



“The Hope Of Going Home” (Ezekiel 10 & 11)

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I. A GLORIOUS VISION

10:2 Lamen suggests that the mission is a holy mission. Rev.16:5 “You are just in these judgments...”

The burning coals scattered over the city is the judgment God will bring upon Jerusalem (see II Kings 25:8-9).

10:12 See Rev.4:8

II. COMING JUDGMENT FOR THE WICKED

11:1The gate of a city was the traditional place the elders sat to oversee legal matters. It was a city’s courthouse (Gen.23:10, 18; Deut.21:19; Josh.20:4; Ruth 4:1-2, 9, 11).

11:3b They viewed themselves as the choice meat, protected in the walled city where God’s temple stood.

11:6 How ironic that Jerusalem was the place where the many prophets were killed. How ironic!

* Matthew 23: ³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate.

11:7 Those prophets and righteous men that had been killed in Jerusalem are really the meat.

III. A MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR THE EXILES

A. A People Longing For Restoration

* Restoration: Restoring to an unimpaired or improved condition

* These exiles want to go home. I want to go home. Not 4263 Narvarez Way South, but 777 Pearly Gates!

* See Heb.11:13-16; Col.3:1-4

B. The Message Came From Ezekiel Through A Vision

* Ezekiel was the only one who saw the vision. They had to believe the Word Ezekiel was presenting to them, otherwise it would not be very encouraging. As I thought about this, I realized that much of what I believe about God is a result of others people's experience with Him. For example, I have never seen the resurrected Jesus. I have never seen anyone raised from the dead. For years I have repeatedly asked the Lord if I could see an angel, but as of today it has not happened. I have never had a vision, unless you count the days I used to do LSD. But those visions were not from the Lord. I have not experienced many miracles in my life, and the ones I have would be considered pretty "ordinary." I don't even speak in tongues!

* Remember what Jesus said to Thomas after the resurrection? See John 20:19-3; I Peter 1:8-9; II Peter 1:10-21.

* Note: Ezekiel 11:23 says that the glory departed from the city and stopped above the mountain east of it. Where would that be? The Mt. of Olives. Now that is very interesting, isn't it? See Acts 1:9-12; Zech.14:4. Now see Ezekiel 43:1-5. Today the eastern gate is the only one of the eight gates in Jerusalem that is sealed. The Arabs believe that because the Jews expect their Messiah to come through this gate, they would prevent any possibility of His return. It was sealed up in 1530 AD, by the Ottoman Turks. A cemetery was built in front of it, with the thinking that the Jewish Messiah could not set foot into a cemetery, because to do so would make one "unclean" under the Law of Moses.

C. Reasons Why I Am Confident I'm Headed "Home"

1. I believe in the Jesus of the Bible

a. Claimed equality with God

b. A priest without beginning of days or end of life (Heb.7:3; 1:6, 8; Micah 5:2).

c. Many prophecies fulfilled concerning Him

- Micah 5: 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient Times."

- John 13:18...But this is to fulfill the scripture: 'He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'

- Psalm 41: 9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

- Zechariah 11: 12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.

- Matt.26:15 "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

- Matt.27: 5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."

7 So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.

- Matthew 12: 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- Luke 9: 22 And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

- Psalm 22:16...they have pierced my hands and my feet.

- Psalm 22: 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

- John 19: 23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. 24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

- Isa.53: 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

- Luke 23: 32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

- Isaiah 53: 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death...

- Matt.27: 57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.

58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.

d. Many future prophecies to be fulfilled

2. The Jesus I believe in has conquered death, and as a result I will be victorious over death.

a. Numerous eyewitness accounts of His resurrection

b. I Cor.15, etc.

3. Jesus promised He would come and take me to be where He is (John 14:1-4; 17:24).

a. At death I will be ushered into His presence (Phil.1; II Cor.5)

b. In life I may be raptured to meet Him in the air (I Thess.4)

4. The gospel I believe in is of no private interpretation

* Christian science is based upon the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy, Scientology upon...L. Ron Hubbard, Mormonism...Joseph Smith (and Brigham Young), Jehovah's Witnesses upon Charles T. Russell...and the list goes on. My Bible has not been corrected. I have not received a new revelation that was somehow lost (not a very powerful God that cannot preserve His Word!).

D. What Restoration Is Going To Be Like

* Isa.9:6-7; 11:1-10; 12:2-3; 65:17-19, 24-25

* Rev.21:1-5