

EZEKIEL SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON 4

NOTES: Today our lesson includes Ezekiel 9, 10, and 11 and for greater understanding just a little review about cherubim. Remember cherubim were the angelic messengers for God and surrounded His throne. The cherubim symbolized power, glory and the holiness of God around His throne. They each had four faces, face of a man, face of a lion, face of an ox and the face of an eagle. In our lesson today, God is showing Ezekiel in a vision the temple and the city of Jerusalem and its future. The Cherubim in vision, are the supervisors which carry out God's instructions for the destruction of His Temple and the city, (Ez. 10:14).

INKHORN—This word is used in our lesson today and is a Hebrew word which means simply a round vessel or cup for containing ink, which was generally worn by writers in the girdle (Ezek. 9:2, 3, 11). The word "Inkhorn" was used by the translators, because in former times in this country horns were used for containing ink.

Say—Welcome to Sabbath school. Let's bow our heads and ask for God's blessing on our class.

Say—Today we are continuing in Ezekiel Chapters, 9, 10 and 11 where Ezekiel, God's "Watchman" and servant of God, is in vision. A vision is "seeing in the mind through a dream". This vision that Ezekiel saw was a revelation from God as He took him from captivity in Babylon to the city of Jerusalem and into the Temple of God.

Say—We ended our last lesson with God showing Ezekiel the idolatries God's people were worshipping in His Holy Temple. But now God had reached His limit with His people's disobedience as Judah, His spouse and once powerful kingdom, was sinking lower and lower into indecent behavior. Behavior which was totally unacceptable to God.

Say—In spite of all the warnings from God's prophets, God's people were convincing themselves God had turned His back on them and He could not see them so they could sin fearlessly, (Ez. 9:9, Ps. 10:11)! Do you think it is kind of like when God's people today use the excuse, well everyone is doing it?

Say—In Ezekiel's vision, God ordered six men to destroy the wicked idolaters of Jerusalem. One of the men among them was "Clothed with linen", symbolizing a "type of priest" as he stood by the Throne of God, (Ez. 9:2, 11).

Say—This man, or priest, had a "Writer's inkhorn" in his hand. Just as God had done in Egypt at Passover in that He made a way of escape for His people, so He made a way for His faithful to escape the punishment which was about to happen to Jerusalem, (Ez. 9:3, Ps. 31:20, Isa. 26:20, 21). How did he do this?

Say-God told the man with the “Writer’s inkhorn”, Go throughout the city of Jerusalem, and set a mark which is visible upon the foreheads of my people who are faithful to Me. My faithful are those who love peace and Truth, that sigh and mourn and cry and groan for all the abominations that are being done unto God” (Ez. 9:4, Zec. 8:19).

Say-Soon, with His faithful sealed and secure, and the Bible tells us “God knows them that are His”; the man with the writer’s inkhorn reported back to God saying, “I have done as Thou has commanded me”, or in other words, everyone is marked that should be spared, (II Tim. 2:19, Ez. 9:11).

Say-God’s warnings had ended and the decree of destruction went out on those who had forsaken His holy, perfect righteous laws, (Ez. 9:5). Now with the wicked destroyed, the Temple, once filled with the brightness of the presence of God, was void of God’s glory and replaced with a “cloud” of displeasure and darkness; would be destroyed next,(Ez. 10:3).

Say-Remember the four Cherubs which surrounded God’s throne in His Temple? The Cherubim were guided in Ezekiel’s vision by divine authority for a single purpose and that was to fulfill the commands of God. Ezekiel heard the deafening roar of the wings of the cherubim; it was loud like the voice of God when He spoke indicating the awful changes that were about to take place.

Say-Now with the wicked removed, the Temple destroyed and the walls of the once fine city broken down, the Cherubim had one last command to fulfill. Soon one Cherub gathered the coals of fire in his hands and went out to spread them about to burn the city of Jerusalem. This was to show Ezekiel that this is how King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was going to destroy the city of Jerusalem in the next siege, (See II Kings 25:9, II Chron. 36:19).

Say-Continuing in vision, Ezekiel saw 25 men appear and God told him, “These are the leaders which told My people to ignore My prophets and My message and led My people astray”. These are the men, the rulers of My city, that devised mischief and prophesied lies in My name and by sword and famine they would be destroyed, (Jer. 14:14, Ez. 11:2).

Say-In addition to their lies, the false leaders sneered at the letters from Jeremiah to Ezekiel and God’s people in captivity in Babylon. They told the people, “Ignore the warnings, “Go ahead and build your houses”, and the people unfortunately listened as we have learned

from our lessons in Ezekiel and went the way of the ungodly that were round about them and turned their backs on God.

Say- Even though God had predicted to Moses and other prophets this would all come to pass, it was not easy for the merciful God to leave His Temple, the symbol of the Throne of God. But God had to leave what people had so perverted. It had to be cleansed and purified with fire! First He lingered as He left the Sanctuary, (Ex. 9:3) then He sat on the Throne, (vs. 4) finally He stood with the Cherubim at the main entrance where His People used to enter the Temple, and then left for the last time. We will find out as we continue to study Ezekiel when or if He ever came back, (Deuteronomy 31:16-19, this would be good to read).

Say-Now the vision turned to the future, the immediate future for God's people in captivity for even though the Temple had been destroyed, God assured Ezekiel He would be their sanctuary wherever they were. He would protect them wherever they were. Even though despised by the Babylonians, they were still God's chosen people and He would NEVER leave them and the good news is, this promise holds true for God's people today.

Say-However the vision was also for a future time yet to come. For God's people were promised the Land of Canaan, a land flowing with milk and honey and God assured them that no matter how long their captivity was, and it was 70 years, it would be but a "Little season" compared to FOREVER in the settlement of their land in the future. What's more, ALL nations would flow unto them! It would be a brighter and happier day when all of God's people would be humbled, purified and cured of idolatry, (Ez. 11:16).

Say-Let's read how bright the future looks for God's followers.

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Although I have cast them far off among the heathen, and although I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them as a little sanctuary in the countries where they shall come. Therefore ... saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel (this is yet to happen, they don't have it today). And I will give them one heart, (All seeking God, content with one God and no more detestable things would tempt them, contrasting when only single individuals sought God, Jer. 32:39, Zeph. 3:9, Ez. 11:19) and I will put a new spirit within you;(the new creature in Christ, II Cor. 5:17 with righteous laws and goals) and I will take the stony heart,(the natural heart in man, Zech. 7:12 out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh (impressible of what is good and tender): That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, (Ez. 11:14-21).

Say- In addition, ALL the nations will say to God's people, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that they shall take hold of the skirt (the edge of garment, see "NOTE" below) of him that is a Jew, saying, we will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you, take me up to worship with you", Zec. 8:22-23. Believe it or not, that person is going to be you! Isn't that good news!!

Say-Finally the vision ends outside of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus left this earth to go to the right hand of His Father and where He will return to set up His soon coming Kingdom. The vision ended and Ezekiel was taken on the chariot of a Cherub back to God's people in captivity and reported all he saw, (Ez. 11:25).

MEMORY VERSE
I WILL GIVE THEM ONE HEART
AND...
A NEW SPIRIT...
EZEKIEL 11:19

NOTE OF INTEREST: The following will help you understand concerning the verse "that they shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, we will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you,"... The Law, instructions for life, of God stated that God's people who were to become a royal priesthood were to have a border on their "skirt", meaning garment, edging or hem, (Numbers 15:37-40). When a blue/purple thread was woven through it, symbolic of the power of God, it indicated the person obeyed the law of God and no other religions. When people depart from the law, His instructions for life, it is the same as departing from God and He is no longer their "lifegiver" or "healer" either physically or spiritually and God's people should want both. This "Hem" or "Garment" is also spoken of in Matthew. 9:20.21; 14:36, Mark.5:24-28 and Luke 8:44-47.

When the people spoken of in Matt. Mk. and Lk. touched the "Hem" of His garment; they were healed, in other words, those that sought healing knew if they touched His garment, symbolic of His law/instructions, they would be healed because HE was the ULTMATE of the Law which would lead to life; both a good physical life and eternal life,(Matt. 19:17). Remember Christ said, "Your faith has made you whole", meaning it is because it is ONLY through Jesus Christ we will have life!! Where it is used in Zechariah 8:22-23 in our lesson today, where "They shall take hold of the skirt of a Jew, saying, we will go with you for we have heard that God is with you...means God's people that had once departed from God and turned their back on His laws rejecting God, will return in the FUTURE time spoken of in Zec. to God AND the heathen nations will "Take hold of the skirt of the Jew...will be saying they also have learned that He is the TRUE God. Their eyes will be opened and they will be healed spiritually for the first time and will learn of His ways (be taught by God's people) and walk in them not contrary to them and they will have life also from the only one who can give life, Jesus Christ.. This future time is symbolized by the Last Great Day!! And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness, Zec. 8:8.

Pictures can be found here:

http://www.sermons4kids.com/do_right_colorpg.htm

<http://sermons4kids.com/tell-friends-colorpg.htm>

Here are the memory verses for cutting out to use with the picture the children can color.

MEMORY VERSE
I WILL GIVE THEM ONE HEART
AND...
A NEW SPIRIT...
EZEKIEL 11:19

Below is the memory verse for tots

MEMORY VERSE
I WILL GIVE THEM ONE HEART
EZEKIEL 11:19

On the following page is the Sabbath School lesson for tots.

GOD, EXEKIEL, AND JERUSALEM IN VISION

JERUSALEM WAS MY FAVORITE CITY, FOR IN IT
GOD'S TEMPLE STOOD;
LOOK AND SEE WHAT WILL SOON COME TO PASS;
FOR MY PEOPLE NO LONGER WORSHIP ME,
OH, IF ONLY THEY WOULD! (EZ. 9:9, PS. 10:11)

BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED, PLACE
A MARK WITH THE WRITER'S INKHORN ON THE
FEW STILL FAITHFUL TO ME.
SOON WILL FALL FIRE AND SWORD, BUT WITH THIS
MARK, SEALED AND PROTECTED MY PEOPLE
SHALL BE.. (EZ. 9:3, ISA. 26:20)

WITH COALS OF FIRE IN HIS HAND, THE CHARUBIM
OVER JERUSALEM WILL SOON SPREAD;
AS KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR WILL DO TO MY CITY,
JUST AS HE HAS SAID. (EZ. 10:2)

IN THE FUTURE, THE DARK CLOUD WILL PASS, AND
FROM MY PEOPLE, GOODNESS AND MERCY WILL
ONCE AGAIN FLOW;
WITH A TENDER NEW HEART, ALL NATIONS WILL
WALK IN MY LAWS IN THIER LAND OF ISRAEL;
AND I WILL BE
THE ONLY GOD THEY'LL KNOW.
(EZ. 11:14-21, ZEC. 8:22-23)

I WILL GIVE THEM A NEW HEART...
EZEKIEL 11:19

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