

Who are the Levites?

They were specially appointed for tabernacle service, their duties including maintenance of the tabernacle, carrying the ark of the covenant, assisting the priest in their temple service.



THE LEVITES (1) – WHO WENT FAR FROM ME

Verse 11

Restored

Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary: God promised a future restoration of the Levites who previously went astray.



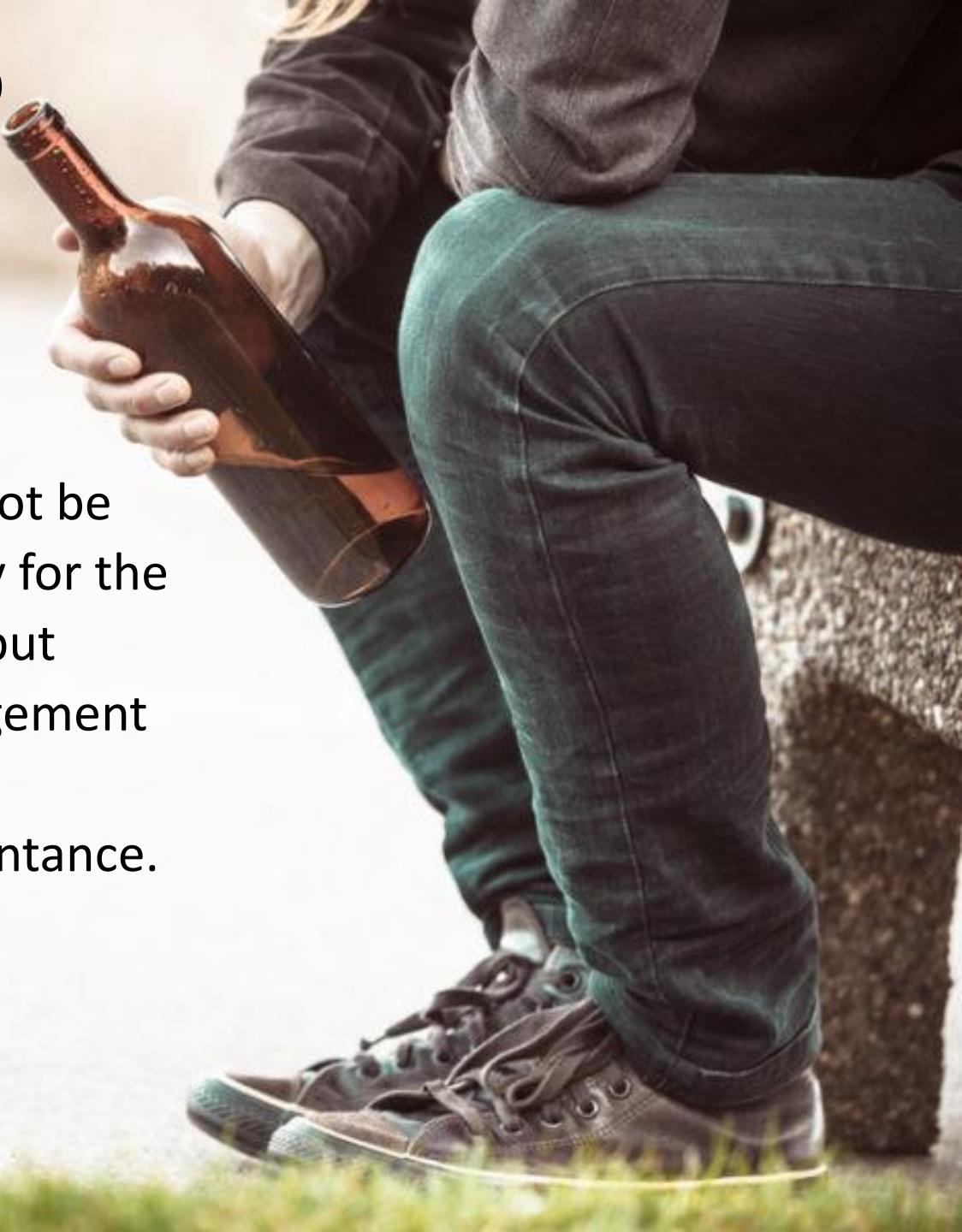
THE LEVITES (1) – WHO WENT FAR FROM ME

Verse 11

Restored

Though lapsed, they shall not be altogether discarded, partly for the honour of the priesthood, but principally for the encouragement of such as, having fallen by infirmity, rise again by repentance.

(Trapp)

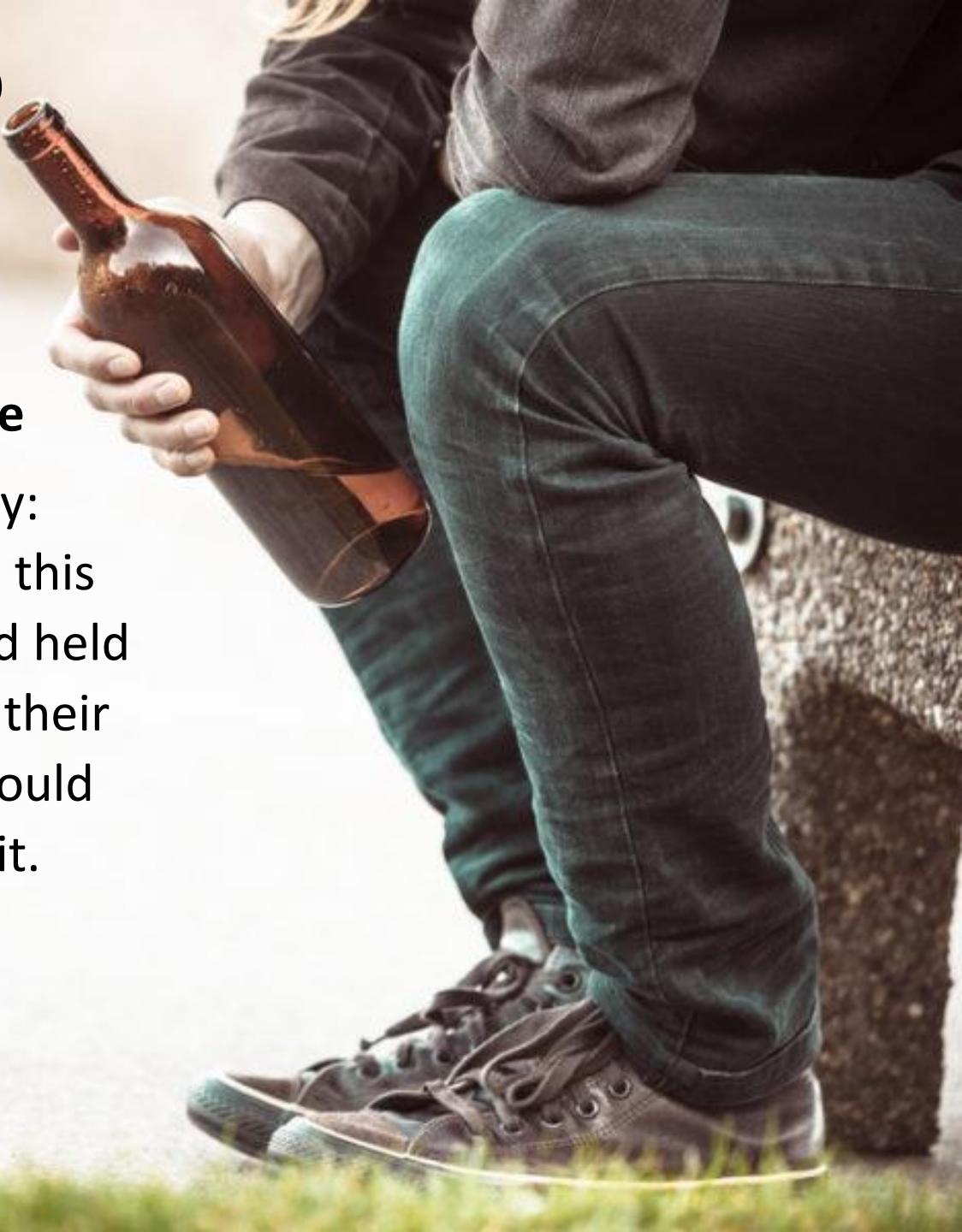


THE LEVITES (1) – WHO WENT FAR FROM ME

Verse 12

Restored ... yet Accountable

They shall bear their iniquity:
Repeated twice (v.10 & 12), this phrase emphasizes that God held the Levites accountable for their sin and idolatry, and God would discipline them because of it.



THE LEVITES (1) – WHO WENT FAR FROM ME

Verse 13-14

Restored ... yet Accountable

They shall not come near to Me to minister to Me as priest: In Ezekiel's future temple the Levites would not be allowed to perform sacrifices as priests; they would be gatekeepers and servants (ministers) of the temple



The Distinction of 'devoted' saints

Ezekiel 44:15-31

THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK (v.15)

WHO IS ZADOK?

Zadok son of Ahitub was a Levite priest during the time of King David. For a long time, he was co-high priest with Abiathar. Zadok was a descendant of Aaron and a leader over his family of Levites (*1 Chronicles 27:17*).

THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK (v.15)

HOW WAS HE DIFFERENT FROM ABIATHAR?

They were both loyal to David during Absalom's coup. (2 Sam 15:13-14, 24)

However later, when Abonijah, David's fourth son (very handsome, cunning with good showmanship – 1 Kings 1:5-6), assumed kingship when David was old – Abiathar and Joab followed him, but Zadok, Nathan et al. did not)

STEADFAST TO THE END

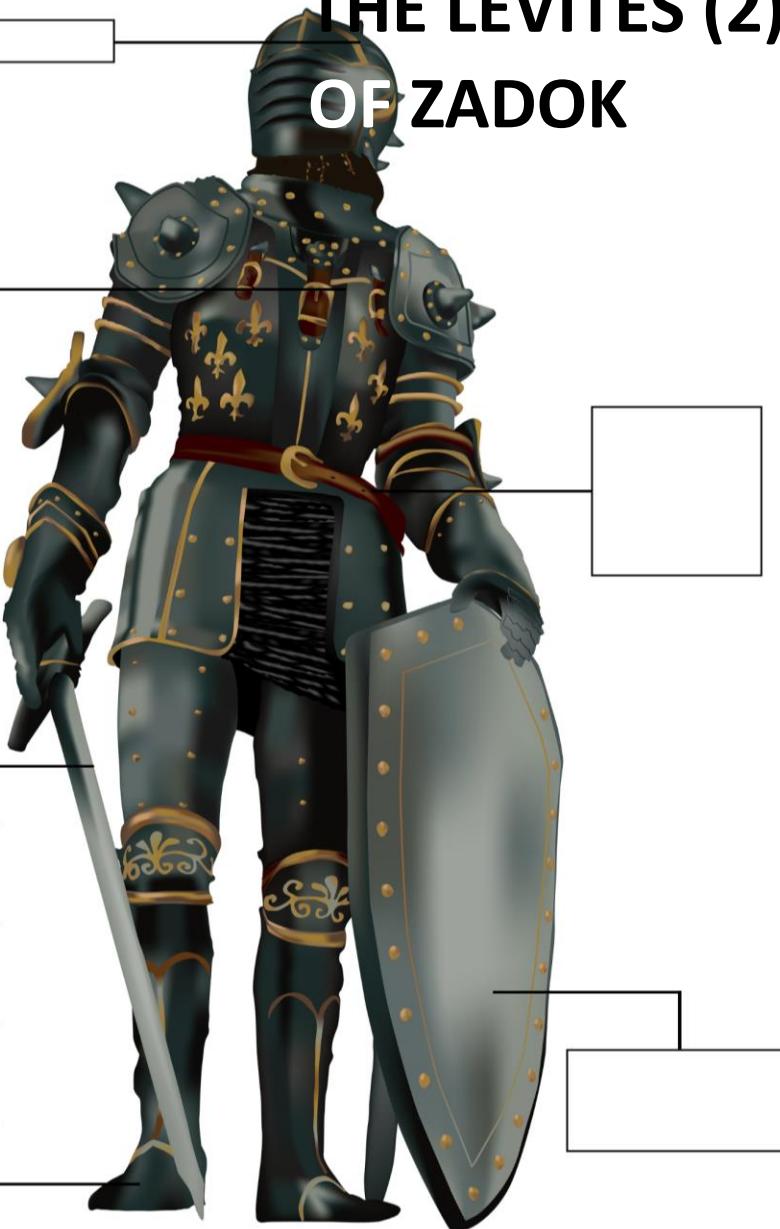


THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK

Distinction #1. Their intimacy with God is distinct (v.15-16)

But the Levitical priests, who are descendants of Zadok and who guarded my sanctuary when the Israelites went astray from me, are to ***come near*** to minister before me; they are to ***stand before me*** to offer sacrifices of fat and blood, declares the Sovereign Lord. They alone are to ***enter my sanctuary***; they alone are to ***come near*** my table to minister before me and serve me as guards.

THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK



Distinction #2. Their appearance and lifestyle distinct (v.17-22)

- Ezekiel 44:17-22
- The Armor of God – Eph 6:10-18
- Put on garments of light – Col 3:5-14
- Heavenly garments of white – Rev 3:5



WHAT'S YOUR MISSION FOR TODAY?

THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK

Distinction #3. Their mission is distinct

²³ They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.

²⁴ In any dispute, the priests are to serve as judges and decide it according to my ordinances. They are to keep my laws and my decrees for all my appointed festivals, and they are to keep my Sabbaths holy.



BUT YOU ARE A **CHOSEN** PEACE, 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.

1 PETER 2:9



BUT YOU ARE A **CHOSEN** RACE, A ROYAL
PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR HIS OWN
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THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK

**Distinction #4. Their holiness is distinct
(v.25-27)**

Holiness (saints) is not perfection, nor is it sinlessness; only Jesus is perfect & sinless. We still fall and sin.



THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK

**Distinction #4. Their holiness is distinct
(v.25-27)**

Holiness (*hagios, ἅγιος*) stands for sacred, pure consecrated *because of God.*

E.g. Bruges The Bascilica of the Holy Blood

Separateness. The blood of Christ cleanses us.





THE LEVITES (2) – PRIESTS DESCENDANTS OF ZADOK

Distinction #5. Their inheritance is distinct
(v.28-31)

THE RICHES
OF HIS GLORIOUS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

EPHESIANS 1:18



A thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I have come that they might have life and have it **abundantly.** (John 10:10)

1. God's blessings.
2. A new life in Christ. A new relationship with God.
3. Peace with God. Forgiveness.
4. Abundant opportunity and responsibility.
5. Right living. Treasures in heaven.
6. God's power and Holy Spirit.
7. Answered prayers.
8. A hope and home in heaven.
9. ... plus the sanctified blessings given to man on earth

THE RICHES

OF HIS GLORIOUS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

EPHESIANS 1:18

DISTINCT:

**The life & death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

The Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Ascension to Heaven.

The Holy Spirit.

Recognizably different and distinguishable



EZEKIEL 44

DISTINCTION



Intimacy Lifestyle Mission Holiness Inheritance
with God & Blessing