

EZEKIEL

EVERYTHING NEW!

THE PROPHETS SPEAK OF JESUS

“

He who was seated on the throne said,

“I am making everything new!”

Then He said,

*“Write this down, for these words
are trustworthy and true.”*

REVELATION 21.5

THE PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL

- ▶ Ezekiel was an exiled refugee priest in Babylon when he received a supernatural vision of the glory of God in the “transcendent realm”:
the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. ^{1.1}

Other prophets like Isaiah and Daniel had extraordinary visions, but Ezekiel’s was so unparalleled that we can find only one elsewhere in Scripture that is comparable: the Apostle John’s vision in Revelation. Ezekiel’s “vision of God” was in fact a vision of the Son of God in his pre-incarnate glory; John saw the Son of God in his exalted, post-incarnate glory.

EZEKIEL & REVELATION

- ▶ There are over eighty parallels between the prophecy of Ezekiel (595 BC) and the revelation of the Apostle John, 700 years later.
 - Both had a revelation of “one *like* a son of man” who was overwhelming in his appearance;
 - Both saw four “living creatures” and described them with the same detail: faces of a man, an ox, a lion, and an eagle. These four faces represent the incarnate glory of the Son of God in the Gospels:

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. JOHN 1.14

▶ One of the most significant parallels:

Both prophecies address a point in time when the sinfulness of humanity reached such an egregious point that there was no longer an opportunity given by God for repentance, nor an inclination on the part of people to repent. For Ezekiel, it was the people of Israel; for the Apostle John, the entire human population. Both detail God's declared words and actions of irrevocable judgment against the sinfulness of people and nations. Notably, that judgment in both cases begins in the "holy place" – in Ezekiel, the temple; in Revelation, it is the churches.



The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

ROMANS 1.18-21



What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. As it is written:

*“There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.”*

*“All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good, not even one.”*

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

HEBREWS 10.26-31

THE FINAL WORD

Clouds and thick darkness surround Him;

righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

Fire goes before Him and consumes His foes on every side.

PSALM 97.2-3

- ▶ The final word and the ultimate outcome belong exclusively to God. The warnings of Moses from hundreds of years earlier were now being fulfilled; Israel was experiencing the irrevocable justice of God.
- ▶ God's justice and judgment will be accomplished but there is more—

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

love and faithfulness go before You. PSALM 89.7

Then this message came to me from the LORD: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: “What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed their sheep?” 34.1-2

- ▶ The second half of Ezekiel’s prophecy begins with the LORD’s judgment against the self-centered shepherds whom He had appointed to care for His sheep. The LORD declared that “He himself is the enemy of these shepherds and will hold them accountable.” He followed that word of judgment with this declaration:

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search and find my sheep. I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. 34.11-12

► One of the means by which Jesus revealed his incarnate glory as the Son of God was through a series of “I am” statements that were based on Old Testament revelations which God had made to communicate His character and His purposes to His people. Drawing on this passage from Ezekiel, Jesus declared:

The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep. “I am the good shepherd . . . So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. JOHN 10.10-16

▶ Jesus is God's final word! The Apostle Paul wrote—

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

ROMANS 3.21-24

▶ In a subsequent vision, the LORD took Ezekiel to a valley filled with human bones and caused them to come alive by the Spirit of God.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . . But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. EPHESIANS 2.1, 4-5

- ▶ In the final chapters, the LORD reveals to Ezekiel a detailed and elaborate plan for a new Temple. Within the specifications are a myriad of details that point to the finished work of Jesus Christ and a day when the full manifestation of his redemption will be revealed.

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

HEBREWS 9.11-12

EVERYTHING NEW

► As Ezekiel's vision is completed, we read these words—

Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing. ^{48.12}

In the Apostle John's *Revelation of Jesus Christ* we read:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ^{22.1-2}

- ▶ The final words of Ezekiel's prophecy say:

“And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.” 48.35

The Apostle John wrote—

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 21.3-5

- ▶ Jesus is God's final word and humanity's final hope. May you live for Him and Him alone.