

## Class #46 - Divisions of Labor (Ezekiel 44)

### Objectives:

- Give an example of a restriction of access in Ezekiel's temple.
- Explain the rationale behind the division of labor among the priests.
- Connect one instruction for the priests to our role as Christians today.

### Entrance & Exits (Ezekiel 44:1-16)

- 44:5 seems to lay out the main point of this section of Ezekiel's vision: The rules for \_\_\_\_\_ in God's holy sanctuary.
- The east gate of the temple complex—through which the LORD entered in 43:4—is forever \_\_\_\_\_, so that no one may enter by it. (1-2)
- Only the \_\_\_\_\_ can sit in it to eat with the LORD, but he can only get there from the \_\_\_\_\_ way (through the vestibule). (3)
  - Who is the prince?
  - Why does the east gate have this restriction?
- Until now, the people have failed to keep their charge and have \_\_\_\_\_ the temple, specifically by admitting those whom God had forbidden. (6-8)
- From now on, no \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ person will enter the sanctuary. (9)
- Instead, the Levites will serve in the temple—including the oversight (guarding) of the \_\_\_\_\_. (11, 14; see 2 Kings 11:5,19)
- But, the Levites would not be allowed to serve as priests or come near the \_\_\_\_\_ things because of their role in perpetuating \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel. (10,12-13)
- In their place, the sons of \_\_\_\_\_ — who kept their charge—will serve before God and with His holy things. (15-16)
  - Imagine a hypothetical Levite in this scenario complaining that this particular arrangement wasn't fair. What would you say?

### **Zadokite Instructions (Ezekiel 44:17-27)**

- What follows is a list of regulations for these priests who serve before God:
  - Work clothes (17-18) - of linen to avoid sweat (Deuteronomy 23)
  - Street clothes (19) - change clothes to not blast the people with holiness
  - Hair length (20) - in-between long and shaved (both associated with death?)
  - Wine (21) - no imbibing on the job (see Leviticus 10, Nadab & Abihu)
  - Marriage (22) - only to virgins, so no-one outside the line becomes priest (?)
  - Public role (23-24) - teach holiness and Sabbath-keeping to the people
  - Mourning (25-27) - only approach a dead family member (Leviticus 21:1-3)
- What relevance would any of this have to us?

### **Inheritance (Ezekiel 44:28 - 45:8)**

- Like the priests/Levites under the Law of Moses, the Zadokite priests receive no \_\_\_\_\_ as inheritance, because \_\_\_\_\_ is their inheritance. (28; see Numbers 18:20)
- Their sustenance, therefore, comes from the people in the forms of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_—a portion of which goes to the priests. (29-31; Leviticus 6:14-18)
- This is a vision not just of the temple but of a newly-divided \_\_\_\_\_ — starting with portions for God (and the temple), the priests, and the prince. (45:1-8)