

<I Will Not be Inquired of by You>

Ezekiel 18:32 – 20:49

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~ That which God has said He will do – He will do. Christian’s love hearing that message when they think of the blessings He might bestow upon them; but, when it means He will judge their sins – not so much. Our Spiritual Safari expedition though the entire Word of God with Ezekiel has been many things: funny, trippy, somber, disturbing, sober, terrifying – and some of it has been disgusting; as the bread of affliction God instructed Ezekiel to prepare in chapter four verse twelve was. All of this is a message of judgment. Ezekiel is a critical book for the understanding of prophecy; and there are two types of prophecy in the Bible: fulfilled and unfulfilled. Much of Ezekiel’s prophecies have been literally fulfilled; but there are some that remain unfulfilled today.

The nations mentioned in Scripture are always geographical, physical nations that were – or are – contiguous with the nation Israel; or, at least, in close proximity to – and *ALWAYS* in existence at the time in which that particular section of Scripture we are studying was written – with limited exceptions in Isaiah and Daniel. That said, our Spiritual Safari dogmatically insists that these United States are not found in passage of the Bible. America is not part of our final Scriptural equation. Trying to fit American people, ideas or circumstances into the Word of God is abject foolishness.

Every prophecy given in the Old Testament and the New Testament concern nations that had direct dealings with Israel; either geographically or politically – and were spoken of either before or during the Syrian and Babylonian captivities. So, America could not be included; because there is no future prophecy that includes any nation beyond the Roman Empire which, of course, has come and gone. Understanding that fact is so critical to prophecy that, without it, you can never understand the prophets of the Old Testament correctly and, by de facto, Revelation can never be comprehended, either. It will not be otherwise.

So, our reasonable conclusion is that if God has literally fulfilled the prophecies that have been fulfilled, He is apt to literally fulfill those that have yet to be fulfilled. Fulfilled prophecies, particularly those concerning Alexander the Great by Daniel, are irrefutable proof-positive concerning the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. The Bible is the Word of God, friends. Those who say the Bible is not the Word of God are wrong. That's their problem – not ours. The detailed preciseness of how prophecy has been fulfilled is something that only the wholly ignorant, utterly uneducated and abjectly unlearned man would deny or attempt to discredit. No man or woman could have ever guessed at which prophecies would happen or how they would transpire. Impossible. Period. Full stop.

In previous reports, I provided my erroneous secular theory, given in a complete misunderstanding on my part, regarding the laws of compound probabilities. I said, "...if I say it will rain tomorrow I have a fifty-fifty chance of being correct. If I say it will start raining at two o'clock in the afternoon, I reduce my chances to twenty-five percent. If I say it will start raining at two o'clock and stop at five o'clock my chances diminish to twelve and a half percent..." – and so on. Well, it turns out I was wrong; when you add that third element of prediction, your chances drop to one in three hundred. So, with over three hundred fulfilled prophecies, the probability of the prophets guessing at what has literally happened ranges somewhere around one in three *TRILLION*. Well, the prophets only had one opportunity to get it right; and they did – because they weren't guessing. They got their information directly from the Lord God Almighty Himself....

XVIII

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

~ "Live" occurs thirteen times in chapter eighteen, and the word "die" occurs fourteen times. So, it's safe to say that God is presenting life and death; but Ezekiel is not talking about eternal life or eternal death. Ezekiel is talking about the way God judges individuals *in this present world* — in *this* life. Therefore, this entire chapter *MUST* be confined to that premise. Several illustrations of life and death were given in this chapter and, in each

picture, every individual stands before God separately. The lost won't be judged as a group. The lost appear individually at the Great White Throne, where they are given the opportunity to plead their case. But every mouth is stopped. No one is saved. On the other hand, every believer will stand before the Lord Jesus at the Bema Seat of Christ *alone* to determine if they receive a reward - or not.

Modern psychology has corrupted man's thinking to the point where we have a world full of people blaming everyone else for their problems. The psychologist will tell you that the reason you have trouble showing affection is because your momma didn't love you enough; or, the reason you can't stop committing adultery is because your daddy was an alcoholic. The lost man – and even many saved men and women – always seem to know whose fault their problems are – but they aren't theirs. This zero-responsibility attitude accounts for a large number of society's overall problems. Frankly, if anything, most people's life-problem's is the result of not having proper discipline. Well, either way, you won't be blaming anyone for your failures when you stand before the Lord God Almighty on Judgment Day, I can assure you of that; and blaming others for the judgments you are experiencing in your life right now may feel good – but it is counterproductive to correct thinking and healthy living.

Judgment is strange work for God, you will recall from Isaiah, who said, “... *the LORD shall rise up He shall be wroth that He may do His work, his strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act....*” Further, God doesn't take any pleasure at seeing anyone die. Both death and judgment are foreign to God; He never intended the judgment of death for mankind. It was by man's sin that death came – not through the working of God. Naturally, we're talking about physical death. Remember, Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus – even though Jesus restored Lazarus' life! So, in this section of Scripture, we need to confine our thinking to this life; because over-spiritualizing these truths will literally dissolve them into meaninglessness. We are not talking about salvation here....

XIX

1 Moreover take thou up a lamentation for the princes of Israel,

2 And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions.

3 And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.

4 The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit, and they brought him with chains unto the land of Egypt.

5 Now when she saw that she had waited, and her hope was lost, then she took another of her whelps, and made him a young lion.

6 And he went up and down among the lions, he became a young lion, and learned to catch the prey, and devoured men.

7 And he knew their desolate palaces, and he laid waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and the fulness thereof, by the noise of his roaring.

8 Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him: he was taken in their pit.

9 And they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon: they brought him into holds, that his voice should no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel.

~ Chapter nineteen brings us two lamentations. The first is regarding the princes in the southern Kingdom of Judah; including the tribe of Benjamin. We know this speaks of Judah because of the reference to the lion. This is *NOT* the lamentation of Ezekiel, though; although most Bible teachers teach that. This is the lamentation *of the Lord* Jehovah! Specifically, the One Who wept over Jerusalem in the New Testament – the Lord Jesus Christ – is the One weeping over the princes of Judah in this chapter. Interestingly, no one was concerned about this group of people in any way, shape or form – except for the Lord. This is a group of people who had been made slaves at the time in which we are studying; and who are so far removed from us today in time and distance that it's extremely difficult to even think about

who or how they might have been. Candidly, no one in this world was or is presently concerned about the princes of Judah – except God Himself. No one was or is shedding any tears over these princes in Babylonian captivity. Jehoahaz and Jehoiachin and their offspring were as disgusting and despicable as people get.

So, who is concerned about *Y-O-U* today? My opinion is that there are very few who really care about you – or me. I know people talk about how they love everyone – but that's just so much pious drivel. It's laughable – not to mention not-credible. Do you think the people where you work really care about you – unless you don't show up on time? What about those in your church? Frankly, most people's own *immediate family* don't even care about each other in certain situations. The lost man who is honest will admit they do not believe anyone cares for them. They believe others are only out to gain from them. Well, if you have a pastor or church family that cares about you, then that has only happened because God cares about you, my friends. God does care about us; but He won't hesitate to make us feel all alone in this world, if that's the only way He can get our attention. Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, this is another one of those areas where many people part ways with the Lord Jesus Christ – when it should draw them closer to Him....

10 Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted by the waters: she was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters.

11 And she had strong rods for the sceptres of them that bare rule, and her stature was exalted among the thick branches, and she appeared in her height with the multitude of her branches.

12 But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up her fruit: her strong rods were broken and withered; the fire consumed them.

~ The second lamentation begins in verse ten covering the land of Judah. Our last report brought us a vivid picture of the love Jehovah had for Judah and Jerusalem. That little child that had been cared for and loved has grown up and went off into idolatry. Here, at the time in which we are

studying, God has ripped the vine out of the ground, including its roots, and Israel has been taken into captivity; of which Ezekiel is explaining the why, wherefore and whatnot thereof to the elders — again.

I trust you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment in these prophecies because, if you have not prayed for those things, you'll never have them. This section of Scripture is just as much a part of the Bible as John chapter three verse sixteen is – and is equally as important, by the way. This part of the Bible is a literal black hole in most Christian's understanding of the Word of God. Many people don't even know this is here and, of those who do, most have either never read this part of the Book of Ezekiel – or, if they have, they have only read it one time and they had no earthly idea what they were reading – so, they have forgotten all about it – and probably don't care....

13 And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty ground.

14 And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.

XX

1 And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

2 Then came the word of the LORD unto me, saying,

3 Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

~ Verse three is a terse statement, indeed. This chapter brings us the final prophecies Ezekiel gives concerning the total destruction of Jerusalem; and this section runs through chapter twenty-four. As you read on, you'll notice God's message is dreadfully long and drawn out. What this reveals is that

God was willing to spare Israel, Jerusalem and the people right up to the very minute on the very day that Nebuchadnezzar's army entered the city. God would have removed Nebuchadnezzar just as abruptly as He had previously done with Sennacherib and the Assyrians during the days of Hezekiah in second Chronicles chapter thirty-two. In Hezekiah's day, the people turned back to God. Here, in Zedekiah's day, they stiffened their necks, refused God's plea of mercy, and rebelled even more vehemently against Him. So, final judgment comes to them.

When we get to chapter twenty-four, we'll learn that on this very day that the besiegement of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar began, Ezekiel's wife died. God told Ezekiel not to mourn for her — and Ezekiel didn't shed a tear. Jeremiah may have been the weeping prophet, but Ezekiel is as tough as nails. Ezekiel is seemingly unmoved by being God's mouthpiece of unspeakable judgment. Personally, I think Ezekiel was very moved deep inside — but, when God says, "don't worry about it" — Ezekiel replied, "okay." From there, Ezekiel iterates a retrospect of the nation's sins, beginning all the way back in Egypt during the forty years in the wilderness. The elders are now coming to Ezekiel to complain about God's unfairness in executing this judgment. Ezekiel says to them, "too bad!" We've been over this before, so I am not going to be tedious. I would have you notice one thing, however, in verse two — Ezekiel is giving us the Word of God....

4 Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:

5 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the LORD your God;

6 In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

7 Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

10 Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

14 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

15 Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

16 Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

17 Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.

18 But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols:

19 I am the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;

20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

22 Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

23 I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

25 Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;

26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the LORD.

27 Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

28 For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

29 Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

32 And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

33 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

39 As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when I bring you out from the people, and gather you out of the countries wherein ye have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before the heathen.

42 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers.

43 And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.

44 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

45 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

46 Son of man, set thy face toward the south, and drop thy word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the south field;

47 And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.

48 And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

49 Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables?

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