

CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY - Ezekiel, Book 4, Week 20 (Verses with excerpts in the red box)**Being Measured by God's Building**

- Ezekiel 43:10 You, O son of man, **describe the house** to the house of Israel, that they may feel humiliated because of their iniquities, and let them **measure** the pattern.
- Ezekiel 43:11 And if they feel humiliated because of all that they have done, make known to them the **design of the house**, the arrangement, its exits, its entrances, its whole design, and all its statutes - indeed its whole design and all its laws; and write them down in their sight, that they **may keep** its whole design and all its statutes, and do them.
- Ezekiel 43:12 This is the **law of the house**: Its entire area on the top of and all around the mountain shall be most holy. Indeed this is the **law of the house**.

The Lord's concern today is not the law, but **the house**. His concern is not spirituality, but **the church**. We must fashion ourselves according to the church. Make yourself according to God's house, the church. Everyone must be **measured** and **checked** according to **the measurement of God's house**. We are not under the dispensation of the law of Moses; we are under the dispensation of the house. This is the age of the church; it is not the age merely of being spiritual. Now is the time for the church life. **If what we are and what we do does not fit into the church, it amounts to nothing in the eyes of the Lord and is even an abomination to Him.** It is a kind of whoredom. We have to fashion ourselves according to the church. We have to **allow** the church to measure us and check us in every aspect. (The Visions of Ezekiel, Chapter 21, Section 4)

I. The entire Bible is a book of building; the main subject of the Bible is the building of God.

- Gen. 28:10-22 "*Jacob's dream, Bethel the house of God*"
- Exodus 25:8 And let them make a **sanctuary** for Me that **I may dwell** in their midst.
- 2 Sam. 7:12-13 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. It is he who will **build a house** for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 1 Kings 6:1-2 ... the children of Israel had come forth out of the land of Egypt, ..., Solomon began to **build the house** of Jehovah. And the house which King Solomon built to Jehovah was sixty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.
- Matt. 16:18 ... and upon this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Ephesians 2:21 In Iwhom all the **building**, being fitted together, is growing into **a holy temple** in the Lord;
- Rev. 21:2-3 And I saw the holy city, **New Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the **tabernacle of God** is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

For two thousand years God has been doing this building work in the church. The apostle Paul told us that after the Lord's resurrection and ascension, He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as shepherds and teachers. All these **gifts** are for the **building up of His Body**, which is **the church** (Eph. 4:8-13). (The Building Work of God, Chapter 2, Section 3)

1 Corinthians 13:31 Paul says, "*You can all prophesy one by one,*" and in verse 24 he says, "*If all prophesy...*" **We all can prophesy, and we all should prophesy.** To prophesy is excelling because **it builds up the Body of Christ**. Paul dedicated all of 1 Corinthians 14 to promote this and encourage all of the saints to prophesy. At the beginning and at the conclusion of this chapter Paul tells us that **we need to desire earnestly to prophesy** (vv. 1, 39). **For the Lord to gain the organic building up of His Body, we need to pursue and desire to prophesy, seeking to be rich in this excelling gift for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ.** (The Present Advance of the Lord's Recovery, Chapter 4, Section 3)

II. The book of Ezekiel begins with a vision of the appearance of the glory of the Lord and ends with a vision of the holy building of God; this indicates that the glory of the Lord, the judgment of God, and the recovery of the Lord are all for the holy building of God.

III. According to the prophecy in typology in 2 Samuel 7:12-14a, Christ is both the One who builds the church as God's house and the element with which the church is built.

- 2 Samuel 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will **raise up your seed after you**, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.
- 2 Samuel 7:13 **It is he who will build a house** for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- 2 Samuel 7:14 I will be his Father, and he will be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will strike him with the rod of men and with the stripes of the sons of men;

God desires not mainly to do things for us but to work Himself into our being.

- John 2:19-21 Jesus answered and said to them, **Destroy this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up. Then the Jews said, This **temple** was built in forty-six years, and You will raise it up in three days? But He spoke of **the temple of His body**.
- 1 Cor. 12:12 For even as **the body is one and has many members**, yet **all the members of the body**, being many, are **one body**, so also is the Christ.
- Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may **make His home** in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and **make an abode with him**.
- John 15: 4 **Abide in Me and I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- Rev. 21:3 And I heard a aloud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the **tabernacle of God** is with men, and **He will tabernacle with them**, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Rev. 21:22 And I saw no temple in it, for the bLord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its **temple**.

Christ is the house, His Body, and Christ is also the Builder— John 2:19-21; 1 Cor 12:12; 2 Sam 7:12-13. Christ builds the church by building Himself into us, that is, by entering into our spirit and spreading Himself from our spirit into our mind, emotion, and will to occupy our entire soul— Eph. 3:17. This building, a mingling of God's divinity with our redeemed, resurrected, and uplifted humanity, becomes God's habitation and our habitation—a mutual abode— John 14:23; 15:4. Eventually, this building will consummate in the New Jerusalem for eternity, in which God's redeemed are the tabernacle for God to dwell in, and God Himself is the temple for His redeemed to dwell in— Rev. 21:3, 22.

Although there is no time element with God, nevertheless He has, in the course of time, gradually, bit by bit, released His revelation to man. For instance, He revealed something to Job that He had not revealed to Adam, Abel, Enosh, or Noah. God revealed to Job that what He wants is a man who has God, not a man of uprightness, integrity, and perfection. **God revealed to Job that his unique need was God Himself**, but He did not reveal to him anything concerning building.

When God appeared to Abraham, He promised to give him two things—the good land and a **seed**. The good land and the seed both typify Christ. This indicates that, in typology, God would give Abraham Christ as the good land and also give him **Christ as the seed**, the real Isaac.

God told David that He would make him a house. Then He said, "I will raise up your **seed** after you..and I will establish his kingdom. It is he who **will build a house** for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son". Here God revealed to David something concerning **building**, a matter that had not been revealed to either Job or Abraham.

In the Bible there is the **line concerning God's building** Himself in Christ into us. God is building by working Himself in Christ into our being. This involves the mingling of divinity with our redeemed, resurrected, and uplifted humanity. God is working Himself in Christ into us to make a house not only for us but to us. This house will be both God's house and our house, a mutual abode. Eventually, the Triune God and redeemed humanity will be mingled, blended, and built up to be one entity, and this entity will be the New Jerusalem. Our need is for God to carry out His building work within us.

What a great light the Lord has shown us from 2 Samuel 7! God revealed to David that his seed, a **seed** of man, would become the Son of God. How can this be? The answer is that a **human seed is designated the Son of God**. Humanity is designated in divinity, and divinity and humanity are blended as one. Today, we, seeds of humanity, are becoming sons of God in divinity through the process of God's building. We praise the Lord that in His recovery on the earth today, we are undergoing the work of God's building. **God is fulfilling His desire to build Himself in Christ into our being, and eventually the outcome of this building will be the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.** (Life-Study of 1 & 2 Samuel, Chapter 29)

IV. The Lord instructed Ezekiel **to describe God's house to God's people** so that **they would be measured by the house** and be **ashamed of their iniquities—Ezek. 43:10-12:**

- 1 Cor. 3:16-17 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him; for the temple of God is holy, and such are you.
- 1 Tim. 3:15-16 But if I delay, I write that you may know **how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth. And confessedly, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

It was God's intention to check the living and conduct of the people of Israel by the house; in the book of Ezekiel God measured His people by the temple. Because the house of God was to be their regulation, God charged Ezekiel to show them the **design of the house**. The temple of God is a pattern, and if the people examine themselves in light of this pattern, they will know their shortcomings. The living of the people must match the temple of God— 1 Cor. 3:16-17.

We need to see from the book of Ezekiel that the requirements of the indwelling Christ are according to His house; everyone must be measured and checked according to the measurement of God's house. Our behavior and conduct should be examined not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also according to the church, the house of God— 1 Tim. 3:15-16.

- 1 Cor. 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may **excel** for the **building up of the church**.
- Phil. 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, existing in the **form of God**, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped, But **emptied Himself**, taking the **form of a slave**, becoming in the likeness of men; And being found in **fashion as a man**, He **humbled Himself**, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.
- Ephesians 4:16 Out from whom **all the Body**, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body **unto the building up** of itself in love.
- 1 Cor. 8:1 Now concerning 1 things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but **love builds up**.
- 1 Cor. 12:28 And God has placed some **in the church**: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then works of power, then gifts of healing, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all have works of power? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret tongues? But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.
- 1 Cor. 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have **love**, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing. And if I dole out all my possessions to feed others, and if I deliver up my body that I may boast, but do not have **love**, I profit nothing.
- 1 Cor. 16:14 Let all your matters **be done in love**.

Our main concern should not be with behaving ourselves or with becoming spiritual but with **fitting** into God's house— 1 Cor. 14:12. We may not have "latticed windows," which signify the fellowship of the life-giving Spirit keeping the opening for the divine communication and protecting from the invasion of all negative matters. We need to check our humanity by the building and **take the humanity of Jesus as our humanity**—Phil. 2:5-8. We may realize that we are still "smooth wood" that has not experienced God's "carving" and thus does not have the expression of Christ's glorious image and glorious victory, signified by the cherubim and palm trees carved into the walls. We need to be **measured** to see if we are "wood" of an appropriate measure and are not independent but built in. If what we are and what we do cannot match God's building, it amounts to nothing in the sight of God—Eph. 4:16; 1 Cor. 8:1b; 12:28—13:3; 16:14.

Ephesians 2:5-6 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the **heavens** in Christ Jesus,

"This is the law of the house: Its entire area on the top of and all around the mountain shall be most holy. Indeed this is the law of the house". To be on the mountain is to be in resurrection and in the position of ascension; this indicates that the church must be high, on the **top of the mountain**—Eph. 2:5-6. The church must also be holy, separated and sanctified from anything worldly—1 Cor. 3:17.

The **law of God's house** is related to God's character: God is a God of height, that is, in resurrection and ascension, and He is a God who is holy. Likewise, in position the church is high, and in nature the church is most holy. If in our church life we are in resurrection and in the position of ascension and if we are most holy, then we can be God's habitation.

- 1 Cor. 14:5-6 I desire that you all speak in tongues, but especially **that you would prophesy**; and greater is he who prophesies than he who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive **building up**. But now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you, unless I speak to you either in revelation or in knowledge or in prophecy or in teaching?
- 1 Cor. 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spirits, seek that you may excel for the **building up of the church**.
- 1 Cor. 14:26 What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, **each one** has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done **for building up**.
- Romans 14:19 So then let us pursue the things of peace and the things **for building up** one another.
- Romans 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor with a view to what is good **for building up**.

Most believers today feel that moral regulations and spiritual principles are sufficient as rules of behavior and conduct; few realize that our **behavior** and **conduct** should be **examined** not only according to moral regulations and spiritual principles but also **according to the church**, the house of God—14:4-5, 12, 26; Rom. 14:19; 15:2.

Matthew 16:18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the **building up of the Body of Christ**,
 Ephesians 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the **building up of itself in love**.
 Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the **building**, being fitted together, is growing into a **holy temple** in the Lord;
 Ephesians 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a **dwelling place of God** in spirit.

Today the Lord's concern is not the law—it is the house; His concern is not spirituality—it is the church—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:12, 16. The Lord cares for the church—the place of His throne, the place of the soles of His feet, and the place where He can dwell for rest and satisfaction. Because the Lord cares so much for the church, His house, we also should care for the church as His house and fashion ourselves according to it—Eph. 2:21-22.

V. The Body life is the greatest test of our spirituality; if we cannot pass the test of the Body life, our spirituality is not genuine—1 Cor. 12:23-27:

1 Cor. 12:21-22 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
 1 Cor. 12:27 Now **you are the Body of Christ**, and **members individually**.
 Romans 12:5 So we who are many are one Body 1 in Christ, and individually **members one of another**.
 Ephesians 5:30 Because **we are members of His Body**.
 Matt. 16:21-26 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You! But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not **setting your mind on the things of God**, but on the things of men. Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me**. For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

Spirituality is a Body matter; everything we have is **in** the Body, **through** the Body, and **for** the Body—Eph. 4:16. In the Body there can be no independence or individualism— 1 Cor. 12:21-22, 27; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 5:30. In the Body life, individualistic thought and action are ruled out. **Individualism is hateful in the sight of God**; the enemy of the Body is the self—the independent “I”—Matt. 16:21-26.

Eph. 4:3-4 Being diligent to **keep the oneness** of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 1 Cor. 12:24 But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, giving more abundant **honor to the member** that lacked,
 Phil. 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the **fellowship** of His sufferings, being **conformed** to His death,

We must keep the oneness of the Body and practice blending, which is most helpful in keeping the oneness of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:24b. The reality of the Body of Christ is a corporate living of conformity to the death of Christ through the power of resurrection—Phil. 3:10.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, **I am the resurrection** and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
 Acts 2:24 Whom God **has raised up**, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.
 Rev. 1:18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am **living forever and ever**; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
 Rev. 2:8 And to the messenger of the church in Smyrna write: These things says the First and the Last, who became dead and **lived again**:

The reality of the Body of Christ is in the resurrection life of Christ; the Body requires the believers to be absolutely in the resurrection life of Christ—John 11:25; Acts 2:24; Rev. 1:18; 2:8; Phil. 3:10.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the **Head of the Body**, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Colossians 2:19 And not holding the **Head**, out from whom **all the Body**, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
 Ephesians 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the **Head, Christ**,
 1 Cor. 12:26-27 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it. Now **you are the Body of Christ**, and **members individually**.

Rom. 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
 Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were **called in one Body**; and be thankful.
 Philippians 1:8 For God is my witness how **I long after you all** in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
 Ephesians 4:7 But to each **one of us** grace was given according to the **measure** of the gift of Christ.

Only Christ is the Head of the Body, and only He has the authority to direct the moves of the members of the Body— Col. 1:18; 2:19; Eph. 4:15. We need to be **Body-conscious** and to **care** for the feeling of the Body and the **peace** of the Body—1 Cor. 12:26-27; Rom. 12:15; Col. 3:15; Phil. 1:8.

Ephesians 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the **measure of each one part**, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

2 Cor. 10:13 But we **will not boast beyond our measure** but according to **the measure of the rule** which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.

1 Cor. 12:14-27 For the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body. And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, it is not that because of this it is not of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, **in the body**, even as He willed. And if all were one member, where would the body be? But now the members are many, but **the body one**. And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we consider to be **less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor**; and our uncomely members come to have more abundant comeliness, But our comely members have no need. But God has blended the body together, **giving more abundant honor to the member that lacked**. That there would be **no division in the body**, but that the members would have the **same care for one another**. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member is glorified, all the members rejoice with it. **Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.**

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. Eph. 1:22-23 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be **Head** over all things to the church, Which is His **Body**, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph. 3:18-19 May be full of strength to apprehend **with all the saints** what the breadth and length and height and depth are And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Eph. 4:1-6 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love, Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace: **One Body and one Spirit**, even as also you were called in **one** hope of your calling; **One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

A basic **requirement** for the growth and development of the Body is that **we recognize our measure and not go beyond it**— Eph. 4:7, 16; 2 Cor. 10:13. The Body has **its proper order**; thus, we should **recognize and honor the order in the Body**—1 Cor. 12:14-22. Mutuality is the characteristic of the Body; our relationship in the Body is one of **mutuality and interdependence**—vv. 14-25. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1 John 1:3. We need to **care for the growth of the Body and the Body's building up of itself in love**—Eph. 4:15-16. We should always **consider** the Body, **care** for the Body, **honor** the Body, and **do what is best** for the Body—1 Cor. 12:23-27. The overcomers **see** the Body, **know** the Body, **care** for the Body, **honor** the Body, and **do the work of the Body**; they **keep every principle of the Body** of Christ, as the continuation and extension of Christ on earth, for the full expression of Christ— Eph. 1:22-23; 3:18-19; 4:1-6.

If you are simply a believer, you can act as you please, but if you are **a member of the Body**, then you must allow yourself to **be limited by the other members**. Here we find the necessity of the cross. The cross leads to the Body, and the cross operates in the sphere of the Body. *"To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ"* (Eph. 4:7). It is essential for the development of the Body that we each recognize our measure and not go beyond it. This is a basic requirement for the growth of the Body.

The Body of Christ is not only a **protection** to the members but a **limitation** to all the members. Every Christian is but one member in the Body of Christ and must accept the limitation of the Body. We should not allow ourselves to go our own way; rather, we should learn to be blended with other brothers and sisters. Every member should honor the talents of others and be faithful to his own. Moreover, every member should **know his own capacity** and **not consider himself more highly than he should**. If everyone does this, there will be no jealousy, ambition, or craving to do what others can do. Those who **over-step** their boundaries are trampling others under their feet; they are kicking others, pressing upon others, and usurping the portion of other members. If members behave this way in the church, some will begin to **monopolize** while others will **withdraw**, and the result will be a loss to the church. We should not behave in this way. We should turn back and **take our place in the Body and be limited by the Body**. If we do this, the Body will be spared from damage.

The fellowship in the Body involves not only **receiving** help from other members but also **giving** help to other members. The **functioning of the Body is mutual**. Mutuality is the characteristic of the Body. Merely being a listener or an onlooker is contrary to the life of the Body. **Every Christian should have a part in the meeting and render supply to other members**. This kind of supply is the ministry of the members and the function of the members. It is also the **fellowship** of life. No member should cut himself off from this fellowship. If you stop this fellowship, life will stop flowing, and you will become a burden to the Body. If a person thinks that he does not need to say anything, and that he will be approved of and not cause any trouble as long as he simply, quietly, and politely receives from others, he does not know what the Body of Christ is. Every member has to render supply to the Body and fellowship and function in the Body. This is a law of the Body. In the physical body no member can cease functioning without there being a loss to the whole body. This is also true in the Body of Christ.