

As with many of the prophetic books of the Bible, the visions and interpretations of the writers of these books can be very perplexing often causing readers to shy away from studying these incredible warnings and prophetic signs regarding the "Time of the End".



The book of Ezekiel is one of the great prophetic "for our lifetime" messages that the church of Jesus Christ needs to study, understand and tell others because it clearly tells us we are living in the "Time of the End". The book is named after the author, Ezekiel, whose name means "strengthened by God".

Ezekiel grew up in Jerusalem, served as a priest in the temple and was among the second group of captives taken to Babylon. While in Babylon he became a prophet of God and his ministry began with condemnation and judgment of the nation Judah.

After the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel's perspective changed to a glimmer of hope shining through for the future. Ezekiel wanted to help the people learn from their failures and announced impending judgment upon the nations that surrounded Judah and reestablished hope for the restoration of Israel. His vision of the Valley of Dry Bones pictures new life being breathed into the nation prophetically.

The Never Wrong Prophet Ezekiel gave us details of the New Temple, the New Jerusalem, the Millennium and the land in which the people will reside. These visions of Ezekiel concern both the immediate and the long-term plans of God. They help to establish Ezekiel as a watchman, not only to warn the people but to be an encouragement as well.

## Ezekiel 33:1-20 AMPC

1 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, speak to your people [the Israelite captives in Babylon] and say to them, When I bring the sword upon a land and the people of the land take a man from among them and make him their <u>watchman</u>,

3 If when he sees the sword coming upon the land, he blows the trumpet and warns the people,

4 Then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

5 He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning shall save his life.

6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, he is taken away in and for his perversity and iniquity, but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

7 So you, son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at My mouth and give them warning from Me.

8 When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his perversity and iniquity, but his blood will I require at your hand.

9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his evil way and he does not turn from his evil way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

10 And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: Truly our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?

11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel

12 And you, son of man, say to your people, The uprightness and justice of the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; and as for the wicked lawlessness of the wicked lawless, he shall not fall because of it in the day that he turns from his wickedness, neither shall the rigidly upright and just be able to live because of his past righteousness in the day that he sins and misses the mark [in keeping in harmony and right standing with God].

13 When I shall say to the [uncompromisingly] righteous that he shall surely live, and he trusts to his own righteousness [to save him] and commits iniquity (heinous sin), all his righteous deeds shall not be [seriously] remembered; but for his perversity and iniquity that he has committed he shall die.

14 Again, when I have said to the wicked, You shall surely die, if he turns from his sin and does that which is lawful and right—

15 If the wicked restores [what he took in] pledge, gives back what he had taken in robbery, walks in the statutes of life [right relationship with God], without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

16 None of his sins that he has committed shall be [seriously] remembered against him; he has done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

17 Yet your people say, The way of the Lord is not perfect or even just; but as for them, it is their own way that is not perfect or even just.

18 When the righteous turns back from his [uncompromising] righteousness and commits perverseness and iniquity, he shall even die in and because of it. 19 But if the wicked turns back from his wickedness and does what is lawful and right, he shall live because of it.

20 Yet you say, The way of the Lord is not perfect or [even] just. O you house of Israel, I will judge you, every one according to his own ways!

Ezekiel minces no words and he delivers God's messages with straightforward language that everyone could understand, whether they listened or not.

## Ezekiel 2:7 AMPC

7 And <u>you shall speak My words</u> to them whether they will hear or refuse to hear, for they are most rebellious.

#### Ezekiel 2:7 GNT

7 You will <u>tell them whatever I tell you to say</u>, whether they listen or not. Remember what rebels they are.

Ezekiel himself received a warning from God that if he did not tell everyone he was sent to tell them about the punishment for not following God, he would be held accountable for the blood of those who died in their sins.

#### Ezekiel 33:8-9 AMPC

8 When I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, <u>and you</u> <u>do not speak to warn the wicked from his way</u>, that wicked man shall die in his perversity and iniquity, <u>but his blood will I require at your</u> <u>hand.</u>

9 <u>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his evil way</u> and he does not turn from his evil way, he shall die in his iniquity, <u>but you will have</u> <u>saved your life.</u>

#### Ezekiel 33:8-9 GNT

8 If I announce that an evil person is going to die but you do not warn him to change his ways so that he can save his life, then he will die, still a sinner, and I will hold you responsible for his death.
9 If you do warn an evil person and he doesn't stop sinning, he will die, still a sinner, but your life will be spared."

He did not hesitate in his mission to follow God's instructions by warning the people regardless of the consequences. He had a passionate view of judgment along with hope and displayed his closeness to God's own sorrow over the people's sins.

The prophet experienced considerable opposition during his own lifetime, yet he always expressed God's desire that the wicked not die but turn from their wicked ways and live. His periodic speechlessness during his early years was broken when God empowered him to speak, and his tongue was loosened to speak the longest passage of sustained hope in the Bible. The burning, chopping and scattering of his hair early on in the the book of Ezekiel represented the fall of Jerusalem and the bringing back of God's remnant.

## Ezekiel 5:1-5 GNT

1 The Lord said, "Mortal man, take a sharp sword and use it to shave off your beard and all your hair. Then weigh the hair on scales and divide it into three parts.

2 Burn up a third of it in the city when the siege is over. Take another third and chop it up with your sword as you move around outside the city. Scatter the remaining third to the winds, and I will pursue it with my sword.

3 Keep back a few hairs and wrap them in the hem of your clothes.

4 Then take a few of them out again, throw them in the fire, and let them burn up. From them fire will spread to the whole nation of Israel."

5 The Sovereign Lord said, <u>"Look at Jerusalem. I put her at the center</u> of the world, with other countries all around her

The hopeful words climax in the promise of everlasting possession of the land, an everlasting covenant, and an everlasting sanctuary in Israel.

Ezekiel has shown all Christians that we are to be watchmen on this earth, speaking the truth of the gospel to everyone we meet. We cannot possibly turn our backs on the perishing and go our own righteous way without being held accountable for those who die in sin that we could have reached. God told Ezekiel to groan with a broken heart and bitter grief for the coming judgment, and through his dramatic book, Ezekiel is telling us the very same thing. This judgment is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign Lord!

Note: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel although different ages, were ALL Prophets of the ONE TRUE GOD and they ALL lived during the same time period...just in different locations. Ezekiel was born in Jerusalem and was taken captive into Babylon on the second attack of Babylon. God used the prophets in the Old Testament for the people at that time and in addition, their message(s) were for today. In Joel 2, the prophet is speaking to the church, right now about what is going to take place.

## Joel 2:28-29 KJV

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

29 Even upon the menservants and upon the maidservants in those days will I pour out My Spirit.

30 And I will show signs and wonders in the heavens, and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

32 <u>And whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be</u> <u>delivered and saved</u>, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the remnant [of survivors] shall be those whom the Lord calls.

God said I will pour out my spirit or Holy Spirit...this is very important to understand what is being spoken by the Prophet Joel and then confirmed in the book of Acts.

## <u>Acts 1:1-17 AMPC</u>

1 In the former account [which I prepared], O Theophilus, I made [a continuous report] dealing with all the things which Jesus began to do and to teach

2 Until the day when He ascended, after He through the Holy Spirit had instructed and commanded the apostles (special messengers) whom He had chosen. 3 To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of God.

4 And while being in their company and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak.

5 For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with ([a]placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit.

6 So when they were assembled, they asked Him, Lord, is this the time when You will reestablish the kingdom and restore it to Israel?

7 He said to them, It is not for you to become acquainted with and know [b]what time brings [the things and events of time and their definite periods] or fixed [c]years and seasons (their critical niche in time), which the Father has appointed (fixed and reserved) by His own choice and authority and personal power.

8 **But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses** in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

Note: Jesus said the reason to be filled with the spirit is for: peace as you recall things into your remembrance about what was written and spoken. He will guide you into Truth as you recall the things that were written and spoken. He will remind you about sin, judgment and righteousness and the things to come that have already been written in order for you and I to say "this is that which was written by".

As a result of the Holy Spirit in us, reminding us of these things it will give us a boldness to be His Witness which is why Jesus said go and wait to be filled with the Promised Holy Spirit. The outcome or identifier of the Holy Spirit in you is a changed life. A life that can be a witness to others. The Word says you will know them - the changed life, the follower of Christ, the one walking and living with the Holy Spirit inside by their fruit.

## <u>John 16:8-13 AMPC</u>

8 And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about <u>sin</u> and about <u>righteousness</u> (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about <u>judgment</u>:

9 About sin, because they do not believe in Me [trust in, rely on, and adhere to Me];

10 About righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God), because I go to My Father, and you will see Me no longer;

11 About judgment, because the ruler (evil genius, prince) of this world [Satan] is judged and condemned and sentence already is passed upon him.

12 I have still many things to say to you, but you are not able to bear them or to take them upon you or to grasp them now.

13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, <u>He</u> <u>will guide you into all the Truth</u> (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; <u>He will give the message that has</u> <u>been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the</u> <u>things that are to come [that will happen in the future].</u>

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

## <u>Acts 1:9-17 AMPC</u>

9 And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.

10 And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them,

11 Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven.

12 Then [the disciples] went back to Jerusalem from the hill called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, [only] a Sabbath day's journey (threequarters of a mile) away.

13 And when they had entered [the city], they mounted [the stairs] to the upper room where they were [[d]indefinitely] staying—Peter and John and James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas [son] of James.

14 All of these with their minds in full agreement devoted themselves steadfastly to prayer, [waiting together] with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 Now on one of those days Peter arose among the brethren, the whole number of whom gathered together was about a hundred and twenty.

16 Brethren, he said, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit foretold by the lips of David, about Judas who acted as guide to those who arrested Jesus.

<u>17 For he was counted among us and received [by divine allotment]</u> <u>his portion in this ministry.</u>

18 Now this man obtained a piece of land with the [money paid him as a] reward for his treachery and wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle [of his body] and all his intestines poured forth. 19 And all the residents of Jerusalem became acquainted with the facts, so that they called the piece of land in their own dialect—Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.

20 For *in the book of Psalms it is written*, Let his place of residence become deserted and gloomy, and let there be no one to live in it; and [again], Let another take his position or overseership.

21 So one of the [other] men who have accompanied us [apostles] during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 From the baptism of John at the outset until the day when He was taken up from among us—<u>one of these men must join with us and</u> <u>become a witness to testify to His resurrection.</u>

# <u>Acts 2:1-11 AMPC</u>

1 And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place,

2 When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit [a]kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].

5 Now there were then residing in Jerusalem Jews, devout and Godfearing men from every country under heaven.

6 And when this sound was heard, the multitude came together and they were astonished and bewildered, because each one heard them [the apostles] speaking in his own [particular] dialect.

7 And they were beside themselves with amazement, saying, Are not all these who are talking Galileans?

8 Then how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own (particular) dialect to which we were born?

9 <u>Parthians and Medes</u> (Iran/easetern Iran) and <u>Elamites</u> (Iran) and inhabitants of <u>Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq incl. parts of present-day</u> Iran, Kuwait, Syria, Turkey), <u>Judea</u> (Israel) and <u>Cappadocia</u> (turkey), Pontus (Turkey)and [the province of] Asia (Roman Empire - Turkey,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia (Turkey), *Egypt and the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and the transient residents from Rome, both Jews and the proselytes [to Judaism from other religions],* 

11 Cretans and Arabians too—we all hear them speaking in our own native tongues [and telling of] the mighty works of God!

12 And all were beside themselves with amazement and were puzzled and bewildered, saying one to another, What can this mean?

13 But others made a joke of it and derisively said, They are simply drunk and full of sweet [intoxicating] wine.

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: You Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let this be [explained] to you so that you will know and understand; listen closely to what I have to say.

15 For these men are not drunk, as you imagine, for it is [only] the third hour (about 9:00 a.m.) of the day;

16 But [instead] this is [the beginning of] what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [[b]telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions ([c]divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [[d]divinely suggested] dreams.

Note:

18 Yes, and on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy [[e]telling forth the divine counsels and [f]predicting future events pertaining especially to God's kingdom].

19 And I will show wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth beneath, blood and fire and smoking vapor;

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the obvious day of the Lord comes—that great and notable and conspicuous and renowned [day].

<u>21 And it shall be that whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord</u> [[g]invoking, adoring, and worshiping the Lord—Christ] shall be <u>saved.</u> When you look at the Old Testament and the definition of someone prophesying it would normally mean a prophet speaking under divine inspiration foretelling of an event in the future.

The prophets in the Bible would often speak by a vision or dream like in book of Daniel that we have studied. Daniel was captured and taken to Babylon under the rule of **King Nebuchadnezzar.** In Daniel chapter 2, he saw the empires that followed Babylon all the way to the "Time Of The End" and the same prophetic "things" were confirmed at the writing concerning the "Time Of The End" or "End Time" kingdom(s) by John as well in the book of Revelation.



Note: Remember, Daniel was a prophet just like Ezekiel, and if you're incorrect you're not a prophet by definition.

# Prophet defined by 1828 Webster's Dictionary:

1. One that foretells future events; a predictor; a foreteller.

2. a person illuminated, inspired or instructed by God to announce future events; as Jeremiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel etc.

A prophet who foretells, by definition is never wrong. Proven that what they have said came true.

In Daniel chapter 4, there was the dream of the stump which showed the fall of Babylon in the very near future after the time of Daniel's captivity.

It also revealed the reforming of the Babylonian empire, the area of which the antichrist would rule from and come from during the 7the empire which is the beginning of the 7 year tribulation. The prophets in the Old Testament were foretelling the future or revealing things that would happen in the future. In the New Testament, when you see the word prophecy it can be foretelling and/or forth-telling. Forth-telling is a phrase that we would say is proclaiming a "present now" truth that was spoken in the past. So, rightly identifying is bringing forth something the was fore told.

As we have been studying in our series on Tuesday along with my sermons and Bible Studies in general, I often use current events to start off with because they are prophetic forth-telling of the prophecies or foretelling of that which God has said would happen.

## Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC

9 [Earnestly] <u>remember the former things</u>, [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 <u>Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from</u> <u>ancient times the things that are not yet done</u>, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,

## <u>Isaiah 46:9-10 KJV</u>

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

When we say prophecy in the New Testament an example of this can be... The Prophet Agabus told Paul don't go to Jerusalem because you're gong to be arrested.

# <u>Acts 21:10-11 AMPC</u>

10 While we were remaining there for some time, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

11 And coming to [see] us, he took Paul's belt and with it bound his own feet and hands and said, Thus says the Holy Spirit: The Jews at Jerusalem shall bind like this the man who owns this belt, and they shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles (heathen).

## Acts 21:10-11 KJV

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

There was also a prophetic word given to Paul that there was a great famine coming and he needed to take an offering to help the people.

#### <u>Acts 11:27-30 AMPC</u>

27 And during these days prophets <u>(inspired teachers and interpreters</u> <u>of the divine will and purpose)</u> came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and prophesied through the [Holy] Spirit that a great and severe famine would come upon the whole world. And this did occur during the reign of Claudius.

29 So the disciples resolved to send relief, each according to his individual ability [in proportion as he had prospered], to the brethren who lived in Judea.

30 And so they did, sending [their contributions] to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

#### <u>Acts 11:27-30 KJV</u>

27 And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

The scriptures recognized Agabus as a prophet. By definition, a prophet is someone that foretells future events; a predictor; a foreteller. A person illuminated, inspired or instructed by God to announce future events; that person is never wrong. So, why did they do what the prophets were saying? because the prophets had already proven they were mouthpieces for God and they were never wrong. God's Word/prophecies are never wrong and they never will be. We have to be obedient to them.

At the "Time Of The End" there will be a merging of the older and younger generations. This spiritual principle goes all the way back to the time of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers Chapters 13 & 14. The entire group fell into unbelief regarding entering and taking the Promised Land. But Joshua and Caleb (part of the older generation) because of their belief in God's Word were allowed to lead this younger/next generation into the Promises Land.

God's People while in Egypt had a slave mentality. In the wilderness they had to learn sonship, that God was their father or they were the sons of God. This is where they had to learn to trust Him for everything, He was their source which is how faith is established. But, when they got to Canaan or the Land Of Promises, they had to have a soldier mentality because they had to learn how to fight for what was already theirs.

It is at this time, for such a time as this (Esther 4:14) that God is calling all believers to have a soldier mentality. We are getting ready to enter the Land Of Promises, our final reward. The Rapture of the church is about to take place and we are going to be forcibly removed out of harms way by God. That is why Jesus commanded us to know the signs of the times to prepare us soldiers for this "Time Of The End" and the spiritual warfare that is in high places.

# Matthew 24:33 KJV

33 So likewise ye, <u>when ye shall see all these things, know</u> (that it is near, even at the doors.

## Matthew 24:33 AMPC

33 So also <u>when you see these signs</u>, [a]all taken together, coming to <u>pass</u>, you may know [b]of a surety that He is near, at the very doors.

## <u>Luke 21:36 KJV</u>

36 Watch (command to pay attention, to watch, don't put your head in the sand) ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

## Luke 21:34-36 AMPC

34 But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the [a]giddiness and headache and [b]nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the [c]business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;

35 For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. 36 Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and <u>be</u> <u>accounted worthy to escape all these things</u> [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

Jesus has already spoken to the church of what will happen...there is not anything new to be foretold about the Time of the End, it has all been written. The pastor, preacher and teachers job is now to be prophetic in bringing forth that which was already spoken. (Joe 2)

Jesus said we would need the Holy Spirit to be our guide, our comfort and that He, the Holy Spirit would remind us of "things" that we have heard and read. You can't remember or recall something if you never heard it or read it. God does not want us to fear or become complacent.

#### John 14:23-29 AMPC

23 Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him. 24 Anyone who does not [really] love Me does not observe and obey My teaching. And the teaching which you hear and heed is not Mine, but [comes] from the Father Who sent Me. 25 I have told you (his disciples - that's you and I) <u>these things</u> (promises in God Word) while I am still with you.

26 <u>But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper,</u> Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], <u>He will</u> <u>teach you all things</u> (Gods Word - what will happen at the end of time).

And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you. (can't recall what you don't hear or read)

27 Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. **Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.** [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.

28 You heard Me tell you, I am going away and I am coming [back] to you. If you [really] loved Me, you would have been glad, because I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater and mightier than I am.

29 And now <u>I have told you [this] before it occurs, so that when it does</u> <u>take place you may believe and have faith in and rely on Me.</u>

Some of the things that Jesus or the Word has told us about regarding the Time of the End is found in the book of Ezekiel. These things that have already been written is what the Holy Spirit is going to remind you and I about so we are not fearful.

One of those prophetic things will be the battle of Gog and Magog which if found in Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39. There are several prophetic messages in Ezekiel that we are going to be studying during this series which tells us not only is God's Word true but how close we are to the return of Jesus Christ.

The entire book of Ezekiel is a series of prophecies and visions from this Old Testament prophet. He was the first to see cherubim carrying the throne of God.

#### Ezekiel 10:1 KJV

10 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

#### <u>Ezekiel 10:1 AMPC</u>

10 Then I looked and behold, in the firmament that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something looking like a sapphire stone, in form resembling a throne.

Starting with Chapter 1 of the book of Ezekiel we can break it down into several different sections...

Israel's captivity and the reason for it

Ezekiel Chapters 1-24

Judgment upon the nations that come up against Israel

Ezekiel Chapters 25-32

Israel in the last days before the return of the Messiah

Ezekiel Chapters 33-39

## Millennial Temple and the reign of the Messiah

Ezekiel Chapters 40-48

We are going to be focusing on Ezekiel Chapter 35 through Chapter 48 and that will be divided up into 4 sections. We are going to be dealing with the dividing of the land of Israel which is in the process of talking place right now. The U.N. and several nations are pushing for a division in order to bring "peace". We will be studying how the Jewish people survived the Holocaust, the vision of the valley of dry bones. The vision of the war of Gog and Magog which is Ezekiel chapters 39 & 39. Then, we will conclude in Jerusalem talking about the millennium reign and the temple that will be built there.

So, in talking about the nation of Israel, we are going to start in Ezekiel Chapter 37 which is the vision of the "valley of dry bones". Those who have survived the Holocaust, I'm speaking of jewish people and many scholars believe that this prophecy is about this particular time in world history.

# <u>Ezekiel 37:1 KJV</u>

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.

## Ezekiel 37:1 AMPC

37 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.

The prophet is in a valley of bones that are dry. They are separated in different sections. There are skull bones in one section, back bones in one section, leg bones in another section. Ezekiel sees this in the vision and God asked him, can these dry bones live? Ezekiel answers and say, God, only you know.

## Ezekiel 37:3-9 AMPC

3 And He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, You know!

4 Again He said to me, Prophesy to these bones and say to them, O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath and spirit to enter you, and you shall live;

6 And I will lay sinews upon you and bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin, and I will put breath and spirit in you, and you [dry bones] shall live; and you shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service].

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a [thundering] noise and behold, a shaking and trembling and a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

8 And I looked and behold, there were sinews (tendons) upon [the bones] and flesh came upon them and skin covered them over, but there was no breath or spirit in them.

9 Then said He to me, Prophesy to the breath and spirit, son of man, and say to the breath and spirit, Thus says the Lord God: <u>Come from the</u> <u>four winds</u>, O breath and spirit, and breathe upon these slain that they may live.

The four winds always eludes to the north, south, east and the west. So this is saying that there is going to be a regathering of the jewish people.

Let's read verse 10, this is a very important verse...

## <u>Ezekiel 37:10 AMPC</u>

10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath and spirit came into [the bones], and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great host (army).

This predicts that Israel will return to the land after being divided and separated after they looked like they were skeletons and become a great and mighty army in the land of Israel. This vision or prophecy says it will specifically be called Israel.

# Ezekiel 37:11-12 AMPC

11 Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope is lost; we are completely cut off.

12 Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, O My people; and I will bring you [back home] <u>to the land of Israel.</u>



When you go back in history and look at the video, pictures, images of the jewish people you will see that they were starved and were literally skin and bones.

When they were found and brought back to the country they were literal skeletons with skin over the top of their bodies.

Many people asked, how can these people even live in the land where they are hated by the World?



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But God, only God could have intervened and supernaturally restored His people and the land of Israel as it was prophesied. When you look at Ezekiel Chapter 37, it tells you and I that they will be called Israel and that they would be a great army.

We will pick up in part 2 in Chapter 37 of Ezekiel showing the rebirth of Israel and where we are now in the time line of the "Time Of The End".



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