

<Narrow Windows to the Little Chambers>

Ezekiel 38:16 – 40:49

^^VV^^VV^^VV^^

~ When shock, confusion, and doubt shook the disciples, causing many of them to turn back and walk with Jesus no more, He asked Simon Peter, *“will you also turn from following Me?”* Peter answered, *“... where would I go? You have the words of eternal life.”* Our Spiritual Safari examined chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine of Ezekiel extensively in our previous report, and we were introduced to another enemy of Israel, which is identified clearly as Russia. Russia will come against Israel in the latter days as Antichrist feigns false peace and prosperity. During this time period, Israel will be deceived into believing they are entering the Millennium – which is false – but the underlying question is still not answered, which is: what will God ultimately do about all of the evil in the world? Well, if you have not read our previous report, I can only suggest you go back and do so now; because this report is going to critically examine the sovereignty of the Lord God Almighty.

When we first met Ezekiel, he was among the captives of the children of Israel, down by the Euphrates River in the land of Babylon, where they had hung their hearts and harps on the Willow Trees, and were crying the Babylonian blues. The false prophets were attempting to encourage the people to believe that everything was going to be just fine, that Nebuchadnezzar would never decimate the entire land of Israel, that the remaining inhabitants would not all be killed, that Jerusalem would never be destroyed and, most certainly, that Solomon’s Temple would never be crushed and burned as Ezekiel was saying it would be. Their interpretation of prophecy was that God could never permit that to happen to His chosen people – the Apple of His Eye – His witness to the entire world. Well, as we know, the false prophets were entirely wrong.

Ezekiel told them again and again in the first thirty-two chapters of this prophecy – through scathing sermons and pitiful parables – that Israel would, in fact, have all of those horrible things happen to it. Even though Jerusalem was God’s city, they had become a bloody, wicked, and sinful

city. Those rebukes continued until verse twenty-one of chapter thirty-three, when one man who had escaped the sword confirmed that all of those things had taken place. After that, Ezekiel left the message of condemnation and began to encourage them against the backdrop of such a desperate reality. Frankly, none of the other prophets were quite as bright of a ray of hope as Ezekiel is.

Our Spiritual Safari has now examined three of the four so-called Major Prophets; Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. We have gathered certain great Biblical truths and principles that the fourth Major Prophet, Daniel, will confirm. What we have seen are judgments; precepts that have a direct application for nations of the world and, of course, for believers; but, when I say “*believers*,” I do not mean self-professing believers disguised as church-members who call themselves Christians. No, I am writing to those who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ, and who intend to obey Him *IN THIS LIFE* — and honestly and sincerely believe this is the Word of God we are studying in this expedition through the entire Bible.

Chapter forty begins the final section of the prophecy of Ezekiel, and concerns the land of Israel during the Kingdom Age. The Millennial Temple will be established on earth *in that day*. If you have been a regular reader of our so-called safari through Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, I trust you have noticed these prophetic books of the Bible are not written in a haphazard manner. They were not thrown together by centuries-old Bible scholars; there is a definite plan, purpose and progress that accounts for the history, culture, and future of the nation Israel. Now, Ezekiel begins to look way down into the future to the coming of the Kingdom Age *in that day* when the Glory of the Lord will appear again on this earth.

In that day — the latter days — when Israel is back in the land and the enemy, Russia, comes upon them causing many of them to worship Antichrist, there will still be a remnant of one hundred forty-four thousand who remain faithful witnesses for God. *In that day*, they will be living in peace and safety; and the Lord God Himself will deal with the enemy — because, apparently, there isn’t anyone else to fight for them. That’s when false peace abruptly comes to an end for the lost world and, if you will pardon the expression, all hell breaks loose in the frenzied fury of the Great

Tribulation period; and the entire world becomes a holocaust. My estimation is that these events will make Germany's Hitler look like a juvenile prankster. Judgments and wars will come, one on top of the other, throughout the whole earth at that time. Jesus said, "*except those days be shortened no flesh would survive.*"

Personally, I don't understand those who say that God's children - the church - will go through the Great Tribulation period, when the Bible is specific that the church is *long* gone before that time arrives. The witnesses on earth in Revelation are clearly marked-out as the children of Israel; and the only way one can miss that is if they *WANT* to miss it. Here, Ezekiel isn't talking to the church because Ezekiel didn't know anything about a church body of Christ. While I concede we are studying God's dealing with Israel in a microcosm manner in relation to the present world in which we live, even when we interpret it that way, Israel still means Israel. It is amazing that people can look at a map in the back of their Bible and see that Israel is a specific land – but when they read Ezekiel or Revelation, they suddenly misinterpret Israel is the church. Attempting that impossible leap on the flying trapeze of theology is reckless, irresponsible, and dangerous – and the false prophets shall surely die, my friends. That's what God said.

Deuteronomy 18:21 *the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die ~*

The Bible is not a toy. Teaching the Bible is not a fetish. Contorting Scripture to support a philosophy of whatever in your life – something other than what it really means – meaning, whatever you deem it to mean – is punishable by death. If it is any of those things to you then, my friend, you are committing spiritual suicide. The events we are studying unfold in the latter days, and speak of God bringing the enemy - Russia - down into Israel, where He judges them. Then, Antichrist becomes the world ruler. After that, the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth to establish His earthly Kingdom – which is found in chapter nineteen of Revelation. Then, chapter twenty of Revelation brings us the Millennial Kingdom; which is what we're looking at when we come to chapter forty of Ezekiel. So, naturally, Ezekiel provides the description of the Millennial Temple, Temple worship *in that*

day, and the vision that was given to him by God concerning the land of Israel at that time, and throughout the remainder of this prophecy. If you teach *ANYTHING* other than that – you shall surely die. If you don't care for my tone in this report – don't read it.

The principles we find in Ezekiel are eternal; and directly linked to the character and attributes of the Lord God Almighty – Jehovah. Frankly, I suggest anyone reading this report get all of this straight in your mind immediately. Only when this is understood properly, correctly and completely can we begin to draw reasonable conclusions from eschatology. No prophet emphasizes the glory and holiness of God more than this man Ezekiel. Ezekiel literally saw the glory of God with his own eyes; in a real place, and in a real way. Once he saw the glory and holiness of God, he never moved away from it; irrespective of what may or may not have been better-off unsaid.

Those things Ezekiel saw were inextricably intertwined in the judgment of God. God warned His chosen people again and again and again to turn from their own thinking – and from the idols in their hearts – and look to Him to be saved – or He would judge the nation. That went on for chapter after chapter throughout this prophecy. Now, that judgment has come, and Ezekiel offers encouragement – but he also says *ANOTHER* enemy is coming! The Lord Jesus wept over Jerusalem in His earthly ministry because He knew Titus the Roman was right around the corner in history. In 70 AD, Titus destroyed Jerusalem in an even more gruesome and fearsome manner than Nebuchadnezzar had done – and as it is going to happen *AGAIN* in the future.

See, there were many things wrong in Jerusalem. Any city – God's or otherwise – if they desire the blessing of God – then those wrong things must be made right. Liars *MUST* stop lying. Thieves *MUST* stop stealing. Drunks *MUST* become sober. The lawless *MUST* become law-abiding. Only when righteousness prevails, is acknowledged and respected in a city, land, nation – or an individual – will that place or person experience the love, mercy and goodness of God – and receive the blessings of God. It simply isn't going to happen any other way. Never has – and never will. Jerusalem was thinking wrong; and one can never think wrong and act right. So, God

was right in His judgment of them – even as harsh, terrible and awful as that judgment was.

God *NEVER* blesses that which is wrong. I will stress that point until you literally cannot even read my reports anymore if I have to. If you are Bible-literate, and contrast Ezekiel with Jeremiah, these truths are inescapable and unavoidable. God wrote a large section of His Word on this topic; apparently, He thought it was important. Isaiah revealed to us the reluctance of God to judge. Remember, Isaiah said, “*judgment is God’s strange work.*” Jeremiah revealed the heart of God. God would rather save men than judge them. Saving souls is God’s business; it’s what He likes to do. The Word of God was given to us so that God could be involved in the human race. When the Word became flesh, Jesus did so out of concern and pity for us. It broke Christ’s heart when Jerusalem was destroyed – every time – and it has been destroyed more times than you can count on your fingers and toes combined.

Here, in Ezekiel, however, we have something altogether different. Remember, Ezekiel’s wife died the same day Jerusalem was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar – and God told Ezekiel not to shed a tear for either one of them. As far as I can tell, Ezekiel didn’t even go to her funeral; he just acted like nothing happened. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, but He did *NOT* mourn for them. Here, God wasn’t the least bit remorseful for what He had sent Nebuchadnezzar to do to Jerusalem. It breaks God’s heart to punish sins; He does it with tears in His eyes – but – He isn’t going to do it any other way, my friends. God *ALWAYS* does that which is in keeping with His character, and that which is just and right – and whatever God does is right.

There is no unrighteousness with God – but there is a whole lot of unrighteousness with *YOU* and with *ME*. God’s glory is manifested in judgment; and His grace is manifested in redemption. If God had not provided a way for redemption, man would be eternally lost – period. Frankly, after Malachi, and before Christ came to this world, God could have turned off the sun, went to another part of the universe, forgot all about little old earth as we know it – and we would still be dead in trespasses and sins – but He would still be holy and righteous! Turn that over in your minds a few times and see what you come up with....

XXXVIII

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

~ God is going to bring Russia into the land of Israel for the sole purpose of destroying them. Only the liberal has a problem with that but – guess what? – God doesn't care if you approve of His methods of judgment. Only the liberal has a problem with the Lord Jesus cursing the fig tree and destroying a few pigs in the land of the Gadarenes. The liberal is always like the walrus and the carpenter; weeping because of all the sand on the seashore – while they are busy eating oysters as fast as they can! I'm not impressed with those who cry fake tears – because God told Israel to kill all the Amelekites; men, women, babies and animals....

XXXIX

6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

~ Many people ask where God is today; wondering why he doesn't move more definitively against the evil, wicked man. Many years ago, a group of Christian's in Russia went to the Kremlin. They begged and pleaded, with tears in their eyes, to be allowed to leave Russia; and they were denied. The Russian army came and took them all away, and *NO ONE* amongst them was heard from again. If you try to find out what happened to them, you'll find nothing but a wall of silence. Today, when a sovereign national ruler moves against his own people, the United States starts dropping bombs. The hypocrisy of mankind and the utter injustice that plagues the entire world is terrifying – and even more so when it involves *Y-O-U*. There

is no respect for God in this world. Most Christians perceive God as a senile old man, sitting on the front porch of life, winking at the sins and evil his grandchildren are committing as they play. Well, God is going to move before we know what has happened; but He doesn't do it in a vindictive or petulant manner. Once judgment breaks forth on a life – it is too late. Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man shall sow – *THAT* shall he also reap.

Romans 2: 3 *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? ~*

Hebrews 2: 3 *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him? ~*

~ The answer to the question in Hebrews chapter two verse three is: you can't escape! You will *NOT* get away with your sins. God *WILL* judge you *IN THIS LIFETIME*. The liberal preachers and so-called Bible teacher *NEVER* seem to broach this subject, friends. They only want to make a name for themselves, and win over the world somehow by building a kingdom or whatever. All they ever do is make this world a better place for people to go to hell in! Hell is an awful reality; as real as the nose on your face. You can dismiss these truths, reinterpret them to fit your phony lifestyle, or ignore the Bible altogether – won't change a thing. Hell is the place where God will ultimately place those who choose to live in rebellion and disobedience against Him. Those who sin with impunity, and blaspheme His Holy Name, are the ones who will receive *MANY* stripes.

Luke 12: 46Jesus saith, *“the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the*

more. 49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?" ~

Those who live like animals in the name of freedom, indulging in gross immorality, won't be punished as severely as those who deign profess God, but deny Christ by pretending to worship Him. God is demonstrating His love today by giving His Son and His Word through faithful men of God who love Christ, live an unimpeachable life worthy of the Lord, and who handle the truth properly, correctly and completely. Those who name His Name had better take some serious notes from this report, my friends. Trifling with God is for idiots. You're not going to get familiar with the Lord Jesus Christ. You can't live as you please and then call on Jesus like He is your errand-boy. Presumption of this is certain death. If you are getting by with sin in your life, it is because you are not a child of God. Our proper position in life is bowing before the Lord. The liberty we have is in the direct will of God. So, with all of that in mind, you are ready to read the last nine chapters of this prophecy before our next report ~

^^VV^^VV^^VV^^