

JESUS, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER

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Text:

John 1:14 “The WORD became flesh and made HIS dwelling among us. We have seen HIS glory, the glory of The One and Only Son, who came from The Father, full of grace and truth.” (New International Version)

The Hook:

My friends, did you know that we, you and I, are a chosen and special people? Do you feel special? Do you feel chosen? You should!

Read with me John 1:14 “And the WORD became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw HIS glory, glory as of The Only Begotten from The Father, full of grace and truth.” (New American Standard Bible)

Another version puts it this way: “And the WORD became flesh, and did tabernacle among us, and we beheld HIS glory, glory as of an only begotten of a father, full of grace and truth.” (Young’s Literal Translation)

That’s a fantastic word, “tabernacled”! It literally means “lived among”, “dwelt in”, and “inhabited”! It means that God left heaven and came to live among us in the form of HIS Son!!!!

Now please remember that, for the Jewish Community, their greatest glory was that GOD actually tabernacled in **their** midst!!!

God chose to dwell in their tent of the tabernacle, not in the tent of Moses, Not in any of the various pavilions of any of the princes of the twelve tribes of Israel! But God chose the humble tent of the tabernacle in which to dwell!

This was the boast of Israel! They had the “King of All” living in the midst of them! “They will wage war against The Lamb, but The Lamb will triumph over them because HE is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with HIM will be HIS called, chosen and faithful followers.”

Revelation 17: 14.

“On his robe and on HIS thigh HE has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.” Revelation 19: 16

HE was a very present GOD living right among them! As we later see in Matthew 1:23 (“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call HIM Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). GOD became Immanuel!!!

The tabernacle was a tent where the men went when they wanted to commune with God, and the place where God would come when HE wanted to commune with man. (See: Post Notes: Ezekiel 36: 8 - 39: 29)

Some have called it the “trysting place of the Creator and the worshiper” A trysting place is a special meeting place, secret meeting place or rendezvous, especially between two lovers. Matthew Henry and John Owen both used this term to describe the place of “common union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” and believers.

In the tabernacle Here they met each other through the slaughter of the bullock and the lamb, and there was then what is called reconciliation!

Reconciliation, from the verb “to reconcile”, comes from the Latin words “re” meaning “again”, and “consilare” meaning “to make friendly”. Therefore, “to reconcile” means “to make friendly again”.

Now, Christ’s human flesh was God’s tabernacle, and so it is in Christ that God meets with man, and so it is in Christ that man has dealings with God!!!! God deals justly with us and seeks to reconcile us to Himself. “I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.” Psalm 119: 75

In Old Testament times people, God’s people, went to God’s tent, in the centre of the camp, whenever they would worship.

If you needed cleansing from a ceremonial uncleanness, you would perform the necessary rites, and afterward, go up to the priest in the sanctuary of God and give a thanksgiving offering so that you could again sense the peace of GOD within your soul. If you had sinned, you would perform whatever restitution was required and then go to the priest and make a sin offering in order to be restored to a right place with GOD.

In the old days of the tabernacle you had to offer an animal that the priest would pray over and then kill and offer as a burnt offering to absolve you of your sins. “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” Hebrews 9: 22

James 4: 8 - “Come near to God and HE will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

Proverbs 3: 5 & 6 - “Trust in The LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to HIM, and HE will make your paths straight.”

Philippians 4: 7 - “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Now we, having been washed in the precious blood of Christ are able to come ourselves boldly to the throne of Grace through Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest.

1 Peter 1: 18 - 20 “ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect. HE was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

Hebrews 4: 14 - 16 “Therefore, since we have a Great High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of GOD, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have ONE who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet HE did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Friends, the greatest glory within the tabernacle itself was The Most Holy Place, 1 Kings 6:16 “He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.”

Exodus 26:33 “Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.”

Hebrews 9: 7 “But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.”

In the Most Holy Place (see Post Notes) there stood The Ark of The Covenant Exodus 25: 10 ““Have them make an ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high.” bearing it’s golden lid. This Golden Lid was called the ha-kapporet (in Greek), or hilasterion (in Hebrew) which specifically **means** the lid of The Ark of The Covenant. The only other occurrence of **hilasterion** in the NT is in Hebrews 9:5, where the NASB translates it as "Mercy Seat". For many Christians it has the **meaning** of "that which expiates or propitiates" or "the gift which procures propitiation". Romans 3: 25 & 26 “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of HIS blood—to be received by faith. HE did this to demonstrate HIS righteousness, because in HIS forbearance HE had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— HE did it to demonstrate HIS righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and The ONE who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

Over the Mercy Seat stood the cherubim whose wings met each other, and beneath the wings of the cherubim, over The Mercy Seat, there was a bright light known to the Hebrew believers as “The Shekinah”.

What is “The Shekinah”? It is a Hebrew word meaning “Dwelling” or “Settling”. In 2 Chronicles 7 describes it as the dwelling, or settling place, of the Divine Presence of GOD. “When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of The LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of The LORD because the glory of The LORD filled it.” 2 Chronicles 7: 1 & 2 This awesome, incredibly bright and holy Shekinah light represented the actual presence and glory of GOD!!!

At night, swirling above the tent of the tabernacle immediately above this great Shekinah light, could be seen a pillar of fire! Through the day there was seen a great awesome, mighty, vast, swirling pillar of cloud.

Remember the cloud from last week? Matthew spoke of when, after the transfiguration of Jesus a bright cloud descended and covered them? “While HE was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is MY Son, whom I love; with HIM I am well pleased. Listen to HIM!” Matthew 17: 5 And John spoke about the same experience demonstrating the surpassing excellence of Christ, the Tabernacle “The WORD became flesh and made HIS dwelling among us. We have seen HIS glory, the glory of The ONE and Only SON, who came from the FATHER, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

The Jewish Tabernacle was full of The Law, where rites and ceremonies were a mere fore-shadowing of God’s Grace, but Christ is “FULL of grace”!!! Christ does not offer a little grace, but rather an overwhelming abundance of grace!!!!

The Tabernacle of old was full of images, shadows, symbols and representations of truth, but Christ is the awesome reality of the full truth living with us!!! Christ is not a mere shadow of the truth. HE is the full substance of truth!!!!!!

So, rejoice with unspeakable joy because whosoever comes to Christ is meeting with the real Tabernacle of GOD!!!!!! How awesome is that?? Praise HIS Holy Name!!!!!!!

The Book 1:

A Favoured People

So, tell me, do you think of yourself as a favoured people? I have 3 things of note here.

First, let's go back and take another look at John 1: 14 "The WORD became flesh and made HIS dwelling among us. **We have seen** HIS glory, the glory of The ONE and Only SON, who came from The FATHER, full of grace and truth." Did you notice that wee word "we"? Just who is the "we" to whom John refers here?

Is it just the apostles who were with Jesus on the mountain? They were a chosen company, for in John 13: 18 Jesus says, "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against ME.'" but HE also said, "You did not choose ME, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in MY Name The Father will give you." John 15:16 and "HE went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to ME unless The FATHER has enabled them." John 6:65. This speaks of prevenient grace!!!! Jesus chose us to follow HIM!

John 1: 11 - 13 says, "HE came to HIS own, and those who were HIS own did not receive HIM. But as many as received HIM, to them HE gave the right to become children of GOD, *even* to those who believe in HIS Name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of GOD." This tells us that if you are saved, you are not only chosen, but you are born of GOD!!!!

So, in Christ's day, this represented a small remnant, and they did exist.

Going forward in Biblical History there were the Twelve (Matthew 10:1 "And calling HIS twelve disciples to HIM, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, so that they could drive them out and heal every disease and sickness.") and the Seventy-Two (Luke 10:1 "After this, The LORD appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of HIM to every town and place HE was about to visit."). Afterwards, we read about the 3,000 in Acts 2: 41 "Those who embraced his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to the believers that day" and later in Acts 4: 4 ("But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.") the 5,000 and many more who were added to the Church. "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2: 46 & 47.

But brethren, don't forget that even in Christ's day it was told that many went back and walked with HIM no more. "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed HIM." John 6: 66

Why is this? Why would anyone turn away from Jesus? Because HIS awesome, Holy Truth has sifted through mere professors, fakers and the pretenders, and reduced them to a slender company who followed The LAMB wherever HE went! "These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb." Revelation 14: 4

Let this be our motto: We will follow the LAMB!!!!

So then, the "we" who beheld Christ's glory, were a select and chosen company.

Second, understand that "we" were a called company.

John relates in John 10: 4 “When HE has brought out all HIS own, HE goes on ahead of them, and HIS sheep follow HIM because they know HIS voice”. Matthew 4: 21 & 22 tells us that, “Going on from there, HE saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed HIM.” Please note that they heard the voice of Jesus and “immediately” responded. They did not discuss it, they did not say “Wait until we finish our chores”, they did not make arrangements for someone to look after the family business, they just left and followed Jesus. The record shows that most of the disciples and immediate attendants of Jesus received a Divine and Special call by Christ’s own voice, for Jesus called them by name, as a shepherd calls his own sheep and then leads them. “The Gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen for HIS voice. HE calls HIS own sheep by name and leads them out.” John 10: 3

Friends, for all of us who may at any time perceive Christ’s glory, it is because HE has called us unto Himself. “And the God of all grace, who called you to HIS eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast”. 1 Peter 5:10 ““No one can come to ME unless The FATHER who sent ME draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.” John 6: 44

Those who beheld HIS glory were also an illuminated people.

Think about this: None of the princes of this world knew HIM! Herod could not find HIM! The priests who studied the law could not discover HIM! The members of the Sanhedrin, who were under some expectation of HIS coming, could not perceive HIM as their Messiah! Pilate failed to understand that HE who stood before him was greater than any Caesar! And despite the star in the east and the miraculous appearance of angels to the shepherds, the blind generation would not perceive HIM! Despite the opening of blind eyes, the preaching of the Gospel to the poor, the raising of Lazarus from the dead, yes, despite all these signs and wonders, the masses could not perceive HIS glory!!!! “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon ME, Because The LORD has anointed ME To bring good news to the afflicted; HE has sent ME to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To grant those who mourn *in* Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So, they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that HE may be glorified. Isaiah 61: 1 - 3, Luke 4: 17 -19

But those, like Simon Bar-Jonah, who did recognize the glory of Christ, were blessed. “Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by MY Father in heaven.”” Matthew 16:17 To those who did behold HIS glory, it was all grace, wonderful grace!!!

Those whose eyes were opened to Christ’s glory were called effectually by the precious Holy Spirit (!), and they were anointed by the same Divine Person!!! And to this day, it remains the same!!!!

Have your eyes been opened to perceive HIM?

Have you heard HIS majestic voice?

Have you, who were once dead in sin, been made alive in Christ? “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,” Ephesians 2:1

GOD has made you and I alive together with Christ! "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2: 4 & 5

Have you seen something of the splendor of God in the humble man of Nazareth?

Have you learned to magnify HIM in your soul?

Have you desired to glorify HIM in your life as your God, your love, and your all-in-all?

If we can honestly say this from our hearts this morning, we are favoured indeed!!!!

Think of it, we are so wonderfully and especially favoured if we remember how many, at this very moment, who have not obtained this incredible grace!!!!

My friends, sadly, many look for glory in strength and arms, in philosophy and vain wisdom.

Follow the ONE Who is meek and lowly of heart, for there is where there is real glory!!!!

Praise HIM today for your salvation!!!!

The Book 2

A Wonderful Privilege

What does this word "beheld" 1 John 1: 14 really mean? It is a powerful word. It means more than merely seeing. It means to see, understand and absorb the sight, to feel and comprehend fully what is seen.

Notice, it does not say we heard of HIS glory! It does not say we read of HIS glory in a prophesy! It does not say we caught HIS glory from the lips of others! It says "we beheld HIS glory, the glory of The Only Begotten SON of the FATHER, full of grace and truth!

What a privilege this is, my friends!! To see Jesus, the very man in whom GOD dwelt!! To walk with HIM as one's companion along life's journey in HIS mercy. To listen to the words of life stream from HIS gracious lips! "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." John 6: 63, To look into HIS eyes, the eyes of eternity!! To sense the height and depth and breadth and width of HIS divine love beaming from HIS breast. "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ," Ephesians 3: 17 & 18. To see HIS face, even though it was marred more than that of any man. "Just as there were many who were appalled at him -- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness--" Isaiah 52: 14 But Better yet, to have been with HIM in wonderful communion, and been able to ask HIM the explanation of the difficult questions. To have had your faith energized and encouraged greatly by touching HIS very flesh.

But, in all that I have said, being a Christian is a nobler life than to live and walk by sight. "For we live by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7. We must live by faith.

And, in this very day brethren, there is a sight of Christ which can be had only by FAITH! "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11: 1

Therefore, we need not murmur because we are denied the privilege of sight. The sight of Christ, it seems, did little good to those who had it. It was only when The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost that they began to really know Christ and understand what HE said to them! "And

there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance".Acts 2: 3 & 4

For there is life for a look!!!! "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22 Look to HIM by Faith!!! Look now and see The Only Begotten of the FATHER, full of grace and truth!!!!

The Took: Our Testimony

Jesus is The Only Son of God, full of glory, grace and truth!!!

Is this your testimony today? Share this testimony! HE is Divine!!!! HE is all I need!!!! Brethren, it is our honour and duty to bear this testimony: That Jesus is The Only Begotten of GOD, full of grace and truth!!!!

Here it is, and I declare it here today, what my own ears have heard, what my eyes have seen, and what my own heart has tasted, that Jesus Christ, The LORD is The Only Begotten of The Father!!!!

HE is divine to me!!! HE is all the Saviour I need!!! HE has done for me only that which GOD alone could do!!!!

HE has turned my will, melted my heart, opened my eyes, and given me understanding.

HE has turned my mourning into laughter! "YOU have turned for me my mourning into dancing; YOU have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness," Psalm 30: 11-12 YOU turned my troubles into great joy, joy unspeakable!!! HE led me out of captivity and leads me safely every day! HE caused my heart to rejoice with psalms, hymns and delights!!!!

To me, right now, and forever, always the wonderful person of Jesus is The Only Begotten of the FATHER!!! HIS Name is precious ointment to my soul!!!! "A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth." Ecclesiastes 7: 1

I declare to you today that Jesus is full of grace!! Had HE not been, I could never have beheld HIS glory!!!! HE is full of grace!!!!

HE has put a new song in my heart!!!! "HE put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our GOD. Many will see and fear The LORD and put their trust in HIM." Psalm 40: 3

HE has established my comings and goings, even now!! "HE lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; HE set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand." Psalm 40: 2

I bear witness HE is full of grace, because HE helps those who are full of sin!!!

And I share this testimony, Jesus is as full of grace as HE is full of marvelous truth!!! HE has never failed me!!! His promises are always been "YES and AMEN"!!! All the time!!! "For no matter how many promises GOD has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through HIM the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of GOD." 2 Corinthians 1: 20

Never has a servant had such a wonderful, incredible master!!!!

HE has been my kinsman Redeemer!!! "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers." Ruth 2: 20

HE has been my brother!!! "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is A Friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18: 24

Never has any spouse had a husband such as Christ!!!! Never a better Saviour!!! Never a better Captain in the battles of life!!! Never has a mourner has such a great Comforter as Christ has been to my spirit!!!

Friends, I want no-one but HIM!!!! In life HE is my life!!!! In death HE is the death of death!!! Did you catch that? HE is the death of death!!!

In poverty Christ is our great riches!!!! In sickness HE makes our bed and is our balm!!!

In darkness HE is our Day Star!!!! "We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." 2 Peter 1: 19 "But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves." Malachi 4: 2

HE is the true manna in the camp when we are lost in the wilderness by our own doings!

And HE is our Rock in a totally wild generation!!

Praise HIM today, my firends!!!

You too, are a favoured people!!! And you have been given a wonderful priviledge!!!!

Look to HIM!!! Serve HIM!!!! Love HIM!!!!

Trust HIM today!!!!

Post Notes:

Ezekiel 36: 8 - 39:29

36 8 But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for MY people Israel, for they will soon come home. **9** I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, **10** and I will cause many people to live on you—yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. **11** I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD. **12** I will cause people, My people Israel, to live on you. They will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children. **13** "This is what The Sovereign Lord says: Because some say to you, "You devour people and deprive your nation of its children," **14** therefore you will no longer devour people or make your nation childless, declares The Sovereign Lord. **15** No longer will I make you hear the taunts of the nations, and no longer will you suffer the scorn of the peoples or cause your nation to fall, declares the Sovereign Lord." **16** Again the word of The LORD came to me: **17** "Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman's monthly uncleanness in MY sight. **18** So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. **19** I dispersed them among the nations, and they were

scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. 20 And wherever they went among the nations they profaned MY Holy Name, for it was said of them, 'These are The LORD's people, and yet they had to leave HIS land.' 21 I had concern for MY Holy Name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone. 22 "Therefore say to the Israelites, 'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of MY Holy Name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. 23 I will show the holiness of MY Great Name, which has been profaned among the nations, The Name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares The Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes. 24 "'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow MY decrees and be careful to keep MY laws. 28 Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be MY people, and I will be your God. 29 I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. 30 I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. 31 Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. 32 I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares The Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel! 33 "'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. 34 The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. 35 They will say, "This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited." 36 Then the nations around you that remain will know that I The LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.' 37 "This is what The Sovereign LORD says: Once again I will yield to Israel's plea and do this for them: I will make their people as numerous as sheep, 38 as numerous as the flocks for offerings at Jerusalem during her appointed festivals. So will the ruined cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD." **37**

1 The hand of The LORD was on me, and HE brought me out by The Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 HE led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can

these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, YOU alone know."⁴ Then HE said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of The LORD! ⁵ This is what The Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am The LORD.'" ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then HE said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as HE commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. ¹¹ Then HE said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am The LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares The LORD.'" ¹⁵ The word of The LORD came to me: ¹⁶ "Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.' ¹⁷ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. ¹⁸ "When your people ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' ¹⁹ say to them, 'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim's hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in MY hand.' ²⁰ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on ²¹ and say to them, 'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. ²² I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be My people, and I will be their God. ²⁴ "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one Shepherd. They will follow MY laws and be careful to keep MY decrees. ²⁵ They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your

ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. **26** I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put MY sanctuary among them forever. **27** MY dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be MY people. **28** Then the nations will know that I The LORD make Israel holy, when MY sanctuary is among them forever.”

38 **1**The word of the Lord came to me: **2** “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him **3** and say: ‘This is what The Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. **4** I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. **5** Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, **6** also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you. **7** “Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. **8** After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. **9** You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. **10** “This is what The Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. **11** You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. **12** I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.” **13** Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?”” **14** “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog: ‘This is what The Sovereign LORD says: In that day, when MY people Israel are living in safety, will you not take notice of it? **15** You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. **16** You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, Gog, I will bring you against MY land, so that the nations may know ME when I am proved holy through you before their eyes. **17** “This is what The Sovereign LORD says: You are the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. **18** This is what will

happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, MY hot anger will be aroused, declares The Sovereign LORD. **19** In MY zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. **20** The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble, and every wall will fall to the ground. **21** I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares The Sovereign LORD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. **22** I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. **23** And so I will show MY greatness and MY holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.' **39** **1** "Son of man, prophecy against Gog and say: 'This is what The Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. **2** I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. **3** Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. **4** On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals. **5** You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. **6** I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in safety in the coastlands, and they will know that I am the LORD. **7** "I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let MY Holy Name be profaned, and the nations will know that I The LORD am the Holy One in Israel. **8** It is coming! It will surely take place, declares The Sovereign LORD. This is the day I have spoken of. **9** "Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel. **10** They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel. And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them, declares The Sovereign LORD. **11** "On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east of the Sea. It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog. **12** "For seven months the Israelites will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. **13** All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I display MY glory will be a memorable day for them, declares The Sovereign LORD. **14** People will be continually employed in cleansing the land. They will spread out across the land and, along with others, they will bury any bodies that are lying on the ground. "After the seven months they will carry out a more detailed search. **15** As they go through the land, anyone who sees a human bone will leave a marker beside it until the gravediggers bury it in the Valley

of Hamon Gog, **16** near a town called Hamonah. And so they will cleanse the land.’ **17** “Son of man, this is what The Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: ‘Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. **18** You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. **19** At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are gluttoned and drink blood till you are drunk. **20** At MY table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,’ declares The Sovereign LORD. **21** “I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay on them. **22** From that day forward the people of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God. **23** And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to ME. So, I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. **24** I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid MY face from them. **25** “Therefore this is what The Sovereign LORD says: I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for MY Holy Name. **26** They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid. **27** When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of many nations. **28** Then they will know that I am The LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. **29** I will no longer hide MY face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the people of Israel, declares The Sovereign LORD.”

The Most Holy Place

Exodus 36: 35-36 “They made the curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. **36** They made four posts of acacia wood for it and overlaid them with gold. They made gold hooks for them and cast their four silver bases.”

Exodus 40: 3 " Place the ark of the covenant law in it and shield the ark with the curtain.”

Exodus 26: 31 -33 “Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. **32** Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. **33** Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.”

Exodus 40: 21 “Then he brought the ark into the tabernacle and hung the shielding curtain and shielded the ark of the covenant law, as The LORD commanded him.”

2 Chronicles 3: 8 “He built the Most Holy Place, its length corresponding to the width of the temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. He overlaid the inside with six hundred talents of fine gold.”

2 Chronicles 3: 10 “For the Most Holy Place he made a pair of sculptured cherubim and overlaid them with gold.”

Ezekiel 41:4 “And he measured the length of the inner sanctuary; it was twenty cubits, and its width was twenty cubits across the end of the main hall. He said to me, “This is the Most Holy Place.””

Ezekiel 45: 3 “In the sacred district, measure off a section 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits wide. In it will be the sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.”