

Prophecy Through the Bible - Prophets

Last week we finished Jeremiah Ch 25, where we read his prophecy that the captivity in Babylon would last for 70 years. This is important because in the book of Daniel, the Prophet Daniel recognizes this prophetic truth and prepares for the release of the captives, who return to Jerusalem under the protection and blessing of Cyrus, King of Persia, to rebuild the city and the Temple. It happens in the 70th year of captivity. ***Biblical Prophecy is History written in advance by God's prophets.*** It is truthful, accurate and fulfilled literally.

Jeremiah 25:30-38 also includes a poetic description of the **Judgment to Come**.

³⁰ *“Now prophesy all these words against them and say to them:*

*“The LORD will roar from on high;
he will thunder from his holy dwelling
and roar mightily against his land.*

*He will shout like those who tread the grapes,
shout against all who live on the earth.*

³¹ *The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth,
for the LORD will bring charges against the nations;
he will bring judgment on all mankind
and put the wicked to the sword,”*
declares the LORD.

³² *This is what the LORD Almighty says:*

*“Look! Disaster is spreading
from nation to nation;
a mighty storm is rising
from the ends of the earth.”*

³³ *At that time those slain by the LORD will be everywhere—from one end of the earth to the other.
They will not be mourned or gathered up or buried, but will be like dung lying on the ground.*

³⁴ *Weep and wail, you shepherds;
roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock.
For your time to be slaughtered has come;
you will fall like the best of the rams.^[1]*

³⁵ *The shepherds will have nowhere to flee,
the leaders of the flock no place to escape.*

³⁶ *Hear the cry of the shepherds,
the wailing of the leaders of the flock,
for the LORD is destroying their pasture.*

³⁷ *The peaceful meadows will be laid waste
because of the fierce anger of the LORD.*

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*³⁸ Like a lion he will leave his lair,
and their land will become desolate
because of the sword of the oppressor
and because of the LORD's fierce anger.*

This set of verses describes the Lord coming from Heaven like a Lion (the Lion of Judah) with a mighty roar, bringing judgment on all mankind. This judgment will NOT occur until the Second Coming of Christ. The believing "church" will have been called home at the Rapture, seven years before this judgment, and the 7 year tribulation period will occur in the 7 intervening years. We will talk about that later.

Those who are false shepherds of the flock will also be destroyed as well. All of the non-believers will have been unmasked and God will judge them physically and in the Great White Throne Judgment.

The New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:27-40

²⁷ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of people and of animals. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant," declares the LORD. ²⁹ "In those days people will no longer say,

'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.

*³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.*

³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them declares the LORD.

³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

³⁵ This is what the LORD says,

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*He who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—*

the LORD Almighty is his name:

³⁶ *“Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,” declares the LORD, “will Israel ever cease being a nation before me.”*

³⁷ *This is what the LORD says:*

“Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done,” declares the LORD.

³⁸ *“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when this city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹ The measuring line will stretch from there straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn to Goah. ⁴⁰ The whole valley where dead bodies and ashes are thrown, and all the terraces out to the Kidron Valley on the east as far as the corner of the Horse Gate, will be holy to the LORD. The city will never again be uprooted or demolished.”*

This is a powerful prophecy of Grace and the New Covenant to be given to those yet to come. Remember, Jeremiah wrote this 600-700 years before Christ, and 2700 years ago.

What does it mean? It means that God would establish a new covenant with His people, not dependent on keeping the external Law but that the Law would be written in both their mind and hearts. This is the covenant we Christians live under. Yet all who would come to the Lord will have to come in this way. There is no other way to gain salvation, other than through the Lord and His promises.

He also confirms the nation of Israel and its survival. Only if man can measure the heavens and the foundations of the earth will the Lord reject the descendants of Israel. We are part of these descendants having been accepted into the family of God by our belief and acceptance of Christ.

Many other prophecies exist in Jeremiah, and when you read the book you will see the trials and tribulations he went through by being God’s prophet, and being faithful to do what God commanded him to do.

You will also see prophecies concerning the Nations, including Egypt, The Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Babylon, Assyria and Damascus, and Elam (Persia or Iran today). The book of Jeremiah contains hundreds of prophecies and is dramatic proof that Biblical prophecy is fulfilled literally.

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Prophecy in Ezekiel

I have done extensive teaching on this book and I will not repeat it here. You can go to jmlay.com and find both the audio and teaching notes from those lessons. I will cover some things that are key about the book and also those things that set the stage for this Christmas season that is fast approaching.

Background

Ezekiel was a prophet of the Babylonian Captivity or Exile. He was taken to Babylon as a young boy 11 years before the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians, and before the Kingdom of Judah ceased to exist. The Northern Kingdom (Israel) had been destroyed and inhabitants either killed or carried off to Assyria over 100 years earlier. This should have been a warning to Judah, but it wasn't taken seriously.

Ezekiel and Daniel – Daniel had already been in captivity for 9 years before Ezekiel got there. Daniel lived and worked in the palace, Ezekiel was in the country with the common folk.

Ezekiel and Jeremiah – Jeremiah was older and perhaps Ezekiel was his pupil before his captivity. Jeremiah was preaching in Jerusalem and Ezekiel in the countryside of Babylon among the captives but their message was essentially the same, the certainty of Judah's punishment for her sin.

Many of Ezekiel's visions re-appear in the [Book of Revelation](#)

- Cherubim (Eze 1 and Rev 4)
- Gog and Magog (Eze 38 and Rev 20)
- Eating of the Scroll or book (Eze 3 and Rev 10)
- The New Jerusalem (Eze 40 and Rev 21)
- River of the water of Life (Eze 47 and Rev 22)

There are so many prophecies in this wonderful book it is hard to limit our discussion, but go listen to the recorded lessons for more chapter by chapter detail. IT is also useful to have guidebooks or commentaries to these more difficult books...Difficult because of symbolism, not of message. I can recommend them if you want to go deeper although I mention them in my previous notes on the books.

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Next week I will begin in Chapter 1 of Ezekiel because I want to focus your thoughts on something that will be important as we come to the Christmas lesson this year.

Ezekiel 1 - Ezekiel's Inaugural Vision

1 In my thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

2 On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—³ the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians: There the hand of the LORD was on him.

4 I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal,⁵ and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human,⁶ but each of them had four faces and four wings.⁷ Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze.⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. All four of them had faces and wings,⁹ and the wings of one touched the wings of another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.

10 Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle.

11 Such were their faces. They each had two wings spreading out upward, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body.¹² Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went.¹³ The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it.¹⁴ The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.

15 As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces.¹⁶ This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like topaz, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel.¹⁷ As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not change direction as the creatures went.¹⁸ Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.

19 When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose.²⁰ Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

21 When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

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²² *Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked something like a vault, sparkling like crystal, and awesome. ²³ Under the vault their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body. ²⁴ When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty (Heb. **Shaddai**)-like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.*

²⁵ *Then there came a voice from above the vault over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. ²⁶ Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. ²⁷ I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. ²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.*

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

We will begin here next week

Schedule for the remainder of December –

Since Christmas Day is on Sunday, the Pastor has decided not to have SS, and to have a devotional and singing service at the normal 11:00am time. While I cherish the time we get to spend each week, I know the routines and would not expect many of you to come for Bible Study with children and grandchildren visitation.

So I will have the Christmas lesson on Sunday morning, December 18th, and a little bit of a lead up next week. I want to continue to tie prophecy to Christmas, and hopefully fill in a few gaps on how the prophecies actually predict and relate to this First Coming. In addition, I have several previous Christmas lessons on the website for your listening pleasure.