

Haftarah Helper 5781: Tetzaveh

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Ezekiel 43:10-27

Ezekiel, the prophet of the Babylonian Exile, shares visions of rebuke and of redemption. His final, extended vision (chapters 40-48) describes a rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. Its first section (chapters 40-43:12) describes the restored Temple's dimensions. The Haftarah opens with that inspirational section's conclusion (43:10-12), a comforting rebuke to the Jews exiled in Babylon: by learning about God's rebuilt Temple, they will become ashamed of their sins that had led to the Temple's destruction, and learn to aspire to a renewed, exalted one. The Haftarah's second section continues by detailing the dimensions of the new Temple's sacrificial altar (43:13-17), and concludes with the sacrificial procedures for its inauguration (43:18-27).

Haftarah Breakdown

Verses 10-12: God tells Ezekiel to recount the future Temple's measurements as inspirational chastisement.

Ezekiel 43:11	יחזקאל מ"ג:יא
If they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the form of the house, and its design, and its exits, and its entrances, and all its forms, and its ordinances, and all its shapes, and all its laws. Write it before their eyes [so] that they may keep its whole form and all its ordinances, and do them.	וְאִם-נִכְלְמוּ מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר-עָשׂוּ צִוִּיתִי הַבַּיִת וְתִכְוִנָתוֹ וּמוֹצְאָיו וּמוֹבְאָיו וְכָל-צִוִּיֹתָיו וְאֵת כָּל-חֻקֹתָיו וְכָל-צִוִּרְתֵי [צִוִּירְתָיו] וְכָל-תּוֹרֹתוֹ [תּוֹרֹתָיו] הַזֶּה אֲנִי הוֹדַעְתִּים וְכָתֹב לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְיִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת-כָּל-צִוִּירְתוֹ וְאֵת-כָּל-חֻקֹתָיו וְעָשׂוּ אֹתָם:

Verse 13-17: Ezekiel enumerates the measurements of the new Temple's altar.

Ezekiel 43:13	יחזקאל מ"ג:יג
These are the measures of the altar by cubits. a cubit is a cubit and a handbreadth. The bottom shall be a cubit, and the breadth a cubit. Its border by its edge round about shall be a span. This shall be the top of the altar.	וְאֵלֶּה מְדוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ בְּאַמּוֹת אַמָּה וְטַפַּח וְחֵיק הָאַמָּה וְאַמָּה-רֹחֵב וּגְבוּלָה אֶל-שִׁפְתָהּ סָבִיב לְטֶרֶת הָאֲמֹד וְזֶה גֹב הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

Verse 18: God commands Ezekiel regarding the Altar's inauguration.

Ezekiel 43:18	יחזקאל מ"ג:יח
And he said to me, Son of man, thus says the Lord God; These are the ordinances of the altar on the day when they shall make it, to offer burnt offerings upon it, and to sprinkle the blood upon it.	וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי בֶּן-אָדָם כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי ה' אֱלֹהֵי חֻקֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ בַּיּוֹם הַעֲשׂוֹתוֹ לְהַעֲלֹת עָלָיו עוֹלָה וְלִזְרֹק עָלָיו דָּם:

Verses 19-27: The description of the rededication ceremony.

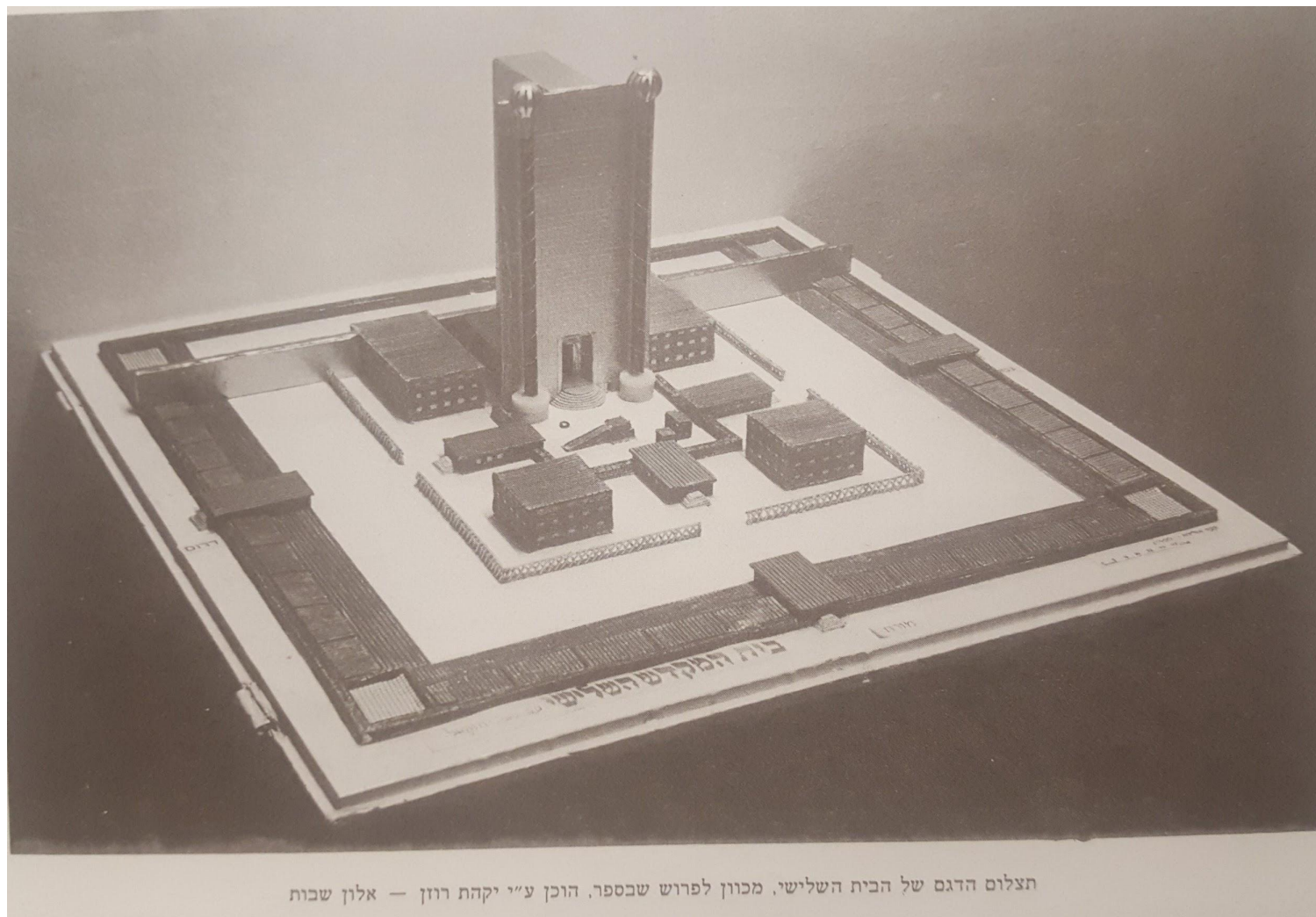
Ezekiel 43:27	יחזקאל מ"ג:כ"ז
And when these days are expired --on the eighth day and onwards, the priests shall make upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God.	וַיְכַלּוּ אֶת-הַיָּמִים (ס) וְהִנֵּה בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁמִינִי וְהִלָּאָה עֲשׂוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים עַל-הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֶת-עוֹלוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת-שְׁלָמֵיכֶם וְרִצְאָתִי אֶתְכֶם נָאם אֲדָ-גִי ה' (ס)

Connections

The Midrash derives the **importance of studying the structures of the Temple** from the Haftarah

Pesikta Rabbati 16:1	פסיקתא רבתי טז:א
Shmuel said, "If they are ashamed of all they have done [make known to them the layout of the Temple]..." (Ezekiel 43:11). Is there a layout of the Temple nowadays? Rather, the Holy One, blessed be He, said, "Since you engage in its study, it is as if you built it."	שמואל אמר "ואם נכלמו מכל אשר עשו וגו' (יחזקאל מ"ג:יא) וכי יש צורת הבית עד עכשיו? אלא אמר הקב"ה הואיל ואתם מתעסקים בו כאילו אתם בונים אתו.

Ezekiel's Temple, as shown in the Da'at Mikra volume of Ezekiel. (Every depiction includes speculative elements due to omissions in the Biblical text and other difficulties rendering it precisely.)



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