

A silhouette of a person lifting a child into the air against a vibrant sunset background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The person and child are dark silhouettes against the bright sky. The person is standing on a dark, low horizon line.

Message
"Are We Measuring Up"

Neal Parker

A Mother – Beyond The Measuring Stick

■ Is There A Measuring Stick?

- “When I look at the many definitions of what it is to be a mother, these are some words and phrases that pop up: a way of being, selfless, tireless, a loving human being who makes sacrifices for the needs of their children above theirs, etc.”**
- “Motherhood is not how many define it. It is not all biological, and it does not mean that once you have a child, you automatically develop that nurturing instinct. It does not mean you are to be blamed if your child chooses the wrong path or a different direction from what you choose for them or even for yourself.”**
- “I was determined to be a mother that measures up to this measuring stick of what it means to be a perfect mother.”**

Jerusalem...She Is Our Mother

■ Galatians 4:21-31

- In Paul's analogy, Hagar represents the Old Covenant, and symbolizes human efforts (rituals and animal sacrifices), which do not remove continuous bondage to sin. On the other hand, Sarah represents the New Covenant, which includes better promises and requires the faith of Jesus Christ. This leads to freedom from the "wages of sin"—death (**Romans 6:23**).
- Paul calls Hagar "Mount Sinai," which "answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children" (**Galatians 4:25**).
- Then, in verse 26, he writes, "But Jerusalem which is above is free, *which is the mother of us all.*"

Jerusalem...She Is Our Mother

■ Hebrews 12:18-24

- As Christians, we “are not come” to the physical rituals of the Old Covenant.
- Instead, “...you are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the *heavenly Jerusalem*, and to an innumerable company of angels [which surrounds and protects it], to the *general assembly and church of the firstborn*” (verses 22-23).
- Christ is the “Firstborn among many brethren” (Romans 8:29). Collectively, the brethren compose Christ’s body, which is the Church (I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23).

Measuring Stick

■ Revelation 11:1-2

- Measurement of the Temple of God, The Altar and Those Who Worship In It.
- Court is not included due to it being given to the nations of the world.

■ Measure (Strong's #3354)

- To measure (ascertain in size by a fixed standard)
- By Implication: To Admeasure (allot by rule).

Measuring Stick

■ Revelation 11:3-12

- Authority is granted by God.
- Prophecy for 1,260 days / 3 ½ Years in Sackcloth.
- Prophecy (Strong's #4395) to foretell events, divine, speak under inspiration, exercise the prophetic office.
- Supernatural powers granted by God.
- Killed by the beast/bodies in streets/resurrected and taken to heaven.

Measuring Stick

■ Revelation 11:4

- Two Olive Trees / Lampstands standing before the Lord

■ Zechariah 4:2-3, 11-14

- Two Olive Trees / Two Anointed Ones

Speculation

Do the two witnesses point to:

- Zerubbabel : Royal line of King David
- Joshua : Priestly line (Zechariah 3)
- Two Olive Trees / Anointed Ones combined point to the Messianic King-Priest

Measuring Stick

Zechariah 4:9-10

The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish {it.} Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. "For who has despised the day of small things? But these seven will be glad when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel-- {these are} the eyes of the LORD which range to and fro throughout the earth."

Ezekiel's Vision of Abominations

■ Ezekiel 8:1-4

- Ezekiel was among the initial captives taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar's invasion and siege of Jerusalem.
- He is in a vision
- His audience are those who had recently experienced the entire event.



Ezekiel's Vision of Abominations

■ Ezekiel 8:5-18

- “Image of Jealousy” – Verses 5-6
- “All the idols of House of Israel” – Verses 7-12
- “Weeping for Tammuz” – Verses 13-14
- “Worshiping toward the Sun” – Verses 16-17
- God's judgment – Verse 18
 - "Therefore, I indeed will deal in wrath. My eye will have no pity nor will I spare; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, yet I will not listen to them."

Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:1-4

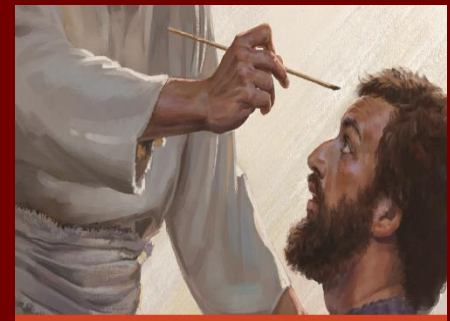
- One of the spirit beings who had "charge over the city" (verse 1) carried, not a battle-axe like his fellows, but a writer's inkhorn (verse 2), and he was also dressed differently, in linen. His is a different purpose. God charges him to go ahead of his fellows, saying in verse 4: "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."



Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:1-4

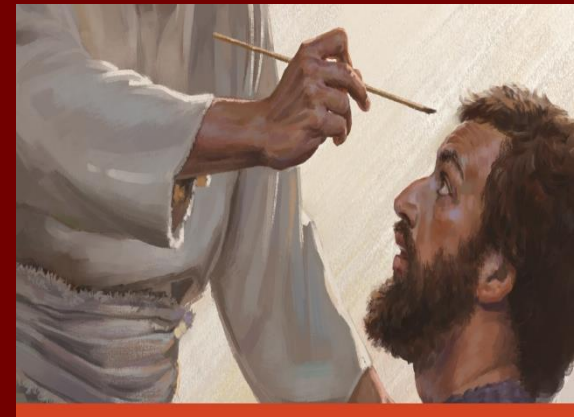
- Those people who sighed and cried somehow found a place of safety from the terror, that would start in God's Temple / God's Sanctuary.
- They had God's mark on them, protecting them from His judgment.
- Sighing and crying over the abominations and the sins of the larger society, then, must be enormously important to us too, as we know there will be a similar Great Tribulation and Time of God's Wrath.



Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:5-11

- “Sigh” - *Strong's #584*, and it means "to groan," "to mourn," and "to moan." Its rather interesting first use is found in Exodus 2:23-25: Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel *groaned* because of their bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.



Do We Sigh and Cry For the Abominations in our Midst?

■ Ezekiel 9:5-11

- “Cry” - Strong's #602 (used only four times in Scripture), and it also means "to groan," but it has another meaning as well: "to shriek." This word contains a great deal of emotional meaning. It involves a person's innermost feelings.



Measuring Stick

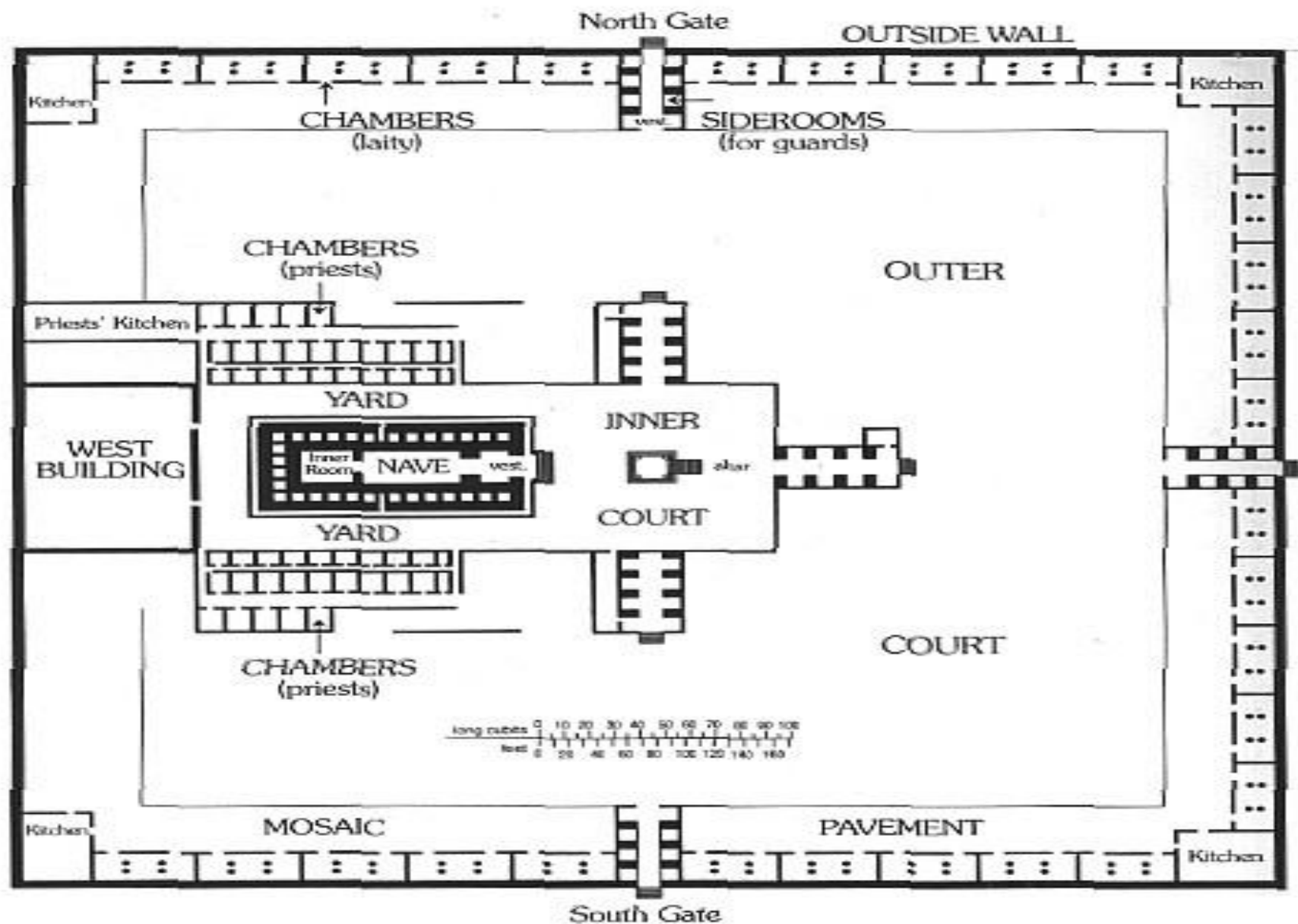
■ Ezekiel 40:1-42

- Measurement Done On 10th day of the 1st Month
- Passover lambs were selected and kept on the 10th day of the 1st Month

Speculation

- Is this activity of measuring being done periodically, now, in God's Temple, with a final measurement taken by the Two Witnesses?
- Will there be a larger Temple of God, into the future?

EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE, COURTS, WALLS, AND GATES



Features Unique To Ezekiel's Temple

**No wall of partition to exclude Gentiles (compare Ephesians 2:14)
The Gentiles were previously welcome in the Outer Courts, but excluded from the inner courts on pain of death.**

No Court of Women /compare Galatians 3:28 (Outer Court and Inner Court only)

No Laver (see Ezekiel 36:24-27, John 15:3)

No Table of Shewbread (see Micah 5:4, John 6:35)

No Lampstand or Menorah (see Isaiah 49:6, John 8:12)

No Golden Altar of Incense (Zechariah 8:20-23, John 14:6)

No Veil (Isaiah 25:6-8, Matthew 27:51)

No Ark of the Covenant (Jeremiah 3:16, John 10:30-33)

Measuring Stick

- **Method of Measuring**
 - **Amos 7:7-9**
 - **God is measuring and testing us**
 - **Spirituality**
 - **Morality**
 - **Genuineness against His standard**

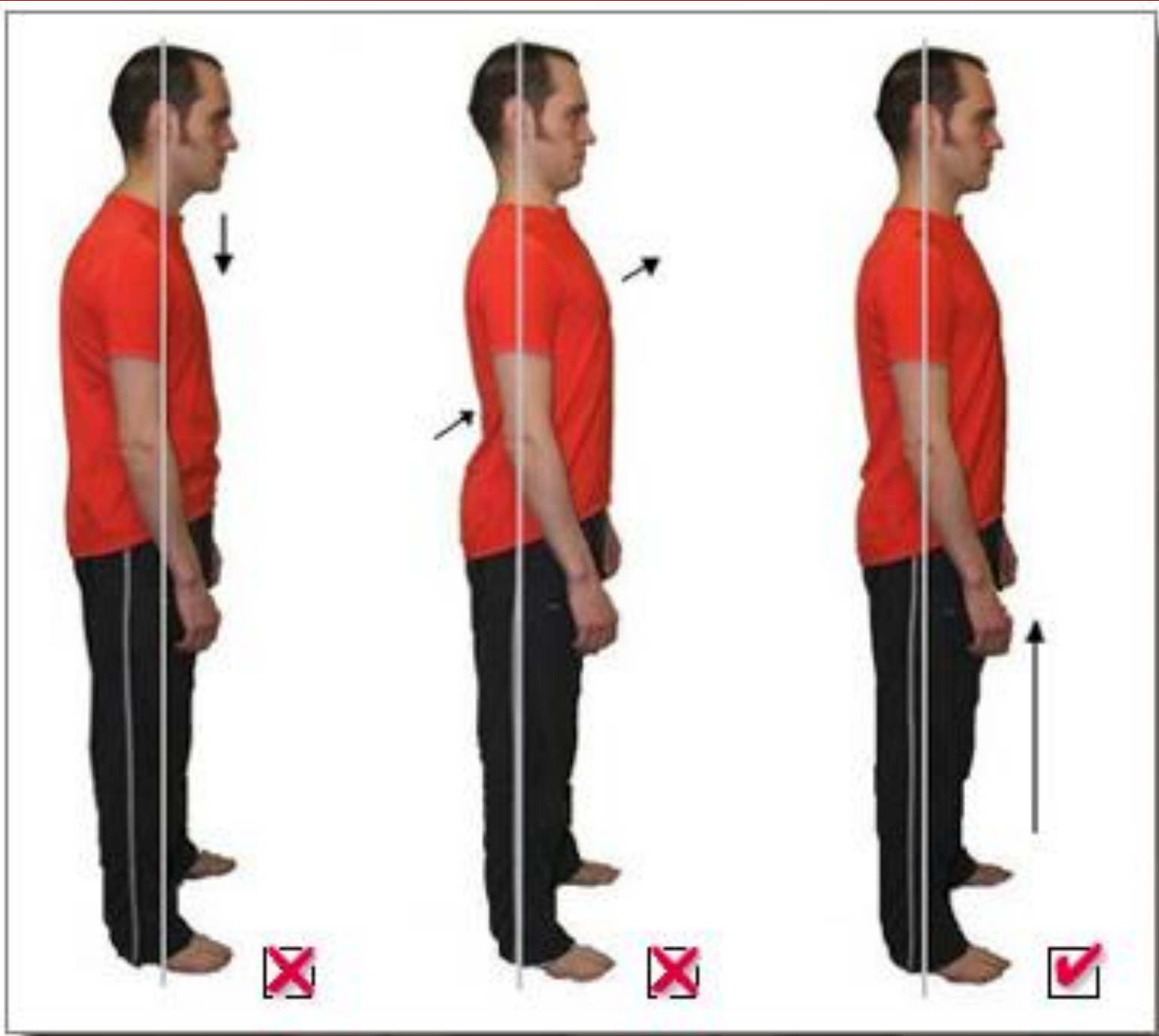


And the Lord
said to me,
“Amos, what
do you see?”
And I said,
“A plumb line.”
Then the Lord
said, “See, I am
setting a plumb
line in the midst
of my people.

Amos 7:8



God's Plumb Line



Measuring Stick

■ God's Law

- It is a primary vehicle He uses to reveal His nature; it defines how He lives. If we want to be in His Kingdom and live as He does, we must obey His law, but obeying God's law in no way minimizes grace.
- The plumb line combines grace and law, and God will test us against both. If we rely on His grace without law, or on His law without grace, we will not pass the test. If either is abused, we will not measure up to the standard.

Application – Are We Measuring Up?

■ Application To Our Life

In this present evil world:

- Let us sigh and cry over the Church, Our Nation and Our World's sins, praying that we use God's Word to understand exactly what those sins are.**
- Let us remain awake and alert to what is happening around us, fully understanding what God considers to be sinful, but not participating at all in those sins.**
- Let us not gloat in self-righteous glee in the wholesale death and destruction that we know will come, but rather pray for God's mercy and grace on all.**