

Sunday – September 10, 2017

Preparation

This week will bring us to the close of yet another book in our Bible, Ezekiel, surging us forward into the book of Daniel. Ezekiel closes by providing us with a glimpse into the “millennium” where the Lord Jesus Christ will receive the glory He rightfully deserves, and where He will rule and reign with a “rod of iron” for a period of 1,000 years. This is the time that will be catapulted by the Lord Jesus Christ stepping foot on this earth for the “second” time. However, the “lowly manger” will be nowhere to be found. Furthermore, praise the Lord that during this time our adversary, the devil, will be bound up in the bottomless pit, powerless over this world. By way of Preparation for the closing chapters of Ezekiel let’s take some time to rehearse and meditate on the following verses, “preparing” our hearts for the day when the Lord comes back to set up His earthly kingdom:

Revelation 19:4 “And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.”

V. 5 “And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.”

V. 6 “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

V. 7 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”

V. 8 “And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

V. 9 “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

V. 10 “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

V. 11 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”

V. 12 “His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.”

V. 13 “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”

V. 14 “And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

V. 15 “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

V. 16 “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

It is impossible for our finite, fleshly minds to fully comprehend what the “day of the Lord” will be like, however, the Bible is clear that it will be a time of praise to the LORD. That being the case, may our Preparation be such that our hearts are provoked to live out the praise on this day, that the Lord will receive on that day.

TODAY'S READING: EZEKIEL 37-40

OVERVIEW:

The resurrection of Israel (Chapter thirty-seven); God's Judgment against Gog (chapters thirty-eight through thirty-nine); Ezekiel's vision of the millennial temple (chapter forty).

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Chapter 37 continues a series of prophecies given to Ezekiel the night before the messenger of Ezekiel 33:21-22 arrives. God knew that Israel would faint in their hearts once Jerusalem was destroyed and the temple was burned. The word "hopeless" comes to mind. God takes Ezekiel to a valley full of dry bones. He asks if the bones can live again. It is important to realize that if the children of Israel didn't believe in an individual resurrection (as some liberal scholars would suggest) this vision would have no meaning. Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy to the bones (37:4) and to the wind (37:9). After Ezekiel follows God's instructions, the bones are resurrected. God explains the meaning of the vision in Ezekiel 37:11-14. These bones represent the whole house of Israel being resurrected as a nation.

The Jews were cutoff from their homeland, defeated, without hope. God gives Israel hope. He gives them His Word. Israel, as a nation, will be resurrected (Isaiah 66:8). God tells Ezekiel to join together the sticks upon which He has written a name that represents a part of Israel, and so illustrates that Israel will be one nation (37:15-19). The rest of the chapter looks forward to the millennium.

Chapters 38 and 39 tell of a northern confederacy of nations (38:6, 15) who will invade the Promised Land and wage war against Israel (38:16). The phrase "*after many days*" and "*latter year*" in Ezekiel 38:8 indicates that this prophecy is tied to the coming of Christ at the Second Advent (39:11). This confederacy then, will be led by the anti-Christ (Rev. 12:1-3) and will be the recipient of God's fury and wrath (38:18-23). It will take Israel seven months to bury the dead (39:12)! God also instructs Ezekiel to speak to the carrion birds and carnivorous animals to consume the fallen flesh (Rev. 19:21). Chapter 39 ends with God's promise to never hide His face from Israel again. This refers to the beginning of the millennial kingdom.

Introduction to Ezekiel 40-48

The last nine chapters of Ezekiel, beginning with chapter 40, form an inseparable unit. Explicit details about Christ's millennial reign follow the great battle described in chapters 38 and 39. This portion of scripture provides more detail about the 1,000-year kingdom than all other Old Testament prophecies combined. In these chapters we will find a vivid description of the millennial temple and reinstated Jewish rituals and sacrifices. This portion of Ezekiel must be approached as the other thirty-nine chapters have been approached – literally. Ezekiel, who is a priest, is speaking of a literal temple and literal sacrifices that will exist in a literal future kingdom. We must be careful to understand that the reinstatement of the temple and sacrifices in no way nullifies or diminishes the finished work of Christ on the cross. Just as the sacrifices in the OT pointed to the finished work of Christ on the cross, the sacrifices in the millennium will point back to the finished work of Christ on the cross. These last nine chapters break down as follows: New Temple (40:1 - 43:12); New Worship (43:13 - 47:12); New Appointment of Land (47:13 - 48:35).

Ezekiel began with a vision of Christ at the Second Advent and ends with a vision of Christ in the millennial kingdom.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As "the man" in Ezekiel 40:3.

Tuesday – September 12, 2017

TODAY'S READING: EZEKIEL 41-44

OVERVIEW:

Measurements of Millennial Temple (chapter forty-one); measurements of the temple chambers (chapter forty-two); God's glory returns to the temple (chapter forty-three); the priests (chapter forty-four).

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Chapters 41 and 42 describe the specific measurements of the temple.

It is Christ alone, not Ezekiel, who enters the most holy place of the temple (41:3-4). This serves as a reminder that it was Christ alone who entered the most holy place to make atonement for our sin (Heb. 9:8, 12, 10:19).

The side chambers of the temple (41:5-11) will be the priest's quarters. What a reminder that as the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:5), our lives should be given wholly to offering up spiritual sacrifices, our own lives (Rom.12:1-2).

The galleries mentioned in Ezekiel 41:15-20 were buildings having decorations described as palm trees and cherubim. Between the palm trees was a cherub with two faces, the face of a man and the face of a lion. These faces might possibly represent the humanity and kingship of the Messiah.

The altar of incense is described in Ezekiel 41:21-26 (Ex. 30:1-3). The incense represents the prayers of God's people (Psa. 141:2).

Note that there is no reference to the Ark of the Covenant in the furnishings of the millennial temple. This is a direct fulfillment of Jeremiah 3:16-17. There is no longer a need for the Ark as a type of Christ, as it is Christ who sits physically on the throne during the millennium.

Chapter 42 contains specific measurements of the court temple chambers (42:1-12), the use of the chambers by the priests (42:13-14), and the measurement of the outer wall and entire complex (42:15-20). The walls will be approximately one mile on each side, which means that this temple will not fit on the current Mount Moriah (where Solomon's temple stood). This will require a "modification" of the land. The prophet Zechariah spoke about this change in Zechariah 14:9-11.

Chapter 43 must be understood in the context of Ezekiel's previous prophecy.

Earlier in the book, we saw that God's glory had departed from the temple (10:19, 11:23). This chapter speaks of God's glory returning to a future physical temple (43:1-5). As Christians, we should be encouraged by God's desire to once again fill a Jewish temple with His glory. However, for us the prophecy only pictures what has already happened in our life. God has always desired a place for His glory to dwell. When THE TEMPLE (Christ's body) was destroyed (John 2:19), it made it possible for our bodies to become God's temple (I Cor. 6:19)! God allowed Satan to destroy one temple, and God in turn filled this world with His temples. We are the place where God's glory now resides.

This should also serve as a warning to us. The enemy hated Solomon's temple (burned by Babylon), hated Zerubbabel's /Herod's temple (burned by Rome), hated Christ (crucified by Rome), and now hates us. This is a war for glory! We are now the target on planet earth. Satan wants to destroy our lives. There may even be times when he is successful. However, just as God's glory returned to a physical temple, God can take lives that the enemy has destroyed and restore them for His glory. Unlike the physical temples of the Old Testament, however, God never leaves us!

Chapter 44 deals with regulations for the priests who will serve in the millennial temple. Once again, as the priesthood of believers, we will find numerous pictures of how we should minister in our priesthood.

It should be noted that "*the prince*" described in Ezekiel 44:3 is allowed to enter through the vestibule/porch of the eastern gate (the same gate through which the Messiah has entered). This prince cannot be the Messiah as he offers a sacrifice for his own sin (45:22). This prince is referred to at least fourteen times in chapters 44-47. We cannot be sure as to the identity of this prince. Most likely, he is a descendant of David. Some students of the scripture believe he may even be David himself.

Is there sin in the millennium? Sometimes this can be a confusing concept. We must remember that at the end of the millennium there will be another rebellion against God (Rev. 20:7-9). There will be those who came through the tribulation and those who are born during the millennium who will still reject Christ. Why? For the same reason people reject Christ today. They will not submit to His Lordship. As believers, we will have received our glorified bodies and will no longer struggle with sin— Hallelujah!

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As the One who enters the "most Holy place" – Ezekiel 41:3-4 (Hebrews 9:8, 12)

Wednesday – September 13, 2017

TODAY'S READING: EZEKIEL 45-48

OVERVIEW:

The allotment of land for the priests and the Temple (chapter forty- five); offerings and sacrifices during the millennium (chapter forty-six); the waters of the land healed and the land divided (chapters forty- seven through forty-eight).

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Chapter 45 begins with an allotment of land to be offered unto the Lord during the millennium (45:1-8). This portion of land will cover a territory of about eight square miles. A rectangle of 25,000 x 10,000 cubits in the middle will be for the Temple; and set aside for the priests. A similar rectangle north of it will be for the Levites. On the south, a rectangle of 25,000 x 5,000 cubits will be reserved for the city itself.

The Temple will be the focal point of the land, surrounded by an area for the priests on the east and west, an area for the Levites on the north, with the city located to the south. An area for the prince (discussed in yesterday's reading) will exist outside the domain of the priests.

After giving the layout of the land, Ezekiel admonishes the priests of his day (45:9-12) to execute judgment and justice and stop taking advantage of the people. The conduct to which the priests had grown accustomed will not be tolerated during the millennium.

Ezekiel 45:13-17 records the offerings Israel will give to the prince. The prince in turn will make provision for the public sacrifices for worship. The rest of the chapter (45:18-20) records the institution of a new festival to start the "new year" with an emphasis on holiness and the reinstatement of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles (45:21-25). The offerings in the millennial Temple will be much richer and more abundant than those under the law.

Chapter 46 deals with the offerings and the sacrifices that will be offered during the millennium. Here we learn that the Sabbath will be reinstated (46:1). The Sabbath, an entirely Jewish day, was never intended to be kept by anyone other than a Jew. We see in this chapter that the context of these sacrifices and offerings will once again be entirely Jewish. On the Sabbath, the prince will enter through the eastern gate of the inner court to lead the children of Israel in worship (46:12).

Ezekiel 46:16-17 teaches that if the prince gives an inheritance to his sons it is permanent, but a gift to a servant lasts only to the year of Jubilee. What a beautiful picture. Praise God that His prince (Christ) deals with us as sons and not as servants (Rom. 8:14)!

Chapter 47 begins with Ezekiel being escorted again to the door of the Temple (47:1). The waters issue forth from the entrance to the Temple. This symbolizes that all blessing flows from the presence of the Lord. God then heals the waters and transforms the Dead Sea, which could not formally support life, into a living sea of fresh water (47:6-12). What a picture of the transforming power of God. That which could not support life is now made to support life.

The rest of this chapter (47:13-23) and chapter 48 deal with the dividing of the land. It should be noted that the stranger (the “non Jews”) living during the millennium will not be excluded (47:21-23). The Mosaic Law did not permit the stranger to acquire land, as it is granted here. The right is extended to those who will settle permanently in the land of promise, having children there. This further reminds us that there will be children born during the millennium.

The final chapter concerns the distribution of the Promised Land for the millennial age. All the tribal portions extend across the breadth of the land. All the tribes are west of the Jordan. A central tract of land is separated for the Temple, for the city, and for the prince’s land (discussed in chapter 45).

Dan is the first tribe mentioned. Dan is omitted during the tribulation (Rev. 7). The omission during the tribulation is probably due to Dan’s idolatry. However, here in the millennium Dan is restored. That is what God is all about – grace! He restores what has been lost! He repairs what has been broken! God sees past our failures! God sees our restoration!

The Book of Ezekiel began with much of Israel in exile. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the world. Over the course of Ezekiel’s life the glory of the LORD departed from the Temple, and the Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed and burned. However, in these last nine chapters, God has given Ezekiel a glimpse of Israel’s future. The Book ends (48:35) with a new city, and the name of that city is “*The LORD is there*”!

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As waters of life coming forth from the presence of God – Eze. 47:1 (John 4:14).

Thursday – September 14, 2017

TODAY'S READING: DANIEL 1-3

OVERVIEW:

Daniel and his friends taken captive to Babylon away from their families; Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's interpretation; The image of gold erected by Nebuchadnezzar and the refusal of Daniel's three friends to bow down and worship it.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Since the Jews had refused to repent and obey the Lord, the Babylonian army came in and conquered their land just as the prophet Jeremiah had warned! Daniel and his three friends (all teenagers at the time) were snatched from their homes in Jerusalem, and taken to Babylon since they were all princes and belonged to the royal family (1:3). It was the custom at the time to take the best of the youth to Babylon to be trained in the king's court. The king's goal, of course, was to conform them to the ways of Babylon. This conforming process involved a new home, new knowledge, new diets, and new names. Don't miss the fact that Satan's strategy is no different today than it was then. He is bent on conforming God's people to this world (Rom. 12:1-2)! Daniel and his friends, however, purposed in their heart that they would not defile themselves with the king's meat (1:8). They dared to stand for what they believed to be true and right, even though it meant doing so at the risk of their own lives. Risking their own lives was one thing, but it also meant risking the life of Melzar, the one the king had appointed to control the diets of the Hebrew children. He understood that if it would become evident by their physical appearance that they were not following the king's directions; it would mean his neck as well as theirs! Daniel believed God would honor their refusal to eat the king's meat, and asked Melzar, in whom he had found favor, for a 10 day trial of simply eating pulse (vegetables) and water to prove that God would step up on their behalf. God did indeed step up, as their countenance was much healthier looking than the others who were eating according to the king's prescribed diet. So often we talk about the law of sowing and reaping from a negative standpoint (Gal. 6:8). This happens to be a positive example of the principle. Because of the great faith and trust these young men sowed at this point in their life, they reaped God's promotion and protection in the worldly kingdom of Babylon throughout the remainder of their lives!

In chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and demands that the wise men not only interpret it, but to actually tell him what the dream was about. None were up to the task, so Nebuchadnezzar ordered all of the so-called wise men to be slain.

At the last minute, however, God reveals the dream and its interpretation to Daniel, so he proceeds to tell the king, sparing the lives of the wise men from certain death. Nebuchadnezzar is quite impressed and pleased with Daniel, and to show his appreciation, promotes Daniel and his three friends to key positions of authority in his kingdom. It should be noted that the dream that Daniel interpreted was actually an outline of world history. It describes the kingdoms and governments that would rule the world beginning with Babylon at that time, all the way up to this present day. In fact, without the revelation of the prophecies in the Book of Daniel, it would be impossible to interpret the Book of Revelation. The two books go hand in hand (I Cor. 2:13).

Chapter 3 takes place approximately 20 years after Nebuchadnezzar's dream. While Nebuchadnezzar had acknowledged that Jehovah God is the "*God of gods, and a LORD of kings*" (2:47), he evidently suffered a major lapse in memory in that 20 year period. In this chapter he sets up a golden image of himself, requiring every person in the entire kingdom to bow before it and worship it. Obviously, this poses a major problem for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Babylonian names of Daniel's three Hebrew friends). If they were so surrendered to God's Word that they refused to eat the king's meat, they certainly would have no part in bowing down before the king's image! (Daniel must have been away from the kingdom at the time the image was set up, because his uncompromising and godly character most certainly proves that he would have been among those who refused to bow down to the image!) Their refusal to bow to his golden image caused Nebuchadnezzar to have them cast into the fiery furnace. In the midst of the furnace, there is an incredible preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, the fourth man in the fire, who protected them, not only from the flames, but even the very smell of smoke! Nebuchadnezzar was reminded once again of the power of Jehovah God, and made a decree stating that it was illegal for anyone to speak against Him! He also promoted these three men in his kingdom.

There is an overarching biblical truth that we learn from today's reading. God promises all of us three things:

- 1) Persecution (I Peter 4:12-19; Phil. 1:29)
- 2) Preservation (Isa. 43:2; Psalm 23; Eph. 1:12-14)
- 3) Promotion (I Peter 5:10)

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As THE STONE – Dan. 2:35,45; Jesus is the chief corner stone (Eph. 2:20, I Pet. 2:6-7, and Rom. 9:31-33).

TODAY'S READING: DANIEL 4-6

OVERVIEW:

Nebuchadnezzar's tree dream and Daniel's interpretation; Belshazzar (grandson of Nebuchadnezzar) and the handwriting of God on the wall; Daniel and the lion's den.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

In chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar once again has a dream. This time the dream was about a huge tree overshadowing the entire earth that was ordered to be cut down by an angelic voice. Once again the king summoned his wise men to no avail, for they could not interpret the dream. The king then called on Daniel, the man of God, who proceeded to tell the king the interpretation, but not in a careless fashion, for this dream dealt with the King's personal future. The explanation of the dream is not difficult. The tree represented Nebuchadnezzar and his mighty kingdom, and this tree must be cut down because Nebuchadnezzar did not give God the glory even after all that he had seen God do (see Dan. 1-3). But not only would Nebuchadnezzar lose his position, he would have to live like a beast for seven years until God would once again restore the throne back to him. God's reason for doing this was to teach Nebuchadnezzar humility. Yet after Daniel revealed this interpretation to the king, he still did not repent of his boasting ways, so the dream was realized in Nebuchadnezzar's life. For seven years he lived like a beast until verse 34 when *"he lifted up his eyes unto heaven and blessed the most high"*. This chapter is essentially the story of Nebuchadnezzar's conversion! Verse 37 should be a warning to all of us, for *"those that walk in pride [God] is able to abase"*. This chapter also happens to be a foreview of what will happen to the nations in the latter days. Just about the time that they will be boasting of their greatness and glory, God will send seven years of awful judgment upon them and bring them low. Then, at the end of the tribulation period, Christ will return to earth and establish His kingdom. The nations that have trusted Him will enter into the glorious kingdom; the others will be cast out.

In chapter 5, Belshazzar is now king, and Daniel is about 80 years old. Belshazzar had obviously not been impressed with his grandfather's decision to worship the one true God of heaven, for he was throwing a party in honor of one of the Babylonian gods! Yet he was not content to just drink wine to his gods, he wanted to blaspheme the God of the Jews (and the whole earth) as well. So he

had the sacred temple vessels brought in to be used at this idolatrous, blasphemous feast (5:3-4). This is when a hand appeared and wrote on the wall causing Belshazzar to shake in fear (vs. 6). As usual, the king's experts could not explain this handwriting on the wall and this made the king even more concerned (vs. 9). The queen had to tell Belshazzar about a man named Daniel who most certainly could help him with the interpretation of the writing. Belshazzar obviously did not know him or his God! Once again, Daniel gives the king the interpretation "*numbered, weighed, divided*". Belshazzar's days were numbered and his time was up; he had been weighed on God's scales and found wanting; now his kingdom would be taken from him and divided by the Medes and Persians. Did Belshazzar believe Daniel? There is no evidence of repentance or concern on his part. He kept his promise to Daniel and made him third ruler as though his kingdom would continue forever! Yet that same night, Belshazzar was slain and the Medes and Persians took the kingdom just as God had said (5:30-31)!

Chapter 6 deals with a day in the life of the Prime Minister of the Medo-Persian empire Daniel. God had honored Daniel's faithfulness through many different kings and kingdoms; but the wicked hate the righteous (ever since Cain and Abel), and that fact is proven again by the events in this chapter. The other leaders of the land conspire against Daniel and get the king to pass law prohibiting any man from petitioning any God or man, save the king, for 30 days. This, of course, was a trap, for they knew Daniel prayed without ceasing to his God (6:10). After hearing of this new law, Daniel continues to do what he had always done pray. For this, the king was forced to cast Daniel into the lion's den against his own wishes, for he loved Daniel (6:14)! The law could not be changed, even by the king himself (6:15). So, Daniel was placed into the lion's den and King Darius fasted and did not sleep the whole night long. When morning came, he ran to the den of lions crying out Daniel's name. Sure enough, God delivered Daniel and the king was very glad (6:23). The men that accused Daniel were cast into the lion's den and killed. Daniel went on to prosper throughout the reign of Darius and Cyrus (6:28).

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As GOD'S ANGEL sent to shut the lion's mouths – Dan. 6:22. (Rev. 20:3; I Pet. 1:8; Heb. 11:33).

Saturday – September 16, 2017

Reflection

This week of Daily in the word brought us to the end of the book of Ezekiel, leading us into the book of Daniel. Ezekiel closed with the prophecy of the “resurrection” of the nation of Israel. Of course, our application was made in, comparing scripture with scripture, understanding that the prophecy Ezekiel provided drew a parallel to biblical salvation as we know it. From the point of “resurrection” God begins to describe the temple, which as we should have learned, has always carried the intent of providing God with a place to dwell with and among men. Literally speaking, the temple we read about in the latter chapters of Ezekiel is actually the “millennial temple” we’ll find during the millennium when the Lord Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning with a “rod of iron”. At the same time, this temple paints the picture of what a believer’s life becomes the moment we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, which is nothing less than the “temple of the Holy Ghost” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Sadly, if being honest, we oftentimes fall very, very short of the responsibility of living the life reflective of the purpose of the “temple of the Holy Ghost”, which is a life reflective of a dwelling place for the Lord.

As we continued along through the last few chapters of Ezekiel we found that this “millennial temple” had “living water” flowing from without the sides of it. Again, the picture we found was that if we follow the commandments and guidelines which the Lord God has preserved in His word (1 Peter 2:21-24), our lives, just as the temple of Ezekiel, will have “living water” flowing out of it because it will be the Lord Jesus Christ that people see through us. This principle is preserved for us in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in

Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

The last couple of days of Daily in the word allowed us the opportunity to begin the book of Daniel. What an amazing example we have preserved in our Bible in the man, Daniel. However, it's not Daniel that we should pattern ourself after, but rather to the one to which he purposed himself. As we read in Daniel 1:8, “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Again, it's the principle we learned in Romans 6 which reminds us that we are to “reckon ourselves”, or “count it to be so” (purpose in our hearts). That is the key to 2 Corinthians 7:1, “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” May the passages we read this week, provoke us to be more like Christ, and by doing so, draw those around us to do the same.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

Ezekiel 37:13-14 “And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD”

Ezekiel 43:2 “And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.”

Ezekiel 47:9 “And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.”

Daniel 1:8 “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

Daniel 4:37 “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”