

Would Ezekiel have stood a better chance of success in our churches today?

Study 5

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Ezekiel Chapter 9

The King James Version of the Bible

We have seen over the last 4 studies the sinful depths the Children of Israel had sunk to. They had become a rebellious, sinful, wicked nation and an abomination to their God, and He said He was no longer their God and they were no longer His people.

These people were a special nation set apart by God to show the world the way to live as God intended when He created Adam & Eve. In Genesis 1: 26 God gave man dominion over all that He had created, and Psalms 8 places man at the head of all of God's works. This included the heavens, the sun, the moon and stars and all the earth and all living things. It made him next to God in power position and authority over all creations. Oh how we have let God down and reduced our original place in God to nothing short of a very sinful world that makes God's heart ache.

Then Satan came in on the scene and took away the dominion of the earth that God had given them. Man's rebellion and rejection of God made it necessary for His Son, Jesus to come and die on the Cross to redeem or buy back man from the grip of Satan by the shedding of His blood, Thank you Jesus.

We are now at a point in Ezekiel's vision where God had to divide His people into two camps. Note there are only two camps of people where God is concerned. Those who love Him and those who don't, there is no half way with God.

Chapter 9

He cried in mine ears with a loud voice cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And behold six men came from the way of the higher gate which lies toward the north, and one Man among them was clothed in white linen with a writer's inkhorn by his side and they went in and stood beside the brazen altar.

First of all note the loud voice of the last verse of the previous chapter: this came from His rebellious nation and they shouted with a loud voice of an unrepentant heart. The first verse of chapter 9 says God cried with a loud voice in the ear of Ezekiel and it was a voice of Judgment.

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I wonder what Israel's Priests thought as they worshipped the Asherah idol and were fornicating before the altar, (see study 4) I wonder if they felt the presence of almighty God in their midst? I suspect they continued in their wicked ways and behaviour in God's house oblivious of how He felt about His house being used for

such wickedness. There is a danger of the Church today doing the same thing, sometimes I wonder if they are so involved in the 'programmes' they don't even notice if God is there at all. One church I attended the Pastor proudly stood on the platform and announced that "the church now has 44 programmes in all"! We looked at each other and thought "so what"

I have been in many meetings where all of a sudden the Holy Spirit has fallen and been felt by most, more hands are raised as the worship intensifies, some start to pray or speak in an unknown tongue but those in charge have actually stopped the meeting, started to speak, asked the "band" to play, or said "now it is time for the word" anything but give way to the Holy Spirit, and the congregation has been deprived of anything the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives.

What are Pastors and Leaders afraid of? (You know that I know that this is not indicative of **all** churches or **all** ministers.)

It has been said that the Holy Spirit will not stay where He is not wanted, well I have proved that and it was proved in the House of God in Jerusalem.

These six men with slaughter weapons in their hands came and stood by God's altar to deal with the wrong in God's Temple, what if Jesus was to come and stand by your pulpit next Sunday to bless your church in answer to the many prayers of hungry Saints. Don't you think it would be wise to let Jesus do what He wants to do in today's church; after all He said He would build His church and do it with the people who want more of God and dare to let Him adjust their lives and clean up sin and rebellion that displeases The Lord?

Verse 3

Tells us that: *the Glory of the God of Israel, (the Shekinah cloud) had gone up from the cherubim and rested on the threshold of the building.*

Is that where our churches of today have sent the Glory, the blessing, the Holy Spirit...out on the threshold of the building instead of encouraging that blessing into the hearts of the congregation where it was intended? Remember it was the Priests in God's House that had allowed sin to dominate Israel and send God out of the building. Please don't get cross with me, if you are following these studies of Ezekiel with a King James Version of the Bible as I suggest you do and not a modern version that weakens much of the meanings you will see that I am only opening up what the Bible *actually* says.

There were six men believed to be supernatural, who had great responsibility over the city and it would appear that one was dressed in linen. This man was with the six so there could be seven in total (which is the perfect number) Six appeared to be ministers of wrath and the one in Linen a minister of Grace. Linen denoted righteousness and the original Hebrew sets Him apart from the six and His ministry was to put a divine mark on the forehead of all those who did not conform to the majority who were in rebellion towards God.

It is believed this Man was none other than Jesus Christ our great High Priest who is the only one who can take away our sins.

Also note in this verse that:

And the Glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub... to the threshold of the house. AND HE called to the Man clothed in linen which had the writer's inkhorn by His side.

The 'He' who called was none other than God the Father Himself calling to none other than His Son Jesus to mark the people. God the Father is involved in this sorry affair giving directions. Oh what love the Father has bestowed upon us.

And the Lord said unto him go through the midst of the city of Jerusalem and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

The small righteous population were to have a mark on their heads to *separate* them from the sinful ones. There was another mark made over the doors and lintels way back in Egypt to *separate* the Jews from the Egyptians when death came. There will be another mark given on the foreheads of the 144,000 Jews to *separate* them from the armies of the Antichrist in the end days (see Rev: 7:1 to 8.) and yet another mark given by the followers of the Beast see (Rev: 13: 16-17). Here Jesus went round the city to *separate* with a mark those who were frustrated and in sorrow for the wickedness they saw around them. There are only two groups, one belongs to Satan and the other belongs to Jesus, these groups are *separated*, which group are you in? There needs to be more preaching on *separation* in our churches.

In today's world thank God, there are those who hate the wickedness of their towns, cities and nations. They are the ones who have been called to prayer and to intercede for the nations, to join other prayer groups across the world by way of the internet, Christian TV Channels and magazines etc. They are the ones with God's mark on their foreheads and in their hearts who will be saved from the wrath to come if they continue to be faithful and not give way to Satan.

Verse 5:

And to the others He said in my hearing, go ye after him through the city and SMITE: let not your eye spare neither have pity. Slay utterly old and young both maids and little children and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark: AND BEGIN AT MY SANCTUARY. And they began at ancient men which were before the House.

What a verse, what a statement from the Lord God Jehovah. Do I really have to go into the detail of this verse? Do I have to remind readers who the Ancient Men were, and that this was God's judgment upon a people who ignored all that Ezekiel did and told them in the Temple court?

Don't you think that God wants His Church back and to rebuild it with the Holy Spirit welcomed in the hearts and lives of His people and not be assigned to the rafters? The glory cloud hovered over the building but did not completely disappear. Was God waiting with longing in His heart to see if His people would miss His presence and welcome Him back? But they didn't and God left the mercy seat withdrew His mercy from them and their rejection of God stopped God from healing their Land. Are we really sure that God hasn't done that same thing today? Are we really sure that the Holy Spirit is at the centre of God's temple today which is not now a building but the hearts of each one of us who profess Jesus?

2 Corinthians 6: 16

And what agreement has the Temple of God with idols? For you are the Temple of the Living God as God has said I will dwell in them and walk in them and I will be their God and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them and be separate says the Lord and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you.

God says the believer is the Temple of God and He will dwell IN us and walk IN us, surely if salvations and healings are in short supply in our churches is it because the Temple is unclean and God hovering outside waiting to see what we are going to do about it.

Take a look at Ezekiel study part 2 and what Jesus said to Oral Roberts, get the CD Wake up Call it will help you understand the urgency in my heart for these last days.

2 Peter 4: 17.18

For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God, and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Peter, in the New Testament confirms that death is the reward for sin and again he says it must begin at the house of God. He also says that if the righteous are only just saved what shall be the fate of the ungodly. Peter agrees with Ezekiel that the time has come for judgement to begin in the house of the Lord the days are short, Jesus will come back without notice so how will He find you, your church, the congregation, the ministries, how will He find ME!

In the studies so far God, through His Prophet Ezekiel gives the Elders, the Ancient Men, and the Priests of the Temple the call to repentance. I have emphasised this quite a bit, you may have noticed! However there is also a great responsibility on the part of the congregations of the church to repent as well. At the Judgment seat we cannot blame our Pastors or Leaders if we find ourselves outside of God's Kingdom. We all know salvation is a personal experience, Christ died for *me* I did not receive salvation on a block discount of a dozen or more. Christ is *my* personal Saviour, *my* personal friend, *my* personal healer. So should I fall short of the Kingdom of God, and not come to Jesus by the way of the Cross I will find myself in that other place...yes hell. Ooops I guess I've upset some more folk now!

You must know we are in the last days just before Jesus comes back for His Saints. I guess you agree with me things just cannot go on the way they do at the moment. Since I started this study 5, no less than 4 young children in the UK have been murdered by a group of other young children, some as young as 13 years of age. There have been 2 School killings one in Germany one in the USA with many shot dead as they are in class with their teachers, 2 soldiers shot dead in Island as they carry a pizza back to their barracks, another young 16 year old killed in the UK as he stood in line with his brother for some cakes, all within the last 14 days. I am sure you can add to this list more horror stories of your own in your nation.

We must take note of 2 Chronicle 7:14 often read and quoted but that's about all, if we want our nations to be blessed we must humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, *then* God will hear and heal. This is a command to the congregations as well as our Leaders. No, we are no better than The Children of Israel in spite of the fact that we have a greater understanding of the Bible, and the Holy Spirit to help us. My guess is that Ezekiel would not have stood a better chance in our churches today.

Verse 7

And He said unto them defile the house and fill the courts with the slain...And they went forth and slew in the city.

8. And it came to pass while they were slaying them and I was left that I fell on my face and cried Ah Lord God! Wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem.

Just use your imagination here these Angels of God were commanded to kill and destroy men women and children throughout the city. What a mess, what screaming, and crying, running to and fro, mothers crouching over their young babies, and yet the hand of the Lord completed the work it was set out to accomplish. We wonder at such destruction, how could a merciful God do such a thing? Well I will tell you. God hates sin, and He has every right to hate sin because He went to the cross and died a horrible Roman death to bring mankind back to God the Father and forgive sin. He got victory over Satan once and for all, so that if we His creation would accept Him as our Saviour and Lord and live for Him instead of ourselves He would give us eternal life.

ETERNAL life! we can't get our heads round that, but we will the moment we step into heaven and The Lord meets us we will truly know what eternal life is. On the other hand if we remain in our sin just as there is a heaven for those who respond to Jesus there is a hell for those who don't.

A women said to a Pastor I don't believe there is a hell and the Pastor said you will, 1 second after you get there! That's quite funny...or is it?

Ezekiel saw with his own eyes the death, the slain, filling the Temple the Temple Courts and the city, he saw such devastation he cried out to the Lord "*will you destroy all the residue of Israel in your pouring out of your fury upon Jerusalem?*" The answer God gave can easily apply to us today as it did in Ezekiel's day.

Verse 9

The iniquity of the House of Israel and Judah is exceeding great and the land is full of blood and the city full of perverseness for they say the Lord has forsaken the earth and the Lord sees not. And as for Me also My eye shall not spare neither will I have pity but I will recompense their way upon their head.

Don't you think that my comments about death and destruction in our cities marry up with verse 9 of Ezekiel chapter 9?

The Man with the inkhorn reported back to His Father that He had completed the task given to Him.

All this has been a bit horrifying and so to leave you with hope and joy here's what John said in his 8th Chapter verse 31;

Then Jesus said to those Jews which believed on Him, if you continue in My word then you are My Disciples indeed, And you shall know the truth and the Truth shall make you free.

See you later.