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## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### THE GREAT OVERTURNING: EZEKIEL 21

Christmas Already! I am confident that there are those who are yet in bondage to Christmas past as they struggle to pay old bills.

**Ezekiel 21:25** *And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, 26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. 27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.*

This month, we celebrate the birthday of *the one whose right it is to have dominion over all the earth as promised by the prophets of old*. He even now is exercising His dominion as we see the various kingdoms of men in destructive turmoil.

**Ezekiel's prophecy in 21:27 speaks of the great** overturning or overthrow by the One whose birthday we celebrate this month. Then Ezekiel prophesies of the new beginning or the new creation that Jesus Christ would bring about, and even now is bringing about.

We see in Ezekiel that there is far more to the coming of Christ than what is normally offered at this time of the year. The promise in **Ezekiel 21:25-27** is especially needed in our present day when God has allowed the whole world to lie in wickedness. (John 5:19) In our text, we understand that *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy, or overturn, the works of the devil.* (1 John 3:8)

**He came to overturn** the works of the devil. **He came to overturn** all powers and authorities that are in opposition to Him, and subdue them under *his footstool*.

See **Haggai 2:6-9** which is quoted in **Hebrews 12:25-29**, where we are told that in the *last days*, God is shaking all things; that is, He **is in the process** of overturning **everything that is in opposition to His kingdom on earth, the Church**. In Psalms 2, the wicked are warned to kiss the Son lest He be angry. In **Isaiah 40:1-11**, God encourages His dis-quieted people with the promise that in the last days, all nations will be subdued to Himself.

**Acts 3** tells us that when Peter was in the temple, he healed a lame man. A crowd gathered to see what was going on. He told the Jews in the temple that they had used Pilate to kill the *Prince of life* as foretold by the prophets of old. Peter said that the *Prince of life* they killed was now in heaven: Acts 3:21 *Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

**“Restitution.** C. [*apokatastasis*] in the NT. The reference in Ac 3:20-21 is strictly to the restitution of that of which the prophets have spoken, or the establishment of what they have spoken. Grammatically the conversion of persons cannot be intended. The relations of which the prophets spoke are restored to the integrity of creation while their promise is itself fulfilled. The times of refreshing mark the beginning of the transformation through the messianic work of Jesus. The text has no bearing on the question of universalism with which it is often linked. Judaism holds out no such hope, and if Paul stresses the comprehensive work of the second Adam [Ro 5:18 1Co 15:22 Col 1:20] he also says that judgment will have a twofold outcome, [Ro 2:7ff] while God's being all in all will be through the overthrow of opposition. [1Co 15:25ff]” (*Theological Dictionary Of The New Testament*)

**Must receive... That is, Jesus Christ had to return to heaven** where He sits at God's own right hand in the heavenly [places], 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: He waits there as all things are put under his feet, and will not return until all is fulfilled. (Eph 1:20-22.)

**Peter spoke of a required period of time** between the ascension of Christ to His throne of all power and authority until His visible return, which has lasted 2000 years thus far. During this time, the Tri-une God shall fulfill all the Old Testament prophecies as He overturns all anti-powers, and subdues all things under the Son's footstool. The agreement among the Trinity was made before the creation of the world. (1689 London Baptist Confession, chapter 8.) The agreement was that through the preaching of the gospel, the Spirit would subdue all things to the Son. (Matt 24:14).

**1 Corinthians 15:24** *Then [cometh] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.*

Calvin: When all things are subdued, then will the end come."

**Revelation 11:15** *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*

**Jesus Christ** told his disciples that He had to go back so the Spirit could return to fulfill the Messianic prophecies of old. It is from His heavenly throne that He directs EVERYTHING to its predetermined conclusion. He will not return until *all enemies* are placed *under his feet* by the Comforter. The work of the Spirit is to completely overturn the corrupt world anti-Christ system, and replace that chaos with godly order. The overturning will be by obeying **Christ's command in Matthew 28:19, 20.**

(To save time and space, I will only sum up some comments on Acts 2:21 as found in Peoples New Testament Notes, JFB [Jamieson, Fausset, Brown], Calvin, Barnes, Pulpit Commentary, &c. All are found on Online Bible, 5.50. Available from us. \$45.00)

#### **Quoting Barnes:**

In this sense the passage means, that the heavens must receive the Lord Jesus until all things spoken by the prophets in relation to his work, his reign, the spread of the gospel, the triumph of religion, etc., shall have been fulfilled. It also conveys the idea of the predicted recovery of the world from sin, and the restoration of peace and order; the *consummation* of the work of the Messiah, now begun, but not yet complete; slow it may be in its advances, but triumphant and certain ill [sic] its progress and its close. (Barnes)

Ezekiel's threefold **overturning** spoke to his present time, and looked forward to the time of the Lord's absence in Acts 3:21; that is, **from the time of His resurrection**, ascension and the seating in the heavens where He has all power and authority **to the time of His visible return** at the end of the *last days*. During this period of time and through obedience to our Lord's command, the Spirit will *overturn, overturn, overturn* the anti-Christ social order. (Illustrated by our Lord in the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven.) **Peter did not say that all people would be saved**; however, the prophets of old promised that the **Messianic Kingdom of Christ would displace the kingdom of man**, e.g., Psalms 2, 110, &c. The "Great Commission" assures us that the nations of this world shall be subdued under *His feet*. As the Spirit enlarges the community of the Elect who will desire to obey the Word, the pagan social order shall be overturned, and replaced by a Christian social order. (Cf. Ezek 37-39. We are now living in the Messianic kingdom, for the Messiah came 2000 years ago and established His kingdom. Matt 3:2, 4:17, 10:7, Mk 1:15.)

## The Christmas prophecy in Ezekiel 21:25-27.

**FIRST: Ezekiel speaks to a Hebrew king**, Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. Shortly after Ezekiel's prophecy, the city of Jerusalem fell as recorded in the book of Isaiah. Jerusalem fell to Babylon, and 70 years later Haggai (2:6, 7) gives his prophecy of the coming *desire of all nations* and the glory of the Kingdom of God on earth that He will bring.

*6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it [is] a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry [land]; 7 And I will shake all nations, and **the desire of all nations shall come**: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.*

King Zedekiah was taken captive to Babylon where his sons were killed before his eyes, and then his eyes were put out. The Babylonians treated Zedekiah as a traitor for having violated the treaty between Judah and Babylon. (Ezekiel 17:13-15, 2 Kings 24:17-20. As mentioned in the November Examiner, America is a traitor having violated the treaty between our founders and Almighty God. Judgment is here! Note dates: Mayflower Compact signed Nov 11, 1620. Corrupt election 400 years later, Nov 3, 2020.)

In Ezekiel 21:25, the Lord calls Zedekiah **a profane wicked prince of Israel**, whose day of judgment had come.

21:26. **Two things are removed** as judgment against of Zedekiah's sin, the **diadem** and the **crown**, and all of Zedekiah's mighty men were greatly humbled.

**The crown** belonged to King Zedekiah. The **crown represented the royal power** which was removed from the Hebrews and the line of David.

**The diadem** belonged to the high priest, who was the **intercessor** between man and God. It represented the forgiveness of sins and fellowship with Israel's God, which was the foundation of God's blessings. God removed both the crown and the diadem when He sent **His army, Babylon**, against Israel.

**Thus, Israel was abandoned by God for her apostasy and sin.** The casting off by God of Israel would remain in effect until the arrival of the *One whose right it was to wear the crown and the diadem*. He would rule as God's appointed King and be God's High Priest as the only mediator between God and man. In the meantime, between this destruction by Babylon when the crown and diadem were removed, and the coming of the **One whose right it was** to wear the crown and diadem, there would be a **total revolution**: absolutely everything would be overturned to where nothing would remain the same.

### Quoting *The Pulpit Commentary on Ezekiel 21:27*:

"I will overturn, overturn, overturn it." "I will overthrow. ..."

A. The Lord thus declares his determination to overthrow again and again the government of the Jews, until the coming of the Messiah, their rightful Sovereign.

B. These **revolutions are not accidental; they do not occur by chance**. They are brought about under Divine arrangements. God being the great "Ruler over the nations," they cannot take place, to say the least, without his permission. Being Supreme, all things are either originated or allowed by him. The sacred Scriptures assert this. "Neither from the east, nor from the west, nor yet from the south, cometh lifting up. But God is the Judge. He putteth down one, and lifteth up another;" "He bringeth princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity;" "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will;" "His kingdom ruleth over all. He removes the leader of a nation's affairs, and disorder, disturbance, and immense change follow. He sends the light of truth to oppressed peoples, and they arise and claim their freedom. But what shall we say of dark and terrible changes? Let us take an example — the carrying of the Jews captive into Babylon. Whether we look at the

sacred temple, or the celebrated city, or the fertile country, or the favoured people, how dark and sad it was! But look again. It saved the people, of whom the Messiah was to come, from idolatry, and so from utter ruin. Viewed in their Divine aspect, these revolutions are benevolent. Holy beings may advance calmly and evenly towards perfection. But disordered, sinful beings need great changes and rude shocks to banish hoary superstitions, and abolish cruel despotisms, and prevent ruinous inaction. **While sin is here there must be unrest and change.**”

**Observe:**

**1) “revolutions are not accidental; they do not occur by chance.** They are brought about under Divine arrangements,” and, we must add, revolutions are also brought about under Divine management. The revolutionaries, or anarchists are under the Lord’s total control. (Ps 76:10)

**2) revolutions can be benevolent.** Brought about or permitted by God, we know that they are for His greater good. (Rom 8:28ff.)

**3) “While sin is here there must be unrest and change.”** Though revolutions by the wicked against any Christian law order are distressing to say the least, they are to be expected as they work to fulfill God’s plan. (Isaiah 57:20.)

**4) Revolution is required in order for restoration to take place.** The wicked plan and work for chaos in order to overthrow a social order. However, God uses revolutions to bring about his godly social order.

**Ezekiel 21:27 could read** *A ruin, ruin, ruin, I will make it. There shall not even be a trace of it (the old throne of Israel) until He comes whose it is, and to Him will I give it.*

**Three is an interesting number.** Three stands for that which is solid, real, substantial, complete, and entire. All things that are especially complete are stamped with this number three. (Isa 6:3, Rev 4:8) Thus, Ezekiel speaks as though the complete overthrow or ruin has already taken place.

At this season of the year, we celebrate the coming of the **One whose right it is to wear the crown and the diadem.** From His heavenly throne, He is even now overthrowing or ruining all the anti-Christ powers of this world.

The reference here in Ezekiel and in Haggai is to the three-fold overturning of the world’s social structure that exalts the wicked. The exalted shall be humbled, and the humble shall be exalted. (See Matt chapter 5.)

**Luke 3:5** *Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;*

To use modern terms, both the apostate, anti-Christian church and the anti-Christ state shall be overturned to make room for the rightful and true Civil Ruler and the true High Priest, Jesus Christ.

**SECOND:** Ezekiel 21:27, *whose right it is.* The word **right** means more than simply a right to do, say or to possess something. It means right in the term of JUSTICE. **Jesus Christ is Justice incarnate** in the flesh. He represents justice. He alone can bring justice, and He will enforce justice and overturn the wicked, **Isaiah 11:1-5 & John 5:22, 7:24.**

**Ezekiel 21:27** *Until he come whose right it is* - He came 2000 years ago. **Right** is a word used here in contrast to the wicked Jewish rulers who had previously worn the crown of the throne of David; it is used here in contrast to the wicked Jewish men who had worn the diadem of the high priest. It especially refers to wicked Zedekiah.

We cannot understand the implications of the Lord’s birth apart from the Old Testament prophecies.

His coming **reversed history** from its downward path toward total destruction. If we do not recognize that Christ came to reverse history, we are in danger of reducing the birth of Christ to no more than a nice pleasant, and expensive, gift-giving event, rather than the history changing, earth-shattering event that it was.

**Mary, did you know**

that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?

Did you know

that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?

This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

**Mary, did you know**

that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?

Did you know

that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?

When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

**Mary did you know..**

The blind will see.

The deaf will hear.

The dead will live again.

The lame will leap.

The dumb will speak

The praises of The Lamb.

**Mary, did you know**

that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know

that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?

Did you know

that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?

The sleeping Child you're holding is the great "I am"

**Jesus Christ's mother**, Mary, understood exactly what would take place with the birth of her Son, Jesus. Months before her Son would be born, she knew that He would overturn, upset, change and reverse the history of fallen man according to the ancient prophecies.

**Luke 1: 46** And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, **47** *And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.* **48** *For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.* **49** *For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.* **50** *And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.* **51** *He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.* **52** *He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.* **53** *He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.* **54** *He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;* **55** *As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.*

**Observe:**

**V. 48**, she makes mention of the exalting of the low.

V. 50, she did not restrict His foretold work to Israel. The promise of His overturning wickedness is for all who fear Him and against all who are proudly against Him.

Vv. 51, 52, she tells of this great overturning of the Lord against the wicked as He brings down the exalted.

V. 53, she tells of the reversal of the rich and poor, or the proud and the humble.

V. 52, she expands the mercy of God to all people everywhere who have the faith of Abraham.

In the past history of the Church, the rulers of this earth forbade the use of Mary's song because they correctly saw that it was a revolutionary song. **By banning Mary's song which celebrated the overturning of the mighty of this earth, the earthly powers were able to change the emphasis of Christmas from a time of celebration of the coming of the King of kings who would overturn all of the kingdoms of men in due time, to a sentimental emphasis of worldly peace and good will.**

Accordingly, we see that the purpose of His coming involved exalting the low and putting down the high. It involved shaking up and overthrowing the world's social order. According to Peter, Christ had to return to heaven from where He would send the *Spirit of truth*. (John chapters 14, 15.) **In John 16:7-11**, Christ told His disciples that when He returned to heaven, He would send the Spirit. The Spirit would not only comfort the Elect, but He would reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He would subdue the nations to Jesus Christ.

"Joy to the world" is proclaimed because the Lord has come. He is now in the process of completely overturning all the works of the enemy of all righteousness, and advancing the Messiah's kingdom over all the earth.

**Ezekiel 21:26** *Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. 27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.*

In Ezekiel 21:26, 27, we see 1 Corinthians 1:19 to 2:5 in action. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ **overturned** the might, wisdom and the power of this world.

**Hebrews 12:25-29** tells us that from the time of the giving of the law at Sinai **through** the time when the King was born in Bethlehem, to the time of the fall of Jerusalem in the Roman-Jewish war of 66-70 AD, there was a great shaking of men and nations. All of the great powers of the past were **overturned**, or *ruined* by the shaking of God from His heavenly throne.

The author of Hebrews 12, goes on to say that the second and final shaking, or overturning is now under way. It started with the birth of Christ and will continue until all **anti-Christ men and nations are overturned**.

The supernatural coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and His ascension promises us that He is now overturning all things made by man. All things that can be shaken will be overturned because they are not established upon the rock, the Word of God. What God establishes cannot be shaken, whether nations, churches, families, communities, societies, &c. (Matt 7)

Only by faith can we rejoice that we live in a tumultuous day of shaking. The shaking shall **overturn** all that is opposed to the Kingdom of God on earth.

**1. The prophet Haggai** spoke during the apparent downtrodden condition of the church. He promised that the coming King would subdue the whole earth to Himself through a series of "earthquakes," *I will shake, 2:7*.

**2. History is shown to as a continual earthquake.** And the name of this earthquake is Jesus Christ, the One who was born 2000 years ago. Everything that is outside of Him shall be **overturned before His visible return**.

**Isaiah 60:6-10 & 61:6** promises that the wealth of the nations and all their glory will, in God's time, be brought into Christ's kingdom. Our God is a consuming fire, and He will destroy the false structures of history, and make the whole earth His kingdom.

**3. The joy of our Lord's birth** is the knowledge that God has invaded history in the person of His Son. His army, the Gospel Church, is on the march with the world-wide proclamation of the Prince of Peace, His atonement, His Kingdom and His law.

His people must see history as Christ's march to victory against the *gates of hell* which started 2000 years ago in the humblest way in a manger.

**4. Our Lord is declared to be the One** "*whose right it is.*" He alone has the right to judge, and His justice is on the march.

Based upon the promises of men and men's laws, the world is a place of bitter, cruel injustice, masquerading as justice and right. The promises of men are only empty words because man has no means to accomplish his promises. All of their proclamation of peace and good will are only clouds without water as bondage and hatred continue to grow without Christ.

Hebrews 7:2 tells us that Christ alone is the Prince of Peace; He alone can bring peace and justice to this sin-cursed world of fallen men.

**Acts 3:15**, Peter identifies Jesus as the *Prince of Life*, who is even now reclaiming what Adam yielded to the *Prince of Death*.

Christ's reclaiming started in the manger and continues on with the earthquakes. These earthquakes, or judgments, allow no peace to fallen man without Christ, no matter how hard he tries to put the pieces back together.

Earthquakes are in individual lives, and in the nations of the world. The songs that we sing at this time of the year speak of the joy and peace that only Christ can bring, e.g., "Joy to the world."

History shows us that when one side in a war realizes it is facing defeat, it enters into its most bitter conflict. **Revelation 12:12** tells us that **the devil knows that his time is short**; therefore, the battle that is being waged by the enemy is the "hottest" since his defeat by the conquering King at the resurrection.

**Colossians 2:15** *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

**"He whose right it is."** Christ is Justice incarnate in the flesh. He will make right all wrong, and He will bring history to its God-appointed purpose and conclusion. We are told of this great conclusion of history in

**Revelation 21:3**

*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men**, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

[Read and note that the tabernacle of God is identified as Jesus Christ. Those in Christ are in the tabernacle of God.]

Is it any wonder that the angels who knew these things openly rejoiced with singing... "*Glory to God in the highest...*", or that the shepherds returned from Bethlehem glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen?

Is it any wonder that the powers of this world have replaced the victorious babe in the manger with nothing but sentiment?

The first church was a persecuted church, an illegal church which had its members being hauled off to be killed in the sports arenas, yet it was encouraging its members to give to one-another and to the needy. How could they do this in the face of death?

**Because they saw themselves** through the victory of the **Great Overturner**. They saw themselves as kings, priests and prophets in Jesus Christ. In anticipation of that victory, they were to recognize their calling to manifest the royal virtue to be generous. The example of giving was the giving of the Son of God to an undeserving people.

The confidence in the Son of God, the conquering King of kings gave the feeling of such great wealth, even in poverty, that they gave readily to others in need and for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Even though the birth of Christ is celebrated without a command from Scriptures, it was seen by the early church as the day that ruled over all the seasons, because without the birth of Christ, there was no Resurrection (Easter), no ascension into the heavens to be at the right hand of God, no intercessor between God and man and no Overturner to return the world to its rightful King.

Even the most hardened sinner must follow the time that is governed by His coming so many years ago. History moves toward His ordained conclusion. We are in Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords. His people are called to be kings, priests and prophets in His kingdom. We do indeed have great tidings of comfort and joy to sing about. Not only to sing about, but to tell the world about.

We need the confidence of the early Church, a Church which was persecuted and slaughtered like sheep all the day long. It was an illegal and underground organization, yet they rejoiced so much in their calling in the victory in the Great overcomer, Jesus Christ, that they celebrated His day with the giving of gifts to the needy and to one another. They shared what they had with those around them.

We celebrate the birth of the One who even today is **overturning** the great Antichrist kingdoms of the world.

We should be singing “Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace on earth and good will toward men.”

Our Redeemer-King came 2000 years ago to overturn or overthrow the kingdom of darkness, and to establish His kingdom of light. There is no reason to be captive to sin nor discouraged concerning the turmoil around us. The very *gates of hell* cannot withstand the kingdom of *the Lord and his Christ*, for the prophets of old have assured us that our Lord and King will overturn the dark kingdoms of this world, and He shall return and reign forever and forever.

Bro Need