

Dispensationalism — Ezekiel (Did the Temple Fail to be Built)

Did the Prophecy not Come to Pass?

"Yahweh declared: "Seek ye out the book of Yahweh and read; no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate" (Isa. 34:16). Further this promise does not take into account numerous other references to the Temple contained in the Psalms and the prophets. These prophecies are Messianic in character and show that the temple will be built at the second advent of Christ, e.g. Zech. 6:2-15; "Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of Yahweh..." This quotation from Zechariah follows the seventy-year captivity, during which period Ezekiel ministered, and yet speaks with certainty of the glorious future for Israel. A similar prophecy is found in another prophet after the exile, namely Hag.2:9. Ezekiel understood the future faithlessness of Israel and speaks of the overthrow of the nation in such passages at Ezek.21:25-27, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.". Ezekiel foresaw the day of Israel's regathering, Ezek. 36:24, when the nation would have a new heart (vv25-26) and be saved from their uncleanness (v29) In this respect then the objection is correct - the temple will not be built until Israel is restored to favour With Yahweh. It is in presuming that Israel will always remain faithless that the heart of the error lies. For Paul in Rom. 11:26 says, "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." Paul himself is quoting Isa.59:20. So we are presented with a thrilling picture of the victorious advent of Christ, the restoration of Israel, and the establishment of temple worship again in Jerusalem for the nations. A temple that will in fact become the centre of worship for all nations as they "go up from year to year to worship the King, the Yahweh of Armies, and to keep the feast of tabernacles (which of necessity requires a Temple Altar - Lev.23:34-36). "It is impossible for God to lie" (Heb.6:18), and it cannot be that eight chapters and many supporting references and Psalms shall fail: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it (Isa. 55:11)."

— Henry Sulley, A Handbook of Answers To Objections To 'The Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy'. (Alphega Productions, Melbourne, Australia, 1976), 2-3.