

The Book of Ezekiel (81-100)

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The Lord stated His serious and exceedingly great retaliation against the false prophets who had seen and declared false prophecies. Eze. 13:8. Just to have had Him withstanding a person, would be serious enough but their punishment is foretold by the Lord. His hand was to be on them but not in blessing or for good. They were to be excluded from the household of faith. Their works would not be included in the historical writings of the children of Israel. They were to be excommunicated from the land of promise. Eze. 13:9 The severity of their wrong doings was the basis of their judgment. These are matters to be genuinely considered when exercising the office of the prophet and prophesying. There is a balance established by the Apostle Paul. Let others, who are used of the Lord in this fashion, weigh and consider the contents of the prophecy. 1 Cor. 14:29 All true prophets would welcome such confirmation.

The same spirit of seduction as was evidenced in that day is also a problem for the church in the end of the age, as it was even in apostolic times. Eze. 13:10 The message of the false prophet day was one sided, always speaking of peace and tranquility. Condoning the wrong actions of the people by speaking smooth and sweet words to them, without any correction being offered when it was so desperately needed. Consider the warning coming to us from the Word of the Lord. One of the signs indicating the last days was this very spirit of spiritual seduction. People being led astray from the truth by false prophets. Men who are themselves filled with seducing spirits and come introducing and teaching doctrines of devils. 1 Tim. 4:1

"And one built a wall." A measurement which may be used in determining the purposes of the prophet is the construction of a wall. An attempt to separate and isolate those who fall under their seducing powers from all other members of the body of Christ. Their wall was constructed without the proper mixture of mortar, actually, it was merely white washed. Covered with a substance, called untempered mortar which translates to slime. Its connotation figuratively, meaning, foolishness, lightness, frivolous acts. This aptly gives a good measure

where by we may discern between that which is right and the false. The Lord sent a message of pure prophetic utterance proclaiming the destruction of the wall. A matter which was to be accomplished by a great and mighty rain storm. Accompanied by great hailstones and a stormy wind. Eze. 13:11 The answer of the Lord to the problem in our day is a mighty last day revival. An outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord which will blast all that is false from among the children of the Lord. The Lord has promised a great move of the Spirit. Acts 2:17.

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A true manifestation of the powers of the Spirit will produce great and marvelous changes. Walls will come down. Eze. 13:12-14 The question will then be asked, where is the whitewash, the boasting, the empty claims of having the answer to all of humanity's problems. Doctrines of men, untempered mortar, the whitewash of religion are destined to fail and be destroyed. Definitely, in the last day order of spiritual events the Lord will manifest Himself in a mighty life altering move of the Spirit. The dire spiritual conditions presented by the Lord, through the prophecy of Isaiah, in the first chapter of his book have a cure such as only the Lord can achieve. The Lord will purge the silver and remove the sounding tin from the midst of His people by the fire of His Spirit. Isa. 1:25 Then follow through with a time of restoration where Apostolic ministries will really be made manifest. When a comparison is made between what is in evidence today, with that which He has promised, today's church world is as nothing. He will have a church filled to the completeness of His glory. Eph. 5:27

All revivals have their destructive force. That which is eliminated, the fallen wall, would be the works of men, the works of the flesh. The foundation of the wall discovered, the secrets of the heart revealed. No hidden sin can exist in the powerful searching's of the Spirit. The falling wall brings death to those who built it and trusted in it. Where the Spirit is Lord, there will be a twofold manifestation of His power. First, the confession of sin and a perfect work of cleansing and deliverance from the same. The people involve in the Bride of Christ will be transparent, no ulterior motives, no hidden sin. She is created in His likeness and has His characteristics. She is like the Lord Jesus in every aspect of His beauty and glory. Secondly, where there is a refusal to confess and forsake sin, there is death. We have an example in Ananias and Sapphira. They could have kept the whole amount but

lied to the Holy Spirit and the church concerning the price received from the possession sold. In their conspiracy and lying they committed the unpardonable sin and immediately paid the utmost price. Acts 5:1-10

What a source of irritation Ezekiel must have been, coming with a message, a prophecy, which was diametrically opposite to that of the other prophets pertaining to Jerusalem. They, the majority, were declaring peace and tranquility for Jerusalem, when there is no peace available to them because of their own doings and attitudes. Eze. 13:16 The source of their prophecies was that which they saw in their visions. Clearly, their visions were generated by a misleading, false spirit and not by the Lord.

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The Lord brought accusations, an indictment against the false prophets who were speaking out of the own imagination and not by the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord. Eze. 13:17 Ezekiel was commanded to prophesy against the daughters of my people. An impending catastrophe is pronounced against them. The manner in which they used pillows and kerchiefs would indicate that they were involved in so called magic arts. Eze. 13:18 Their actions, whatever they were, deceived the people and brought them into captivity with the ultimate result being death. These false prophets had no means whereby they could protect and preserve the people.

As usual, with false practices the goal is for earthly gain and has a financial motive attached to it. Eze. 13:19 The lies of the false prophets caused the death of innocents while the guilty who should have been punished were spared alive. Once again, we find the old adage fulfilled that, "history repeats itself." One of the great indications that we are in the end times will be the coming of the antichrist, who will be the most infamous of liars. Incidentally, it is well that we note his assumption of office will be by a spectacular and sudden appearing on the scene. He will imitate as closely as he can the general understanding of the church pertaining to the coming, the parousia of Christ. 2 Thess. 2:1 The antichrist will have his own coming (parousia). 2 Thess. 2:9 As Christ will have His moment of revelation (apokalupsis) , 2 Thess. 1:7 The antichrist will have his moment of revelation (apokalupto) . 2 Thess. 2:3 The casual understanding of the

coming of the Lord Jesus, which is prevalent among Christians, leaves the average church member of today vulnerable to the big lie and greatest deception of the ages.

John in his visions received on Patmos saw and described the antichrist and the false prophet as beasts. There is no question but what that will be the hidden nature of this pair. However, in actual appearance they will be most attractive to the eyes of mankind. The brightness, the glitter that they will display is only skin deep. Inwardly they are ravening wolves with nothing but destruction on their minds. The false prophet will display very spectacular and convincing great signs and wonders. Rev. 13:13 Even the giving of breath to the image of the antichrist which he will cause the peoples of the earth to construct. As the Lord declared His disgust and His rejection of the false prophets in the day of Ezekiel, so He will make Himself strong and totally defeat the powers of darkness which reach their climax in the end of the age. They are captured and incarcerated in the lake of fire. Rev. 19:20 20:10 Beware of false prophets.

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"I have not done what I have done without cause." Eze. 14:23 Sever acts of judgment, performed by the Lord, are a reaction to the contrary ways of those who live and walk in defiance of Him. The elders of Israel gathered themselves unto Ezekiel, after all he was a prophet. Eze. 14:1 Unfortunately for them, he was a true prophet and would convey the voice of the Lord to them. They were about to hear the expression, the emotions of the Divine heart. The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel. The Lord was about to expose the true attitude of their hearts to Ezekiel for they were men who were completely sold out to their idols. Their works of unrighteousness had become a stumbling block, to them and consequently to all of Israel. Should the Lord even bother to listen to their inquiry when they had no time to listen to His will. Because of their idolatry, they were an abomination to the Lord, He was not required to listen to them. Had they been obedient to His Word it would have been an entirely different story, for He listens to the righteous and takes delight in their prayers. Prov. 15:8

The extent of punishment was determined by the depth of their idol worship. In no way was the Lord obligated to respond to these who

had so completely violated His will. In the midst of all this, the strong love that He had for His people is apparent. Even though they were like the heathen to Him, for they were worshipping the idols of the ungodly nations about them and were estranged from Him, He still hoped to capture their hearts. Eze. 14:5 The Lord is never willing that any should perish but in His longsuffering is willing to receive those who come to Him in repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 Hence the call of the Lord to the elders to repent, to forsake this idolatry and return unto the Lord. To confess our sin as an act of repentance is not sufficient, accompanying repentance there must be a forsaking of sin. Prov. 28:13 Doing works of righteousness which give witness to a change of heart and life. Acts 26:20

The actions of the Lord were identical to the Israelites and the stranger who dwelt in the land. The Lord expected them to worship Him and Him alone. It was not permissible for emigrants to come into the land and retain their idols and false gods. They were to become proselytes and worship the true God. Lev. 24:22 When they appeared before the true prophets of the Lord the Lord said that He would make is a personal matter and respond accordingly to them. Such a confrontation would be a frightening meeting for the person coming to inquire of the Lord, especially when they were out of contact with Him. Eze. 14:7 There is no greater fear than to have to appear before the Lord with an unclean heart. Heb. 10:31.

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The compelling desire and longing of the heart of the Lord was toward Israel. He strongly purposed for them to be His people and He was to be their God. His actions were actions of concern and correction. He longed for purity of worship without the mixture and the spiritual pollution which was prevalent among them. Eze. 14:11 He now was about to treat them as they had treated Him. When they came to inquire of the true prophet, in this case Ezekiel. The Lord would set His face against them, make them to be a warning sign to others, by destroying them. Eze. 14:9 Furthermore, their prophets were deceived prophets and was deceived by the Lord. Where there is disobedience and rebellion it opens the door for all manner of false thing. There is always a lying spirit willing to do as was done in the days of Ahab. Go forth and become a lying spirit in the mouth of the prophets. 1 Kings 22:20-23 All because of their waywardness and departure from the

Lord. The people and the false prophet were to receive punishment equal to their iniquity. The whole purpose of the Lord was to find a people who would consistently worship Him and be truly His people. Eze. 14:11.

The Word of the Lord came yet again to Ezekiel, this time bringing a fourfold pronouncement of punishment against Israel for thoroughly polluting the land with their idols. Not even the presence of such godly men as Noah, Daniel and Job would have stayed the impending events. They themselves would be delivered because of their righteousness, while others would be destroyed. The sword, the famine, the noisome beasts and the pestilence. Eze. 14: 12-21 While these conditions have always been a part of the life on earth, they very positively are conditions which will prevail and increase, by leaps and bounds, in the end of the age.

THE SWORD. Warfare, insurrections, coups, rebellions, riots, murders, suicides, martyrs, any and all concocted by mankind to destroy life, whether it be their own or of others. I was born at the end of the first world war. During the span of my ninety years we have had two great wars, both with the intent of destroying all wars. Yet war continues and will continue to increase. At one time, murder was a headline in the papers, it was so rare, now it happens so frequently, every day or night, and rates only a passing mention. What was once shocking to society has become the common place. Jesus said that there would be wars and rumors of wars with nation battling nation, but these only introduce us to the end, for the end is not yet. We are being given a fair warning. Mt. 24:6-7 Peace, the nature and character of the Lord, has been removed from the earth. In its place is a spirit of anger and killing. The rider of the red horse has been loosed with his great sword and will continue his work until Jesus comes. Rev. 6:4.

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FAMINE. The land had been so contaminated by the great and bold display of idols that it caused the Lord to consider even the land to be polluted. Therefore, He would reach out His hand and crush or cause to cease the growth of their farms and gardens. Eze. 14:13 As long as they walked with the Lord, their land was to be blest and bring forth plenteously. But if they walked contrarily to Him, this was to be one of the consequences which would come upon them. Lev. 26:26 Food

would be scarce and rationed. Jesus predicted not just a famine as one of the signs of His coming but multiple famines. Mt. 24:7 This too, is found to be one of the four horsemen loosed upon the face of the earth before the return of the Lord Jesus. Rev. 6:5-6 The price of food will have a very definite effect on the eating habits of the peoples of the earth. Even in America we are told that thousands go to bed at night, hungry. We haven't seen the end yet by any means.

DEATH AND HELL loosed upon the earth. An intensification of the previous seals causing one fourth of the population of the earth to be destroyed. Involved here would be the type of pestilence or epidemic spoken of in Ezekiel. Eze. 14:19 There are still many diseases of long standing for which medical science has not yet found a cure, let alone new diseases which break out, such as the swine flu. These are days to take refuge in the secret place of the Most High and know that there is deliverance in the Lord. Ps. 91:3-7 The BEASTS of the earth. This may be applied to most any form of life which can cause destruction. From insects to wild and even domesticated birds and animals. Not excluded are the fish and animals of the seas. Because mankind keeps encroaching on their territory, the two periodically clash.

In spite of these great judgments and all that would happen to them, there would be a remnant who would be brought through all that was to take place in the destruction of Jerusalem. Their sons and their daughters, those who were the youth of the land, would become the hope of a restored nation. Like the corners of their fields which were not reaped at harvest time and that which fell to the ground was not gathered, the Lord would leave for Himself a seed wherewith He could rebuild the nation and have a people for Himself. This new seed, the new beginning of the nation was to be a source of comfort. Eze. 14:22 The Lord reminded them that all these things were in response to their disobedience to Him. Eze. 14:23 We can do well by taking heed to all of these things.

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The Lord spoke a parable in which Israel is likened to a vine tree with the emphases laid on the lack of the vine being of any use to a carpenter. Useful only for the bearing of fruit. When being cast into the fire it becomes even less useful. The moral of the story is, that as the Lord created the vine tree for no other purpose, Israel was created by

Him and for Him. They were the vine transplanted from Egypt. Ps. 80:8-9 Because of their trespasses the face of the Lord would be against the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Their judgments would be like going from one fire to another and the land would be made desolate. Eze. 15:1-8 Without Christ all branches (people) are pruned from the tree and cast into the fire. John 15:6 Jesus referred to this situation in His parable of the householder and the vine. Mt. 21:33-41.

The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel with a rebuke for Jerusalem and a special history lesson reminding them of their origins. It was directed to the city of Jerusalem. Abraham, of whom they all were descendents, was an Amorite. Your mother, Sarah a Hittite. Eze. 16:1-3 A word to remind them that, aside from the Lord having called them unto Himself, they were exactly like the nations He drove out of the land before them. Ex. 33:2 The Lord was the one who set them apart from all others. In the Lord, there is no place for pride of race or family origin. We are all one in Christ. All members of one body.

The Word of the Lord pictures them as a new born abandoned immediately at the time of their birth. They were in an exceedingly pitiful condition, not having been cared for in a proper manner, but cast aside to die as a child totally unwanted. No one paid one iota of attention nor showed one ounce of pity toward them. But the Lord, had compassion upon them. Eze. 15:4-5 The Lord however saw their terrible circumstances and spoke life to them calling upon them to live and they lived to become a great nation. It is well to remember that they are the Old Testament people, adopted by the Lord. Rom. 9:4 While those who are New Testament saints have been brought to the Lord and made to be His sons and daughters, by the Spirit of adoption. Rom. 8:15 Born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit and privileged to walk and live in the Spirit, if we will but surrender to His will. Actually, all are found as they were, wallowing in the vileness of sin and iniquity until, by His precious blood He redeemed us and freed us from the bondages of a wicked life. 1 Peter 1:18-19 There is no other possibility of obtaining life eternal but through the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only way.

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A time of love. The great heart of the One who is love personified is exposed in His words concerning Israel. Their opportunity has passed.

Jesus came to His own but His own would not receive Him. John 1:11 With what pathos of heart and voice Jesus voiced these words, "Your house is left unto you desolate." Mt. 23:38 The Lord had repeatedly reached out to Israel only to be rejected time after time. How often He came to them with correction and they would repent, only to quickly turn and snub Him. He related the kingdom of heaven as being like a king who prepared a marriage for his son. When the invitation was given, they refused to attend, but went their own way. They either did their own thing or were among those who mistreated the servants and killed them, causing the king to send his armies which destroyed the murders and burned their city down. The people of that day always seemed to understand His parables as pointing toward their attitude and works. Mt. 22:1-7

A time of love. The Lord looked upon Israel and was pleased with the growth which He saw. That which He had rescued was now a beautiful maiden. She had come to maturity and her moment of marriage had come. Eze. 16:7-8 How can we read these words without realizing that history is in the process of repeating itself. While these words were to the one whom the Father loved and to whom He was subsequently married, we want to apply these words to the present, to Christ and His church and in particular those who will be His Bride. Eph. 5:27, 32 Christ, the manifestation, the very embodiment of the love of God, loves His church with the greatest of love. Eph. 5:25 She will reciprocate with her whole being. Their love is a complete love and will be fully consummated. The end result being the birth of the man-child as seen in Rev. 12:2 ,5

A time of love. True love is expressed through words and actions. We want the Lord to speak to us and He does, providing we have eyes to see and ears to hear. His Word is recorded in purity and true holiness. His expressions of love are directed toward His own for they are longing to hear His language of love. So we are not surprised when we find the Bride to be longing for the touch of His lips on hers. "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth." Song 1:2 Has the revelation of His Word ever thrilled you as He has made known it's mysteries and secrets? At such a time, did the Spirit flow through you with an excitement beyond description? You have been kissed with the Word of His mouth. Any joy that wine could give fades into none existence

when we partake of His Divine LOVE. There is absolutely no stirring of the heart like the unveiling of His Word.

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I spread my skirt (or wing) over thee. A sign of betrothal such as is found with Boaz and Ruth. Ruth was discovered by Boaz at the midnight hour at his feet. Ruth 3:9 The midnight hour bears reference to the hour of the wedding of the Lamb. At the midnight hour the cry will be made, Behold the Bridegroom cometh. Mt. 25:6 Those who were ready went into the wedding. The unprepared were excluded, even though they eventually came seeking admission to the wedding. Five wise, five foolish that is fifty percent of the church which will not be prepared for the soon coming wedding.

Mt. 25:1-12 Are we wise and anointed, or foolish and have no oil? The foolish had at one time had oil, for their lamps were lit, only to run dry at this very crucial moment. The anointing of the Bride is fresh and up to date.

As noted above, the skirt may also carry the meaning of an edge, the tip of a wing or a wing. There is no more secure place for the Bride to whom the wings of the great eagle will be given for her escape into the place prepared by the Lord. There she will be shelter by the Lord for the duration of the tribulation period of three and one half years. Rev. 12:14 Here He will cover her with His feathers as she displays absolute confidence in the protection of His wings. Ps. 91:4 In the mean time the terror of darkness will rage around her. Pestilence and destruction will prevail. All the terrific events that hit this earth during the tribulation will in no way have any effect on her. She is divinely sheltered. She will see but not participate in all that the Lord will do in rewarding the wicked. None of these things will have any effect on her nor even come close to her. Ps. 91:5-10

I swear unto you. The Lord in making covenant took an oath of promise and fulfillment, by which, He made promises that only He can make and keep. He is faithful in all of His covenant promises and will not fail to fully keep them. He will not lie nor will He fall short. All of His promises which are fulfilled in Christ are in truth and completely trustworthy. 2 Cor. 1:20 He not only makes covenant but He is the covenant. So, He entered into a covenant with the people of that day, which they violently broke and violated. Of necessity, He has made a

new covenant of which Jesus is both its administrator and sacrifice. The old was destined to pass away, by decay and misuse and in its place is the New Covenant which is for all people. Heb. 8:13 In this manner all who believe on the redemption that is in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus may make covenant with the Lord. In so doing they become the sole possession of the Lord Jesus with the ultimate purpose of becoming His Bride. Eze. 16:8.

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Then I washed you. Washings were and always will be an integral part of worship unto the Lord. Before performing their ministry it was necessary that the priests wash their hands and feet. Ex. 30:18-21 Failure to do so placed them in jeopardy of death. At the time of the consecration of the high priest his whole body was washed. Ex. 29:4 Also on the very special day, called the day of atonement before they were attired with the holy garments they had to have completely bathed in water. Lev. 16:4 The tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple in Jerusalem both were filled with symbolisms which are to be enacted in New Testament Christianity. The obvious purpose being that the individual is washed, cleansed, which translates into righteousness, holiness and purity of body, soul and spirit. 1 Cor. 6:11.

The most important washing for a Christian is the one which introduces them to the new life which is found in the Lord Jesus. At the time of their repentance and conversion they are washed in the atoning blood of Christ. Rev. 1:5 Here we find that the washing of regeneration, produces a new creature by virtue of the new birth. Titus 3:5 Then there is the beginning of a continuous process, a daily experience of being washed by the Word of the Lord, with the glorious purpose of sanctifying and cleansing a people of the Lord, who will become the bride of Christ. Eph. 5:26 Added to this is water baptism, which is not a religious ritual but a very necessary act of obedience and conformity to the will of the Lord. Acts 2:38 It is indelibly associated with repentance by Peter on the day of Pentecost, and is necessary, as he said; "for the remission (freedom, pardon or deliverance. Strong's) of sins." Acts 2:38 The requirement for such an act on the part of the new believer is strongly voiced again by Peter, who commanded the Gentiles to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Acts 10:48.

I anointed you. Extremely important step in the acceptance of Israel and for that matter, all who would truly be a son of God. If it were necessary for Jesus to be anointed, how much more those who would follow Him. God anointed Jesus with the true holy anointing oil, the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:38 One of the requirements for Kings (1 Sam. 16:13) and Priests (Ex. 29:29) in Israel to be consecrated to their office was to be anointed. Those who belong to the Lord are given a dual office, as was the Lord Jesus, and anointed as kings and priest unto the Lord. Rev. 1:6 There must be an anointing made in order for one to occupy, before the Lord, the high and holy responsibilities carried by a king and a priest.

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The Words of the Lord as presented by Ezekiel foreshadow His ultimate crown jewel, a perfect church, the bride of Christ. He will clothe them with clothing of fine needlework. It is very apparent that the Lord considered the tabernacle to be His evidence of love and of His presence with them. The tapestry used as the door to the tabernacle has a distinct message. For one thing, it is the door, a type of the Lord Jesus who is the true door of salvation and eternal life. John 10:7 The only possible entrance into the kingdom of heaven. So strongly is this enforced that Jesus said any trying to enter some other way were thieves and robbers. John 10:1.

The colors, the material and the embroidery work used to create the door are five. Ex. 26:36 The number of atonement. The blue is the color of the Holy Spirit. The purple, royalty and the scarlet atonement by blood. This gives us a sense of understanding of the greatness of the door. The material was of the finest of twined linen representing the purity and holiness of the Lord.

The gold thread which was used in the embroidery work was fine gold wire.

Ex. 39:3 This gold wire had already been through the refining process and was of the purest sort. Now, it is beaten into thin sheets and cut into strips that it might be utilized as thread. All of which are a shadow of the sufferings of Christ, of which we have been invited to participate.

Rom. 8:17 There is a definite refining process through which the Lord will lead His very own. The gold was used on the curtains of the tabernacle and embroidered into them were cherubim making them to

be a type of the Godhead, whose presence was manifest in the Most Holy Place.

Like the Queen mentioned in the forty fifth Psalm, The Bride of Christ will be brought to Him in clothing decorated with fine needle work embroidered in it. Ps. 45:14 Her consecration is complete. She is fully dedicated to the love of her life, the Lord Jesus. In a time when commitment is a lost cause, she is more than willing to leave all and fully follow the Lord Jesus.

Ps. 45:10 She is glorious within and without. Clothed with the finest of glittering, golden light. Ps. 45:13 What more grand and glorious wedding gown could she wear than the sun. Rev. 12:1 Which is due to, and in response of her deep and full love for Him. He will respond to her beauty of soul and spirit. Ps. 45:11 He is captivated by her spirit and beauty. It is a great and grand true story of true love, which will culminate in the marriage of the ages. A perfect, eternal marriage between the Lord Jesus and His redeemed. He is worthy to be worshipped. Praise ye the Lord.

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Her feet were shod with badgers skin. Eze. 16:10 While there is some controversy as to the exact animal referred to here, that is not the important thought. The animal would have had to have been slain and it's blood shed. That speaks to us of atonement. Feet, belonging to the redeemed, walking in the will and purpose of the Lord. It conveys the thought of feet that are steadfast in following the Lord. A foundation, causing one to stand firmly in the will of the Lord. Ps. 119:101 This skin was used as the outer cover, protecting the tabernacle from the weather and all outside influences. The child of the Lord has the right of having their feet shod with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 6:15 The woman of Rev. 12:1 has the moon, a type of the crucified body of Christ, under her feet as a true foundation. His Bride He will keep from falling and she will walk before Him, in His light of life. Ps. 56:13

Girded with fine linen. In the construction of the tabernacle linen was use extensively. Of particular interest is the fact that the beautiful linen threads were spun and made into cloth by the women. These women were consider to be wise hearted, experts, highly skilled in the process of manufacturing linen. Ex. 35:25 It must also be noted that

their motivation was from a heart which was inspired and aroused, they worked willingly and with excitement in all of their preparation of coverings for the tabernacle. Ex. 25:36 The wife of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus will be clothed in a linen which exceeds the materials of this world for it is the righteousness of the saints. Rev. 19:8

Covered with silk. Eze. 16:10 A material not used in the tabernacle. However, we are looking at type and shadow. To cover is to seclude or hide. To protect and assure peace and security. Silk is produced from the death of the moth in it's cocoon. Our assurance of protection is in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He is our secret place. Ps. 91:1 The woman of Revelation twelve, the Bride of Christ, will spend the time of the great tribulation in a secret place prepared especially and exclusively for her. Rev. 12:6, 14 For just a glimpse of that wilderness consider the statement made in Isa. 4:5 Wilderness with the presence of the Lord manifest in the form of a cloud and a pillar of fire are familiar, for it was the Divine evidence of the protection of Israel, in their wilderness. It will be repeated as His protection for those who have become His very own. The love and delight of His heart. His glory will protect her and keep her from harm for three and one half years.

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The adornment of the Bride of Christ will supersede that of all other brides. As a matter of fact she is already adorned with the gift ministry's that they might edify the body of Christ and lead her to perfection. Eph. 4:11-12 She is likewise endowed with the gift of the Spirit directing her into living a life which will demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23 Thus enabling her to crucify the flesh and live a life of righteousness emulating the life of Christ. Gal. 5:24 As with Israel of old, so with the Bride of the future, the love and care of the Lord is directed toward her.

Bracelets upon her hands. Gifts of great value freely given as a reminder of the love that He had for Israel. When they left Egypt, they took with them the wealth of Egypt in gold, silver and all manner of things of great value. Ex. 12:35-36 Hands have their own tale to tell. From the well kept hands of a woman who constantly cares for them, to preserve their beauty, to the rugged hands of a man of with the roughest of jobs, they speak of the type of a life lived. There are no

more beautiful hands than those which were nailed to a tree for the salvation of all men. Hands may be used as an expression of surrender to the will and desire of the Lord. Especially when they are pure, holy hands. 1 Tim. 2:8 Then there is the evidence of the gift of the Lord being manifest through the laying on of hands, in the working of signs and wonders. Acts 14:3 In the filling of the Spirit, the reception of the baptism of the Spirit. Acts 19:6 In the working of miracles. Acts 19:11 The healing of the sick. Mark 16:18 Most certainly the Lord would use the hands of His anointed to glorify His name.

A chain which was to be worn about the neck. A chain about the neck was a reward given when the actions of the individual pleased the king by a deed which was beneficial to the king or his people. For instance, Joseph in Egypt, a chain which no doubt bore the insignia of the king. Gen. 41:42 He was then elevated to the highest rank of government. Only the king was more powerful than Joseph. Gen. 41:39-44 Likewise with Daniel. He too was promoted to a high office in the government of a heathen king, with a chain of gold around his neck. Dan. 5:29 We note the similarity between these two for they were both deeply spiritual men. The kings acknowledge that the Spirit of the Lord was with both of them. The neck, with its chain was considered to be an object of beauty. SOS 7:4 A knowledge of the law was an ornament of grace and beauty as a chain around the neck. Prov. 1:9 The neck could also indicate the attitude of the individual or even the whole country, particularly in their obstinacy. Isa. 48:4

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The forehead adorned with a jewel of beauty. Eze. 16:12 To be worn in the area of the frontal lobe which is involved in the ability to hear and memory. How important it is to be able to hear the Word of the Lord and to be able to remember and follow His instructions. The high priest was to wear on his forehead a plate of pure gold with the inscribed words of HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD. Ex. 28:30 A constant reminder that He, the Lord, is HOLINESS and is seeking a people of like nature. Lev. 20:7 The forehead is brought into full view in the end of the age where all will receive a mark in their foreheads. Some will receive the seal of the Lord, which is His name, and will be assured of deliverance from the judgments which will come on the earth at that time, Rev. 9:4 and Rev. 14:1, where the seal is identified. Note also that the very special number who comprise a very special component of the Bride of

Christ are also sealed. Rev. 7:3 On the other hand, the ungodly, the rebellious peoples of the earth will also be sealed. This seal is a seal of certain damnation and eternal death. Anyone receiving the mark of the beast is eternally barred from the presence of the Lord. Rev. 13:16 Their punishment is everlasting. Rev. 14:9-11 The harlot church, the compromising, one world church of the antichrist will likewise have on her forehead a name which identifies her as being vile, false and greatly deceptive. Rev. 17:5.

Earrings in the ears. Some declare that these were actually nose jewels. The ear, of course, is the hearing organ of the body. Hearing is vital to a proper walk before the Lord. If He can attract the ear, then He can lead the individual according to His will. In how many ways and how often does the Word speak, trying to draw attention to that which is spoken of the Lord. The Lord has created the ear that we might hear His voice. Prov. 20:12.

He also created the nose with the ability to smell a sweet smelling aroma. He ordered Moses to create a perfume which was to be a holy anointing oil, for the tabernacle, its furnishings and upon Aaron and his sons who were to minister in the tabernacle. It was not to be imitated nor poured out promiscuously upon the flesh of the people. It was to be a uniquely holy ointment unto the Lord. Ex. 30:26-33 The holy, righteous, just prayers of the saints are mingled with the incense of heaven and are presented before the Lord as a sweet smelling savor. Rev. 8:3-4 Under all circumstances the Lord hears the prayers of His people and rejoices in them. Remember He is not duty bound to give an immediate answer. He may say wait or even no!

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Her head crowned. His Bride every bit a Queen. Eze. 16:12 Of royal blood for she has become the Bride of the Lord Jesus and consequently will occupy an office of leadership with Him who is the King of kings. Her crown is the Lord Himself. Isa. 28:5 She is to be crowned with a royal crown and that crown is a crown of the eternal glory of the Lord. Isa. 62:3 A crown whose glory and splendor will never be tarnished or diminished. 1 Peter 5:4 The beauty, the magnificence of her diadem is depicted as being the light and majesty of twelve stars. Men, chosen, proven, ordained and anointed to the office of that of the Apostle, who will guide the true church in these last days. Rev. 12:1.

The clothing of His Bride will be the very finest sort, of great cost and reflecting the importance of her calling in the Lord Jesus. Eze. 16:13 The materials used are of the finest and best of quality. Combined together they manifest and complement the beauty of the Queen. When the Lord makes preparation for His people, especial the Bride of Christ, nothing but the very best will be used. Gold, the glory of the Father. Silver, the redemptive power of the Son. The fine needle work, the intricate working of the Spirit within the spirit nature of those who walk with the Lord and are His anointed. The fine linen and silk completing the robes of righteousness which is the right and privilege of the redeemed. Isa. 61:10 Not only is she majestically clothed, but within, in her spiritual life she is even more beautiful. She is the beauty of the ages. The ultimate work of the Lord among the children of men. Ps. 45:13-14.

Her food prepared of fine flour, honey and oil all of the most excellent substance. Fresh and delicious. Fine flour relates to the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. Among other things it was used as a part of the sin offering. Lev. 5:11 Christ is our sacrifice. He suffered more than any have suffered or will ever suffer. The agony of a totally sinless, eternally being becoming sin would be nigh unto unbearable. We will be judged on an individual basis but He bore the full punishment of sin for every person every to be born into this world. The sinless Lamb of God taking the full brunt of God's hatred of sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 1 Pet. 2:24 Oil, representative of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Like the wheat from which the flour was produced, the oil was obtained by the crushing of the olives. The anointing does not deliver us from the crushing troubles of life but He most definitely smooth's the way for us. John 14:17 The sweetness and beneficial powers of honey are the consequences of the church having suffered with Him. 1 Peter 2:21 They are granted the right to obtain honey from the Rock. Christ Jesus. Ps. 81:16 1 Cor. 1:10.

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You were exceedingly beautiful. Eze. 16:13 Notice that their most splendid condition is past tense. Under the guidance and nourishment of the Lord even the very ugliest become a thing of beauty. That beauty will prevail only as long as the Lord is made welcome and is the object of worship. When He is forsaken the ugliness of the past not only returns but is reckoned to be greatly increased, until it reaches its

fullness. Jesus said; that a house (a person) swept clean of an evil spirit, beautified and put in order, that is not occupied by a spirit of righteousness, but remains empty will soon be reoccupied by the original wicked spirit, along with seven others for a full complement of eight. Mt. 12:43-45 How greatly magnified the ugliness of sin will become under such circumstances. If Jesus spoke that concerning His generation how much more may it be applied to this generation.

Increasing in numbers and in the beauty of the Lord, through the application of the comeliness of the Lord, their reputation grew among the heathen. Their splendor reached a status of perfection, all because of the glorious presence of the Lord among them. Eze. 16:14 The similarity is obvious, where Israel failed to continue in the rich blessings of the Lord, the true church, will prevail and fulfill the desires of the Lord. The Bride of Christ will be afforded the same opportunity and will not fail to respond to His call of love and enter into His perfections. Eph. 5:27

The saying of men is that history repeats itself. Solomon said; there is nothing new under the sun and that which has been will occur again. Ecc. 1:3 Paul said; that the prophetic statements such as are found in the writings of the prophets were written for our admonition and as examples of what to do and not to do. 1 Cor. 10:11 Israel of old found many lovers and received a stern rebuke and correction because of their corrupting themselves. Eze. 16:15-22 All the good things which the Lord had bestowed upon them they desecrated and turned them into sinful and wicked actions. Their experience foreshadows the experiences of the church in the last days. Out of that perfect church there will arise another group. The church of compromise and a religion amalgamating all the religions of the world into one. The beginning, the roots of such a movement, in our day, becomes more and more evident. In contrast to the woman of Revelation twelve, she (the false church) is the church of lewdness and promiscuity. A full description of her is to be found in Revelation seventeen. Some try to link her to churches or religious orders which are in existence today but she is not made up of just one religion but all of them made one by the antichrist.

against Jerusalem. A thought to consider. If the positive prophecies of the old testament concerning Jerusalem and Israel are to be applied to the modern day nation. How about the negative, such as this? Can we just declare them to be history. I think not. Ezekiel delivered a long dissertation concerning their idolatry which to the Lord was nothing more than spiritual adultery. Eze. 16:15-36 They turned the blessings of the Lord into all manner of wickedness and made themselves idols of the wealth which the Lord had given them. The terminology used by Ezekiel covered about every word found in the dictionary pertaining to sexual promiscuity. She is called an unsatiable harlot, committing fornications. Accused of acts of whoredom. They were lewd. Weak of heart. An imperious whorish woman, refusing payment for her vile deeds. She purchased her lovers, with gifts.

Because of the depths of their wickedness their judgment would reach catastrophic measures. The fury of the Lord would be displayed through the armies, composed of their ex-lovers, which would come up against them and totally destroy the people and their possessions. Eze. 16:37-40 He would grant them a change of heart and in this manner the anger of the Lord against them was to be appeased. Eze. 16:41-42

Reference was previously made to a great last day religious phenomenon, the assemblage of the religions of the world into one church body. Seven a divine complete number depicting the fullness of a matter. All the beliefs of the world concerning anything that is called god will be gathered into one. Isaiah prophesied of this condition by saying that seven women would take hold of one man, saying, (their doctrinal statement) We will eat our own bread or maintain our own teachings and beliefs. No need to line up to the Word of God to be in this group. We will wear our own apparel, maintain our religious form of worship. Only permit us to use your name. Giving them a false sense of security and authority, or in order for any embarrassment to be avoided because they are religious. They will be looking for acceptance and protection. Isa. 4:1 Religious unity and conformity to political powers of the false church are already evident in today's world. Along with that, there will be a unity a coming together of the true body of Christ which will be glorious and marvelous. The one faith, one doctrine envisioned the by Apostle Paul will come to pass and the real Bride of Christ will be seen in all of her splendor and glory

in these last days. He is the God of that which seems impossible. With Him all things are possible. Eph. 4:13.

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Their loss of memory or should it be said; deliberately forgetting their beginnings, the roots of Israel, bring a divine principle into play. Eze. 16:43 An individual who sows a specific type of seed will reap a harvest of the same kind. Gal. 6:7 Inevitable, the life lived, determines the measure of judgment. So many of the adages used in today's language originate from the Bible. Such as, like mother, like daughter. Eze. 16:44 So many times the things which we see in others and despise, are to be found in ourselves. Their attitude and treatment of the Lord was a reflection of the attitude of generations, in both their natural life and their spiritual life. They were then reminded by the Lord as to their roots. Showing them to be of a heathen lineage, except that the Lord called them out, and unto Himself. Thus, making them to be His very own people. Eze. 16:45.

A family relationship made linking Samaria and Sodom with them. The occupants of these two cities had the same roots as Jerusalem. However, as sinful as they may have been, Jerusalem surpassed them. There is an interesting analogy to be found here. Cities refusing to accept the message of the Apostles were declared to receive a punishment greater than that poured out on Sodom. Mt. 10:14-15 Sodom is a warning directed at all who would live an ungodly life. 2 Pet. 2:6 Jesus would have shown special compassion on Jerusalem, the city of martyrdom's, but noted that they would not receive His love extended to them. For this cause their house was left desolate. Mt. 23:37-38 Then there is the final act of martyrdom carried out in the same city which the Lord called spiritual Sodom and Egypt. The two witnesses commissioned by the Lord are so powerful that the powers of darkness must wage war in order to destroy them, but not until they have finished their ministry. Rev. 11:7-12 This gives us an insight as to the real feelings of the Lord in the end of the age.

The irony of comparing these cities is found in the fact, that even though Jerusalem did not sin after the same pattern, the Lord considered the sin of Jerusalem to be far greater. Therefore, as the Lord saw fit He removed them. Even though, Samaria had not committed half of the sins of Jerusalem, to such a degree that Sodom

and Samaria appeared justified because of the gross sin of Jerusalem. Eze. 16:51-58 Israel reprimanded for the measure and depth of their iniquities, the greatest of which was, the breaking of the covenant made with them, by the Lord. In His love and mercy He promised to create a New Covenant. That which involves the Lord Jesus as the Lamb of God whose blood is the only means of salvation. Eze. 16:59-60 Heb. 13:20-21.

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The wickedness of Israel was a breach of covenant and caused the covenant to be nullified. In spite of all their backsliding's and going astray the Lord assured them of a covenant. He would not forget that He had made covenant with them through Moses. The promise involves the establishment of an eternal covenant. However, the first covenant was to be abandoned, for His promise to them was that their future relationships would not be by the old covenant. Eze. 16:60-61 It is vital to proper scriptural interpretation, that we understand that the first covenant is of non effect, therefore it is nullified. It is obsolete and of no value. To try to continue it is to insult the maker of the new covenant, the Lord Jesus. Isa. 66:3.

The new covenant is now in effect and is the only covenant that the Lord will acknowledge and honor. Heb. 8:13 That which was the ancient has grown old and has decayed. If the Apostle declared two thousand years ago that it was ready to vanish away how definitely it has completed it's course of usefulness. The Law lacked the ability to bring anyone into the perfections which are to be found in the Lord. Because of it's weakness and the imperfections of those who embraced it, it was completely disannulled. Heb. 7:18-19. What a contrast, for through the new covenant we are able to enter into the presence of the Lord. Had the first been proven to be workable and effective there would have been no need of a second. The first has now been replaced by the second which was made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Heb. 8:7-8.

Thus, the promise presented by the prophecy of Ezekiel (Eze. 16:62) was introduced, manifest and sealed by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the covenant. Jesus declared that He had been commissioned to minister solely to the lost sheep of Israel. Mt. 15:24 He likewise commanded His disciples to minister only to the lost sheep of the

house of Israel. Mt. 10:6 However, Isaiah spoke of the Gentiles receiving the glorious light of the message of Christ as well. Isa. 49:6 Simeon sealed this word by prophesying the same over the child Jesus. Lk. 2:32 The new covenant, rejected by Israel, opened the door of salvation to the whosoever will, all, both Jew and Gentile are fully, equally and gladly welcomed into the family of the new covenant. John 1:11-12 In complete compliance to the prophetic word and in the process of fulfilling the prophecies relating to the Gentiles, Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the beginning of their ministry to the Gentiles. Acts 13:46 Paul verified his calling in Christ Jesus to the Gentiles by proclaiming himself to the Apostle of the Gentiles and so the gospel is preached to all nations.

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A rebuke from the Lord while extending forgiveness toward them. His words to them certainly carry a sign of His forbearance and ultimate weariness of their waywardness. Eze. 16:63 He wanted them to remember how foolish they had been in forsaking and wandering away from Him. They were not to forget, the hole of the pit from whence they had been dug. Isa. 51:1 When we reminisce over the depth of sin from which the Lord has brought us, we rejoice in His great mercy and love and have no desire to return to that pig pen. Even though they were being reconciled to Him, in their turning again He wanted to be certain that they did not forget the cause of their separation and to be ashamed when remembering their actions. The Lord forgives but the knowledge of what we were does not leave us. However the condemnation does. Rom. 8:1

What a polite way of saying; shut up. They were commanded to never open their mouths, no more arguments with the Lord concerning His will, no more complaining, no more worshiping of strange gods, all because the Lord had humiliated them in such a great fashion. Eze. 16:63 How often have we wished for an opportunity to recall, that is, take back words that have been uttered, knowing full well that they have been indelibly inscribed on the memory of those who heard them. Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Ps. 141:3 Among Isaiah's words of confession, will be found this statement which gives us a reason for the Lord having become weary of their words. They had sinned with their mouths in lying against the Lord, by speaking unjustly against Him and against one another. In

actions they had resisted the Lord. Also speaking from their wicked hearts they had brought forth words of falsehood, lies concerning Him. Isa. 59:13 No marvel that He told them to keep their mouths shut.

The Lord was determined to work a work of reconciliation. Eze. 16:63 An absolute act of the appeasement of His own heart, whereby He could cover or make atonement for all of their iniquity. There was, and is, nor will there ever be, any other possible way of the sinful being reconciled to the Lord, but by atonement. All atonement must be by blood. Lev. 17:11 There is but one blood of atonement acceptable to God and that is the blood of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The daily routine of tabernacle and temple would have resulted in hundreds of thousands of sacrifices, all of which were but symbols of the one true sacrifice made by the Lord Jesus. Heb. 9:14-15 All, past, present and future may come to eternal life, only through the blood of Jesus.

(continued in 101-120)