

## APOSTOLIC EVALUATION

### LESSON 20 – ABC

#### QUESTIONS

READ EZEKIEL 2-4. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE EZEKIEL ANOINTING?

READ EZEKIEL CHAPTER 8. WHAT PRINCIPLES CAN YOU GLEAN FROM THIS CHAPTER REGARDING THE EVALUATION OF A LOCAL CHURCH?

3. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GOD TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS?

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#### ANSWERS

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE EZEKIEL ANOINTING.

#### A CHANGE IN POSTURE

Ezek 1:27-2:1

27 Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around.  
28 Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

#### CHAPTER 2

1 And He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you."(NKJ)

The prostration of the Charismatic movement following a glimpse of the glory of God is replaced by a standing posture. The Ezekiel anointing brings the individual to a standing, functional position.

#### 1.2 CLARITY OF THE VOICE OF GOD

Ezek 2:2

Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard

Him who spoke to me.(NKJ)

This anointing brings clear perception of the voice of God.

### 1.3 CONNECTION WITH APOSTOLIC PURPOSE

Ezek 2:3

And He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.(NKJ)

Ezekiel was a sent one. His anointing is apostolic. There is clear recognition of divine mandate, a people group, divine message, divine empowerment and divine accountability.

### 1.4 ACTIVE IN THE TIME OF REBELLION

Ezek 2:3-6

3 And He said to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.

4 "For they are impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'

5 "As for them, whether they hear or whether they refuse-- for they are a rebellious house-- yet they will know that a prophet has been among them.

6 "And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house.(NKJ)

This anointing functions in a rebellious culture.

### 1.5 DECLARATIONS NOT DETERMINED BY AUDIENCE RECEPTIVITY

Ezek 2:7

"You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.(NKJ)

Even if there is no "amen" or audience reciprocation, this anointing enables function.

### 1.6 FILLED WITH THE WORD OF GOD

Ezek 2:8-3:3

8 "But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

9 Now when I looked, there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a

book was in it.

10 Then He spread it before me; and there was writing on the inside and on the outside, and written on it were lamentations and mourning and woe.

### CHAPTER 3

1 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel."

2 So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to eat that scroll.

3 And He said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate it, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.(NKJ)

This anointing enables passionate assimilation of God's word.

#### 1.7 SENT TO THE CHURCH

Ezek 3:5-6

5 "For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, but to the house of Israel,

6 "not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, had I sent you to them, they would have listened to you.(NKJ)

This anointing is meant for the church, a people who are acquainted with Spiritual truth.

#### 1.8 A MINISTRY OF CONFRONTATION

Ezek 3:8

"Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads.(NKJ)

The Ezekiel anointing is characterized by confrontation. It is antagonistic those who build inaccurately.

It is like David confronting Goliath in Judah.

#### 1.9 MENTAL STRENGTH

Ezek 3:8-9

8 "Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads.

9 "Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house."(NKJ)

This anointing is also characterized by mental strength, reasoning and intellectual ability.

#### ABILITY TO OPERATE IN FAMILIARITY

Ezek 3:15

Then I came to the captives at Tel Abib, who dwelt by the River Chebar; and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days.

(NKJ)

This anointing not only enables the individual to penetrate a rebellious culture, but to sit in a rebellious environment.

#### ABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE DARK

Ezek 3:17

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:(NKJ)

This is watchman anointing. It functions in the dark when everyone is asleep. This anointing brings warning.

#### 1.12 ABILITY TO OPERATE IN RECLUSION

Ezek 3:24

Then the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and spoke with me and said to me: "Go, shut yourself inside your house.(NKJ)

This anointing imparts the grace to function alone should the need arise.

#### ABILITY TO BE SILENT IN THE MIDST OF ANTAGONISM

Ezek 3:26

"I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and not be one to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house.(NKJ)

Self-restraint in the midst of rebellion is a characteristic feature.

#### ABILITY TO SPEAK ONLY WHEN INSTRUCTED BY GOD

Ezek 3:27

"But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.(NKJ)

To speak as an oracle of God is another characteristic feature.

#### A LIFESTYLE OF SUFFERING

Ezek 4:4-6

4 "Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.

5 "For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

6 "And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.(NKJ)

The messenger and his message are one. The speech and the lifestyle match. This anointing carries the grace to suffer.

#### PRINCIPLES FOR EVALUATION.

Ezekiel was caught up in the Spirit. He saw the temple through the eyes of God. Every local church must be apostolically evaluated. Is it built according to divine pattern?

#### THE GLORY DOES NOT VALIDATE THE HOUSE

Ezek 8:1-5

1 And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there.

2 Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire-- from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber.

3 He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy.

4 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.

5 Then He said to me, "Son of man, lift your eyes now toward the north." So I lifted my eyes toward the north, and there, north of the altar gate, was this image of jealousy in the entrance.(NKJ)

The image of jealousy was not in Assyria, Babylon or Egypt. It was located in the temple in Jerusalem. Neither the priesthood nor the people complained of this gross violation of the Mosaic covenant. This was God and Satan side by side.

#### REASONS:

#### VALIDATION BY ASSOCIATION

The image of jealousy and the glory of God were next to each other. Because the glory

of God was there, the people accepted the image. They erroneously concluded that the glory validated the image.

Thus truth and error can occur in the same place. The glory of God in a local church does not validate that church. God's glory is an act of grace.

#### MISUNDERSTANDING OF GRACE

The glory of God in the temple despite blatant idolatry was an act of grace. This grace does not mean license to sin. It was the longsuffering of God waiting for his people to repent. In fact the glory remained for several years.

Verse 1 mentions 6 and 5. In the temple we see carnality(6) and grace(5) co-existing.

#### ENTRANCE EQUAL TO EXIT

The image and the glory were at the entrance which was equal to the exit. The glory was preparing to leave through the entrance. To the ignorant it appeared as if the glory had entered.

#### UNITY DOES NOT VALIDATE THE HOUSE

Ezek 8:8-12

8 Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door.

9 And He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there."

10 So I went in and saw, and there-- every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.

11 And there stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel, and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan. Each man had a censer in his hand, and a thick cloud of incense went up.

12 Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'"(NKJ)

By going through the wall instead of the door, the Spirit takes Ezekiel through an unsuspecting evaluation of the house.

Notice the 70 elders:

They all had the same position – standing.

They all had the same vision – the wall with idols.

They all had the same “set man” – Jaazaniah.

They were all doing the same thing – worship with censers.

They were all saying the same thing – the Lord does not see.

They were all in the same location – the room of idols.

**BUT THEY WERE ALL IN THE DARK.**

**THIS IS UNITY IN ERROR.**

Identical positioning, vision, external forms of worship, speech and location cannot be called unity if there is NO LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD.

### 2.3 WEEPING DOES NOT VALIDATE THE HOUSE

Ezek 8:14

So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD'S house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.(NKJ)

Tammuz was the son of Semerimus, the wife of Nimrod. She lied that her son was killed by a wild boar and presented him alive 40 days later claiming that it was a resurrection. She claimed that her son was the promised seed (Gen.3:15). In celebration of the event each year, the people of Babylon ate coloured eggs and cakes with the letter T after a 40 day period of fasting and mourning. The feast was called Istar.

The abomination mentioned by God, was that a feast of Babylon was now being celebrated in the temple of God. Though weeping may look like a good thing, here it was a weeping for a Babylonian tradition.

QUESTION: EXAMINE YOUR CHURCH TO SEE HOW MANY BABYLONIAN (WORLDLY)TRADITIONS ARE OPERATIONAL. E.g. democracy is a worldly system.

Tammuz means "shrivelled up". It symbolic of the past. A church locked in the past is actually "weeping for Tammuz".

### 2.4 WORSHIP DOES NOT VALIDATE THE HOUSE

Ezek 8:16

So He brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house; and there, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, and they were worshiping the sun toward the east.(NKJ)

Notice the position of the 25 men. Their backs were facing the temple(the Shekinah) and their faces were towards the sun. They rejected the light of God for natural light. This is a picture of humanism in the church. Acceptance of homosexuality, active euthanasia and abortions etc. are human philosophies in the church. These philosophies are acts of worship that oppose the light of God and present themselves as superior to the Word of God.

God desires worship in spirit and truth(HIS WORD).

WORSHIP MUST BE CHRIST-CENTRED/WORD CENTRED.

It is not the act of worship, but who, what and why we are worshipping that must define our worship.

## WHEN WILL GOD HEAR?

Ezek 8:18

"Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them."(NKJ)

Length and loudness of prayer are not necessarily keys to successful prayer. God demands righteousness.

James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.(NKJ)

## RIGHTEOUSNESS DEMANDS REFORMATION:

The image of jealousy(the corporate idols) must be destroyed.

Personal idols must be destroyed.

Babylonian traditions must be abolished.

Humanism must be dismantled.

Isa 65:24

"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.(NKJ)