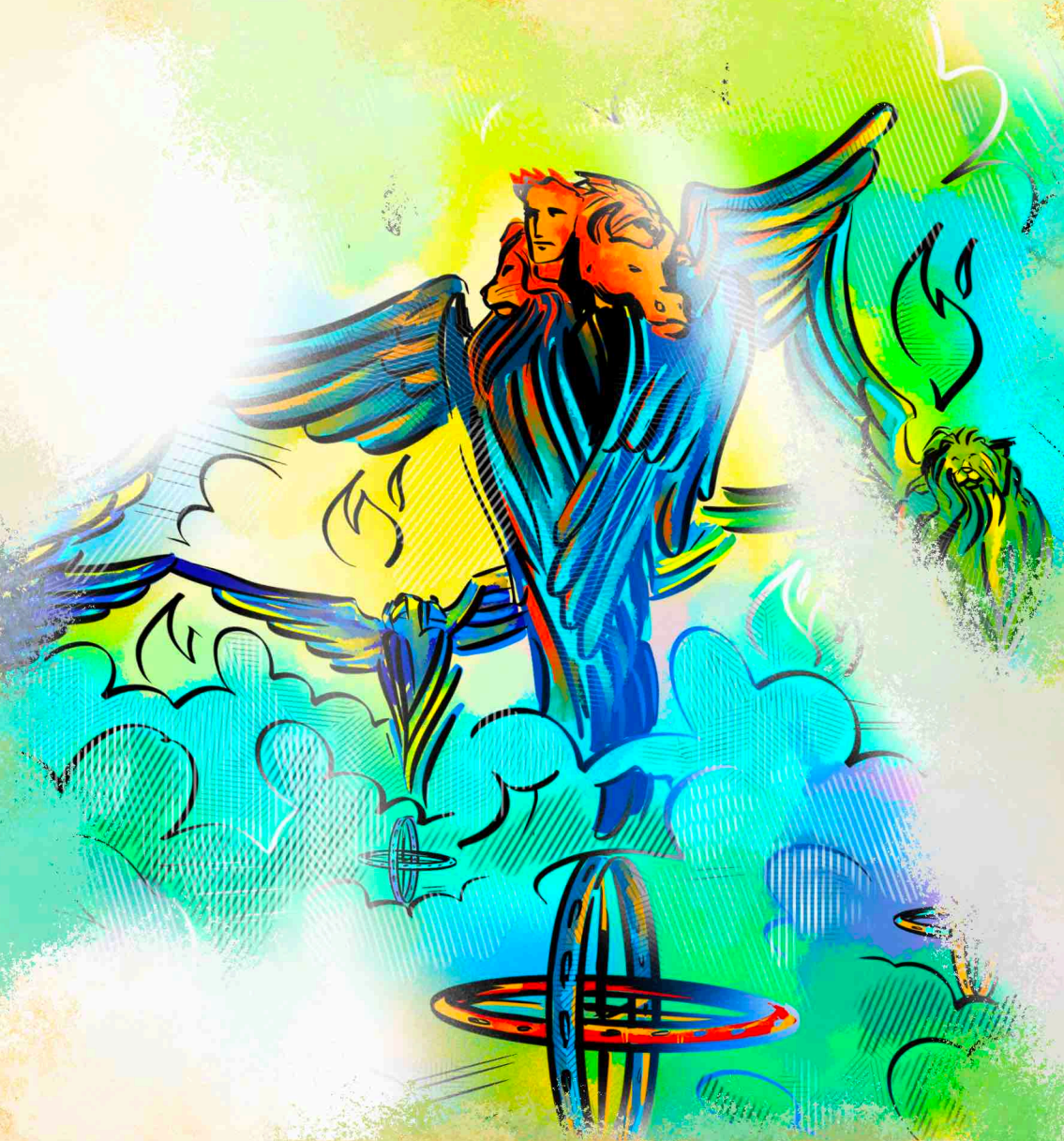


Through the Bible

EZEKIEL

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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EZEKIEL



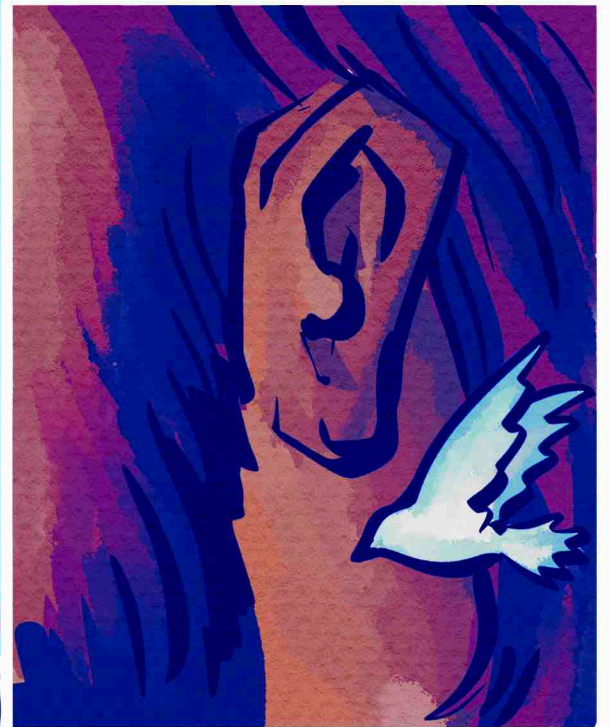
EZEKIEL WAS A MAN WHO WAS GREATLY **INFLUENCED** BY **JEREMIAH**. HE WAS IN BABYLON FOR AT LEAST 25 YEARS. GOD HAD **TRIED** FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS, THROUGH JEREMIAH, TO **SAVE** THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH FROM HAVING TO GO TO BABYLON AS A **PUNISHMENT**. BUT THEY HAD **NOT** LISTENED TO HIM. FINALLY, THE LORD SAID, "THE BEST THING FOR YOU NOW IS TO **ACCEPT** MY CHASTENING. YOU HAVE TO BE PUNISHED. **SUBMIT** TO THE KING OF BABYLON AND GO TO BABYLON JOYFULLY." BUT EVEN IN BABYLON, GOD GAVE THEM TWO PROPHETS -- **EZEKIEL** AND **DANIEL**. THIS SHOWS GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE EVEN WHEN THEY ARE BEING **DISCIPLINED** OR IN A **BACKSLIDDEN** STATE.



EZEKIEL WAS THE SON OF A PRIEST WHO WAS TRAINING TO BE A PRIEST (1:3). BUT WHEN HE WAS 30 YEARS OLD, GOD SUDDENLY CALLED HIM TO BE A **PROPHET** WHO NOT ONLY SUFFERS AT THE HANDS OF THE **PEOPLE**, BUT **GOD'S** HAND ALSO IS **HEAVY** ON HIM MOST OF THE TIME.



THE LORD TOLD PETER, "WHEN YOU ARE OLD, SOMEONE WILL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU WON'T LIKE TO GO" -- INDICATING HOW PETER WOULD **SUFFER** BUT PETER IMMEDIATELY, POINTING TO JOHN, ASKED THE LORD, "WHAT ABOUT **HIM**?" "... IF GOD CALLS YOU TO A MINISTRY WHICH INVOLVES SUFFERING, **DON'T** LOOK AT ANYBODY ELSE.



THE **THIRTIETH** YEAR SEEMS TO BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT TIME IN PEOPLE'S LIVES -- BOTH IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS. **JOSEPH** WAS 30 WHEN HE BECAME RULER IN EGYPT. **DAVID** WAS 30 WHEN HE BECAME KING. **JESUS** WAS 30 WHEN HE BEGAN HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY. MOST OF THE **APOSTLES** WERE AROUND 30 WHEN THEY BEGAN THEIR MINISTRY.

AND **EZEKIEL** TOO WAS 30 WHEN HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY. IF YOU **SURRENDER** TO GOD TOTALLY AND ALLOW HIM TO **PREPARE** YOU DURING YOUR **TEENS** AND **TWENTIES**, THEN YOU CAN BE READY BY THE TIME YOU ARE 30 (OR 35), FOR THAT **SPECIFIC** MINISTRY THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOU. BUT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE **CHAFE** UNDER SUCH **SUBMISSION** TO AUTHORITY AND, AS A RESULT, ARE **NEVER BROKEN** AND PREPARED FOR THE MINISTRY THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR THEM. EVEN **JESUS** NEEDED THAT TRAINING TO **SUBMIT** TO **JOSEPH** AND **MARY** FOR 30 YEARS BEFORE HE ENTERED INTO HIS MINISTRY. HOW MUCH **MORE WE?** **EZEKIEL** MUST HAVE SUBMITTED TO **JEREMIAH**, IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS. HE MUST HAVE LISTENED TO **JEREMIAH'S** PROPHECIES AND **STUDIED** THEM AS A YOUTH. GOD WHO SAW THE **FAITHFULNESS** OF THIS YOUNG MAN, DECIDED THAT **EZEKIEL** WOULD BE A **PROPHET** AND NOT A **PRIEST**.

ONE DAY, GOD OPENED THE HEAVENS OVER **EZEKIEL** AND GAVE HIM VISIONS OF HIMSELF AND A MESSAGE FOR HIS PEOPLE. "ON THE FIFTH OF THE MONTH IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF KING **JEHOIACHIN'S** EXILE, THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME **EXPRESSLY** TO **EZEKIEL**" (1:2, 3). GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO US ALL THE TIME. BUT BECAUSE OF THE **LIMITATIONS** OF OUR **MIND** AND ITS **WARPING** (CAUSED BY **SIN**), WE CAN HEAR HIS VOICE **CLEARLY** ONLY **OCCASIONALLY**. **JESUS** WAS THE ONLY PERSON WHO HEARD HIS FATHER SPEAKING TO HIM **CONTINUOUSLY** AND **CLEARLY**. EVEN THE **APOSTLE PAUL** SAYS IN ONE OF HIS LETTERS THAT HE WAS **NOT SURE** WHETHER WHAT HE WAS **WRITING** WAS FROM THE **HOLY SPIRIT** OR NOT (1 CORINTHIANS 7:12, 25, 40).



THE **HAND OF THE LORD** CAME **UPON** HIM" (1:3) IS AN EXPRESSION THAT OCCURS **SEVEN** TIMES IN **EZEKIEL**. IT MEANT THAT **EZEKIEL** COULD **NOT** DO WHAT HE **WANTED** TO DO. IT WAS LIKE GOD SAYING TO HIM, "NOW, YOU HAVE TO GO **WHERE I** WANT YOU TO GO." WE CAN ALL LIVE LIKE THIS ALL OUR LIVES, IF WE WANT TO, WITH THE **HEAVENS OPEN** OVER US ALL THE TIME. THAT WILL BE EASY, IF YOU **ALLOW** THE **HAND OF THE LORD** TO BE UPON YOU, IF YOU KEEP YOUR **CONSCIENCE** CLEAN, IF YOU **HUMBLE** YOURSELF AND **FEAR** OF THE **LORD**! AT TIMES, WE ARE TOLD THAT WHEN THE **HAND OF THE LORD** WAS UPON HIM, **EZEKIEL** WENT "IN THE **RAGE** OF HIS **SPIRIT**" (3:14). HE DID NOT **FEEL** LIKE GOING, BUT HE WENT BECAUSE HE HAD **SUBMITTED** HIS **LIFE** TOTALLY TO **GOD**.



A **TRUE** SERVANT OF **GOD** DOES **NOT** LIVE BY HIS **FEELINGS**. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER HE **FEELS** LIKE GOING, WHEN **GOD** CALLS HIM TO **GO**. THOSE WHO SERVE THEMSELVES LIVE BY THEIR **FEELINGS**. BUT THOSE WHO SERVE **GOD** GO WHETHER THEY **FEEL** LIKE GOING OR NOT. THEY MOVE BECAUSE THE **HAND OF THE LORD** IS UPON THEM.

CHAPTER 1:26--28:
EZEKIEL THEN SAW
A FIGURE ON A
THRONE
SURROUNDED BY A
RADIANCE LIKE A
RAINBOW SHINING
THROUGH THE
CLOUDS. THE
RAINBOW
SYMBOLISES
GOD'S COVENANT.

EZEKIEL THEN DESCRIBES THE VISION THAT HE SAW. FOUR LIVING BEINGS CAME OUT OF THE CLOUD, EACH HAVING FOUR FACES -- FACES OF A **LION**, AN **OX**, AN **EAGLE** AND A **MAN** (1:5, 10). WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THESE MEANT TO EZEKIEL, BUT WE SEE SOMETHING SIMILAR IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION. THESE FACES COULD REFER TO **CHARACTER-TRAITS** THAT SHOULD BE FOUND IN ALL OF GOD'S SERVANTS -- THE **LION** SYMBOLISING **AUTHORITY**; THE **OX** SYMBOLISING **SERVICE**; THE **EAGLE** SYMBOLISING **HEAVENLY-MINDEDNESS**; AND THE **MAN'S FACE** SYMBOLISING **COMPASSION**. THESE ARE ALL CHARACTERISTICS THAT NEED TO BE FOUND IN ALL OF **GOD'S SERVANTS**.

THEN EZEKIEL SAW SOME WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS ON THE EARTH THAT MOVED IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE SPIRIT OF THESE FOUR LIVING BEINGS (1:15--20). EACH WHEEL HAD A SECOND WHEEL WITHIN IT THAT TURNED **CROSSWISE**, LIKE A GYROSCOPE. THESE WHEELS ARE A PICTURE OF THE SOVEREIGN WORKING OF GOD IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE COME ACROSS ON EARTH -- CIRCUMSTANCES THAT SEEM TO GO IN ONE DIRECTION SOMETIMES AND IN **ANOTHER** DIRECTION AT OTHER TIMES. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY APPEAR TO US TO BE **HAPHAZARD** AND UNRELATED, BUT GOD IS **SOVEREIGNLY** WORKING IN ALL OF THEM TO FULFIL HIS **PURPOSES**. THE **HOLY SPIRIT** CONTROLS THE **CIRCUMSTANCES** OF OUR LIFE - THE **TOTAL** AND **ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY** OF GOD OVER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES ON EARTH

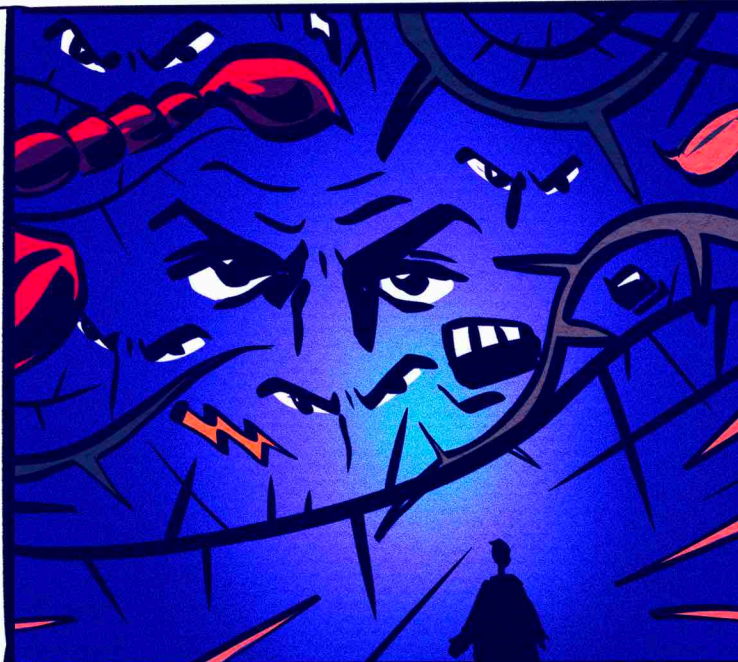
IT SPEAKS OF THE RIMS OF THE WHEELS BEING "FULL OF EYES". THIS SPEAKS OF "THE **EYES** OF THE LORD MOVING TO AND FRO THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH SUPPORTING HIS **WHOLEHEARTED SERVANTS**" (2 CHRONICLES 16:9).

CHAPTER 2: WHAT WE SEE HERE IS A MAN WHO IS TOTALLY UNDER GOD'S **AUTHORITY**. THE LORD SAID TO HIM, "STAND UP. I WANT TO **SPEAK** TO YOU." THE SPIRIT CAME INTO HIM AS GOD SPOKE AND SET EZEKIEL ON HIS **FEET**.

AS WE WAIT UPON GOD, THOUGH WE MAY NOT HEAR AN **AUDIBLE** VOICE LIKE EZEKIEL DID, IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE JUST AS **REAL** AND AS **CERTAIN** A SENSE OF **CALLING** AND A SENSE OF GOD SENDING US AS EZEKIEL HAD. IT MAY TAKE **TIME**.



I REMEMBER A TIME, MORE THAN **40** YEARS AGO, WHEN MY WIFE AND I WERE IN A LOT OF **FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY**, HAVING VERY LITTLE MONEY, A **CHRISTIAN** ORGANISATION INVITED ME TO BE ITS **DIRECTOR**, AND OFFERED ME A GOOD **SALARY**, A FREE **CAR**, FREE TELEPHONE, FREE **HOUSE**, ETC. IF I ACCEPTED THEIR OFFER. IT WAS A **RICH AMERICAN** ORGANISATION MINISTERING THE GOSPEL IN INDIA. I SAID, "NO. I CAN'T DO THAT BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH I AM IN **NEED**, GOD HAS **NOT** CALLED ME TO SIT BEHIND A DESK AND BE AN ADMINISTRATOR. GOD HAS CALLED ME TO GO AROUND PREACHING THE WORD." I AM SO **THANKFUL** THAT I DID **NOT** ACCEPT THEIR OFFER. IT WAS A TEMPTATION -- **NOT** A TEMPTATION TO **SIN**, BUT TO **CHOOSE** SOMETHING GOD HAD **NOT** CALLED ME TO.



THEN THE LORD SAID. "DON'T BE AFRAID EVEN THOUGH THEIR THREATS ARE SHARP AS THORNS, BARBED LIKE BRIARS, AND EVEN THOUGH THEIR **THREATS** STING LIKE SCORPIONS. DON'T BE DISMAYED BY THE DARK SCOWLS ON THEIR FACES." (2:6). ISRAEL **SCOWLED** AT EZEKIEL WHEN HE PROPHESIED, AND THREATENED TO **KILL** HIM. EVERY PROPHET HAS FACED SUCH **OPPOSITION**. BUT GOD STOOD BY THOSE PROPHETS AND HE WILL STAND BY YOU IF YOUR CALLING IS TO SPEAK TO PEOPLE LIKE THIS. THE CONFIDENCE OF THESE PROPHETS WAS IN THE **SOVEREIGNTY** OF GOD.



THIS IS A **FUNDAMENTAL** PRINCIPLE IN ALL MINISTRY OF THE WORD. THE WORD WHICH GOD DESIRES TO SPEAK TO OTHERS **THROUGH** YOU HE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU FIRST OF ALL.

IN CHAPTER 3, THE LORD TOLD EZEKIEL TO **EAT** THE SCROLL HE GAVE. THE MESSAGE WHICH WE GIVE **OTHERS** MUST FIRST BE **EATEN** AND **DIGESTED** BY **US** FIRST. GOD'S WORD WAS SWEET AS **HONEY** IN HIS MOUTH. IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION TOO, THE LORD TOLD **JOHN** TO FIRST EAT THE SCROLL (REVELATION 10:9). ONLY THEN WERE EZEKIEL AND JOHN PERMITTED TO PROPHECY.

THE LORD TOLD EZEKIEL, "YOU MUST GIVE THEM MY MESSAGES WHETHER THEY LISTEN OR NOT" (2:7). EVEN IF THEY DON'T LISTEN, THEY WILL RECOGNISE ONE DAY THAT A PROPHET HAD COME TO THEM. ONCE THE MESSAGE IS GIVEN, THE PROPHET'S RESPONSIBILITY IS OVER. BUT IF HE DIDN'T GIVE THE MESSAGE, THEN THEIR BLOOD WOULD BE ON HIS HANDS.



THE **WORD OF GOD** IS LIKE A **TWO-EDGED SWORD** -- THE **FIRST EDGE** MUST CUT **ME**, AND ONLY THEN CAN I USE THE OTHER **EDGE** TO CUT **OTHERS**. IF IT DOESN'T CUT **US** FIRST, WE WILL BE **HARD** AND **UNMERCIFUL** IN OUR **PREACHING** TO **OTHERS**. SO **EAT THE SCROLL**.



MANY YEARS AGO, I WAS WAITING AT THE RAILWAY STATION IN BANGALORE TO TAKE A TRAIN TO GO TO A SMALL TOWN FOR A WEEKEND OF **MEETINGS**. MY CHILDREN WERE ALL SMALL AND SOME OF THEM WERE **SICK** AND MY WIFE HAD TO LOOK AFTER THEM ALL BY HERSELF. I WONDERED WHETHER I SHOULD **CANCEL** MY TRIP AND GO **HOME** TO HELP MY WIFE. THE **LORD** SPOKE A WORD TO ME AT THAT TIME THAT WAS LIKE A **FRESH REVELATION**. HE GAVE ME **FREEDOM** TO MAKE MY OWN **CHOICE** BUT SAID, "WHATEVER YOU DO, NEVER TAKE A **DECISION** ON THE **BASIS OF FEAR**." I LEARNED A **LESSON** THAT DAY -- NEVER TO MOVE ON THE **BASIS OF FEAR**.

CHAPTER 3:14: "THE **SPIRIT** **LIFTED** ME UP AND TOOK ME AWAY AND I WENT IN BITTERNESS AND TURMOIL. THE **HAND** OF THE **LORD** UPON ME WAS **STRONG**." SOMETIMES WHEN THE **LORD** TELLS US TO GO SOMEWHERE, WE MAY NOT BE AS EXCITED IN OUR **FEELINGS** ABOUT GOING, AS AT OTHER TIMES. THERE MAY BE **FEELINGS** OF TURMOIL IN OUR HEARTS. BUT WE STILL **OBEY** AND GO. PAUL SPEAKS IN 2 CORINTHIANS 7:5 OF "**CONFLICTS** WITHOUT AND **FEARS** **WITHIN**" HIM. PAUL HAD SOME **FEARS**; BUT HE STILL WENT WHERE HE HAD TO GO. HE **DIDN'T** GO BY HIS **FEELINGS**. IF WE GO BY OUR **FEELINGS**, WE WILL NEVER GO WHERE THE **LORD** WANTS US TO GO.



CHAPTER 3:23: "SO I GOT UP AND I SAW THE **GLORY** OF THE **LORD** JUST AS I HAD SEEN IT FIRST. AND I FELL WITH FACE DOWN IN THE **DUST**." HERE IS ANOTHER **IMPORTANT** PRINCIPLE OF MINISTRY: PUT YOUR **FACE** IN THE **DUST** ALWAYS. SOMETIMES IT IS GOOD TO DO THAT ACTUALLY -- **PHYSICALLY**. LIE DOWN ON THE **FLOOR** IN YOUR ROOM BEFORE **GOD** AND SAY, "LORD, THIS IS WHERE I **RIGHTFULLY** BELONG. THIS IS WHAT I AM -- A **NOBODY** IN YOUR EYES."



CHAPTER 3:24--27: "HE TALKED TO ME AND SAID, 'GO SHUT YOURSELF IN YOUR HOUSE. THERE YOU WILL BE BOUND WITH ROPES SO YOU CANNOT GO AMONG THE PEOPLE. I WILL MAKE YOUR TONGUE STICK TO THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SPEAK. WHENEVER I GIVE YOU A MESSAGE I'LL LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE AND LET YOU SPEAK. AND THEN TELL THEM, "THIS IS WHAT THE **LORD** SAYS." SOME WILL LISTEN AND SOME WILL IGNORE YOU. IT DOESN'T MATTER.'"

DO YOU LISTEN TO THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, OR DO YOU LISTEN TO YOUR **REASON**?



JESUS NEVER SAID A WORD TO **HEROD** (LUKE 23:9). LEARN TO LIVE BY THE **PROMPTINGS** OF THE **SPIRIT**. THIS IS WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM **EZEKIEL**.

CHAPTER 4: THE LORD TAUGHT EZEKIEL THROUGH A NUMBER OF SIGNS. HE FIRST ASKED HIM TO MAKE A CLAY TABLET AND THEN TO LIE DOWN ON **ONE** SIDE FOR 390 DAYS AND THEN TO LIE DOWN ON THE **OTHER** SIDE FOR 40 DAYS. EZEKIEL WAS TO BE AN **OBJECT LESSON** TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH WHO WERE IN BABYLON, SHOWING THEM HOW GOD WAS **PUNISHING** JERUSALEM AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH. HE WAS A **LIVING DEMONSTRATION** OF HIS **MESSAGE**.



THE LORD ASKED HIM TO DO SOME STRANGE THINGS LIKE COOKING FOOD WITH **DUNG**, **SHAVING** HIS HEAD AND BEARD, AND KEEPING JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THAT HAIR WITH HIM, TO SHOW THAT ONLY A **FEW** PEOPLE IN ISRAEL WOULD BE SAVED



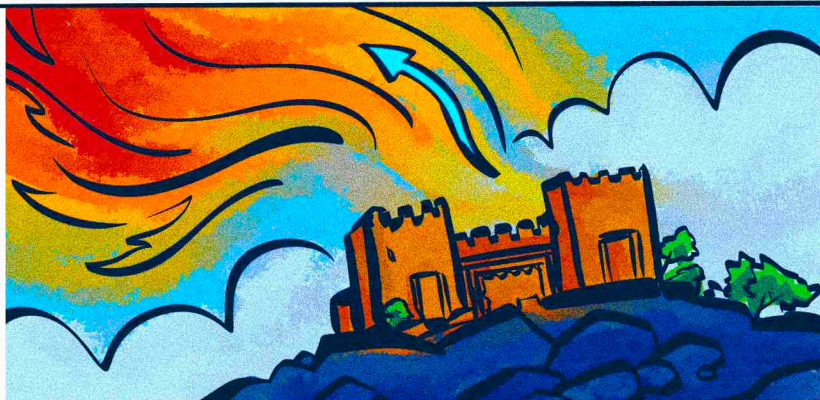
IF YOU BECOME A PROPHET, YOU WILL HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR **GOOD** LOOKS!! IF GOD TELLS YOU TO SHAVE YOUR HEAD, YOU WILL HAVE TO SHAVE YOUR HEAD. YOU CAN'T SAY, "WELL, LORD, THAT WON'T MAKE ME LOOK NICE." HE HAD TO COOK HIS **SIMPLE** FOOD ON DUNG. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR **EASIER** FOR EZEKIEL IF HE HAD BEEN A PRIEST. BUT AS A PROPHET, HE HAD TO BE **DISCIPLINED** IN HIS **EATING** HABITS AND DISCIPLINED ABOUT HIS APPEARANCE. HE COULD NOT BE **BOTHERED** BY WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT ABOUT HIM. HE HAD TO **PLEASE** ONLY **GOD**. IF YOU ARE TOTALLY SOLD OUT TO GOD FROM YOUR YOUTH AND SAY TO HIM, "LORD, I AM NOT INTERESTED IN MY FOOD OR APPEARANCE OR ANYTHING. I WANT TO BE FILLED WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND ANOINTED TO SERVE YOU."



CHAPTER 7:9: WE SEE A TITLE OF THE LORD HERE THAT MANY PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE TO HEAR: 'THE LORD THE **SMITER**,' THE ONE WHO **PUNISHES** WITH JUDGEMENT.



CHAPTER 8, THE LORD SHOWED EZEKIEL THE IDOLATRY THAT WAS GOING ON **INSIDE** THE TEMPLE WHICH WAS WHY HE HAD FORSAKEN JUDAH. GOD GAVE EZEKIEL AN **INSIGHT** INTO THE **SECRET** SINS THAT WERE GOING ON IN THE **MIDST** OF **GOD'S** PEOPLE. GOD WILL GIVE A TRUE PROPHET WORDS TO EXPOSE THE SECRET SINS AMONG HIS PEOPLE THAT OTHERS DO NOT KNOW ABOUT. IN 1 CORINTHIANS 14:24, 25, WE READ OF A **CHURCH-MEETING**, WHERE WHEN PEOPLE SPEAK **PROPHETICALLY**, A TOTAL **STRANGER** WALKS IN AND FINDS THE **SECRETS** OF HIS **HEART** BEING **REVEALED** TO HIM. AND HE FALLS ON HIS FACE AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT GOD IS IN THAT MEETING. THIS IS HOW EVERY CHURCH-MEETING OF OURS SHOULD BE. AND ALL OF US SHOULD COVET TO PROPHECY LIKE THAT. MUCH OF THIS IDOLATRY WAS **NOT EVIDENT** TO PEOPLE ON THE **OUTSIDE**. MANY PEOPLE WHO LOOK **HOLY** ON THE **OUTSIDE** ARE QUITE **FILTHY** ON THE **INSIDE**. THE LORD WAS SAYING, "THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE **MY** TEMPLE, AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON **INSIDE**."



CHAPTER 9:3: BECAUSE OF ALL THIS SIN IN GOD'S HOUSE, THE GLORY OF GOD BEGAN TO SLOWLY **DEPART** FROM THERE. WHEN THE GLORY OF GOD BEGINS TO DEPART FROM A PERSON OR A CHURCH, AND THE ANOINTING, THE **FRESHNESS** AND THE **FIRE** HAVE GONE, THERE IS ALWAYS A **REASON**. THIS IS USUALLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE **CORRUPTED** THEMSELVES THROUGH THE PURSUIT OF **MONEY**, OR **COMPROMISED** IN SOME OTHER WAY, OR BEGUN TO SPEAK TO PLEASE THE PEOPLE. GOD MAY HAVE CALLED **MANY** OF YOU TO SERVE HIM. IF SO, THEN BE **FAITHFUL** AND DON'T LET THE GLORY DEPART FROM YOUR MINISTRY.



CHAPTER 9:4: HERE IS A WORD THAT WE COULD APPLY TO THE CHURCH TODAY, IN THIS WAY: "WALK THROUGH THE CHURCHES AND PUT A **MARK** ON THE FOREHEADS OF THOSE WHO WEEP AND SIGH BECAUSE OF THE SINS BEING COMMITTED IN THE CHURCH." IF GOD WERE TO SEND AN ANGEL TODAY (AS HE DID THEN) TO PUT A MARK ON THE FOREHEAD OF THOSE WHO ARE **WEeping** BECAUSE THE **NAME OF JESUS** IS BEING **DISHONOURED** IN THE CHURCH, HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE MARKED? ARE WE **CONCERNED** ABOUT THAT? GOD **MARKS** OUT PEOPLE WHO ARE **CONCERNED**. AND HERE THE LORD SAID, "KILL ALL THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE MY MARK." EVEN TODAY, ALL THOSE WHO HAVE **NO CONCERN** FOR THE LORD'S NAME WILL END UP **SPIRITUALLY DEAD**. "HALLOWED BE THY NAME," IS THE **FIRST PRAYER** THAT THE LORD TAUGHT US TO PRAY. IF YOU HAVE A **CONCERN** FOR THAT **NAME**, THEN GOD CAN USE YOU TO FULFIL **HIS PURPOSES**.



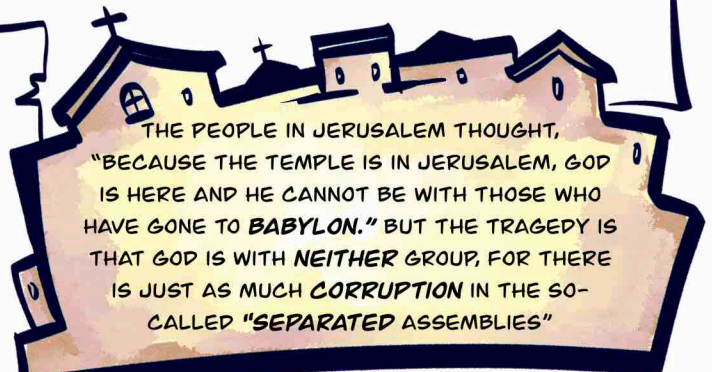
AS THE **ANGEL** BEGAN TO KILL PEOPLE, THE **SEVENTY ELDERS** WERE **KILLED FIRST!** THE **ELDERS** WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THE **LEADERS** OF GOD'S PEOPLE WERE THE ONES WHO HAD THE **LEAST CONCERN** OF ALL. TO WHOM MUCH IS **GIVEN**, MUCH IS **REQUIRED**. SO WHEN JUDGEMENT BEGINS, IT WILL ALWAYS BEGIN WITH THE **LEADERS** IN THE CHURCH. THE **GLORY** OF GOD WAS DEPARTING BECAUSE THE **LEADERS** HAD **FAILED**. IT IS THE SAME **TODAY**.



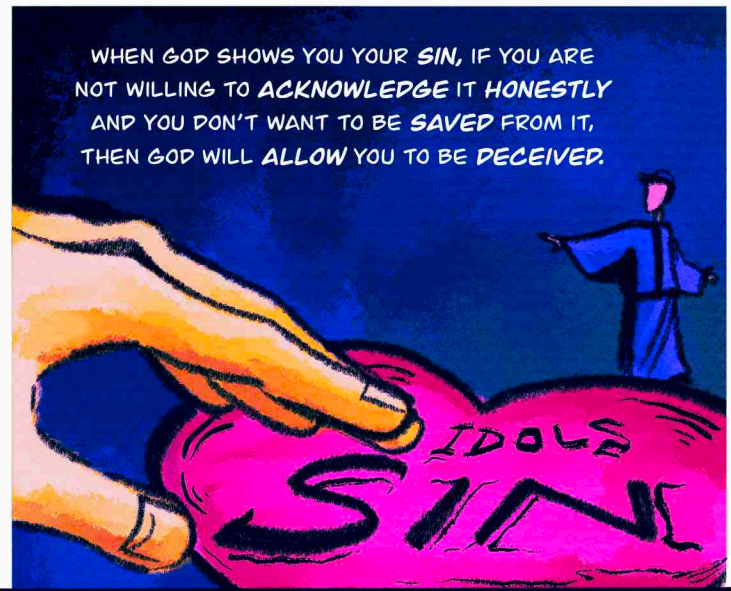
CHAPTER 11:1: AGAIN THE SPIRIT LIFTED EZEKIEL UP AND TOOK HIM TO ANOTHER PART OF THE LORD'S HOUSE AND TOLD HIM TO **PROPHESEY**. THERE HE SAW THE GLORY OF GOD FINALLY LEAVING THE CITY ALTOGETHER. IT IS **INTERESTING** TO SEE HOW **SLOWLY** THE GLORY DEPARTED. THE ANOINTING OF GOD DEPARTS FROM A PERSON AND A CHURCH VERY SLOWLY. GOD DOES NOT ACT IN **HASTE**. BUT WHEN SOMEONE **DELIBERATELY** CONTINUES IN **SIN**, THEN GOD ACTS. THE GLORY OF GOD FINALLY WENT TO THE MOUNT OF **OLIVES**, ON THE EAST OF JERUSALEM (11:23). THE GLORY HAD DEPARTED NOW. BUT ONE DAY IT WOULD COME BACK AS WE SEE IN CHAPTER 43:1--4. THE MOUNT OF OLIVES WAS WHERE **JESUS ASCENDED** TO **HEAVEN** FROM. ONE DAY, HE WILL **COME BACK** IN GLORY AND ARRIVE ON THE SAME MOUNT. IN THAT DAY, THE GLORY OF GOD WILL FILL THE EARTH AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA.



WHILE EZEKIEL WAS **PROPHESEYING**, ONE OF THE EVIL LEADERS NAMED PELATIAH WHO HAD BEEN "**DEVISING SIN AND GIVING EVIL ADVICE**" (11:2) SUDDENLY FELL DOWN **DEAD** (11:13) -- JUST LIKE ANANIAS DIED IN ACTS 5.



THE PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM THOUGHT, "BECAUSE THE TEMPLE IS IN JERUSALEM, GOD IS HERE AND HE CANNOT BE WITH THOSE WHO HAVE GONE TO **BABYLON**." BUT THE TRAGEDY IS THAT GOD IS WITH **NEITHER GROUP**, FOR THERE IS JUST AS MUCH **CORRUPTION** IN THE SO-CALLED "**SEPARATED ASSEMBLIES**"



CHAPTER 13:3: HERE THE LORD REBUKES THE FALSE PROPHETS WHO **DECEIVE** THE PEOPLE WITH "VISIONS" THAT THEY CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN. **DESTRUCTION** IS CERTAIN FOR SUCH **FALSE PROPHETS** AND **FALSE PROPHETESSES** (13:17). THEN THE LORD **REBUKES** PEOPLE WHO HAVE **IDOLS** IN THEIR HEARTS WHO COME **SEEKING** TO FIND GOD'S WILL THROUGH A PROPHET (14:1--3). FALSE PROPHETS WILL READILY GIVE ADVICE TO SUCH PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY GET PAID FOR IT!! GOD HIMSELF **DECEIVES** SUCH FALSE PROPHETS TO DO SO: "IF A PROPHET IS **DECEIVED** AND GIVES A MESSAGE **ANYWAY**, IT IS BECAUSE I THE LORD HAVE **DECEIVED** THAT PROPHET" (14:9). **WHY** DOES GOD ALLOW THESE FALSE PROPHETS TO BE **DECEIVED**? 2 **THESSALONIANS** 2:10, 11 GIVES US THE ANSWER: BECAUSE THEY DO NOT **LOVE** THE **TRUTH** SO AS TO BE **SAVED** FROM SIN.



CHAPTER 16 IS A LOVELY CHAPTER THAT PICTURES GOD'S **LOVE** FOR US AND CAN BE LOOKED AT AS SYMBOLIC OF OUR **SALVATION**. GOD FOUND US WHEN WE WERE IN SIN, UNWASHED AND NAKED. HE **WASHED** US, AND **CLOTHED** US WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF **CHRIST** AND THEN **MARRIED** US. BUT WE HAVE **OFTEN** NOT BEEN **FAITHFUL** TO HIM.

CHAPTER 14:14: HERE GOD SAYS THAT WHEN A COUNTRY SINS AGAINST HIM, "EVEN IF NOAH, **DANIEL** AND JOB WERE THERE, THEY WOULD ONLY BE ABLE TO SAVE **THEMSELVES**." IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE THAT GOD COULD **PRAISE** A **YOUNG** MAN LIKE DANIEL, EVEN WHEN DANIEL WAS **ALIVE** -- FOR DANIEL WAS IN BABYLON AT THAT TIME!! AND HE WAS MUCH **YOUNGER** THAN EZEKIEL. WHAT A **HUMBLE** MAN EZEKIEL WAS TO **APPRECIATE** A MUCH **YOUNGER** MAN. IT'S VERY RARE TO FIND SERVANTS OF **GOD** TODAY WHO CAN **APPRECIATE** **GODLINESS** IN A **YOUNGER** PERSON.



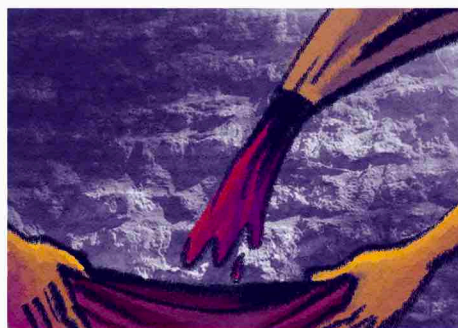
IN 16:49, 50, GOD DESCRIBES THE REAL SINS OF SODOM THAT LED TO THE **DESTRUCTION** OF THAT CITY (IN GENESIS 19). MOST OF US HAVE ALWAYS ASSOCIATED SODOM WITH SODOMY (HOMOSEXUALITY) AND OTHER **SEXUAL SINS**. BUT SEXUAL SIN WAS THE ULTIMATE **RESULT** OF A **WAY OF LIFE**. WHAT WAS IT THAT LED THEM INTO SUCH DEPTHS OF EVIL? HERE WE ARE TOLD THAT SODOM'S SINS WERE ACTUALLY **PRIDE, LAZINESS, GLUTTONY** (LOVE OF GOOD FOOD), AND **NEGLECTING THE POOR AND NEEDY**. THAT WAS WHY GOD WIPED OUT THAT CITY. IT IS **INTERESTING** TO NOTE THAT GOD DOES NOT EVEN **MENTION** THEIR **SEXUAL SIN**.



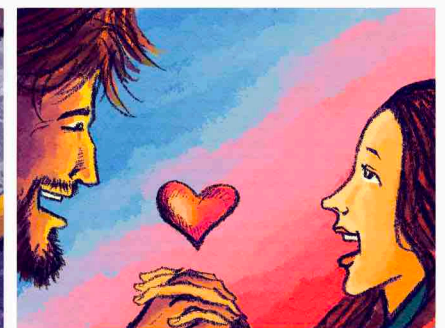
CHAPTER 18: THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT VERSE HERE THAT CAN HELP REMOVE ANY CONFUSION IN OUR MINDS CONCERNING "**GENERATIONAL CURSES**". "WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY USING THIS PROVERB 'THE **FATHERS** EAT THE SOUR GRAPES BUT THE **CHILDREN'S** TEETH ARE SET ON EDGE'" (18:2). THE PEOPLE WERE SAYING THAT SOME CHILDREN WERE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE **SINS** OF THEIR **PARENTS**. THAT IS BELIEVED EVEN **TODAY** BY MANY **NON-CHRISTIANS** AND BY **CHRISTIANS** TOO WHO DO NOT KNOW THEIR **BIBLES**. THE FALSE PROPHETS IN ISRAEL WERE MISINTERPRETING EXODUS 20:5 .THE LORD MADE THIS CLEAR 2500 YEARS AGO. YET, THERE ARE **WELL-KNOWN** CHRISTIAN PREACHERS TODAY WHO TEACH THAT CHRISTIANS CAN SUFFER BECAUSE THEIR **ANCESTORS** WORSHIPPED IDOLS OR ENGAGED IN WITCHCRAFT. THEY SAY THAT A CURSE THAT WAS ON SOMEONE'S GREAT GRANDFATHER CAN COME DOWN TO HIM; AND HE WILL HAVE TO GET RID OF IT BY HAVING IT **CAST OUT**. SUCH TEACHING IS **ABSOLUTE NONSENSE!**



IN CHAPTER 22:30, THE LORD SAYS, "I SEARCHED FOR A **MAN** AMONG THEM WHO SHOULD BUILD THE **WALL** AND **STAND** IN THE **GAP** BEFORE ME FOR THE LAND, BUT I FOUND **NONE**." EVEN TODAY THE LORD IS SEEKING FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL BUILD THE WALL OF **SEPARATION** FROM THE **WORLD** IN HIS CHURCH AND WHO WILL STAND IN THE **GAP** (A GAP CAUSED BY THE DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO OF GOD'S CHILDREN WHO CANNOT **FELLOWSHIP** WITH EACH OTHER) AND PRAY FOR **PEACE** AND **FELLOWSHIP** TO BE **RESTORED**.



CHAPTER 23, WE READ ABOUT THE APOSTASY OF THE TWO SISTER-NATIONS ISRAEL AND JUDAH. BOTH BECAME "PROSTITUTES". THE OLDER ONE (ISRAEL) SYMBOLISES THE **MAINLINE CHURCHES**. THE YOUNGER ONE (JUDAH) SYMBOLISES THE "**SEPARATED ASSEMBLIES**". BOTH HAVE BECOME **SPIRITUAL HARLOTS**. BOTH ARE BACKSLIDDEN. THE NEW **WINESKIN** IS DIFFERENT FROM THE NEW **WINE**.



ONE INTERESTING THING WE SEE HERE IS THE **INTIMATE, LOVING RELATIONSHIP** THAT EZEKIEL HAD WITH HIS **WIFE**. WE CAN SEE THIS IN THE WAY GOD REFERS TO HER AS, "THE **DESIRE** OF YOUR **EYES**", "YOUR **DEAREST TREASURE**", "YOUR **LOVELY WIFE**", "THE **DELIGHT** OF YOUR **LIFE**", AND "THE **PERSON YOU LOVE MOST**" (24:16 - IN VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS). EZEKIEL WAS NOT AN **ASCETIC**, BUT A GREAT **LOVER** OF HIS **WIFE**, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A **PROPHET**.



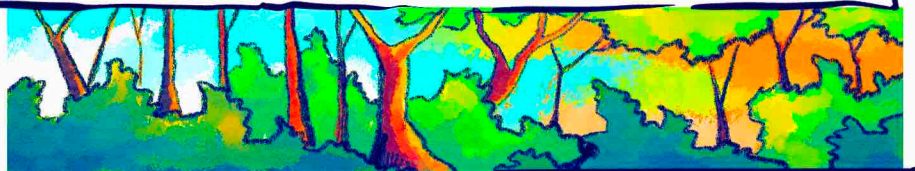
CHAPTER 24: HERE WE READ OF PART OF THE **PRICE** THAT EZEKIEL HAD TO PAY FOR HIS **MINISTRY**. HIS WIFE **DIED** SUDDENLY. THE LORD HAD TOLD HIM, "YOUR WIFE IS GOING TO DIE BUT YOU MUST **NOT WEEP** OR SHED ANY TEARS. DON'T ACCEPT ANY **FOOD** BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR **CONSOLING FRIENDS**" (24:16, 17). AS A PROPHET, HE WAS UNDER THE **HAND** OF GOD AND HAD TO **OBEY**. THERE ARE MANY **LEGITIMATE** THINGS THAT OTHERS CAN DO THAT PROPHETS MAY **NOT** BE **ALLOWED** TO DO. IF YOU ARE A SERVANT OF GOD YOU HAVE TO **LIVE** BY A **TOTALLY DIFFERENT** SET OF **STANDARDS** THAN THE **REST** OF THE **WORLD**.



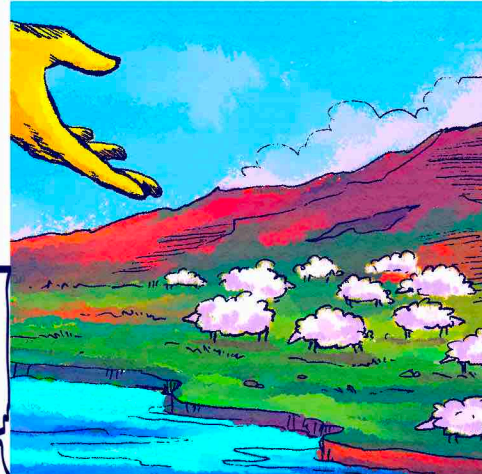
CHAPTER 26:2: HERE WE READ OF THE CITY OF **TYRE** **REJOICING** OVER THE FALL OF **JERUSALEM**. TYRE HAD BEEN JEALOUS OF **GOD'S** BLESSING ON JERUSALEM, BUT NOW SHE REJOICED BECAUSE JERUSALEM'S DESTRUCTION WOULD MEAN **GREATER BUSINESS** OPPORTUNITIES FOR TYRE AND THUS GREATER **WEALTH** FOR HER TOO. SO GOD **WARNS** TYRE THAT SHE IS GOING TO BE **DESTROYED** TOO. THIS IS A WARNING TO ALL THOSE WHO **REJOICE** OVER THE **FALL** OF **OTHERS**. "DO NOT REJOICE WHEN YOUR **ENEMY** FALLS" (PROVERBS 24:17).



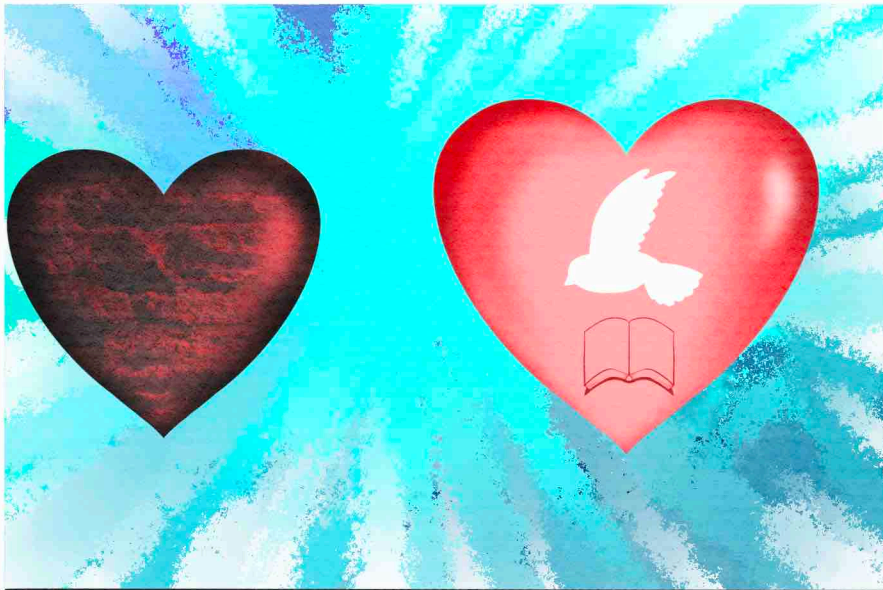
IN CHAPTER 28:11--19, WE READ OF "THE RULER OF TYRE". **SATAN** IS THE RULER OF ALL THE HEATHEN KINGS OF EARTH AND SO HE WAS THE REAL RULER BEHIND THE HUMAN RULER OF TYRE. IN THIS CHAPTER, WE SEE GOD SPEAKING AT TIMES TO THE **HUMAN** RULER OF TYRE AND AT TIMES TO **SATAN** WHO INDWELT HIM. HERE WE READ THAT SATAN WAS FIRST IN THE **ORIGINAL** GARDEN OF EDEN (VERSE 13). THIS WAS THE EDEN THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH MENTIONED IN GENESIS 1:2, AND IS DIFFERENT FROM THE **RE-CREATED** EDEN THAT WE READ OF IN GENESIS 3. AS THE **HEAD** OF THE ANGELS, HE WAS **PERFECT** IN BEAUTY, **BLAMELESS** IN EVERY WAY, WISER THAN DANIEL AND **ANointed** WHEN HE WAS CREATED (28:3, 12, 14, 15). BUT HE BECAME **PROUD** OF HIS **GOD-GIVEN ABILITIES** AND IMMEDIATELY BECAME THE **DEVIL** (28:17). WE SAW AN EARLIER DESCRIPTION OF HIS FALL IN **ISAIAH** 14. PRIDE IS STILL HIS **MASTER-WEAPON** WITH WHICH HE DESTROYS MEN



CHAPTER 33:1--16 SPEAKS OF A **WATCHMAN'S** RESPONSIBILITY TO WARN PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT HE HAS **HEARD** FROM **GOD** AND OF THE **PEOPLE'S** RESPONSIBILITY TO **RESPOND** TO GOD'S **WARNINGS**.



CHAPTER 34 IS A CHAPTER THAT ALL WHO ARE **SHEPHERDS** AND PASTORS OF GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD READ AND MEDITATE ON, TO BE WARNED AND **CHALLENGED**. GOD EXPOSES HERE THE **CARELESSNESS**, THE **GREED** AND THE **SELF-SEEKING ATTITUDE** OF ISRAEL'S SHEPHERDS -- THE LORD FINALLY SAYS, "I WILL **FEED MY FLOCK MYSELF**" (34:15).



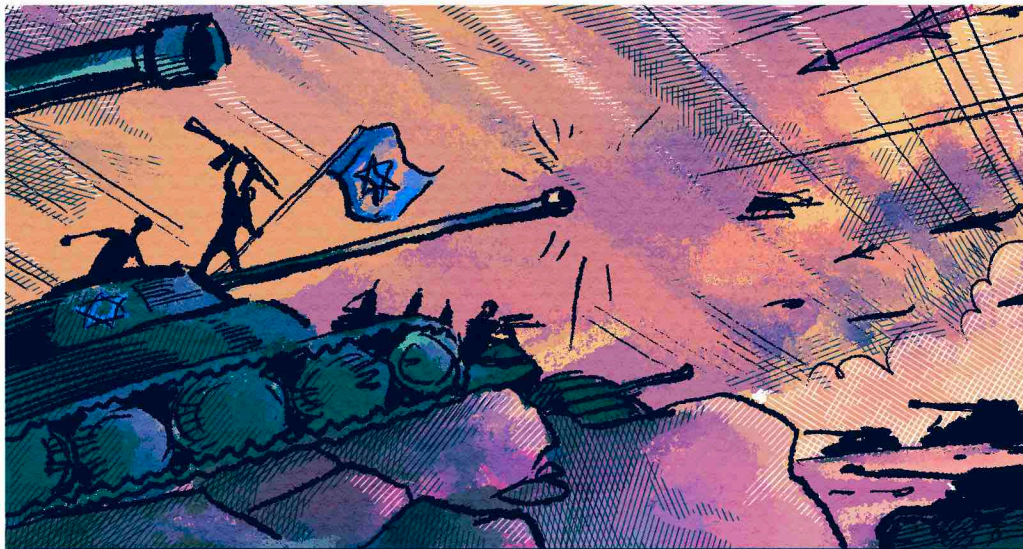
CHAPTER 36:25--37 IS A BEAUTIFUL **PROPHECY** OF **NEW-COVENANT** LIFE. THIS IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, AS GOD INTENDS IT TO BE. HE FIRST PROMISES TO **CLEANSE** US THOROUGHLY, REMOVING ALL **IDOLS** FROM OUR HEART, AND THEN TO **REMOVE** OUR **HARD** HEART AND TO REPLACE IT WITH A **SOFT** ONE, AND THEN TO PUT HIS **HOLY SPIRIT** WITHIN US AND THEN TO MAKE US **WALK** IN HIS WAYS AND **CAUSE** US TO OBEY HIS **COMMANDMENTS** AND THUS TO SAVE US FROM ALL OUR **UNCLEANNESS** (36:25--29). BUT ALL THIS CAN HAPPEN ONLY WHEN WE **PRAY** TO GOD AND **ASK** HIM TO DO IT FOR US



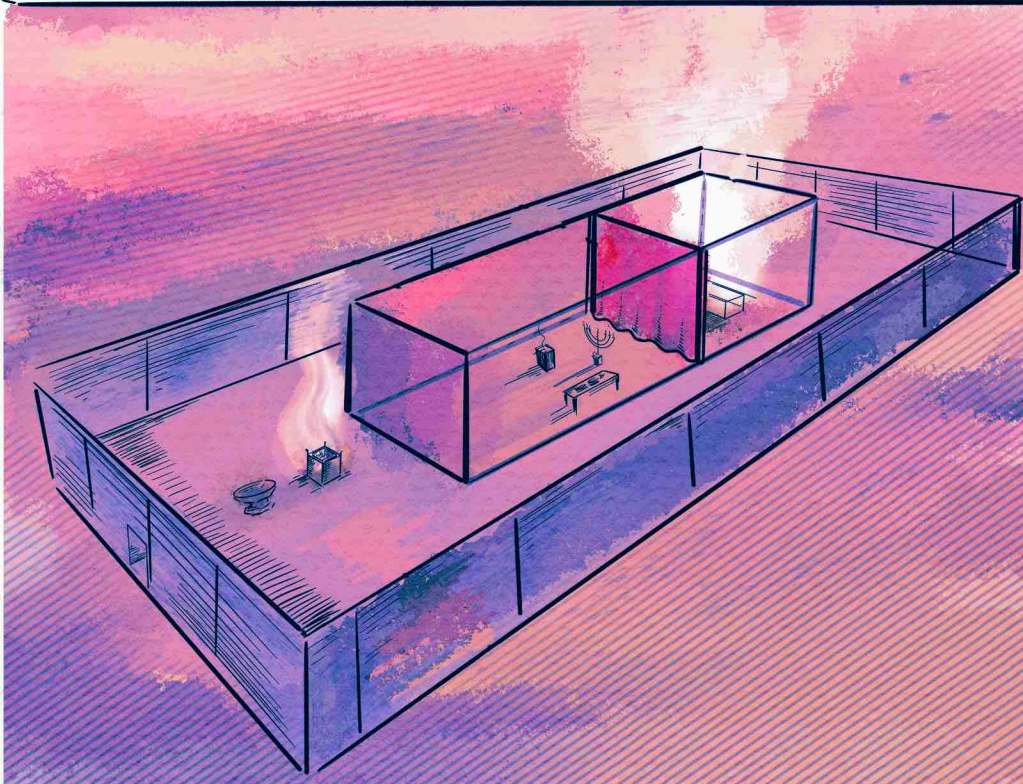
AND WHEN WE COME INTO THIS **GLORIOUS** LIFE, WE "WILL **LOATHE** OURSELVES IN OUR OWN SIGHT" (36:31), AS WE THINK OF OUR PAST LIFE. THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY MARKS OF A **SPIRIT-FILLED** MAN THAT HE **DETESTS** HIMSELF FOR ALL THE **SIN** HE SEES IN HIS FLESH AND **CRIES** OUT SAYING, "O **WRETCHED** MAN THAT I AM. I AM THE **CHIEF** OF **SINNERS**" (ROMANS 7:24; 1 TIMOTHY 1:15). A SPIRIT FILLED MAN DOES NOT SEE ANY SIN IN **OTHERS** BEFORE HE SEES THE **SAME** SIN WITHIN HIS **OWN** FLESH AND HE **LOATHES** HIMSELF FOR IT. THE **CLOSER** WE GET TO GOD, THE MORE **AWARE** WE BECOME OF OUR **OWN** SIN.



CHAPTER 37 IS A PARABLE OF RESURRECTION LIFE. GOD TOOK EZEKIEL TO A VALLEY FULL OF **DRY** BONES AND TOLD HIM FIRST OF ALL TO **PROPHESY** TO THEM. THE WORD OF GOD WENT FORTH AND THE BONES CAME TOGETHER AND **FLESH** COVERED THEM. BUT THEY **NEEDED** SOMETHING **MORE** THAN JUST THE **WORD** OF GOD -- THEY NEEDED THE **HOLY SPIRIT'S** POWER AS WELL, JUST AS WE SAW IN GENESIS 1. THERE WE SAW THAT IT WAS THE JOINT OPERATION OF THE **WORD** OF GOD AND THE **HOLY SPIRIT** THAT BROUGHT LIFE OUT OF DEATH. IT IS THE SAME HERE, AND IT IS THE SAME EVEN TODAY. WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON THESE **DEAD** BODIES, THEY STOOD UP AND IMMEDIATELY BECAME A POWERFUL **ARMY** OF SOLDIERS FOR THE LORD. THIS IS A PICTURE OF WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO IN THE CHURCH TODAY. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE INITIALLY EXACTLY LIKE THOSE DRY BONES, STIFF AND DEAD, DESPITE THE **CORRECTNESS** OF ALL THEIR **DOCTRINES**. AS THEY RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD, THEY BEGIN TO **GATHER** TOGETHER AS CHRISTIANS (BONE COMES TOGETHER TO BONE), AND THEY BEGIN TO LIVE **DECENT** LIVES (THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BEAUTY WHEN THE FLESH COVERS THE BONES). BUT THERE IS ONE MORE THING THAT THESE CHRISTIANS NEED IF THEY ARE TO BE A **MIGHTY** **ARMY** FOR GOD. THEY NEED TO BE ENDUED WITH THE **SUPERNATURAL** **POWER** OF **GOD'S** HOLY SPIRIT.



CHAPTERS 38 AND 39 SPEAK OF GOG, THE RULER OF **MAGOG** -- THE NORTHERN ENEMIES OF ISRAEL WHO WILL ATTACK **ISRAEL** IN THE LAST DAYS JUST BEFORE **CHRIST** RETURNS AND WHO WILL BE **DEFEATED** AT THE BATTLE OF **ARMAGEDDON**.

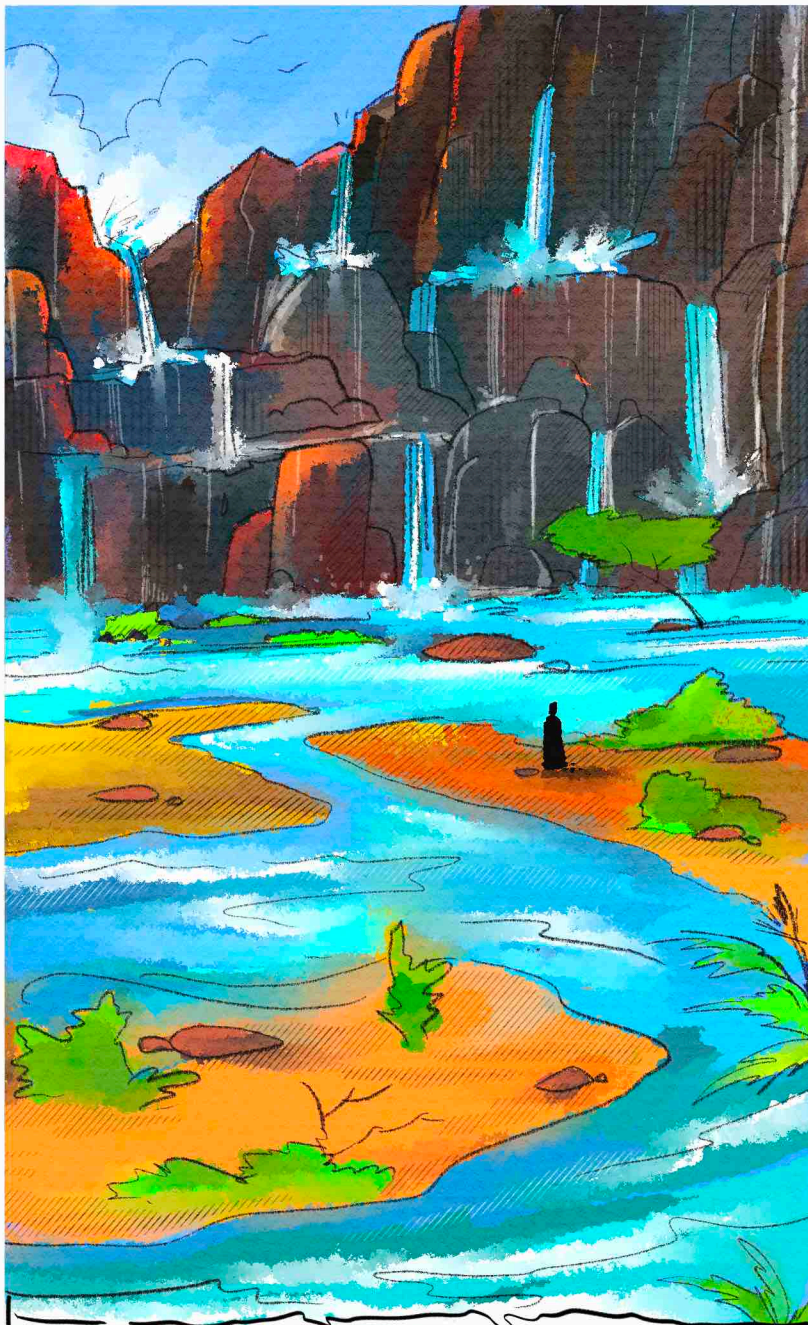


IN CHAPTER 44:9--19, THE LORD SPEAKS OF TWO TYPES OF MINISTERS IN HIS TEMPLE -- SYMBOLISED BY THE SONS OF ZADOK AND THE LEVITES. THE SONS OF ZADOK SYMBOLISE THE WHOLEHEARTED DISCIPLES OF CHRIST WHO ARE PERMITTED "TO MINISTER TO HIM". THE LEVITES SYMBOLISE THE COMPROMISERS WHO ARE PERMITTED ONLY "TO MINISTER TO THE PEOPLE". THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO TYPES OF MINISTRIES. JESUS NEVER SERVED THE PEOPLE PRIMARILY. ALL HIS SERVICE WAS DONE TO THE FATHER ALONE, EVEN WHEN HE SERVED PEOPLE -- AND THAT IS HOW WE MUST SERVE GOD

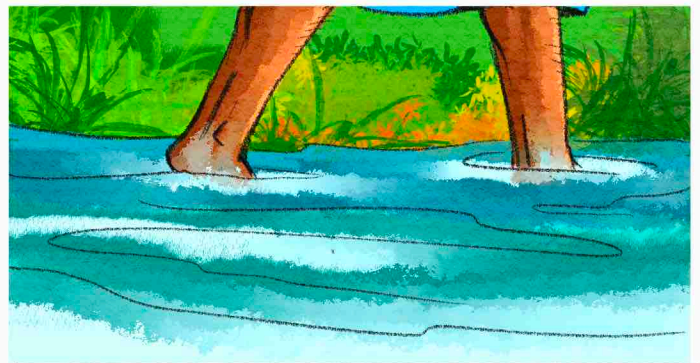
CHAPTERS 40 TO 48 ARE A PICTURE OF **NEW-COVENANT** LIFE AND OF THE **CHURCH**. THIS IS PICTORIALLY DESCRIBED AS A **TEMPLE**. OUR **BODY** IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (1 CORINTHIANS 6:19) AND THE CHURCH IS ALSO THE TEMPLE OF **GOD** (1 CORINTHIANS 3:16). IN CHAPTER 43, WE READ OF THE GLORY OF GOD THAT HAD LEFT THE TEMPLE RETURNING TO THE NEW TEMPLE -- THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH THAT WAS ESTABLISHED FROM THE DAY OF PENTECOST ONWARDS. THE LORD CALLS THE CHURCH "THE PLACE OF MY **THRONE**" (43:7). THE LAW FOR THIS **NEW COVENANT CHURCH** IS DESCRIBED THUS: "ITS ENTIRE AREA SHALL BE **MOST HOLY**" (43:12). IN THE OLD COVENANT TEMPLE, ONLY A SMALL ROOM AT ITS WESTERN END WAS CALLED "**MOST HOLY**" -- WHERE GOD **DWELT**. BUT IN THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH, THE ENTIRE CHURCH (TEMPLE) IS **MOST HOLY**. TO BUILD THE CHURCH AS GOD'S TEMPLE TODAY, WE MUST FOLLOW THIS ONE **FUNDAMENTAL LAW** -- **ABSOLUTE HOLINESS** FOR EVERY MEMBER IN IT. **SIN** MUST NOT BE **TOLERATED** IN ANY FORM IN ANYONE.



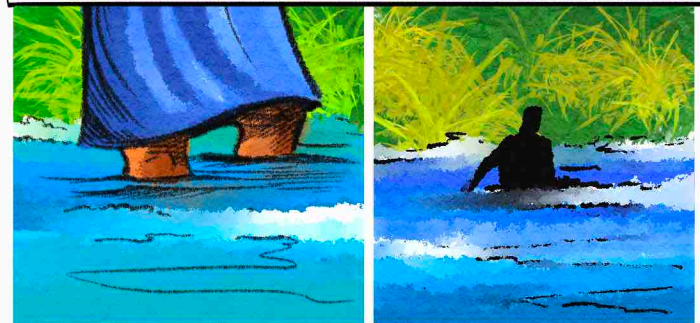
IT IS WHEN WE BEGIN TO **SERVE THE PEOPLE** THAT **TEMPTATIONS TO COMPROMISE** AND TO **PLEASE PEOPLE** ENTER IN.



FROM SUCH A HOLY TEMPLE (**SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH OR SPIRIT-FILLED INDIVIDUAL**) A TRICKLE OF WATER BEGINS TO FLOW OUT THAT BECOMES A **RIVER** AND FINALLY BECOMES **MANY RIVERS** (CHAPTER 47). THIS IS THE PASSAGE WHICH JESUS **QUOTED** IN JOHN 7:37--39, WHERE HE SPOKE OF "RIVERS OF **LIVING WATER** FLOWING OUT" FROM A MAN WHO IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS IS WHAT BEGAN ON THE DAY OF **PENTECOST** AND HAS BEEN FLOWING THROUGH **GODLY MEN** AND **WOMEN** EVER SINCE. THIS LIFE BEGINS AS A LITTLE **TRICKLE** BEFORE IT BECOMES A **BIG RIVER** AND **MANY RIVERS**.



IN CHAPTER 47:3--6, THE LORD GAVE EZEKIEL A LITTLE **TASTE** OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE A **SPIRIT-FILLED** LIFE. HE LED EZEKIEL **STEP BY STEP** INTO THIS RIVER. AFTER **WALKING** IN IT FOR ABOUT **500 METRES** THE WATER REACHED EZEKIEL'S **ANKLES**.



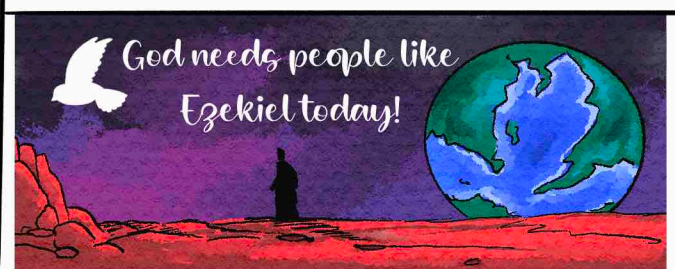
AFTER ANOTHER 500 METRES, IT CAME UP TO HIS **KNEES**. AFTER ANOTHER 500 METRES, THE WATER CAME UP TO HIS **WAIST**.



AND AFTER YET ANOTHER 500 METRES, IT WAS SO **DEEP** THAT EZEKIEL HAD TO LIFT HIS **FEET** OFF THE **GROUND** AND BE CARRIED BY THE **CURRENT** OF THE RIVER. WE CAN GO **FORWARD** IN OUR WALK WITH GOD **CONTINUOUSLY** AS EZEKIEL DID; OR WE CAN STOP AT SOME POINT. NOTICE THIS ALSO: WHEN THE WATER WAS UP TO EZEKIEL'S ANKLES, OR UP TO HIS KNEES, OR EVEN UP TO HIS WAIST, HIS FEET WERE STILL ON THE **GROUND**. BUT IT IS WHEN OUR FEET ARE TAKEN OFF FROM THE EARTH, THAT WE KNOW THAT WE ARE REALLY **FILLED** WITH THE **SPIRIT**. AT THAT POINT, WE ARE "**DETACHED** FROM THE **EARTH** AND FROM **EARTHLY INTERESTS** AND FROM ATTACHMENT TO **MATERIAL THINGS**" AND WE BEGIN TO BE "LED BY THE **SPIRIT**, ACCORDING TO THE **WILL OF GOD** AND NOT OUR **OWN WILL**".



GOD WILL NEVER **COMPEL** US TO GO FURTHER THAN WE WANT TO. WHEN ELISHA FOLLOWED ELIJAH (2 KINGS 2), HE CONTINUALLY **TESTED** ELISHA TO SEE IF HE WAS **HUNGRY** FOR MORE OR SATISFIED WITH WHAT HE ALREADY HAD.



God needs people like
Ezekiel today!