




D'WELL BITES

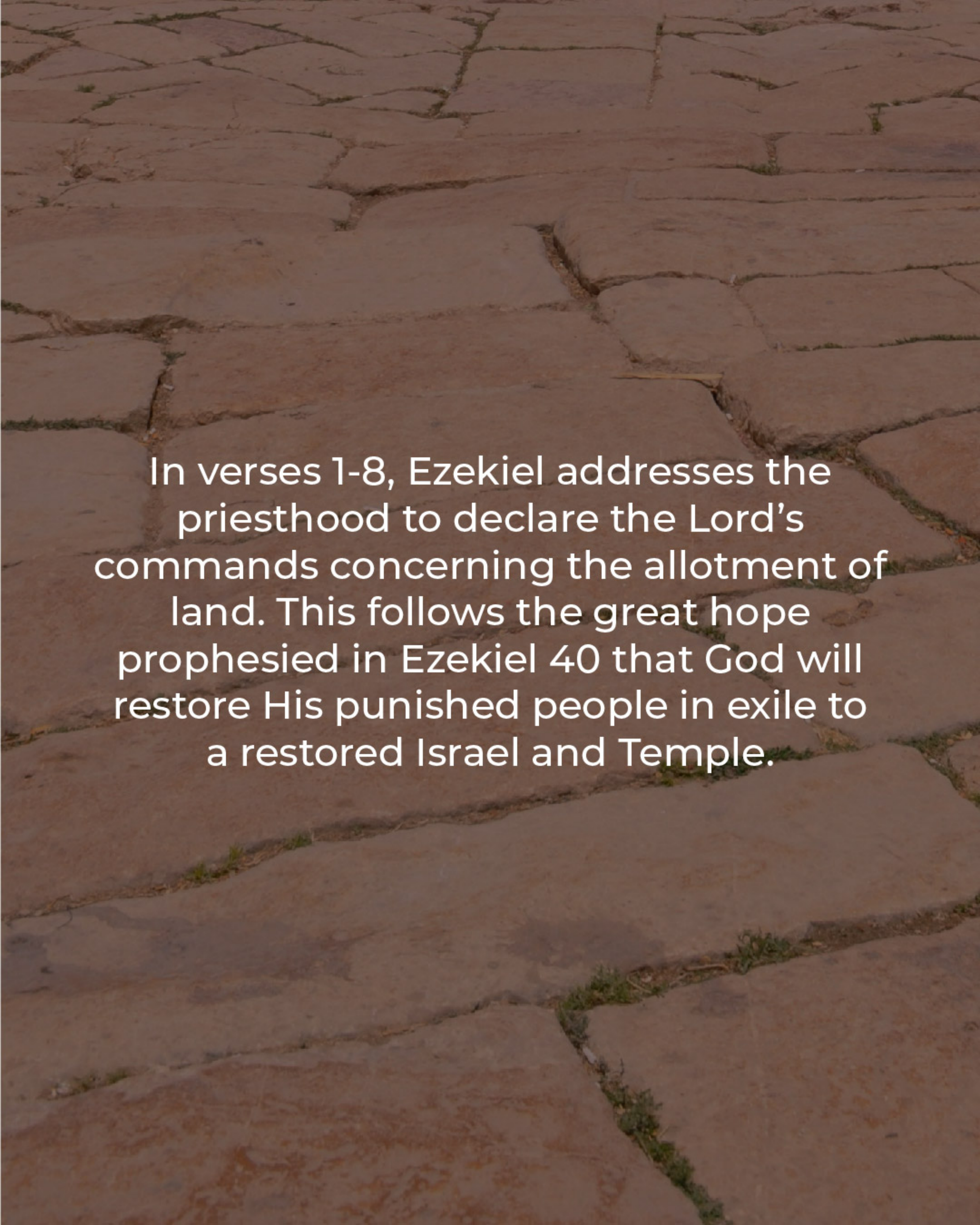
28 May

EZEKIEL 45


**BY
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Architectural design, business ethics and festival observances. What central truth do these three seemingly diverse matters found within Ezekiel 45 express? Quite simply that God is the one in ultimate authority, whose nature and ways are holy and just. Ezekiel's words in this chapter reflect the call to God's people to uphold His holiness.




In verses 1-8, Ezekiel addresses the priesthood to declare the Lord's commands concerning the allotment of land. This follows the great hope prophesied in Ezekiel 40 that God will restore His punished people in exile to a restored Israel and Temple.



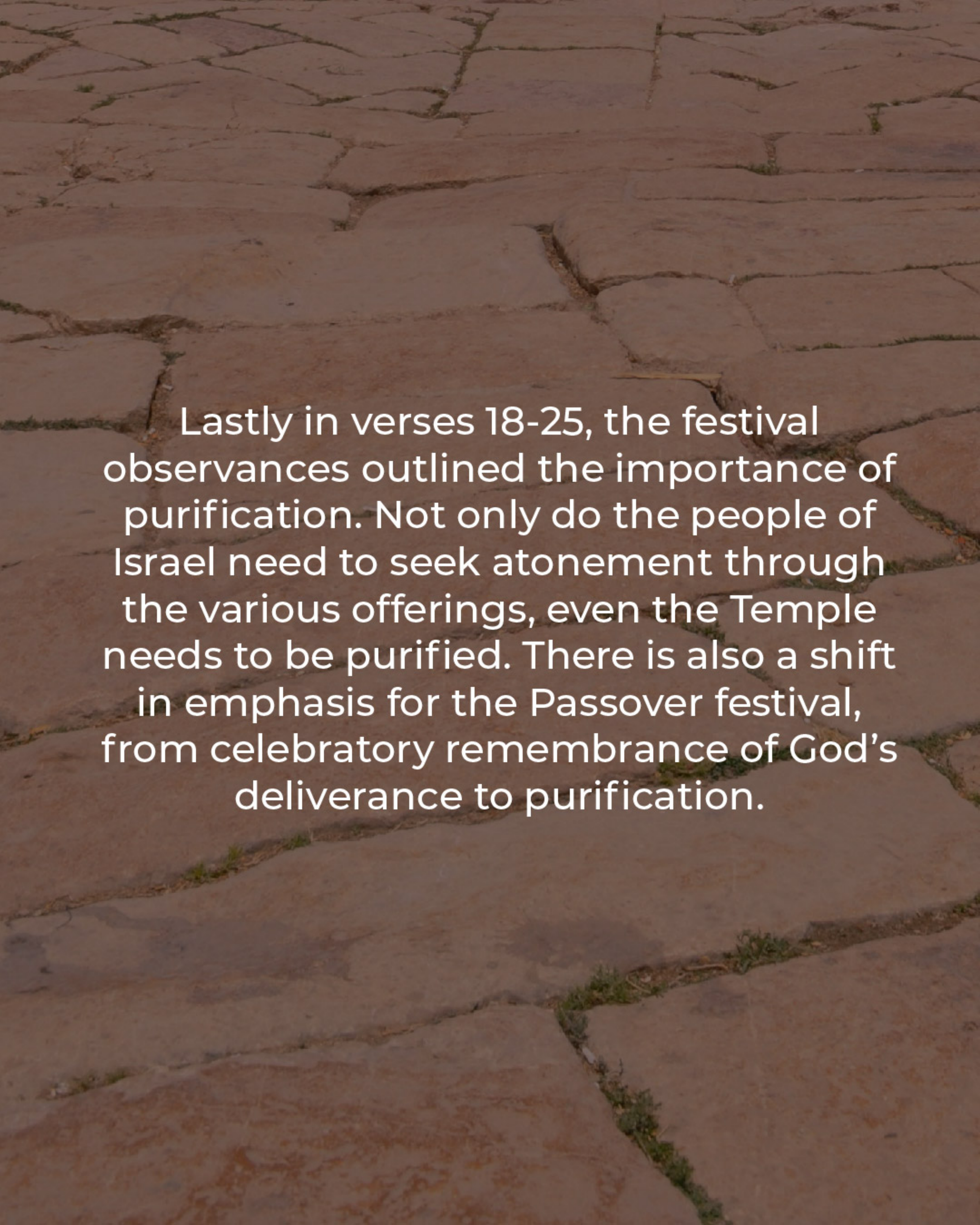
The architectural plans reveal a series of essentially concentric rectangles, starting with a Most Holy Place right in the centre reserved for God's presence. Moving further away, there are to be areas for the priests who have access to God's presence, for all Levites, for all Israel, and finally for the prince (referring to the king of Israel). Notice how it is implied that the further we move away from the central Most Holy Place, the lesser the degree of holiness?

Verses 8–17 confront the corrupt leadership of Israel. Past and current kings had oppressed their people and perverted justice with dishonest trade.

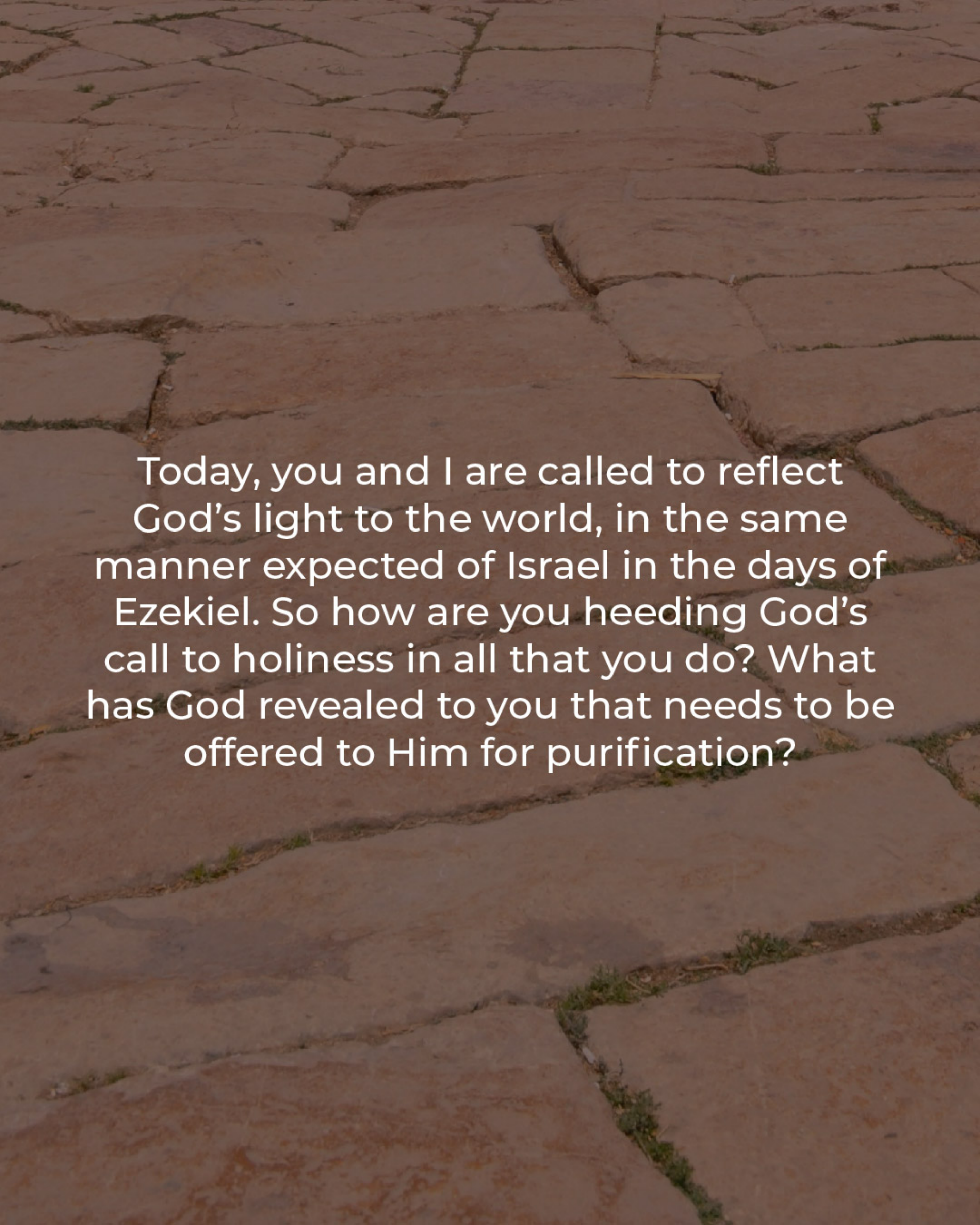
Ezekiel 45:9a — “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You have gone far enough, princes of Israel! Give up your violence and oppression and do what is just and right.”



At the future restoration of Israel, the kings of Israel are charged to be a more accurate manifestation of God's provision for His people in their duty of providing the ritual atonement offerings at festivals.



Lastly in verses 18-25, the festival observances outlined the importance of purification. Not only do the people of Israel need to seek atonement through the various offerings, even the Temple needs to be purified. There is also a shift in emphasis for the Passover festival, from celebratory remembrance of God's deliverance to purification.



Today, you and I are called to reflect God's light to the world, in the same manner expected of Israel in the days of Ezekiel. So how are you heeding God's call to holiness in all that you do? What has God revealed to you that needs to be offered to Him for purification?