

## Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

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For the past few weeks we have studied the prophecies surrounding the Christmas season, and then we did a Year End review of 2016, from a prophetic standpoint. I also relayed what I believe are the key signs of the times that Christians should be aware of and follow, to see God's plan for the ages unfold before our eyes.

In all of these sessions, we looked at relevant prophecies in both the OT and the NT that supported both what happened in Bethlehem and what will happen in the future.

Today I want to pick back up the discussion on the books of Ezekiel and Daniel. I will touch the parts that we have discussed before but spend our time on the other important prophecies for our time in these two books.

Ezekiel was part of the second wave of captives taken from Judah to Babylon. Daniel had already been in Babylon for 9 years by the time Ezekiel got there. Daniel was in the city and Ezekiel was in the country. Daniel is an easier book to understand because Ezekiel has more apocalyptic visions and prophecies, but both are critical to understand the days ahead, in our present time.

Ezekiel gives us a vision of what the chariot of God looks like, and describes a cherub in a very early vision. We see similar visions later in the book and can see the scenes pictured in our mind's eye as we read the very colorful and highly descriptive verses. We see the awe and majesty of God as well as His Glory mentioned. We have discussed this already.

Ezekiel also gives us some view into the future resurrection of the nation of Israel. These prophecies are the dry bones prophecies we discussed in the lesson last week. Israel is a true miracle of God and we see that fact plainly as we read the prophecies and compare them to the actual facts.

We also talked about the future wars fought in Israel and the alliances that will be made before that day comes. These are the **Psalm 83** war and the Ezekiel 37 **Gog and Magog** war.. This is where the land of Magog and its leader Gog, the prince of Rosh, gather support from the nations identified as Iran, Turkey, Syria and Assyria (ISIS and some of Iraq). *Read and listen to these recorded books on my website for more discussion and exposition.*

Ezekiel has more for us to understand and discuss. Ezekiel has a future-look at Israel's enemies and what would be their fate as God punished them.

**Ezekiel 25:1-7** is a prophecy on **Ammon**. The Ammonites do not exist today but were a tribe in the area of today's Jordan near the capitol of Amman. Ammon rejoiced when Israel's temple was destroyed.

*<sup>6</sup> For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet, rejoicing with all the malice of your heart against the land of Israel, <sup>7</sup> therefore I will stretch out*

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*my hand against you and give you as plunder to the nations. I will wipe you out from among the nations and exterminate you from the countries. I will destroy you, and you will know that I am the LORD.”*

**Ezekiel 25:8-11** is a prophecy against **Moab**

Moab is just to the west of the Jordan River, also in modern Jordan. The Moabites cease to exist as a people because they made fun of Judah’s fall.

*<sup>10</sup> I will give Moab along with the Ammonites to the people of the East as a possession, so that the Ammonites will not be remembered among the nations; <sup>11</sup> and I will inflict punishment on Moab. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”*

**Ezekiel 25:12-14** is a prophecy against **Edom**.

The Edomites are interesting and have an interesting history. Another name for them is the **Idumeans** and their land was south and west of Jerusalem. If you remember in the book of Genesis, Isaac and Rebekkah had twin sons...Esau and Jacob. Esau was the oldest and was “red” in color and was a man of the field. Jacob was a man of the house and was close to his mother. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew, and then when Isaac was at the point of death, with Rebekkah’s help, Jacob tricked his father into giving him the blessing intended for Esau. This became a bitter feud between the brothers and Jacob had to flee.

God intended and declared that Jacob to be the blessed one and the descendants of the Jews would come through **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**. This means **NOT** Ishmael, or Esau. Even though Esau and Jacob were brothers, God’s line of blessing was not based on genetics but on His sovereign will. Ishmael became the progenitor of the Arabs in Arabia, and Esau was the progenitor of the Edomites. Edom means “red”. King Herod was an Idumean and the people of the land today in Israel who call themselves Palestinians are the descendants of the Edomites. This family feud remains strong today with the Palestinians trying to claim the land drive out the Jews from the land of Israel.

*<sup>12</sup> “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Because Edom took revenge on Judah and became very guilty by doing so, <sup>13</sup> therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and kill both man and beast. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to Dedan they will fall by the sword. <sup>14</sup> I will take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel, and they will deal with Edom in accordance with my anger and my wrath; they will know my vengeance, declares the Sovereign LORD.”*

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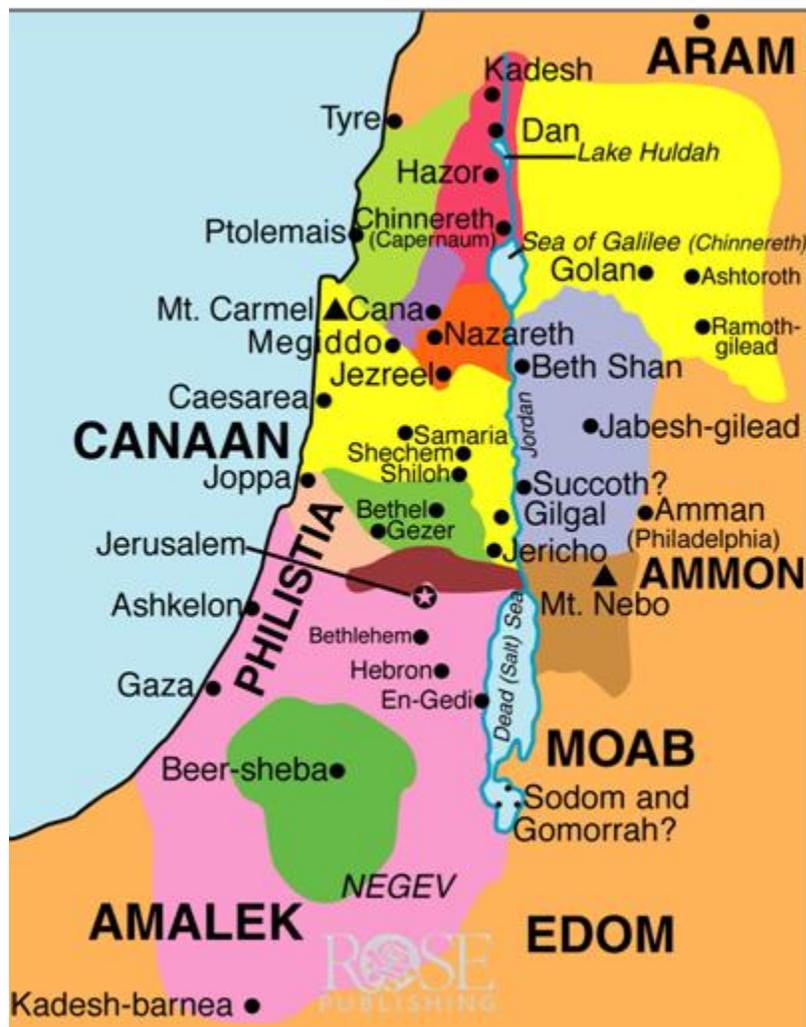
This destruction has not happened yet but any fair minded view of the situation in Israel today makes it plain that the “Edomites” hate the Jews and will not make peace with them. This conflict will end in violent combat between the two of them. Israel will exact the vengeance of the Lord *in His time*.

**Ezekiel 25:15-17** is a prophecy against **Philistia**

**Ezekiel 26:1-21** is a prophecy against **Tyre**

You can read these verses yourself but Philistia has been destroyed as a nation and people and they have been totally assimilated by the local people groups. Similarly the Phoenicians had the upper Mediterranean region. Today Lebanon, Israel and Syria hold these coastal areas with Gaza remaining under Palestinian control (Hamas), and are a designated terror sponsor/group.

Tyre was completely destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the people were killed and city plundered. Nebuchadnezzar was God’s agent to inflict judgment on them



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Other prophetic judgments against Egypt and her allies, as well as restorative prophecies about Israel are also laid out. We discussed the “Dry Bones” prophecy and the “two Sticks” prophecy last week.

The final prophecy I want to discuss in Ezekiel is the **Millennial Temple in Ezek 40:1 through 43:27**.

Beginning in Ezek Ch 40, we are taken on a tour of details of a new temple which will be built and used in the Millennial Kingdom by the Jews. Some believe this is an ancient temple already built and destroyed, but these details have no reference in Biblical history. Others think this is metaphorical and it represents the church and does not truly represent a view of a future temple. However, the detail of measurement and outline does not correlate with any kind of metaphor where Ezekiel would just stay with themes and generalizations. The only other way to take it is in this way:

If God’s word is true, and this is not a metaphor or a prophecy already fulfilled, then it must be a view of a future temple in a future time. If this is so, then we can be assured that God’s history told in advance will come true...literally *and grammatically just as He has told us*.

Ever consider what the future MK Temple will look like? If you want a tour let the Angel in Ezekiel Ch 40 guide you.

*40 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the LORD was on me and he took me there. <sup>2</sup> In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were <sup>3</sup> some buildings that looked like a city. <sup>3</sup> He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. <sup>4</sup> The man said to me, “Son of man, look carefully and listen closely and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the people of Israel everything you see.”*

In the chapters that follow, very detailed measurements are laid out by the angel using the measuring cord. They describe a large temple area with multiple gates, walls, preparation rooms, and areas for sacrifice. I have to admit, I really don’t understand what God is telling me about this. I understand the temple, the furnishings, the visual importance to the Jews of having a temple, but I don’t understand the need for a sacrifice system. Since Jesus is the full, and forever sacrifice, and we need no other one to be justified and forgiven, why is it there? I have heard many explanations including that the final place in the New Jerusalem and Heaven will not have a sacrifice are, but since the believers are raptured out before the tribulation, and the tribulation is for the conversion of the Jews and punishment of the remaining non-believers, we have to think differently. While I understand the distinction of groups and timing I am not clear on why the Jews need one in the MK. Like much of the Bible, some things are not clear...**yet**. My thinking is that when God wants me to understand this detail,

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He will make it clear, but for now I accept it and believe it because His word is true and His Word speaks history in advance.

Nearly three chapters are devoted to the MK temple so it is important to God. His instruction to Ezekiel was to listen and watch carefully and tell the people of Israel what he saw.

***We leave the book of Ezekiel and move to the book of Daniel.***

### **Prophecy in the book of Daniel**

Daniel relays many stories of God acting in his life to protect and save him. **Daniel in the Lion's Den** is a familiar story to all of us who have grown up in church. The story of **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace** is another miracle of God. The **Writing on the Wall** is a common metaphor we use in today's language, and it comes from a story in Daniel. It means sometimes God directly gives us direction that is visible if we just look. There are many lessons in Daniel about being faithful to God, depending on Him, and trusting Him. Listen to the website audio on Daniel for the chapter by chapter study and explanation.

From a prophetic perspective Daniel was given remarkable prophecies regarding the empires and times of the Gentiles, and also for the future of Israel up to the time of the Second Coming of Christ. We will take a look at these and relate them to the time we are living in today.

### **Nebuchadnezzar's dream**

**Daniel Ch 2:1-16** Nebuchadnezzar had a recurring dream he could not understand. He went to his wise men and counselors for interpretation. He would not tell them the dream itself because if he did they could just make up an interpretation and he would not trust it... so he told them **they** must tell him his dream and then interpret it or he would have them all killed.

*Then the astrologers answered the king,<sup>[5]</sup> "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."*

*<sup>5</sup> The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. <sup>6</sup> But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."*

*<sup>7</sup> Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it."*

*<sup>8</sup> Then the king answered, "I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided: <sup>9</sup> If you do not tell me the dream, there is only one penalty for you. You*

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*have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me.”*

<sup>10</sup> *The astrologers answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. <sup>11</sup> What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.”*

<sup>12</sup> *This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>13</sup> So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.*

<sup>14</sup> *When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. <sup>15</sup> He asked the king’s officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. <sup>16</sup> At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.*

<sup>17</sup> *Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>18</sup> He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. <sup>19</sup> During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven <sup>20</sup> and said:*

*“Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are his.*

<sup>21</sup> *He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.*

*He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.*

<sup>22</sup> *He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.*

<sup>23</sup> *I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.”*

### Daniel Interprets the Dream

<sup>24</sup> *Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”*

<sup>25</sup> *Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.”*

<sup>26</sup> *The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”*

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<sup>27</sup> Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

<sup>29</sup> “As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. <sup>30</sup> As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

<sup>31</sup> “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. <sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. <sup>34</sup> While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. <sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; <sup>38</sup> in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. <sup>40</sup> Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. <sup>41</sup> Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. <sup>42</sup> As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

<sup>44</sup> “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

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<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. <sup>47</sup> The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

<sup>48</sup> Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. <sup>49</sup> Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court



All of these **Gentile Kingdoms** have come and gone *except the last one*. Interestingly the Legs of Iron is the original Roman Empire. The fact that it is pictured as two legs depicts the split between the Eastern

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Empire in Constantinople and the Western Empire in Rome. This split and the resulting religions that came from it are the reason we have the **Roman Catholic Church**, and the **Orthodox Churches**...Greek, Russian, etcetera. When Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the Empire he moved the HQ to Constantinople, now called Istanbul.

The last of the Gentile Empires will be what is called the “Revived Roman Empire. It will be constituted from the original area where the Roman Empire ruled. Europe and parts of the Mediterranean countries will be in it. It is made of clay and iron, which doesn’t bond strongly together. This indicates it will be a weak empire. Many people believe the EU is the forerunner of this empire. This will be the genesis of the one world government in the final time of the earth before the judgment and second coming. It will also form the religious alliance we call the One World Religion, much as Roman Catholicism did in the middle ages across Europe. Any study of church history will reveal the power of this religious empire in these areas. The roots are still in these countries awaiting the revival.

The Rock is God Himself as Jesus Christ who, when He comes, smashes this empire to bits in what we call Armageddon just before the Great White Throne Judgment occurs.

If you pay attention you can see the movement of the ecumenical pressures and the yearning for a global governance to “fix” the world’s problems. Unwittingly these events are fulfilling the ancient prophecies in our lifetime.

Next week we will look at another far reaching prophecy in Daniel...called Daniels 70 weeks.

The **Angel Gabriel** interrupted Daniel's prayer and gave him a four-verse prophecy that is unquestionably one of the most remarkable passages in the entire Bible: **Daniel 9:24-27**.

These four verses include the following segments:

- 9:24 The Scope of the Entire Prophecy;
- 9:25 The 69 Weeks;
- 9:26 An Interval between the 69th and 70th Week;
- 9:27 The 70th Week.

Read them before we meet next week, as well as the other backup I have listed for the prophecies in Ezekiel and Daniel. If you go to my website you can find them

[www.jmlay.com](http://www.jmlay.com)

Click on “lessons”, then the Old Testament part and pick the book and chapter.

***See you next week.***