

Life-Study of Ezekiel Summary – Messages 11 to 15

The Throne Above the Clear Sky

If we would have a clear sky, a crystal heaven, before the Lord, we need to have a **conscience that is without offense**. Sometimes a small matter, such as a poor attitude toward our spouse, can cause us to have clouds in our sky. This situation will remain until we go to the Lord and ask His forgiveness for our bad attitude. As soon as we do this, the “weather” changes; the clouds disappear, and the clear sky returns. **Whenever we have such a clear sky in our Christian life and in our church life, we will also have the throne, which is above the clear sky.**

The throne is the centre of the universe, and it is where the Lord is. His presence can never be separated from His throne. The Lord’s throne is in the third heaven, but also in our spirit. **We should always be under the ruling of the Lord’s throne.** We are ruled not merely by the teachings of the Bible but by the throne. The highest step in the spiritual experience of a Christian is to have the throne in our clear sky.

The Man on the Throne

The One on the throne looks like a man, yet with Him there is the appearance of the glory of the Lord. **The Lord who is on the throne today is still a man.** He is a man there. Although He is the almighty God, on the throne He looks like a man. God’s intention on earth is to have a man. This is His desire. Eventually, He Himself became a man, and today on the throne He is still a man.

If we would live out God and express God, we need to be a man and have the appearance of a man. The crucial point here is that because man was created in the image of God in order to express God, only man is like God. **God’s intention is to work on man in order that man can be on the throne.** His desire is to make us people of the throne.

The Degradation of God’s People

The people of Israel were **God’s elect**, but they became **rebels against God**. They were **God’s vine**, but they became **briars and thorns**. Moreover, although the people of Israel were **God’s bride**, they became a **harlot**. According to the record in Ezekiel, we see that **God’s flock** became **scorpions**. God’s **precious treasure** has become **dross**, the waste material that remains after gold and silver have been refined. How could this degradation happen? The first reason for their degradation was their **idolatry**. Idols bring people into association with the world. Through these idols they were brought into contact and association with the world, that is, with the heathen nations. After the people of Israel became associated with the nations, they began to walk after the manners and customs of the nations.

God’s Judgment Upon His People and the Nations

God’s judgment upon His people was based on the **righteousness** of God, the **holiness** of God, and the **glory** of God. God’s glory is versus idols. God’s holiness is God’s separation and sanctification, and this is versus dross. God’s righteousness was versus Israel’s injustice and oppression. As a result of God’s judgment, the people of Israel **lost the good land**, the **glory of the Lord departed**, and the **temple was destroyed** and the **city was burned**.

In blood Ammon and Moab were somewhat close to Israel. The **Ammonites** are those who hate Christ, while the **Moabites** are those who bring the church back to the world. **Edom** is the old man and the **Philistia** is the natural man; these cause the most damage to the church life. **Tyrus** typifies those who are seeking worldly wealth and **Zidon** are briars and thorns. Finally, **Egypt** is independent of God. God exercised His judgment by destroying these nations, making them desolate, making them very low, and delivering them to the nether parts of the earth. (Life-Study of Ezekiel – Messages 11 to 15)