Series: A New Heart**:** The Book of Ezekiel
Message: Ezekiel 40:1-4; 43:1-12, | A New Temple: Glory Comes Home

Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
Main Question: Why would God give a broken, exiled people a detailed blueprint for a temple they would never build? **Big Idea:** The blueprint is a promise: God is coming home to purify His people and live with them forever, so we live ready for Him.	The Bible Project Guide: Ezekiel

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. Read Ezekiel 10:18–19 and 11:22–23, then 43:1–5. How does the glory's return through the east gate reverse what Ezekiel saw nineteen years earlier? Compare Genesis 3:24 and 4:16. What does moving east represent in Scripture, and why does it matter that the glory comes back from the east?

2. God never commands anyone to build this temple. Instead, He says, "describe the temple… so they will be ashamed" (43:10–11). Compare Exodus 25:9, 40 and 1 Chronicles 28:11–19, where God does give building instructions. What does that contrast suggest about the purpose of Ezekiel's vision?

3. In 43:7–9, what had Israel's kings done to God's house? Read 1 Kings 7:1–12 (Solomon's palace beside the temple) and Ezekiel 8:6, where Israel's sin drove God "far from my sanctuary." How does God's call to "put away" their idols in 43:9 reverse chapter 8?

4. In 43:12, the whole mountaintop is "most holy." Compare 1 Kings 6:20 (the small Most Holy Place), John 2:19–21, 1 Corinthians 3:16–17, and Revelation 21:16, 22. How does the Bible trace God's dwelling from a single room to Jesus, to His people, to the whole new creation?

Heart: Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

5. Near but not with Him. Israel's kings lived next door to God "with only a wall between" (43:8). Where are you tempted to keep God close enough to feel religious but far enough to stay in charge? Read Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:8. How do those verses describe the same danger?

6. Shame that brings us home. God says the vision will make Israel "ashamed" (43:10), yet He promises to dwell with them first (43:7). Compare Ezekiel 16:62–63, Romans 2:4, and 2 Corinthians 7:10. When conviction comes, do you usually hide (Genesis 3:8) or come toward God? What would it look like to let His kindness lead you to repentance?

7. You already are His temple. Paul tells a divided, compromised church, "You are God's temple" (1 Corinthians 3:16), and calls it "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Which is harder for you to believe: that God truly lives in you, or that He wants to? How might believing it change the way you see yourself and the people in this group?

Hands: Living it Out

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

8. . God told Israel to "put away" what they had placed beside Him (43:9), and Paul says the temple of God has no agreement with idols (2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 John 5:21). What one thing have you set right next to God, such as career, habit, a comfort, a relationship, etc.? What step will you take this week to put it in its place?

9. Begin with presence. Psalm 27:4 longs "to dwell in the house of the LORD… to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD." Each morning this week, before checking your phone, pray: "Lord, You live here. Lead me today." What might make this practice hard for you? How could a simple rhythm like this shape the rest of your day?

10. Protect the temple and live ready. Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians 3:17 is about division in the church, and 1 John 3:2–3 says everyone who hopes in Christ's return "purifies himself." What is one word or action this week that would build up our church family instead of tearing it down? How can you live ready, out of love rather than fear?