

Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel

Message 15

December 6, 2015



Ezekiel's Image of the Wheels, Cherubim and The Shekinah Glory Artist Unknown

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Message Fifteen

The Man in Linen Casts Burning Coals on Jerusalem
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Ezekiel 9:7 – 10:8

⁷And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and smote in the city. ⁸And it came to pass, while they were smiting, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord Jehovah! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy wrath upon Jerusalem?

⁹Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of wresting of judgment: for they say, Jehovah hath forsaken the land, and Jehovah seeth not. ¹⁰And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will bring their way upon their head. ¹¹And behold, the man clothed in linen, who had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

10 *¹Then I looked, and behold, in the firmament that was over the head of the cherubim there appeared above them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. ²And he spake unto the man clothed in linen, and said, Go in between the whirling wheels, even under the cherub, and fill both thy hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight. ³Now the cherubim stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. ⁴And the glory of Jehovah mounted up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of Jehovah's glory. ⁵And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of God Almighty when he speaketh. ⁶And it came to pass, when he commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim, that he went in, and stood beside a wheel. ⁷And the cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubim unto the fire that was between the cherubim, and took thereof, and put it into the hands of him that was clothed in linen, who took it and went out. ⁸And there appeared in the cherubim the form of a man's hand under their wings (ASV, 1901).*

DESTRUCTION IS CARRIED OUT ON JERUSALEM

Ezekiel 9:7-8

⁷And he said unto them, *Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and smote in the city.* ⁸And it came to pass, while they were smiting, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, *Ah Lord Jehovah! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy wrath upon Jerusalem (ASV, 1901)?*

The righteous citizens had been anointed and thereby protected from the Lord's destroyers of the wicked in Jerusalem. This will be just the same for the genuine Church when the Rapture takes place. It will take the righteous out of the world before the Lord again brings a planned destruction on the world for the wickedness that is here. We will leave in the "Catching Away" (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17) because Jesus took the punishment for our sins. We will not be punished again.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them, which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit (KJV).

In other words because we are "saved" we desire to follow the lead of God's Spirit who lives in us. We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; II Corinthians 1:22). We will not experience the program of judgment coming on all the earth as Jesus told His apostles.

Luke 21:34-36

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch 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 (KJV).

Now the Lord gives the final command to the destroyers to go out and begin the slaughter. Specifically He says to defile the Temple. Then He adds, "*and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth.*" The Temple had already been defiled with the abominations of the Leaders. They had forsaken the ritual purity that God had commanded regarding His Temple in the 613 commandment of the Mosaic Law. The Temple was a model of His dwelling place in Heaven and it is pure. Therefore the earthly Temple had to be pure too as well as His people. So God now wants the Temple to be filled with the dead and decaying corpses of the wicked. Justice was more important than ritual purity. Jesus invoked a similar phrase when he said, "*Let the dead bury their own dead*" (Matthew 8:22). He was referring to letting the spiritually dead people bury the physically dead. Spiritually dead people are already dead according to the Lord. Now in our text here in Ezekiel the spiritually dead are being released from their bodies going to their final spiritual destruction as their bodies are destroyed. The relationship that the Lord is referring to in both of these instances is that Spiritual death equals complete death.

Following the Temple and the killing of the leaders the six destroyers moved out to the city of Jerusalem to continue their carnage as they lead the Babylonians through the city. II Chronicles 36 describes the historical fulfillment of this destruction.

II Chronicles 36:17-19

¹⁷Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldeans, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or virgin, old man or hoary-headed: he gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of Jehovah, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. ¹⁹And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof (ASV, 1901).

Ezekiel saw this carried out in a very vivid scene that brought him to his knees as the Israelites did when God was about to destroy Korah in the rebellion against Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16:22). Ezekiel was crying out to God, “*Ah Lord Jehovah! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy wrath upon Jerusalem?*” He loved the nation and in his compassion for Jerusalem he was showing how deeply he felt regarding this carnage of God’s House and City. The slaughter was so vast that it seemed to him that he was the only one left in the Temple. We must accept the fact that because of the massive sin in this country and the world now God will bring judgment upon it. We can’t survive long when the national government mandates sexual immorality and sanctions the killing of millions of unborn babies. The Bible teaches us that *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23). God wiped the earth clean of the massive amount of sinners before at Sodom & Gomorrah and in the Great Flood. He is preparing to conduct the next major divine judgment know as the Tribulation. So while Ezekiel is seeing a horrible judgment coming upon Jerusalem it is perfectly just.

THE MASSIVE KILLING IS JUSTIFIED

Ezekiel 9:9-11

⁹Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of wresting of judgment: for they say, Jehovah hath forsaken the land, and Jehovah seeth not. ¹⁰And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will bring their way upon their head. ¹¹And behold, the man clothed in linen, who had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me (ASV, 1901).

God now clearly explains to Ezekiel that He is fully justified in bringing the destruction upon Jerusalem. He says that, “*The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood.*” The leaders have forsaken God and gone after sinful idols and sinful practices. Jerusalem was the city of justice as the wholesome priests used to carry out justice through the commandments of the Mosaic Law. Now it too was a city *wresting of judgment*. God who is holy and pure cannot be near this sin and in His long suffering over it has finally reached the point when He had to bring judgment. Their sin brought violence (*blood*) into the country. They think that God has left them so now he can’t see what they are doing. Their sins are very grievous and they have violated the terms of their existence. There is a moral order to this universe and the Jews at that time had a personal relationship with God who gave them His Law. They violated that Law for

a long time and God finally said that his *eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will bring their way upon their head.* They are getting what they deserved. Completing this section of scripture is the Lord Jesus (man in linen) returning to God The Father saying, “*I have done as thou hast commanded me.*” He has anointed the righteous Israelites who *sigh and that cry over all the abominations that are done in the midst thereof* (Ezekiel 9:4b). Now that the righteous are protected and the judgment of the Babylonian invasion is underway the Lord will leave His earthly dwelling place in the Holy of Holies of the Temple which was also in the Tabernacle before the Temple was built.



Tabernacle Shekinah Glory – Artist Unknown – from http://raebear.net/faith/biblestudy/exodus/seg3_sinai/finishing_touches.php



The Temple cut away From phoenicia.org

GOD COMMANDS THE MAN IN LINEN

Ezekiel 10:1-2

¹ Then I looked, and behold, in the firmament that was over the head of the cherubim there appeared above them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. ² And he spake unto the man clothed in linen, and said, Go in between the whirling wheels, even under the cherub, and fill both thy hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight (ASV, 1901).

God now makes His preparations to leave the Temple of Solomon (1st Temple). He would not share it with the idols worshipped by the Israelites. This was the first commandment of the 613 in the Mosaic Law. He said, “*Thou shalt have no other gods before me*” (Exodus 20:3). They preferred the sins of the wicked evil gods to the purity and genuine God who loved them. God’s worship center at Shiloh was removed shortly after His glory had departed from it. When Samuel was very young the Israelites took the Ark of the Covenant into battle with the Philistines using it as a good luck charm. This was a severe misuse of the Ark, which represented the presence of God (Numbers 10:35; Joshua 6:6). Therefore He allowed them to be defeated and the Philistines captured the Ark. The same thing was about to happen to the Temple in 586 B.C.

Jeremiah 7:12-14

¹² But go ye now unto my place, which was in Shiloh, where I caused my name to dwell at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. ¹³ And now, because ye have done all these works, saith Jehovah, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not: ¹⁴ therefore will I do unto the house which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh (ASV, 1901).

Ezekiel is still standing next to the altar looking at the sanctuary and he sees the color of the Shekinah Glory over the Cherubim in the expanse (*rakia*) over the heads of the Cherubim. This is the same appearance of God, His Throne and His mighty Cherubim carrying Him on the golden chariot with the burning wheels as seen in chapter one.

Ezekiel hears the voice of God on His Throne in heaven but connected to the earth in divine sovereignty in His Temple. The Throne itself is the color blue as a sapphire, which appears to resemble the lapis lazuli stone. This vision is similar to that which was witnessed by Moses and the seventy elders (Exodus 24:10). God from His throne speaks to the man in linen who just anointed the foreheads of the righteous Israelites with an X. He tells Him to go between the flaming wheels, which are beneath the Cherubim and take out some burning coals. God tells the man to *scatter them over the city*. Ezekiel watched this as the man in linen came and got the burning coals. This is just like Ezekiel saw earlier and so did Isaiah when he was allowed a vision of the Throne of God in Heaven.

Ezekiel 1:13

¹³ As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches: the fire went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah 6:6-7

⁶Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷and he touched my mouth with it, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin forgiven (ASV, 1901).

What is important for us to see is the purifying nature of God's correction. He is not attempting to annihilate the Jews. He has anointed a remnant in Jerusalem and some captive's offspring will return seventy years later from Babylon. This is a correction. God has a plan for the Jews. At that time in human history they had provided the world with the Bible (Romans 3:2). Yet in exactly 586 years they would bring forth the Messiah our King Jesus. He would be born in Bethlehem to a poor couple from Nazareth according to prophecy. The Temple leaders at the time of Ezekiel as well as most of the population needed a cleansing. Though they, through the priests, burned sacrifices at the temple, their lives needed the purifying action of God's "fire" of cleansing. Now they were getting it as the man in linen reached to the burning wheels to get coals to spread out over the city.

THE TEMPLE AND COURT ARE FILLED WITH GOD'S GLORY

Ezekiel 10:3-8

³Now the cherubim stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. ⁴And the glory of Jehovah mounted up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of Jehovah's glory. ⁵And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of God Almighty when he speaketh. ⁶And it came to pass, when he commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim, that he went in, and stood beside a wheel. ⁷And the cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubim unto the fire that was between the cherubim, and took thereof, and put it into the hands of him that was clothed in linen, who took it and went out. ⁸And there appeared in the cherubim the form of a man's hand under their wings (ASV, 1901).

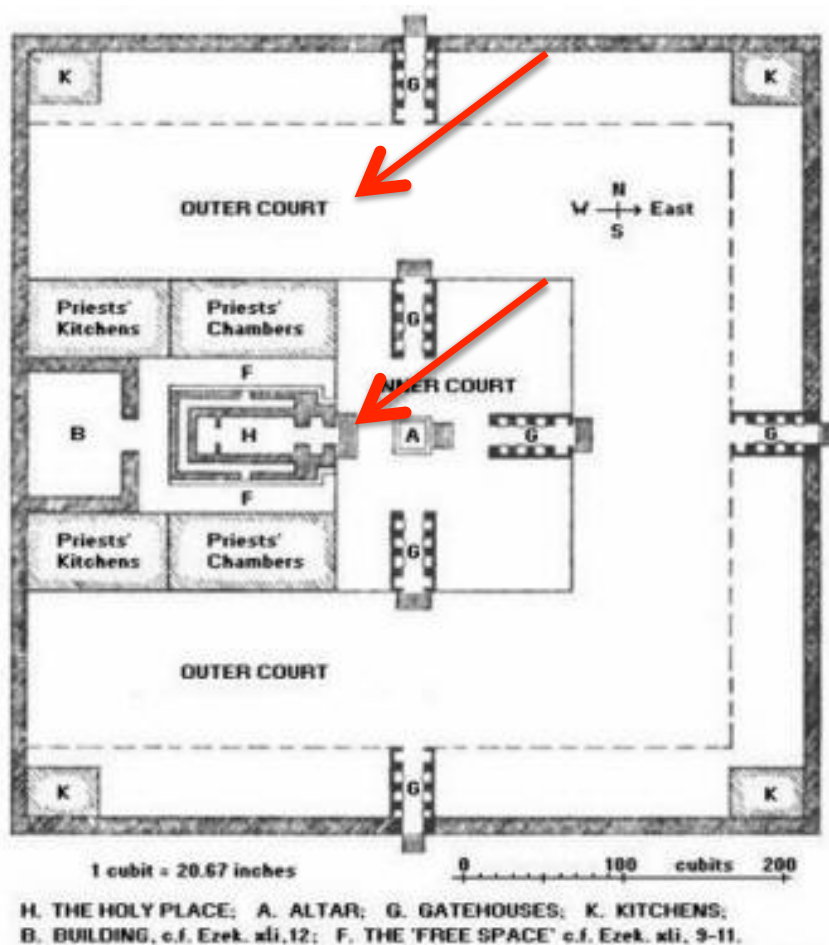
The Cherubim positioned The Lord on the right side of the Temple in the court while His Glory filled the entire court with Himself. From this position the Cherubim lifted up the Glory of God to the threshold of the Temple. Now the temple too was filled with the Glory of God. It was exceedingly bright as a brilliant white light. Next Ezekiel heard the deafening sound of the Cherubim's wings as they moved to lift the golden chariot from place to place as the Lord commanded. Now the man in linen moves to the wheels of the Cherubim and stands beside one of the wheels. One of the cherubim took his hand grabbed some burning coals and put them into the hand of the man in linen who then took them and left to do His work. This was the ordering and Heavenly action causing the divine purification of Jerusalem. This Cherub's hand resembled the form of a man's hand,

which was under the thunderous wings. God's judgment came as a fire scattered on Jerusalem. This caused the Babylonian army to destroyed Jerusalem by fire.

2 Kings 25:8-9

⁸Now in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem. ⁹And he burnt the house of Jehovah, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house, burnt he with fire (ASV, 1901).

Though Ezekiel did not write that the man scattered the fire over Jerusalem, it happened because He was faithfully chosen to carry out God's command.



NEXT MESSAGE: THE SHEKINAH DEPARTS THE TEMPLE

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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