

Ezekiel 40:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.

Analysis

Ezekiel's temple vision begins: 'In the visions of God brought he me into the land of Israel, and set me upon a very high mountain, by which was as the frame of a city on the south.' The phrase 'visions of God' (mare'ot Elohim, מַרְאוֹת אֱלֹהִים) emphasizes divine origin—this is God's revelation, not human imagination. The 'very high mountain' recalls Moses on Sinai receiving tabernacle plans (Exodus 24-31) and echoes Revelation's high mountain perspective on the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10). Mountains in Scripture represent places of divine revelation and encounter. The 'frame of a city' introduces the vision of idealized temple and city where God dwells. This vision (chapters 40-48) describes either the millennial temple, the idealized second temple, or symbolic depiction of God's ultimate dwelling with humanity.

Historical Context

The vision occurred in the 25th year of exile (573 BC), 14 years after Jerusalem's destruction (40:1). The exiles needed hope beyond judgment—this elaborate vision provided it. The detailed architectural specifications (chapters 40-42) parallel Moses' tabernacle instructions and Solomon's temple construction accounts. Whether intended as literal blueprint for a future physical temple or symbolic depiction of spiritual realities, the vision assures that God will dwell with His people. Jewish interpretation anticipated a third temple in the messianic age. Christian interpretation sees fulfillment in Christ (John 2:19-21), the church (1

Corinthians 3:16), and the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22) where God dwells directly with humanity without need for physical temple.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed vision of God's dwelling place demonstrate His commitment to being present with His people?
2. Whether literal or symbolic, what does this elaborate temple vision teach about worship and God's holiness?

Interlinear Text

בְּמַרְאֵי	אֱלֹהֵי	הַבִּיֵּא	אֵלַי	אֶרְצָה	יִשְׂרָאֵל
In the visions	of God	brought	H413	he me into the land	of Israel
H4759	H430	H935		H776	H3478

וַיָּנִיחַ	אֵלַי	הַר	גָּבוֹהַּ	מְאֹד	וְעַלִּי
and set	H413	mountain	high	me upon a very	H5921
H5117		H2022	H1364	H3966	

כְּמַבְנֶה	עִיר	מִן־הַ
by which was as the frame	of a city	on the south
H4011	H5892	H5045

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 1:1 (References God): Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Daniel 7:7 (Parallel theme): After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Daniel 7:1 (Parallel theme): In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Isaiah 14:13 (References God): For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

1 Chronicles 28:12 (References God): And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:

1 Chronicles 28:19 (Parallel theme): All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

Ezekiel 8:3 (References God): And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

Micah 4:1 (Parallel theme): But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.