

The Book of Ezekiel (41-60)

Author: Rev. C. J. McKnight

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The day had arrived where there was to be a difference made between those who were concerned and those who were not concerned about the spiritual condition of the people of the Lord. The division was to be made between those who were the cause and those who by their intercession cried out to the Lord for a change. We note that the altar of brass is the starting place of these seven who will sweep through the country identifying those who are worthy of deliverance and those who will be judged. It is a time of sanctification and cleansing. The Lord will move through His church in the end of the age with a mighty manifestation of sanctification and cleansing. The Lord has set the seasons and the times for the last days and that day will inevitably be accomplished in His church. Peter said that judgment must first begin in the house of the Lord. 1 Pet. 4:17 It is that one feast of Israel which as yet does not have its counterpart in the church, that is, the great day of Atonement. The day when Israel stood in absolute purity because the high priest had entered in to the Most Holy place and made atonement for all Israel as well as the Tabernacle or the Temple. Lev 16

Once again we find the Lord exhibiting His works according to His temperament by visiting them first with mercy, then the sentence is executed. The man with the marking pen will go first, placing his mark or signature in the foreheads of those who are desirous of truly having the Lord in their lives. Eze. 9:4 The corresponding New Testament act is the sealing of the baptism of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the seal, the mark, the stamp placed in the life of the believer that they might be proclaimed as being totally the possession of the Lord. 2 Cor. 1:22 The cry of the Spirit backed up by the Word of the Lord is, let all who are His, depart from iniquity. 2 Tim. 2:19 So many today are deeply concerned about the mark of the beast, while we should be much more concerned to make certain that we have the seal of the Lord. Again a specific time is set when the Lord will place the sign of that seal in the foreheads of His very own. Rev. 7:3 The signature of the Lord Jesus Christ will be upon those who are His in the form of His name and His Father's name. Rev. 14:1 NIV That the fullness of His

name is to be upon them is confirmed by the Lord Jesus. He charged John to send a message to the those who are triumphant Christians stating that He would write the name of God, the name of the city of God the New Jerusalem and His new name, which is the Lord Jesus Christ upon them. Rev. 3:12 What a glorious privilege He gives to those who will follow and serve Him of being called after His name. The most marvelous name of time and eternity. The greatest of ALL.

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The punishment which was to be rendered on Jerusalem was not limited to that city. Beginning with the Temple and spreading through the city, then reaching out to all of Israel (Samaria or the ten tribes) and Judah (two tribes) this sentence was to be fully implemented. It was to begin with those responsible for the spiritual welfare of the people, the elders of the sanctuary and was to be carried out against each and every family member who did not have the mark of the Lord on them. Two distinct groups emerge, marked and unmarked. There is no compromise, it is an either, or, situation. Eze. 9:5-7

Ezekiel was so shocked by what he saw in his vision that he attempted to intervene. He threw himself on the ground and cried out unto the Lord. It was too late for a prayer of intercession, that is something which must be done before the beginning of the action taken by the Lord. Eze. 9:8 It is well that we consider the cause of such a great penalty to be carried out against them. They had given themselves entirely over to false worship and every imaginable kind of iniquitous living. The Lord said that their iniquity was exceeding great. Eze. 9:9 The Lord was later to say to Ezekiel that; "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Eze. 18:20 The land was filled with blood, (murder). That has a familiar ring to it. Daily, the blood of the criminal and the innocent is being shed across our world. Society today seems to be more concerned about the treatment of pets than that of human beings. They had filled the whole country with perverseness, distortion or corruption. We are not strangers to that one in today's corrupt world. It reaches into every segment of life and is grossly evident in every country of the world.

While they were a religious people, their worship was distorted. More realistically their beliefs were atheistic in context. Their words and attitude was that the Lord had forsaken the earth. That He no longer

cared what they did. He had come to a permissive attitude and would no longer resist or punish those acts which were contrary to His Word. Oh, how wrong they were. They were also of the opinion that the Lord no longer looked upon them and saw or even gave thought to their sinful actions. Eze. 9:9 It is very apparent that humans of every age of history repeat the same wrong attitude toward the Lord and treat Him as if He did not exist. Please note, the Lord said that He "would recompense their way upon their head." Eze. 9:10 Each and every individual is to bear the sole responsibility before the Lord for the life which they live in this world. That seed which one sows is the crop which will be reaped. Gal. 6:7.

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Mission accomplished. Eze. 9:11 A segment of the inhabitants of Jerusalem marked for separation and deliverance. They are those who recognize the difference between true worship unto the Lord and that which is false. They are those who are burdened when they look upon the condition found among the people of God. Jesus spoke of the condition of the church in the end of the age by referring to it as the kingdom of heaven and likening it to ten virgins who were in great anticipation of the coming of their bridegroom. Mt. 25:1 In the darkness of the night, with their lamps burning brightly they went forth to meet the bridegroom. Immediately, He divided them into two groups, wise and foolish. Mt. 25:2 The Lord only knows that we have just that in today's church. Those who are serious about spiritual things and those who are along just for the thrill and excitement. An evidence of two groups, the spiritual and the social.

Oddly enough, the wise fell asleep as well as the unwise. Mt. 25:5 Lethargy rules. At the last moment the difference between the two groups is made evident. The wise had prepared with an abundant supply of oil in case the bridegroom tarried. At the midnight summons they were ready, while the lamps of the unwise, one by one began to flicker and went out for lack of oil (true anointing). Mt. 25:6-9 The unwise had to make a dash to the market place to buy more oil. On their return, they were rejected, for the door had been shut. Mt. 25:10-12.

The five unwise returned with the cry of, Lord, Lord. Mt. 25:11 A spiritual seriousness can come too late, as it will with them. Jesus

warned that there would be those who commonly called out Lord, Lord but that they would not find a place in the kingdom of God. Mt. 7:21 It is absolutely startling when we consider His words recorded here as to whom these persons might be for they are prophets and preachers who have wrought mighty works, supposedly in His name. Mt. 7:22 His response is most serious. He said to them, "I never knew you, depart from me, you that work iniquity. Mt.7:23 Five wise and five foolish gives a division of fifty percent. Exactly one half of those in church attendance are living a life represented either by the unwise or the wise. The wise are those with a burden for the church. Who know what it is to travail for a real outpouring of the Spirit. They are wise, they read the signs of the times, they know what the future holds and are preparing for it. They will receive the mark of the Lord while others will receive the mark of the antichrist.

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Ezekiel's visions give us a hint as to the appearance of the heavenly, eternal kingdom of the Lord. The Word of the Lord is more reliable than the death experiences of men. All reports of such occurrences, if they do not agree with the revelation of the Word, are unreliable. In his vision we are presented with a canopy, a firmament shaped not unlike that of the sky surrounding earth. Most commentators seem to agree, that the predominant color of the sapphire stone is blue. Eze. 10:1 In the color scheme representing the Lord, blue is the color of the Holy Spirit. The heavenly atmosphere is no longer the ruach (wind, breath, spirit) of the earth but we will breath in the Spirit of the Lord. Oh, the thrill and constant delight of breathing the fullness of the Spirit throughout the ages of eternity.

Over and above all, Ezekiel saw the throne of the Lord. It is utterly impossible to even begin to imagine the beauty and majesty of this throne which he was privileged to see. For one thing it is a single throne, not three nor many. Thus signifying the total unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus acknowledged the throne to be that which belonged to the Father while at the same time promising the victorious individuals that they would sit with Him in His throne, even as He was sitting in the Father's throne. All one and the same throne. Rev. 3:21 In all actuality and according to the words of the Lord Jesus, the entirety of heaven is one great massive throne. Mt. 5:34 That

statement is verified by Stephen. Acts 7:49 The Lord spoke through Isaiah and said. "heaven is my throne." Isa. 66:1.

God is neither one nor three but both, that is three in one, a tri-unity. Three, so deeply and completely involved and entwined into one that they become indistinguishable as individuals. Yet so independent as entities that each has a definite and positive position in the person whom we know as God, until they are easily identified as individuals. The throne of the Lord is appropriately seen many times in the book of Revelation. The secret of rightly dividing the Word of Truth and in receiving the revelations of the Lord is to be as John was, "in the Spirit." Rev. 4:2 The Spirit and the Word agree and are never at odds with each other. John saw a throne with one occupying that throne. Does this create a difficulty of identification? No, not at all. Jesus said the He and the Father were one. John 10:30 Then to further illuminate us, He prayed that His disciples would have the same unity among themselves, blended, molded together in all things that they would function as one, a perfect unit. John 17:22.

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He, the LORD (NIV) gave command to the Man of righteousness to draw coals of fire from between the cherubim and fling it out over Jerusalem. Eze. 10:2 Fire can be exceedingly destructive or greatly beneficial. The spiritual benefit of fire is found in the promise of the Lord Jesus to send another comforter, one like unto Himself, as a divine helper for the members of His church. One who would eternally abide in the people of the Lord. John 14:16 John the Baptist spoke of Jesus baptizing with the Holy Ghost and fire. Mt. 3:11 This He did on the day of Pentecost by manifesting cloven tongues of fire coming upon the blessed recipients. Acts 2:3 While there may not be outward, visible manifestations of tongues of fire today, the same fire will burn within the spirit of those who are filled with His Spirit. How wonderful that the first instance of members of the body of Christ being filled with the Spirit and fire took place in Jerusalem.

It is going to be rather difficult for the Lord Jesus to establish the city where He was crucified as the capitol city for the millennium when that city will receive the special attention of the Lord in destruction. His remarks concerning it are anything but complementary. He proclaimed it to be like Egypt and Sodom. Rev. 11:8 At the time of the first

resurrection which includes the two witnesses (Rev. 11:12) the city will be rocked by a great earthquake destroying one tenth of the city and seven thousand inhabitants. Rev. 11:13 This event is accompanied with the sound of the seventh trumpet and the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Rev. 11:15 At the conclusion of the seventh bowl being poured forth there will be a universal quake which will completely destroy all the cities and the works of men upon the face of the earth. Rev. 16:19-20 Particular attention will be paid to the great religious center of the world which has the spirit and nature of Babylon, and it is not Rome. Jesus declared it to be a city where the prophets of the Lord were killed. Mt. 23:37 Their house is desolate of the presence of the Lord until the gospel is welcomed into their hearts. Salvation is not automatic, not by natural birth nor by race. Redemption is only found by acceptance of the blood of Christ. Mt. 23:38-39 The false church, the amalgamation of all religions under the leadership of the antichrist will establish His headquarters in that city which the Lord called Babylon. The city where the martyrs of those who follow the Lord Jesus were and will be slain. Rev. 17:6 Jesus will come with flaming fire, not a casual, secret catching away but an open revelation of His power and glory. Frightening, but it is a day of vengeance on those who refuse to obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Thess. 1:8-10

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The book of Ezekiel makes a contradistinction between the north and the south. In the north gate was to be found the seat of the image of jealousy, which also provokes to jealousy. Eze. 8:3,5 Satan in expressing his will before the throne of God exhibited a spirit of jealousy and is no doubt motivated by that spirit to do the things which he will do in the end of the age. He cannot take the place of Christ, he can only imitate Him. We see that in the person of the antichrist. Jealousy as found in him is unrighteous, impure and even vicious. It is as cruel as the grave. SOS. 8:6b.

Jealousy, as found in the Lord originates with His dealings with men. Ps. 78:58 He loves them as only He can love. That love is so often spurned, even cast aside for a worldly substitute, or as in the case of Israel and Judah, the idols of the heathen which were brought into the house of the Lord. Therefore the Lord declared that He would move them to jealousy by producing a nation comprised of all nations. A

people who are not the same as them, a race without an ancestry and history. A conglomerate, a mixture of nations. The church of the first born, which from the beginning was comprised of Jew and Greek or Gentile, for there is no difference between them in the sight of the Lord. Rom. 10:12, 19 The jealousy of the Lord is righteous and just.

The Cherubim moved to the south or the right hand. When the man clothed in linen entered the Temple, the glory cloud of the Lord filled the inner court. Eze. 10:3 The presence of the Lord, the atmosphere of heaven descended in the glory cloud. Clothing Himself with the cloud, the Lord could appear in the presence of His people and with that manifestation express His delight and pleasure or displeasure to them. When an edifice, built for worship unto Him was finished, He dedicated it with His presence in the cloud of glory. At the dedication of the Tabernacle He came in the cloud and in the fire. Num. 9:15 Likewise at the dedication of the Temple. 2 Chron. 7:21 Both of these structures are symbols of the last day church, the Bride of Christ. There will be a dedication of the completed Bride, consisting of those who have made themselves ready. Rev. 19:7 There is a red letter day on the calendar of the Lord where His purpose in the church will be fully accomplished. She is the Temple of the living God. We are yet in that stage where we are looking through a glass that hinders our vision.

1 Cor. 13:12 There is a face to face encounter yet to occur, where perfect contact and union will be made between Christ and His church. Then, in all fullness, He will dwell and walk, not only with but in His beloved. 2 Cor. 6:16 The cloud of glory and the fire of the Spirit will visit the church as never before. Eph. 3:19.

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" And the court was full of the brightness of the glory of the LORD." Ezekiel saw the glory of the LORD in a vision. The children of Israel at mount Sinai saw that glory shrouded in a cloud. It is then described to have been as a devouring fire across the top of the mountain. Ex. 24:17 We would not be out of line by describing it as appearing to them like a volcano. It was covered with smoke and the smoke ascended into the atmosphere like that of a furnace. It looked as if were on fire. The whole area shook like a great earthquake. Ex. 19:18 What I am looking for are descriptions given in the Word which describe the brightness and majesty of the glory of the Lord but none of them fully describe the extreme brilliancy of the glory of the Lord.

The descriptions given are limited by our lack of an understanding of the manifestation of the God of light.

There is a process of change, of spiritual growth which must be seen in the church of the Lord Jesus. It centers on receiving the full glory of the Lord and consistently walking in the glory of the Lord. The Lord has a vision, a goal unto which He has called us all. That is, that with all sincerity and honesty we seek after the glory prepared for us. As we comprehend the great and mighty gift of His presence, to be made manifest in us, we go through a process of change. It is termed from glory to glory, ever changing, ever growing until the church reaches the ultimate goal which the Lord has established for her. 2 Cor. 3:18 This blessed experience yet to be bestowed upon the church is not for the casual Christian but for those who will totally consecrate their live unto Him. The anointed Word is our teacher and that Word calls us to a full and complete surrender to His will. Rom. 12:1

Not only was the glory of the Lord seen in the old testament dispensation but we find it in the new as well. The shining, the brilliant light of the glory of the Lord shined around and about the shepherds as the pronouncement of the birth of Christ was made to them. Suddenly they found themselves surrounded by a light shining in the middle of the darkness of night. Luke 2:9 Then, of course, we find the Lord Jesus on the mount of transfiguration where the light, which is God, suddenly was unveiled and He stood there literally bathed in the glory of the Lord. A scintillating, pulsating, light of eternal life glowed in Him. To convey to us the brightness of that light Matthew spoke of His face shining as the sun. While His clothing became like a dazzling white light. Mt. 17:2 What other, than that same glory, caused the council who had condemned Stephen to see his face appearing like that of an angel. Acts 6:15.

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Everything about the Lord is mightily impressive particularly when compared with that which is common among men. The volume of the sound of the wings of the Cherubim was comparable to the voice of the Lord. His voice at Mt Sinai was like the sound of a trumpet and like thunder causing great consternation among the people for it was so absolutely awesome. Ex. 19:16 They were so frightened and concerned over the authority represented by the voice of the Lord,

that they requested Moses to do the talking for the Lord and not to have the Lord speak to them again. Ex. 20:19.

We are impressed with two things about these wings, their sound is equal to thunder and their wings have a voice with which they declare the will of the Lord. They send a message to all those who will hear. Eze. 10:5 Where we stand in the Lord will make a difference in what we hear. When the Father responded to the prayer of the Lord Jesus, He spoke directly to His Son, with words of encouragement and promise, which Jesus heard and received. Those standing around Him, said; it thundered or an angel spoke to Him. They recognized it as being supernatural but could not comprehend. John 12:28-29.

It was not just a noise which Ezekiel heard proceeding from their wings. The word sound, as used by him to describe what he heard, means to call aloud or give voice. The message of speaking wings is to be heard throughout the scriptures, in type and symbol. The mercy seat with its cherubim all created from one piece of gold represent the Godhead. The mercy seat itself being a type of the sacrificed Lamb of God. The cherubim, looking down on the mercy seat with wing tips touching, thus covering the mercy seat, they correspond to the Father and the Holy Spirit. One piece, yet three distinct figures, or symbols, each being an individual but still united as one. Ex. 37:7-9.

The mercy seat in the Hebrew is from a word (kaporeth), meaning to cover up, to reconcile or to extend forgiveness. It is a beautiful type of the Lord Jesus. It was placed on top of the ark of the covenant, thus it covered. Atonement was made on the mercy seat in the view of the cherubim who looked down on the sacrifice and covered the mercy seat with their wings. Christ our mercy seat, our high priest, our sacrifice has entered, by His own blood, and has made complete atonement for all who will believe on Him. Heb. 9:11-12 Those who come to Christ find release from sin through the precious blood and absolute atonement which He has provided for all of mankind. The past is completely obliterated by His blood. Complete coverage. Acts 3:19.

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Wings are significant of a mighty deliverance wrought by the Lord. The first instance was when He delivered the children of Israel from their slavery in Egypt. The Lord compared it to being carried on eagles

wings. Ex. 19:4 He also identified the wings as being like His everlasting arms. Both were present with them to accomplish their freedom and journey. Deut. 33:27 Though they left Egypt exercising their own abilities to travel, the exceeding great presence of the Lord was constantly with them. The two great wings of the eagle and the everlasting arms are important types of the power of the Holy Spirit whom the Lord sent to lead them.

We also know that there was a continuous manifestation of the presence of the Lord with them in the cloud and in the pillar of fire. The LORD was in that cloud and pillar of fire, guiding, protecting and manifesting His abilities and mercies to them. Ex. 13:21 In all of these, there is yet one that is very revealing in showing the ability of the Lord to manifest Himself in various ways. In this case He is called an Angel. Ex. 23:20 Not a created angel but one who proves out to be the Holy Spirit, as we have seen in the cloud and the pillar. He was to demand absolute obedience or they could offend Him and there would be no forgiveness, Ex. 23:21 This angel is likewise called the angel of His presence. An angel is a messenger, whether he be a special manifestation of the Lord Himself, a human being or a created angel. The Lord, through the angel of His presence was compassionate, for He felt their emotions and was one with them in all of their experiences. He also loved and had mercy on them showing the ultimate of His feelings for them by redeeming them. Isa. 63:9 Once again, the thought of the constant care of the Lord is seen as He is lifting them and carrying them as His people and His nation.

In His dealings with Israel, the Lord likened their trials and tribulations in the wilderness to the stirring of the eaglets in their nest by the eagle. She will then catch them and carry them on her wings. Deut. 32:11 The Lord then reiterated the manifold blessing which he had so abundantly heaped upon the children of Israel. Deut. 32:13-14 The rich blessings of the Lord were removed when they began to ignore the Lord and turned to the idols and the gods of the heathen. The Lord has promised that He would never leave nor forsake His own, as long as they remain with Him. The secret of success in the Lord is to continue to walk with Him in the power of His might and He will demonstrate His glory in us. Leave Him and He will back off. Maintain a good and solid relationship and be blessed of the Lord. 2 Chr. 15:2.

The several references made in the Psalms to wings, when speaking of the ability of the Lord teach us that they are indicative of His presence. The term, wings of the wind is used, showing that both wings and wind are representative of the Holy Spirit. Actually, the word used is the Hebrew word, ruach, which may be translated wind or spirit. He was seen upon the wings of the wind. 2 Sam. 22:11 He flew on the wings of the wind. Ps. 18:10 He walked on the wings of the wind. Ps. 104:3 All indicating not only His presence but His living, active presence.

Wings are also used to declare the protection of the Lord. King David, in his many difficulties and times when it was necessary for him to flee from his enemies, learned to trust in the shadow of the wings of the Lord. His complete confidence was placed in the Lord. Ps. 36:7 The wings of the Lord are referred to as a hiding place, a refuge under which there is full safety. Ps. 17:8 Here is to be found comfort and solace because of confidence exhibited in His truth. The Lord is the shield and protection of all who place their trust in Him. Ps. 91:4 Because of the deliverance and help found under His wings he declared that it was to be a place of gladness and rejoicing.

Ps. 63:7 In this theme, David gave a statement which is representative of the theme which we are about to enter into. He said that he would abide in this place of refuge," until these calamities where past." Ps. 57:1 This too will be the experience of the church in the last days.

A most precious gift is given to the woman of Revelation twelve. The two wings of a great eagle. Rev. 12:14 There is no greater demonstration of power and glory than that which is displayed by the Lord through His Spirit. This woman is filled with the completeness, the entirety, the whole sum of all that the Lord is. She is the vessel of the fullness of the Lord. Eph. 3:19 She is His eternal Temple 1 Cor. 6:1 Those in whom He dwells through the Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16 She is the glorified Bride of Christ adorned with all the beauty and splendor of the Lord. Rev. 12:1 She will give birth to a male child who is immediately caught, seized, caught away, up to heaven, (so he could not possible be Christ). Rev. 12:5 Jesus lived thirty years and then ministered to the people for three and one half years. He was thirty three and a half years old when He was resurrected and translated into heaven. Furthermore, the book of Revelation was not written as history but

rather as a prophetic book containing prophecies which will occur in the future and even now evidence is being given as to their impending fulfillment. Such terms as, "shortly come to pass." Rev. 1:1 "The time is at hand." Rev. 1:3 "Things which shall be hereafter." Rev. 1:19 "Things which must be hereafter." Rev. 4:1, show the futuristic viewpoint of the book.

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The woman of Revelation twelve is the church of the future. The scriptures note the period of time that she will be under the very special Divine protection of the Lord. That time is measured twice, in days (one thousand two hundred sixty) and years (a time, or year, times, two years and half a time or six months). These two measurements cover the same period of time. It is known as the great tribulation. Mt. 24:21 It is the last half of the seventieth week of Daniel's seventy week prophecy. The first half was confirmed in the visitation of Christ. He is the creator of the covenant as well as the very covenant itself. Dan. 9:27 In the midst of the week, by the sacrifice of Himself, he caused all other sacrifices to cease forever. The Lord will never again demand nor accept any other sacrifice. The Lamb of God suffered, once for all. Heb. 10:10.

There are some key elements which take place in the experiences of this woman. She is persecuted. Rev. 12:13 Most definitely it would be but for a short period of time but it will happen. Jesus related betrayal to be an element of the events which His very own will experience in the end of the age. Mark 13:12-14 As we see the constant erosion of the family unit in these last days it becomes self evident as to how such things can happen. Loyalty to anything but self is quickly becoming the order of the day.

The woman will flee into a place prepared by the Lord. Rev. 12:6 Any preparation made by the Lord has to be beautiful and glorious. If Israel of old was destined to enter into a promised land flowing with milk and honey, or great abundance, how much more will He abundantly supply all the needs of His Bride. That place is noted as being the wilderness. Rev. 12:6, 14 He will make the wilderness to be like a fruitful field. Isa. 32:15 The Lord has promised that which sounds so foreboding will be a virtual garden of Eden. Isa. 51:3 A place of comfort, rejoicing and great happiness and thanksgiving. In the meanwhile, all around them,

the world will be in great disarray and tribulation with the judgments of the Lord being poured out on the ungodly world. During this period of time the Lord will feed and nourish her. There will be no lack of the blessings of the Lord in her midst.

There is no way in this modern world with all of its technology that such a large gathering of people could be hidden. The antichrist and the kings of the earth will know where this place of the Lord is, but they will not be able to reach them. The Zion of the Lord, those who love and obey Him, will be protected by the blazing glory of the Lord. Isa. 4:5 He is our defense.

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Ezekiel in this second vision of the Lord of glory and the cherubim is impressed by the four wheels, one by each cherub. Eze. 10:9 Four is the number of the earth, four seasons, four points of the compass and so on. As we have noted these four men have been used of the Lord as a witness and testimony to the earth. Wheels are circular, having no beginning nor end. Thus we find the eternal, the everlasting nature of God represented by the wheels. Consider how many things in creation are circular, such as the sun, moon, stars, earth. The Lord has left signs of His nature in all of creation.

As for the wheel within the wheel, the hub represents the God who is a Spirit and is involved in all that is earthly and heavenly, time and eternity, there is no escape from His presence. He is the hub of all that is in existence. Christ, the name of the Holy Spirit, which was given to the Lord Jesus because of the anointing or the Spirit which He received of the Father and was without measure. John 3:34

Concerning the exact modern stone intended here and color of the wheels

there is a disagreement as to the actual stone. Some say that it was the chrysolite and that it was a yellow color like pure gold. Others believe that it was lapidaries or of the color of the sea, an azure blue. In the spiritual scheme of colors, both could well be accepted, for the golden yellow, is indicative of the Father while the blue is the color of the Holy Spirit. This would fit nicely with the vision give Daniel of the Lord, where He saw Him girded with fine gold and having the appearance of the beryl stone.

Dan. 10:6 This stone called chrysolite is also the seventh (the number

of Divine completion) stone in the foundation of the true, eternal city, the New Jerusalem. While the beryl is the eighth (Number of resurrection) . Rev. 21:20 Either of which will greatly add to the beauty of that city.

A further reference is made to the wheels when a voice called out, "O wheel." Eze. 10:13 In Hebrew this is a different word regarding the wheel than that used previously. This word "galgal" is by analogy a whirlwind. A strong and sometimes dangerous circular action of the wind. It is used to indicate the mighty strength and total power which is made manifest to show forth the exceeding great power of the Almighty. Jesus said that all power in two realms, heaven and earth had been surrendered to Him. Mt. 28:18 It can be for a blessing, like on the day of Pentecost when they heard a rushing mighty wind and were filled with the Spirit. Acts 2:2 Or it can be an act of punishment from the Lord. Ps. 58:9.

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There is a difference between one of the faces of the first vision of the living creature and the second vision. Instead of the face of the ox (Eze. 1:10) there is now a face of a cherub. This simple is to show another phase of the vast work and purpose of the living creatures. The ox is an animal of burden being used to transport goods of different kinds. It was likewise used to plow the fields and tread out the grains. Certainly a foreshadowing of the labors of the Lord Jesus in providing a way of salvation for mankind. The scripture comes to me relating to the beating of His back, the laying on of what had to be a full complement of forty stripes. The plowmen plowed upon my back, they made long furrows. Ps. 129:3 As in so many signs and symbols in the Word we find the Lord Jesus with a dual position. He is both the ox and the one plowed. Just as He is the great High Priest conducting the offering and the Lamb, which is being offered. Christ is all in all.

The perfect, supreme unity of all things which are spiritual is demonstrated in their uniformity of movement. Also it must be considered that even though Ezekiel gives a full report on their diverse appearances and very obvious differences as well as their similarities, ultimately he saw the whole, as one with complete unity and called them the "living creatures." Eze. 10:15 The ministry of these represented by the four faces was one of demonstrating the life of the

Lord while here on earth. Their movements were effortless and without the turning of the wheels. It is worthy to consider that "the spirit of the living creature was in them." Eze. 10:17 They did not fly but by the simple act of lifting up their wings they were transported, effortlessly, to their objective.

In his vision, when the living creatures moved, the glory of the Lord departed from the house of the Lord and rested upon them. Eze. 10:18 Thus we come to the reason for the Lord dealing with Ezekiel in such a spectacular manner. The glory departed. To lose the glory of the Lord is to lose everything that is worth while. What remains is merely a skeleton of what had been. It is a picture of many churches in Christianity today from which the former glory has departed and they are practicing vain spiritual exercise which are meaningless. The presence of the glory of the Lord is vital to spiritual life. It must be maintained at any cost for it is the life flow of any and all who would follow the Lord. They came to the eastern gate of the city of the Lord. This direction of the compass is pinpointing the coming of our Lord and actions which will precede it. He is coming from the east and will travel toward the west. Mt. 24:27.

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Ezekiel is once again lifted up and transported by the power of the Spirit where he saw twenty five men who have gathered in the eastern gate of the city. Eze. 11:1 Men of wisdom and understanding usually gathered at the gates of their cities where they passed judgment on matters brought to them, as in the case of Boaz. Ruth 4:10-11 Sitting in the gate of the house of the Lord would indicate that these men were religious leaders in Israel. They are given the title of a prince, a priest is called prince as well as those who were captains in Israel. These men were up to no good, for they were men of an evil heart who plotted wickedness and gave permission and counsel to the people to perform works of unrighteousness. There is a modern day parallel to be found here for it is certain, even though they were in the house of the Lord, the counsel they were dispensing was contrary to the Word of the Lord.

Of the twenty five, the names of only two are mentioned. They were obviously the leaders of the group. Very likely high priests. The meaning of their names and the names of their fathers is interesting.

These names given at birth, for the most part they contained an element of the prophetic in them. Indicating the office, a circumstance in the life of the person or even indicating a world shaking event which would take place in their life time. Jaazaniah, meaning "heard of Jah." A man, who as a spiritual leader was totally out of place among a gathering of this sort. He was the son of Azzur, "helpful." He was a man with a good calling who was not only out of step with the Lord but is found opposing His will. Then we have, Pelatiah, "Jah has delivered." They had lost their freedom and were in captivity to Babylon and according to the bad counsel, they had no vision of being set free. He was the son of Benaiah, "Jah has built." The purpose of the Lord was to return them to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and the city but they were men without vision. They saw only their current situation and were ready to submit to it and become a part of Babylon. Let us build houses, let's settle down and submit to the life and worship of the gods of Babylon. They were willing to lose their identity as long as they could find rest from their unhappy existence. Most unfortunately it does not work out for good when such an attitude is practiced. By the compromise of religious leaders today it is evident that spiritual Babylon is in the process of being built. Church organizations are being disrupted and divided by those who take a modern view and consider the Word of the Lord to be too strict. The call of the Spirit and the Word is still to come out from among them and don't even touch that which is unclean. Let the prophecies which we hear be corrective and not condoning. 2 Cor. 6:17.

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Ezekiel was motivated by the Spirit to prophecy against the city and the inhabitants. A powerful and fearsome prophetic utterance concerning the punishment of the Lord against Israel for all of their abominations. In the midst of Ezekiel's utterances, Pelatiah died. Perhaps from fear and the sense of responsibility that he would have had for the spiritual condition of Israel. Eze. 11:5-13 Nebuchadnezzar had taken captive all the people who would benefit him and left the very poorest in the land to farm it. Now, they are urging those in captivity to continue to walk in their ungodly ways for the land was now their possession and they wanted to keep it that way.

Eze. 11:15 They rejoiced in the difficulties of others. Their spirit of selfishness was evident, for a return of the captives would displace them and they would lose the land given them by Nebuchadnezzar.

Like many of the Old testament prophets Ezekiel was bold to declare the Word of the Lord without fear or favor. Their prophetic utterances were directed at guiding Israel in the ways of the Lord in a positive manner. They were also corrective in nature. Even in captivity, caused by their disobedience, the Lord would be a sanctuary to those who turned to Him. This prophecy of Ezekiel was fulfilled in their release to return to the land and the rebuilding of the Temple which was led by Ezra and Nehemiah. It was motivated by their desire to worship the Lord in a manner which would be according to His will.

Like all true revivals, there is first of all a return to righteousness. Note that they were to remove all the things which were detestable and an abomination to the Lord. It was an act of returning to holiness which they themselves were to perform. Then, the Lord would begin to manifest His work among them by causing them to be united as one, with a new spirit and spiritual attitude. The old heart, the old nature would be removed from them and in its place a new heart which would be more than willing to serve the Lord fully. These are the simple requirements which bring revival to any generation, then and even today. With a changed heart and spiritual attitude, they would be willing to walk in the ways of the Lord and be obedient to His Word. What worked for them will work for all who follow this God given pattern. Eze. 11:17-20 As always, there would be opposition, for there are those who absolutely refuse to change their ways. To them, the message was that they would be recompensed according to their insistence of continuing in their old ways. They, by their actions, would determine the measure of their punishment. Eze. 11:21.

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Ezekiel, as a good and faithful servant of the Lord communicated his experiences and the Word of the Lord which had been given him. Eze. 11:25 In His utter faithfulness, the Lord was not through warning the people of Israel. The Word of the LORD was to come to him again declaring that as the son of man he was living in the midst of a nation of spiritually rebellious people. Eze. 12:1 They were not ignorant of the word and will of the Lord, for they had the ability to see with their own eyes and accordingly fully comprehend what they had seen. They had ears of hearing and thus heard and completely understood what they were hearing. But, chose to ignore the communication of the Lord with them. In seeing, they refused to see and in hearing they turned a deaf

ear. Therefore they were termed a rebellious house. We can realize the heart of the Lord in a situation such as this by the words delivered through Samuel to king Saul. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. The result of this attitude is rejection by the Lord. 1 Sam. 15:23.

There is to be found here a foreshadowing of the condition of the hearts of the people when the Son of man, the Lord Jesus would come ministering as the Messiah. The Son of God, the Son of man. Jesus came with a message of salvation, of deliverance, but the same rebellious spirit that we find in the day of Ezekiel prevailed until the Lord Jesus gave them a little history lesson concerning their forefathers. He would have gathered them and blessed them, but they refused. Therefore their house was left unto them desolate. Mt. 23:37-38 History does indeed repeat itself. Generation after generation man is born in sin and iniquity and unless he receives a change of heart from the Lord will repeat the iniquity of the forefathers. This is so apparent in the dealings of the Lord with Israel to whom He said; "all day long I have stretched out my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people. Rom. 10:21.

The Lord uses various means to attract the attention of people. When they refused His Word he commanded Ezekiel to perform a strange act which He knew would attract their curiosity. Rather than use the door of his dwelling place, Ezekiel was to dig through the wall and then remove his stuff from place to place, making certain that it was obvious and observed by the people. With his face covered (as were their hearts) he could not see the ground. All during the day and into the twilight he was in action. He quickly drew their attention and they came to him asking what he was doing.

The Lord knows how to get our attention, one way or another. Eze. 12:2-7.

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Ezekiel, having attracted the full attention of the people by his strange actions was to proclaim to them the burden, the prophetic future, the hard and most difficult times which would come upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, whom the Lord called a house of rebellion. In particular he was a sign to their prince or ruler. Eze. 12:12-13 The ruler at that time was Zedekiah, (righteousness of Jehovah), who had been

appointed ruler over Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. 2 Kings 24:17-20 The name given him at his birth was Mattaniah (gift of Jehovah). Good and wholesome names did not change the heart and character of the individual for he was prone to follow the evil examples of his predecessors. So obnoxious were their actions before Him that the Lord was about to completely empty the land and destroy the city. Foolishly, Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and the sign/prophecy of Ezekiel was fulfilled. He attempted to escape through a hole dug in the wall but was captured, and his eyes were put out. That is, His eyes were covered, thus he did not see Babylon though he would be held captive there until he died. 2 Kings 25:3-7

The punishment of the Lord is with the sword, the pestilence and the famine. During the siege of Jerusalem by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar, the famine raged in Jerusalem. They carefully measure and ate the food available. Ezekiel said that they would eat with anxiety and a troubled heart. Likewise, water would be a scarce commodity which they would drink with fear and in shock, not knowing how long it would be available. Eze. 12:18-19 Another element relating to the cause of their coming plight was the fact of the violence, the extremity of every manner of wickedness and abuse imaginable that prevailed in the land.

It is impossible to read all that was prophesied pertaining to just the one country and its cities, in particular Jerusalem, without drawing a parallel with the prophecies which speak of our day and time. We are consistently being warned by scientist that there will be a shortage of water which is already a fact of life in some areas of the world. Under an opened third seal a black horse was loosed. Black is the color of famine, for obvious reasons. Its rider had a pair of balances in his hands which can only mean one thing and that is a rationing of food caused by both, scarcity and price. With the constantly shocking rise of food we see the scriptures being fulfilled. A measure of wheat for a penny, three measures of barley for a penny. The penny is significant for it was the days wage of a laborer. Rev. 6:5-6 Today the price per pound is what we used to pay for a crate of fruit or vegetables. We are living in Bible prophecy days.

given to Ezekiel. Always prior to judgment the Lord is seen visiting in mercy and with a fresh new warning. The proverb which was among the Israelites concerning warnings of this nature was that time passes and nothing happens. The Lord declared that He would bring this proverb to a conclusion by shortly fulfilling His word. The time had arrived and would not be put off any longer. Eze. 12:22-28 Again there is a parallel to our days. The end time events have falsely been given dates and these dates have come and gone until many, even Christians are prone to put them off until a time far in the future. Jesus advocated a doctrine of preparedness. Mt. 24:44 The prophecies pertaining to the end times are in sight all around us, if we have eyes to see.

The Lord rebuked the prophets of that day for their lack of spiritual enlightenment and understanding. Their prophecies were not inspired by the Spirit of the Lord but originated from their own thoughts and hearts. These self appointed prophets had committed just about every infraction possible in presenting themselves as prophets, therefore the word of the Lord came to them in harsh correction. They had prophesied contrarily to the will and purpose of the Lord. Speaking lies and giving false instructions. The Lord likened them to a white washed or untempered wall which would be quickly destroyed with the next storm which would pass through the country. They, themselves would be crushed by the wall. Anyone who would feel that they have the ministry of the prophet would do well to thoroughly study this chapter. Eze. 13:1-16 There is no room for mistakes in the prophetic utterance. Every prophecy should be able to stand the strong scrutiny of the Word of the Lord. When it is a word contrary to the Word, throw it out, it is a lie. The Spirit and the Word agree.

There is also included a special word of instructions and warning to the "daughters of the thy people." Ezekiel was instructed to prophesy against those who were giving false prophecies. They were also using pillows and kerchiefs as charms to entice the people. That includes modern day gimmicks which are supposed to be super spiritual. Their purposes was financial, their actions binding and creating fear in the hearts of the superstitious people. The word of the Lord promised deliverance to the people from the fear created by such practices. Eze. 13:17-23 This is one of those signs which is appearing in these days of which the Lord Jesus spoke. The word many, is impressive. Mt. 24:11.

We come now to an ancient prophecy given by Ezekiel to the prophets of that day which is very applicable to the church world of today. Just because a would be prophet may declare their utterance to be the word of the Lord does not make it to be the word of the Lord. That word which came to Ezekiel was a strong word of rebuke against these prophets which prophesy out of their own imagination. Eze. 13:2 (NIV) They are termed to be foolish prophets who in that day, as well as today, prophesied foolishness. The Lord declared them to be individuals without a vision. Their prophecies originate from their own spirit. The human spirit which is in direct conflict with the Spirit of the Lord.

Prophecy in the church may be both foretelling and forth telling. An anointed witness, testimony or preaching of the Word may be classified as forth telling. The proclamation of the Gospel of Christ, the exaltation of the Lord Jesus. It is heard in the anointed declaration of that which has become very personal to the person speaking. Foretelling is a very delicate operation of the Spirit. It is a gift ministry given to the church for edification and knowledge. 1 Cor. 12:10 It is not given to aggrandize the individual but, in all reality, makes them to be a servant to the church. The prophet is called upon to minister to and direct the body of believers, therefore must minister in all sincerity and truth. Their spiritual life must be of the very highest standard. The prophets of old were known as being men of holiness. 2 Peter 1:21

A prophetic utterance must agree with that which the Apostle Peter called, "a more sure word of prophecy," or the Word of the Lord, the scriptures. 2 Peter 1:19 The Spirit will never speak contrarily to the Word. Isa. 8:20 The prophecy must be able to undergo the deepest scrutiny. Prophets such as those Ezekiel addressed are a sign of the end of the age. Jesus specifically gave a warning that many false prophets would come and deceive many. Mt. 24:11, 24 The Apostle John urged the church to measure, evaluate the spirit of the prophet for there were in that day as also in ours, many false prophets. 1 John 4:1 The great personal responsibility and the seriousness of this office is seen in instructions given in the Word concerning the fulfillment of the prophecy. If what was foretold does not come to pass that person is then labeled a false prophet and the sentence of death was passed upon them. Deut. 18:20-22. Thus we understand the great

responsibility which a person assumes when they would exercise the gift in the church. We need and greatly desire to experience the purity, the real manifestation of this calling in the church, that the body may be edified.

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Foolish prophets, deceived and being deceived by prophesying out of their own spirit and not having a vision, or a calling from the Lord. Woe, alas be to them. A cry of despair, preceding a calamity Eze. 13:3 The same attitude which was found in Israel pertaining to prophets may be found today in the church. Solomon declared that their visions, their words of prophecy were false and without value. Prophetic utterances which did not expose their sin, consequently there was no incentive for them to repent and to ward off certain captivity. Their proclamations were empty and vain, without the inspiration of the Spirit. Lam. 2:14

The actions of these prophets who were not called nor anointed of the Lord is likened to the foxes of the desert. When their prophecies fail to materialize they retreat to their lairs, their dens in the dry, dry desert refusing to take responsibility for the failure of their prophecy. The foxes are a wily creature and are noted as being those who spoil the vine. When we consider this in the light of the reputation of the little foxes, that is, those who destroy the vine, it takes on great and important meaning. Jesus likened Himself to the trunk of the vine and those who believe in Him are the branches. John 15:5 The dependency of all spiritual life is on Him. He is our source of sustenance. He has made the five fold ministry to be a contact between His church and Himself. Eph. 4:11 The breakdown of any one of these vital ministries to the church will have a profound effect on the body of Christ. Watch out for the foxes but more so for the wolves who come stealthily covered by the skin of a sheep. Mt. 7:15 The motive of such of this ilk is either for their own purpose of feeling important, or to fleece the flock.

Their lack of real concern was evidenced by their attitude when the people and their cities were under the attack of their enemies. They did not take action when an intrusion was made either in the walls of the city or their borders violated. They did not go up into the gaps, they did not take the needed leadership and take their place among

the brave and concerned of the people. Their interests were entirely self centered. Eze. 13:5 Their prophetic statements were an abomination to the Lord. He labeled them as being persons whose so called visions were false and their divinations (source of their revelation) were a lie. Supposedly their declarations were from the Lord but He denied ever having called them nor had He in any manner purposed to speak through them. Eze. 13:6-7

(continued in 81-100)