

FOR MINE HOLY NAME'S SAKE

Ezekiel ch.36 vv 21-23

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When I was a young teenager I can remember being told by a number of Identity believers that the situation in the world could not get any worse. That was in the early 1960s. What has happened since that time is that the nations of the world have declined in every aspect of what is defined as civilisation, that is being civil. I believe it is going to get a lot worse before Divine intervention saves the day.

Satan's ministers of righteousness are now reigning in the halls of power.

'For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.'

2 Corinthians ch.11 vv 13-15

Whether this be in the churches or in the affairs of world government, the kings of the earth have surrendered their authority to the rulers of darkness of this world.

'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.'

Ephesians ch.6 v.12

In my opinion the incurable issues of the world are to be seen in a dying-patient, where no amount of medication or care can reverse the inevitable last struggling breaths of life. No one wants to see the patient suffer, so it is better to hasten the end with the legal medication, whilst providing the needed comfort. The world's debt crisis is a good example. No matter what is decided by the money fraternity the end result will be the same, namely that the '... merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn ...' (Revelation ch.18 v.11). A little over a decade ago the world's debt exceeded the wealth of the world. How much simpler it would be if we obeyed the Divine Laws that related to the cancellation of debt.

Jeremiah the weeping prophet, like Jesus, who wept over Jerusalem (Luke ch.19 v.41), saw the inevitable finish of Israel and

Jerusalem during their lifetime. Whilst many in the Western world surround themselves with modern comforts they are unable to see the writing on the wall. In the meantime, for those who can read the signs, our prayers should be for those who are maintaining the faith of our Fathers to the end. We should be praying for the shortening or docking of those days for the elect's sake.

'And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.'

Matthew ch.24 v.22

Study of the Scriptures is vital (see 2 Timothy ch.2 v.15) in these times of uncertainty as well as asking in our prayers to be '... unspotted from the world' (James ch.1 v.27), is also essential.

The pride (Leviticus ch.26 v.19) of true Israel has to be broken. In a twist of history Satan's ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians ch.11 vv 13-15), I believe are playing a major role in bringing Israel to a humbled position. Just as Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon was considered a servant of the Lord (Jeremiah ch.25 v.9), when he carried away much of the Southern House of Israel to Babylon, so today leaders in the West are carrying away Israel's people. Again in Judges ch.3 v.12 we are told that God strengthened Eglon King of Moab against Israel, because Israel performed evil.

We are being carried away, not so much to other countries, but rather to other gods and false teachings. In 1 Timothy ch.6 vv 20-21 we are given a warning about false science or knowledge. It is interesting that the word 'knowledge' comes from the Greek word 'gnosis' which is linked to the teachings of the Gnostics, who caused havoc in the early church. As I am sure you are aware of the snares that are being offered by our leaders to the people, there will be no need to delve into these matters. Jeremiah ch.27 tells how the people are being lied to. The false teachers are saying that everything will be alright.

For a long time the Identity Movements have been accused of relying on association with Israel for eternal Salvation: For the genuine identity believer this is utterly false. Our Salvation is in Christ alone and not in our genealogical connection with Israel.

'Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.'

Acts ch.4 v.12

It is the covenants with our founding Fathers that we can be thankful for, because the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob cannot lie. The Bible is very clear about the unfinished Servant work of Israel. It is my opinion that the Western nations are in the very early stages of being given the message of who they are and what will be their destiny. In the meantime we will look more to the false religions of the world in the hope that they will bring us gain.

‘Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.’

1 Timothy ch.6 v.5

As a consequence it is no wonder that Karl Marx, who was very aware of Old Testament teachings, stated that ‘... religion is the opiate of the people’. Even though the teachings of Christ are a way of life, religion has become a crutch to lean upon.

The hypocrisy of these accusations is that whilst many will try to remind us of the above false accusation, they willingly support the belief that the Jews are God's chosen people and the State of Israel is the fulfilment of the Jews' return to the Promised Land. It is my opinion that a very small percentage of present day Jews are descended from Israel of the Old Testament.

What Christ did condemn was the pride and arrogance of the Pharisee. This is well illustrated in Luke ch.18 vv 9-14 where v.11 relates,

‘The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican’.

Again in Matthew ch.3 vv 7-9 we read how Jesus condemned the Pharisees and Sadducees who were relying on the association with Abraham. Christ said that God could raise up Israel from the stones on the ground.

Even though I believe we have not reached the bottom of the barrel, we are assured that those days will be ‘...shortened, ... for the elect's sake ...’ (Matthew ch.24 v.22). Now the Bible is very clear as to who are the ‘elect’ (see Isaiah ch.45 v.4). It is of interest that the word ‘shortened’ means ‘to dock’ as in the same manner as the cutting off of a dog's tail. It is from the base of a Greek word, meaning to curtail: figuratively to ‘chastise’. Now when you put these thoughts together

you arrive at the following confirmation of Scripture. It is true that Israel was to become the tail and not the head due to her disobedience and also the lenders were to enslave her.

‘The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.’

Deuteronomy ch.28 vv 43-44

It is of interest that the word ‘tail’ means to curtail, that is to cut off at the rear. So it appears that God is allowing us to become the tail so that we might be chastised. It is like a parent who allows their child to learn from their mistakes. In the meantime the parent grieves for the child because of unnecessary pain. Nevertheless we are told,

‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts’.

Isaiah ch.55 vv 8-9

In view of what has been written there are two points that will be commented upon:

1. Israel's chastising. May I suggest reading Hebrews ch.12 vv 1-11 especially vv 5-7.
2. God is allowing history to unfold so as His Name might be glorified **‘for his holy name’s sake’**.

From life we learn that the purpose of chastising someone, by means of discipline, is to bring about moral improvement or to refine or purify. Proverbs ch.3 vv 11-12 says,

‘My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth’.

Psalms 94 v.12 links chastening and the Law when it says,

‘Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law’.

The following quote from, *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, edited by S. Renn is of interest in regards to Israel,

‘What is important to note here is that such admonition or chastening is never an end itself - at least as far as the elect, the faithful in Israel, are concerned. Their chastening is temporary, albeit severe, for in the end the mercy and faithfulness of God to His Covenant promises will always guarantee their ultimate preservation and salvation’.

This chastising even directly affected Christ as expressed in Isaiah ch.53 v.5 which says,

‘But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed’.

One translation says, ‘... the punishment that bought us peace was upon Him’. The chastising of God even extended unto the Church of Laodicea as stated in Revelation ch.3 v.19. This was the church that was lukewarm and is to be spued out of God's mouth. The patience and disciplining of God shows His everlasting mercy.

The chastening that is referred to in Hebrews ch.12 could not be clearer as to who such disciplining and correction is intended, namely the Hebrew people. In Jeremiah ch.2 v.19 it says,

‘Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts’.

The word ‘correct’ in this verse is the same as the word ‘chastise’.

Now to the second point. Even though the prime purpose for chastising Israel was to bring about moral purity in the context of charity and discipline, there appears to be a greater reason. This is expressed in Ezekiel ch.36 v.22 which partly says, ‘for mine holy name’s sake’. Isaiah expresses so eloquently the reason why Israel needed to be refined and tested,

‘For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? And I will not give my glory unto another. Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last’.

Isaiah ch.48 vv 11-12

Making His mighty power known is associated with His holy name as seen in the following Psalm,

‘Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known’.

Psalm 106 v.8

God's own purpose, grace and mercy is also very much part of the sprinkling of clean water and the new heart that is to be given to Israel. 2 Timothy ch.1 v.9 & Titus ch.3 v.5 ought to be read in association with Ezekiel ch.36 v.25. The three aspects of God's character and His holy name are totally independent of any righteous works that we might possess. Also this calling out was foreordained from before the beginning of time.

The first Commandment is most relevant as regards preserving the Holy name of God. In Deuteronomy ch.6 v.14 Israel is instructed not to follow the gods of the people around them. The jealousy feature of God is closely linked to the required exclusive devotion of Israel the wife to her maker and husband, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Commandments and the worshipping of only one God are linked in with the Covenants in 2 Kings ch.17 vv 34-40.

Throughout the whole of Israel's history there is no reason why God should even show favour, except for a remnant that kept the faith. This is not only seen in Ezekiel ch.36 v.22 where we are told that Israel profaned the name of God but also in Deuteronomy ch.9 vv 5-6 which says,

‘Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people’.

Despite the constant stiff-necked nature of Israel, I believe it is within the planned providence of God, to circumcise the heart of Israel so as they will have no more a stiff-necked attitude. The mystery of God's special dealings with Israel is something that is not totally accepted within the growing apostate church of today. It is when the Holy name is put upon the children of Israel (Numbers ch. 6 v.27) that the real meaning for Israel's existence shall then become a blessing to all nations in its completed fulfilment. During this period the proper relationship between the Body and Bride of Christ will be recognised.

One of the reasons why Israel's fulfilment is not clearly understood is because the churches have generally accepted the view that we as individuals choose Jesus, not the other way around. The national teachings of the Bible is generally overlooked as seen in the usual explanation of the Parables of the Kingdom. The message is all personal. It is invariably not considered that the word Kingdom is made up of two words: the King, that is Jesus Christ, and the dominion. The dominion is made up of the people, the law and the land. It is God's choosing out of the world of these four aspects that makes all the difference. In both the Old Testament (Covenant) and New Testament (Covenant) the process of choosing is very clear as shown in Isaiah ch.41 v.8 & John ch.15 v.16. In both these verses there is both the national and personal application of God's choosing.

It is therefore very clear that God has not only put His hand on Israel, but also His Name (see Numbers ch.6 v.27). When it is realised what God has done for His people, the real meaning of the name Israel will then become a reality, for those who have been chosen will rule as princes in the Kingdom of Christ on this earth. In the meantime the historical reality of Isaiah ch.42 v.19 is so evident when it says,

'Who is blind, but my servant?, or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?'

When this blindness is lifted, Israel will not only be God's salvation unto the ends of the earth (Isaiah ch.49 v.6), but the knowledge of the Lord's Glory will also fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk ch.2 v.14). In the light of these few thoughts how much more meaningful are the words,

'... I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, ...'

Ezekiel ch.36 v.22

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