



Tetzaveh: Ezekiel 43:10-27

Ezekiel, the prophet of the Babylonian exile, shares visions of rebuke and of redemption. The last eight chapters of his book describe an extended vision during which he is physically transported from Babylon to Jerusalem to behold a rebuilt Temple, God’s glory returned to it, and His presence restored among His people. Its first four and a half chapters describe the restored Temple’s dimensions, shown to him by a man-like guide on Yom Kippur, 572 BCE (Ezek. 40:1).

The Haftarah opens with that inspirational section’s conclusion, a comforting rebuke to the Jews exiled in Babylon. By learning about God’s rebuilt Temple, they will become ashamed of their sins that 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 the seven days of its inauguration and the restoration of His relationship with His people thereafter. The Parashah similarly describes God’s presence dwelling amidst His people and in His Temple after seven days of inaugural sacrificial and purification procedures for priests and the Mishkan (Tabernacle).

Haftarah Breakdown

Verses 43:10-12: 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 they have done, make known to them the House’s form, and its design, exits, and entrances, all its forms, all its ordinances, all its shapes, and all its laws. Write [these] before their eyes [so] that they may keep its whole form and all its ordinances, and do them.	וְאִם־נִכְלְמוּ מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר־עָשׂוּ צִנְרַת הַבַּיִת וּתְכוּנָתוֹ וּמוֹצְאָיו וּמוֹבְאָיו וְכָל־צִוְרָתוֹ וְאֵת כָּל־חֻקְתָּיו וְכָל־צִוְרָתִי [צִוְרָתָיו] וְכָל־תּוֹרָתוֹ [תּוֹרָתוֹ] הַזֶּה אֹתָם וְכָתַב לְעֵינֵיהֶם וַיִּשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־כָּל־צִוְרָתוֹ וְאֵת־כָּל־חֻקְתָּיו וַעֲשׂוּ אֹתָם:

Verses 43:13-17: Ezekiel enumerates the measurements of the new Temple’s altar.

Ezekiel 43:13	יחזקאל מ"ג:יג
These are the Altar’s measurements 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 all around shall be a span. This shall be the Altar’s top.	וְאֵלֶּה מִדּוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ בְּאַמּוֹת אַמָּה וְטַפַּח וְחִיָּם הָאֵמָה וְאַמָּה־רֹחֵב וּגְבוּלָהּ אֶל־שַׁפְתָּהּ: סָבִיב זָרַת הָאֵלֶּה גֹּב הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

Verses 43:18-21: The man conveys God’s commands to Ezekiel regarding the Altar’s inauguration, describing the first day of the inauguration ceremony. Priests of the Tzadok family shall serve in the Temple.

Ezekiel 43:18	יחזקאל מ"ג:יח
And [the man] said to me, “Son of man, thus says the Lord God: “These are the Altar’s [inaugural] procedures when it is made: to offer burnt offerings upon it, and to sprinkle the blood upon it.”	וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי בֶּן־אָדָם כֹּה אָמַר אֲדַקִּי ה' אֱלֹהֵי חֻקֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ בַּיּוֹם הַעֲשׂוֹתוֹ לְהַעֲלוֹת עָלָיו עוֹלָה וְלִזְרֹק עָלָיו דָּם:

Verses 43:22-26: God describes the sacrificial and purifications procedures for the rest of the inaugural week.

Ezekiel 43:26	יחזקאל מ"ג:כ"ו
Seven days they shall [thus] cover [and thereby atone for] the Altar and purify it, and they shall consecrate it.	שִׁבְעַת יָמִים יְכַפְּרוּ אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְטַהְרוּ אֹתוֹ וּמִלְּאוּ יְדוֹ:

Verse 43:27: After the rededication concludes, God will accept the Jewish people and their priests' Altar offerings.

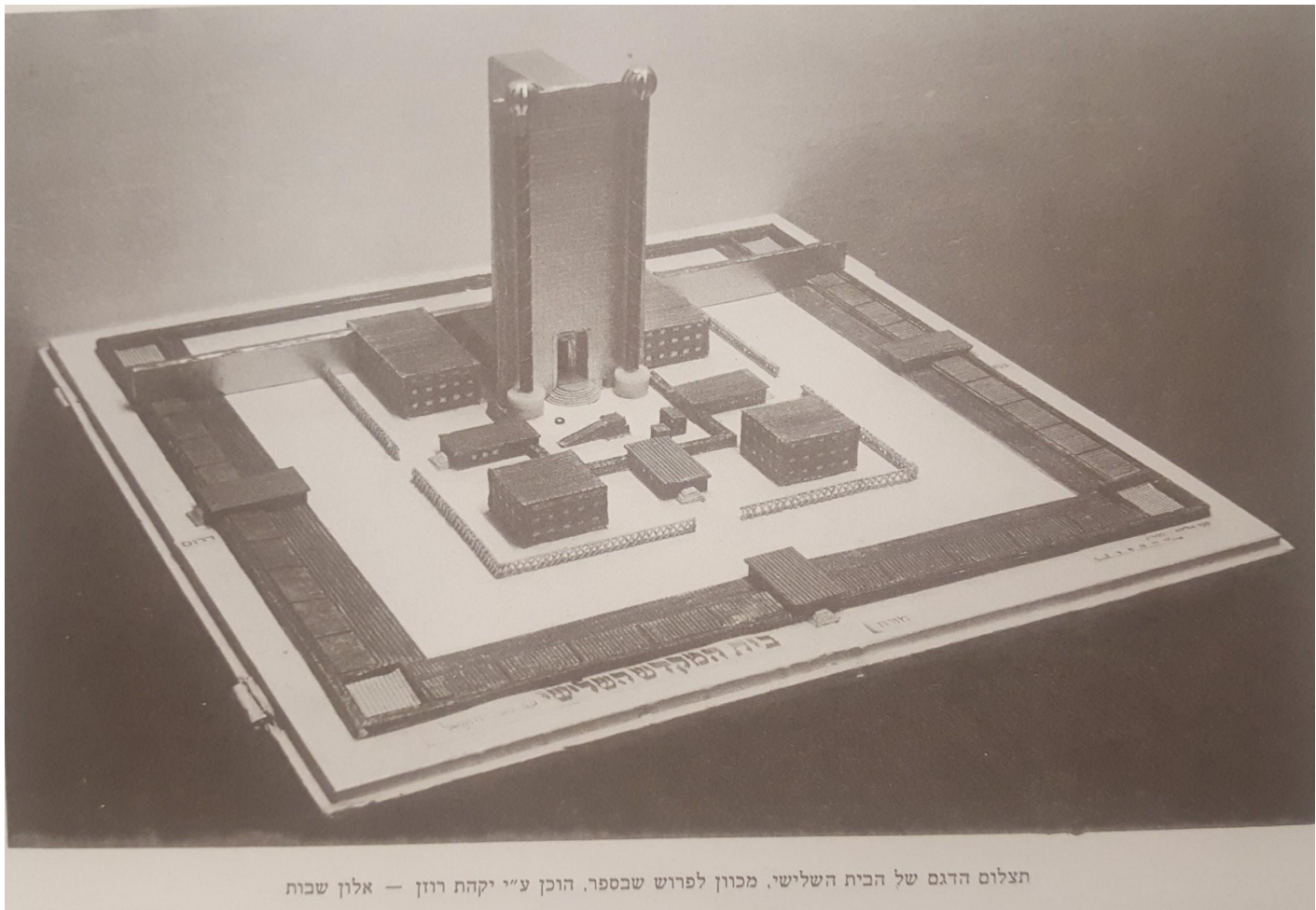
Ezekiel 43:27	יחזקאל מ"ג:כ"ז
<p>"When these days conclude [then on the eighth day and onwards, the priests shall make upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings. I will accept you," says the Lord God.</p>	<p>וַיְכַלּוּ אֶת־הַיָּמִים (ס) וַהֲיָהּ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁמִינִי וְהִלְאָה יַעֲשׂוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אֶת־עֹלֹתֵיכֶם וְאֶת־שְׁלַמֵּיכֶם וְרִצְאָתִי אֶתְכֶם נְאֻם אֲדֹנָי ה' (ס)</p>

Connections

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

Pesikta Rabbati 16:1	פסיקתא רבתי טז:א
<p>Shmuel said, "'If they are ashamed of all they have done [make known to them the House's form]...' (Ezekiel 43:11)' Is there a House [Temple] layout nowadays? [No!] Instead, the Holy One, blessed be He, said, "Since you engage in [studying] it, it is as if you build it."</p>	<p>שמואל אמר: "ואם נכלמו מכל אשר עשו וגו" (יחזקאל מ"ג:י"א) וכי יש צורת הבית עד עכשיו? אלא אמר הקב"ה הואיל ואתם מתעסקים בו כאילו אתם בונים אתו.</p>

Ezekiel's Temple, as shown in the Da'at Mikra volume of Ezekiel.



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