

Jehovah-shammah - The LORD is there [slide 1]

- I. Introduction.
 - A. Read text - **Ezekiel 48:35** And the name of the city from that time on will be: **THE LORD IS THERE.** [slide 3]
 - B. Read text - **Revelation 21:1-4** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." [slide 3]
 - C. We are continuing our series on the names of God.
 1. We are going to look at the name of God from **Ezekiel 48:35** - Jehovah-shammah - Jehovah is there or the LORD is there.
 2. Jehovah-shammah - This name refers to God's presence.
 3. What is the context for the passage in Ezekiel identifying God's name?
 4. What is the city that Ezekiel is referring to? Is that city the same one in **Revelation 21:1-4** - the New Jerusalem?
 5. What is the importance of God's name and presence to us?
- II. We'll start by looking at the context of Jehovah-shammah used by Ezekiel. Ezekiel was in Babylon with exiles from Jerusalem.
 - A. Physical Environment Surrounding the Captivity/Exile.
 1. Currently it is about 14 years after Jerusalem had fallen - 25th year of captivity in Babylon.
 2. The Southern kingdom, which was comprised primarily of Judah and Benjamin, had gone into exile to Babylon. There are people from the other ten tribes that are part of the Southern kingdom including a good portion of the Levites, and people from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon.
 3. For consistency we will call this group, the Jews. The word Jew comes from the reference to Judah and was a name that we see used during the exile period and later.
 4. At the time of Ezekiel's revelation of Jehovah-shammah, back in the land of Israel:
 - a. The temple had been ransacked and destroyed.
 - b. The city of Jerusalem had also been ransacked, buildings burnt down including the palace, and the walls broken down - **Jeremiah 52:12-13.**
 - c. This happened about 586 B.C.

5. Deportation of the Jews.
 - (1). There are three deportations of Jews going into exile to Babylon listed in **Jeremiah 52:28-30**. The prophet Ezekiel goes to Babylon. Daniel and his three friends go into exile.
- B. Spiritual Environment.
 1. Ezekiel is just one of many prophets who is prophesying judgment against Judah because of her sin.
 - a. The purpose of the prophet is found in **Amos 3:7 Surely the sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. [slide 5]**
 - b. There is a lot more to gain from both major and minor prophets that I do not have time to cover today though I will be quoting from their books later.
- C. Why are the Jews in exile (including Ezekiel)?
 1. For seeking after false gods. **Amos 2:4-5** ⁴**This is what the LORD says: For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed,** ⁵**I will send fire upon Judah that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem. [slide 7]**
 - a. They followed the same gods that caused them to receive judgment from God in the past.
 2. Manasseh - one of Judah's kings had also pursued other gods, sacrificed his son in the fire, put idols in God's temple. **II Kings 23:26-27** ²⁶**Nevertheless, the LORD did not turn away from the heat of his fierce anger, which burned against Judah because of all that Manasseh had done to provoke him to anger.** ²⁷**So the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also from my presence as I removed Israel, and I will reject Jerusalem, the city I chose, and this temple, about which I said, 'There shall my Name be.'" [slide 9]**
 3. Manasseh shed innocent blood in Jerusalem, the place where we just read that God said his name would be. **2 Kings 24:3** **Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD's command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, 4 including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive. [slide 11]**
- D. Prior to Ezekiel 48, Ezekiel has seen God's glory depart.
 1. Ezekiel 10 The glory of God departs the temple.
 2. Ezekiel 11 We can see the glory of God departing the city.
 3. Throughout the Old Testament, we see the glory of LORD related to a physical manifestation of God. Here in Ezekiel, we see the

glory of God leaving both the temple and Jerusalem as God prepares his judgment culminating in the exile to Babylon.

E. What was that judgment like as God displayed his anger and removed his presence? Is the exile like shipping a bunch of people to California?

1. **Ezekiel 14:21** For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: How much worse will it be when I send against Jerusalem my four dreadful judgments-- sword and famine and wild beasts and plague-- to kill its men and their animals! [slide 13]
2. They barter their treasures for bread, to keep them alive - **Lamentations 1:11** All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. [slide 15] They could remember back to the days of Solomon where silver and gold were so plentiful and gold. Now they just had to survive.
3. This affects the children and infants. **Lamentations 2:11-12** ¹¹ My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within, my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city. ¹² They say to their mothers, "Where is bread and wine?" as they faint like wounded men in the streets of the city, as their lives ebb away in their mothers' arms. [slide 17]
4. How bad can it get in famine without God's presence? **Lamentations 2:20** Look, O LORD, and consider: Whom have you ever treated like this? Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for? Compassionate women have cooked their own children. [slide 19]
5. How are the children treated by the Babylonians? This is the rest of Psalm 137 that was not read. **Psalm 137:7-9** ⁷Remember, O LORD, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. "Tear it down," they cried, "tear it down to its foundations!" ⁸ O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us-- ⁹ he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks. [slide 21]
6. How will the women be treated by Babylon? **ESV Lamentations 5:11** Women are raped in Zion, young women in the towns of Judah. NIV uses ravish - not a word that we use in this context. [slide 23]
7. Finally, you have the trip to Babylon. After the fighting, and pillaging and everything else Babylon had done, the remnant still had about a four-month trip to Babylon. More would probably die along the way.
10. I am not trying to be graphic in the description just to be graphic. This was a serious judgment by God on his people.

F. What is the state of the remnant by the river Kebar in the text that was read this morning? - Psalm 137:1-6.

1. **Psalm 137:1-6** ¹By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. ² There on the poplars we hung our harps, ³ for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" ⁴ How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land? ⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill. ⁶ May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy. [slide 25]
2. Think of all the grief that has been going on. Where is God? Do the righteous have to go through the same sorrow and pain? **Lamentations 5:15** Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning. [slide 27]
3. Think of what a contrast this was compared to David bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem in the past. What was that like? It was a celebration - David was dancing before God with all his might. The ark represented God's presence coming to Jerusalem.
4. When Solomon dedicated the temple in Jerusalem with the people of Israel, what was the dedication like? It was another celebration for fourteen days. But the most important part of the Temple was that the glory of the LORD filled the Temple. This is the contrast between when Israel desired God's presence, and when Israel rejected God's presence.

III. But there's hope.

- A. Ezekiel has a vision of God that pictures God just like he had departed but he's coming back.
 1. **Ezekiel 43:2** and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory. [slide 29]
 2. **Ezekiel 43:4** The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. ⁵ Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. [slide 31]
 3. **Ezekiel 43:7** He said: "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name-- neither they nor their kings-- by their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings at their high places." [slide 33]
 4. God's presence is back in the temple. He is with his people Israel. He is back in the city. So God is going to restore Israel and Jerusalem, which we read about in Ezra and Nehemiah. This will happen about 516 B.C., which is 70 years from the time of Jerusalem's destruction. Everything is good now. Ezekiel sees the revelation of chapter 48:35 And the name of the city from that time

on will be: The LORD is there - Jehovah-Shammah. We're done now, but oh, we're still in B.C. And is Jerusalem walking after God, making his name holy? Is Ezekiel's prophecy fulfilled? What about our text in Revelation?

IV. Jerusalem - and Jesus.

- A. When we read the prophets, not everything that we read is black and white, it appears to be met physically in one time, but then we see there is another reference for the future. Ezekiel 48:35 is like that.
1. How is God going to make his presence known to Jerusalem?
Through his son, Jesus!
 2. **Matthew 1:23** which is a fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14** **The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel --which means, "God with us."** [slide 35] God made his presence known again through Jesus.
 3. **John 1:14** **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** [slide 37]
 - a. He will tabernacle with us. God didn't tabernacle with us through a tent, or with a Temple. He tabernacled with us through a body.
 - b. See also the use of glory as referenced back in Ezekiel.
 4. It was hard even for the disciples to see that God was really with them. **John 14:8-10** **Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."** Jesus' response to him was Philip, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father. The other names of God that we've been discussing over the past several months, they were shown in Christ.
 5. We see the same picture of God in the temple in Jesus' discussion with the Pharisees after he had cleared out the temple courts in Jerusalem from the moneychangers and people selling merchandise. **John 2:18-21** **Then the Jews demanded of him, "What miraculous sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"** ¹⁹ **Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."** ²⁰ **The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"** ²¹ **But the temple he had spoken of was his body.** [slide 39] Jesus tabernacled with us.
 6. Through Christ, we see that Jerusalem is still not what God desires it to be, the city who name is Jehovah Shemmah - God is there. **Matthew 23:37-38** **"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks**

under her wings, but you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate.” [slide 41]

7. We see this again in **Luke 19:37-44**, Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the crowd of disciples are praising God for the miracles they seen. It's like David and Israel celebrating God's presence in the ark of the covenant. But some of the Pharisees want Jesus to rebuke his disciples (like Michal despising David for his dancing before God.) **Verses 41-44 ⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace-- but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴ They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.” [slide 43]**
 - a. What will happen to Jerusalem? A similar destruction like we read about before the exile. Jerusalem does not recognize or receive God's presence.
8. Is this the city Ezekiel was referring to?
 - a. Where was Jesus arrested and beaten and taken to trial?
 - b. Where was Jesus crucified?
 - c. Where was Jesus buried and raised from the dead?
 - d. Did things get better in Jerusalem after Jesus rose again?
No - persecution arose against the Christians in Jerusalem.

V. The New Jerusalem.

- A. **Hebrews 11:9-10** **By faith he (Abraham) made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. [slide 45]**
 - (1). Abraham's looking for another city. Who built Jerusalem? Men!
What city is built by God?
- B. **Hebrews 12:22-24** **But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. [slide 47]**
- C. The original text: **Revelation 21:1-4** **Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a**

bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." [slide 49]

1. This is now tied together with Ezekiel's revelation. God covenant has always been: I will be your God and you will be my people. God's final purpose is to let us live in his presence, forever. Jehovah-Shammah - God is there.

VI. Application.

A. Where are you and I in relationship to God's presence?

1. If you don't know Christ, will not know his presence. You stand outside the city, outside of his protection. His grace watches over us all, but if you die, you will see worse torment than Babylon ever could have subject the Israelites to. Do not reject him.
2. If you do know him, then **2 Corinthians 3:18** applies: **And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. [slide 51]** We should be transformed by his glory. If there are idols in the Temple, get rid of them. Be as zealous as King Josiah to clear away anything that would hinder your knowing God's presence more deeply.

B. Do you and I see that the city is not a current physical Jerusalem?

1. We cannot get caught up in what we have in this world. We must keep our eyes fixed on things above, not on things on this earth.
2. We share the future Jerusalem with brothers and sisters are in worse situations than us. They may be persecuted for their faith in Christ, be in prison, be under similar things that even the righteous Israelites endured through the God's judgment on Israel through the Babylonians.

VII. Benediction - **Revelation 3:11-12** **I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.**