

<Terror on All That Haunt It>

Ezekiel 25:1 – 26:21

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~ In our last several reports, our Spiritual Safari has completed the examination of Ezekiel's prophecy against Israel, Judah and Jerusalem in as thorough detail as I am capable of presenting in written form. If you have not read our previous four safari reports, I can only suggest you go back and do so now. Beginning in chapter twenty-five, and running through chapter thirty-two, this prophet first turns his attentions to the surrounding nations of the Ammonites, and then to Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Zidon and Egypt. While Tyre will be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in Ezekiel's day, the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy won't happen for another three hundred years after Ezekiel. Well, if you have been on our safari through Ezekiel from chapter one, then you will know that we are on a wild ride; but, in this and the next several reports, we're going on the Walt Disney World Mad-Teacup ride of prophecy – and there are no seat belts. Let me just say, if you have ever ridden that ride, and spun the wheel as hard as you can, then you know you feel like you are spinning sideways and upside down – and it can be nauseating. Ready? Let's go!

Even after Ezekiel's announcement to the Jewish captives in Babylon that Jerusalem was now destroyed, the false prophets were still saying Ezekiel was a liar. The false prophets were telling the people that Israel could never be destroyed because, after all, these chosen people were God's only way of communicating His Word to the world; not to mention that Israel was the Apple of His eye, according to Him! After Ezekiel completes his prophecy against the surrounding nations in chapter thirty-three, the captives will receive confirmation that, in fact, the entire land of Israel has been decimated, Jerusalem has been destroyed, the remaining inhabitants have all been killed or deported, and Solomon's Temple has been crushed and burned. Naturally, they will be dumbfounded and traumatized. The only good and productive result will be that the false prophets will have their mouths stopped; and Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel will be vindicated and avenged.

So, we know from prophecy, as opposed to history, that, at the time in which we are studying in Ezekiel, God's city of Jerusalem was in ruins. We know from our study of Jeremiah that Jeremiah is standing over the city in tears with a broken heart at this time. About five hundred years later, the Lord Jesus Christ will also stand over Jerusalem and, likewise, weep as He pronounces yet another destruction of Jerusalem; as Israel begins a total and complete rejection of the True and Living God – which remains unto this day as I type this report and you read it. Well, Ezekiel isn't weeping; and we know that because, in our last report, Mrs. Ezekiel died – but Ezekiel didn't even stop to shed a tear for her – in fact, he didn't even have time to go to her funeral, as far as I can tell. Well, he wasn't refraining from mourning for his wife because he didn't love her – because he certainly *did* love her – but he didn't weep for her because he had another message from God to give to these rebellious, abusive, impudent, violent, hard-hearted people – and here it is in the next eight chapters.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel both reveal two contrasting characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is tender-hearted, merciful and kind – and Jesus spoke comforting words to the apostles, as Jeremiah did to the remnant; but in Christ's attribute, speaking to the nations that have chosen to reject Him, He is as cold as a stone. Remember, Jesus said, *“woe unto you, Capernaum, you shall be cast down to hell.”* I never seem to hear Jesus quoted by the modern so-called Christian. Jesus also said, to the religious rulers, *“woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, your house is left into you desolate!”* And Jesus continues to call the Pharisee's *“children of the devil.”* Those two quotes by Jesus are hair-curling denunciations, friends. It is impossible to misunderstand or misinterpret His words. Make no mistake, there were two aspects of God's glory in Ezekiel's day – and there are two sides to God as I type this report and as you read it.

Frankly, our modern world has the most ridiculously warped view of God that is possibly imaginable. For the most part, this forum on which I teach is perfectly laughable regarding *“Christian”* posts. Most people who take a stab at teaching the Bible (a) have no clue what they are doing and (b) never seem to last very long. Men and women run around saying, *“God is love”* – which is certainly a truth we don't want to lose sight of – but God is

HOLY, God is *RIGHTEOUS*, God is *JUST* and God *WILL* judge sin – even in His chosen people and in His children.

We're not going to storm the gates of Heaven in a puerile and powerless love train, friends. God loves us, but He doesn't save anyone by love. If you think in those terms, then you are hopelessly confused. You're only going to Heaven when your sin problem is settled; and you finally receive the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Until you are complete and acceptable in Him, and have your sins properly confessed, you are literally going *NOWHERE* with God. These truths are why Ezekiel is a closed and sealed book to so many people's understanding. The liberal will assert, "... *no one can understand Ezekiel, or be dogmatic as to its interpretation.*" Well, that's a lie; they don't *WANT* to understand it – and one cannot understand it until they desire truth and wisdom as a precept in their life. So, they never study the Bible. I'm not sure who they think they are kidding....

XXV

1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them;

3 And say unto the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity;

4 Behold, therefore I will deliver thee to the men of the east for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee: they shall eat thy fruit, and they shall drink thy milk.

5 And I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the Ammonites a couchingplace for flocks: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

6 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast clapped thine hands, and stamped with the feet, and rejoiced in heart with all thy despite against the land of Israel;

7 Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

8 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen;

9 Therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities which are on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Bethjeshimoth, Baalmeon, and Kiriathaim,

10 Unto the men of the east with the Ammonites, and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations.

11 And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

12 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them;

13 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword.

14 And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD.

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred;

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

17 And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

~ Our Spiritual Safari spent quite a bit of type and space on these nations in the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah; and I have no intentions of being that overly-tedious in Ezekiel, even though this section of Scripture is highly neglected today. Most of the nations contiguous to Israel at the time in which we are studying have long since passed off of the world stage. The Ammonites had a bad beginning and a bad end. They were of Ammon – son of Lot – by Lot’s incestuous relationship with his own daughter, you will recall. Their country was along the Dead Sea. They were made subject to Nebuchadnezzar – and that was the end of them. Moab has a similarly sordid story. Moab was also to the east of Israel, along the northern coast of the Dead Sea. That’s where Ruth came from, you will recall; and Ruth is an ancestor of King David. Of course, that’s the lineage the Lord Jesus Christ came from, too. Well, in both of these cases, Ammon and Moab, God said He would judge them; and you just won’t find a Moabite or an Ammonite running around today claiming their heritage, friends. Case closed.

Then, there is Edom, who descended from Esau, Isaac’s son – Jacob’s brother. They inhabited the rock-hewn city of Petra, which we have also previously studied in detail on safari in the prophecy of Isaiah. We will revisit Petra again – but not here – it will be in the Book of Obadiah. Well, the Edomites are another group of people that cannot be found today. The Philistines are, likewise, extinct. They’re not the Arab’s who claim to be Palestinians, either; they’re an altogether vanished society. So, all of these judgments in chapter twenty-five have been literally fulfilled. I can only suggest you read it carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and

discernment. The critic will say Ezekiel wrote these chapters *after* the events occurred. Unfortunately for the critic, Ezekiel didn't happen to be around when these prophecies were fulfilled – at a much later time in history....

XXVI

1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste:

3 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.

~ This prophecy concerning Tyre and Sidon is different from those in the previous chapter. The prophecy against Tyre is, in my estimation, beyond remarkable and intriguing. Tyre and Sidon – or Zidon – go together like pork and beans or biscuits and gravy. Tyre was the capital of the great Phoenician Empire. They were a sea-going people. They charted the entire Mediterranean Sea – and pushed well beyond that. We know they went around the Pillars of Hercules, and the Rock of Gibraltar, and sailed all the way to what is now Great Britain. Moreover, they established colonies in North Africa, and all along the southern coast of Spain. I think they actually went much farther than we know about – but that's another history lesson for another teacher.

Tyre was a proud city with a king named Hiram; who had been a very good friend of King David's. It was Hiram who supplied all the materials that would later be used to construct Solomon's Temple. Solomon had a real friend in Hiram, until first Kings chapter nine verse twelve, when the relationship soured because Solomon betrayed Hiram in a business deal. Well, Tyre and Sidon were both the epicenter of Baal worship; and Jezebel was a daughter of the priest to the Phoenicians – and she introduced Baal

worship to the northern kingdom during her marriage to Ahab, you will recall. God said He was against Tyre; and when God says He is against something, you may be absolutely positive that He is against that place or thing. So, like waves breaking on the seashore during a Florida hurricane, the enemies came relentlessly against both Tyre and Sidon....

4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

5 It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.

6 And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

7 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people.

8 He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee.

9 And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers.

10 By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach.

11 With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all thy streets: he shall slay thy people by the sword, and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground.

12 And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.

13 And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

14 And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with a prophecy that seemed as if it could never come to pass. Nebuchadnezzar never *scraped* the city like a rock, and Nebuchadnezzar never laid the stones of the city in the midst of the water. Alexander the Great did those things. Alexander of Greece is the goat spoken of by Daniel in his prophecy, which we will get to later in this safari. When Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Tyre, they decided to move out to an island – where they thought no one could get to them; and, for hundreds of years, they were right.

Until Alexander the Great came along; and had a lot of time and myriad soldiers who “*scraped*” the ruins of the mainland city of Tyre, and built an isthmus out to the new city; and they proceeded to lay it to waste. From that day to right now, the city of Tyre has never been rebuilt. Now, it might be possible for the critic to question Ezekiel’s writing timeline regarding Nebuchadnezzar; but there is no possible way to question his writing concerning Alexander the Great! Personally, I don’t question either one; because I believe we are reading and studying – and I am teaching – the Word of God. You will have to make that determination on your own....

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD to Tyrus; Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?

16 Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay away their robes, and put off their broidered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling; they shall sit upon the ground, and shall tremble at every moment, and be astonished at thee.

17 And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

18 Now shall the isles tremble in the day of thy fall; yea, the isles that are in the sea shall be troubled at thy departure.

19 For thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;

20 When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

21 I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD ~

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