

# Comfort for the Captives... The Holy Spirit.

## *Ezekiel Part Three*

Throughout this study we have approached the Major Prophets as a picture of the Godhead. Isaiah representing the Father, Jeremiah the Son, and Ezekiel the Holy Spirit. I really believe we can develop a deep appreciation of the Holy Spirit through observing Ezekiel as a type of the Holy Spirit. Ezekiel is a messenger sent from God to His people in captivity. In this way he represents the Holy Spirit Whom God sent from the heavenly reality of the risen Son to His Church on earth that they might know who they are in Christ (Jn 16:7-15). Because these scriptures are from the Old Testament, we are dealing with types and shadows concerning things in relation to the New Testament fulfillment in Christ and His Church. In chapter one, God gives Ezekiel (His messenger) a vision of how He sees the captives from a spiritual view in the realm of the resurrected Son. He sees them as one with Christ, filled as His Body with His glory. This vision is completely contrary to their condition in the temporal circumstance. You will notice in the beginning chapters of Ezekiel that the captives are not seeing the vision, only Ezekiel is. God gave the vision to Ezekiel, and God gave Ezekiel to the captives. For the captives, Ezekiel is the one who carries in his heart and eyes the truth concerning who they really are. This is what the Holy Spirit is to us, the Church. He has seen the risen Son in glory and us in Him. He is filled with the vision of who we really are because He has seen Christ ascended as a new man with many members.

In the beginning chapter of Ezekiel, the captives are without the Glory in their temporal condition for they have been removed from Jerusalem and the temple, and God's presence is evacuating the temple (Ez. 11:22-23). They are captives to their flesh, the world, and their own carnality. This is a picture of the Church without Christ formed in her (Gal. 4:19). At this stage all they really have to hold onto is this man Ezekiel who is being given vision from God to see them with God's eyes and from His view (I Cor. 2:9-10).

I want to pause at this point and clear the air of any doctrinal stuffiness these sentences may be building, and just speak plainly. These people at the river Chebar with Ezekiel are a mess. They are rebellious, carnal, self-willed, and ignorant of God's heart and view. The fact that God would send His messenger to BE WITH THEM in captivity, and give His messenger a view of them IN ONENESS WITH JESUS FULL of His GLORY is phenomenal. If we could only

see God's love and provision in this! We are never orphaned, forsaken, or without God's deepest care for He has sent His Spirit to be with and in us at ALL times (Jn. 14:16, 26). The Holy Spirit is our comforter, He declares to us the truth of who we are in Christ. He brings us to see that reality as the eyes of our hearts are opened (Eph. 1:18). He works to form and build us together as the habitation that we truly are in the heavenlies of Christ so that Christ might be manifested through us in earth (Eph. 4:12-16).

Because of their continuous sin and rebellion even in captivity, the captives need to cleave to the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel) as their best friend who will see them through until the Glory (Christ formed) is filling them even as it is in resurrection reality. They need to build a relationship with the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel) that involves trust, love and honor to receive the ministry that he will bring to them for the many chapters to come. In their exile they are dwelling in the land of Babylon, which is translated "confusion". If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit's view and Person, then we will dwell in confusion and despair. God has given us His Comfort in the Person of the Holy Spirit. May we be filled with the Spirit and not overcome with the trials.

The Spirit comes to the captives with God's view and God's method. God's view sees us in Christ (Eph. 1:6, 2:6). God's chosen method to build us according to that reality is the Cross. At this point the term "the Cross" can seem unclear in its true spirit and application for these captives. But Ezekiel is there to administrate clarity to the captives that they might embrace Christ Crucified as their identity and way in the land of their exile. Only those who have "ears to hear" will comprehend what the Spirit is really trying to say to His captive church (Rev.3:6). There must be an open-ness to His view and way, and a brokenness concerning going our own way. The captives who chose to remain in their rebellion and separation will never be built into the habitation that God has so desired. These will conform to Babylon rather than being transformed by allowing the Spirit to wash and fill them with God's reality and nature (Roms. 12:1-2).

The Cross is called the "wisdom of God" in I Cor.1:23-24. It is foolishness to this world's wisdom. These Captives are going to have to reject the wisdom of this age and press into the Word of the Lord through Ezekiel, no matter how foolish or contrary it may seem to them. In Babylon, there are no more religious props to sustain a sense of spiritual well-being. Here, they must find the Living God and join to Him in sincerity of heart. Because of this, Ezekiel is their best friend until the temple be truly built in Spirit and Life. In this same heart, may the Holy Spirit be our best friend until Christ is truly formed in us.\*\*\*