

Fire in Babylon

(outline of Kelly's notes from NYE sharing)

During the time of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, a pro-self spirit had contaminated the hearts and altars of God's people. Their worship (which consisted of offering sacrifices to God) had become a routine religious event with no true communion and love. Lambs, loss, the Word, the Presence of the Lord in their midst, were taken for granted, and even worse, forgotten.

Days without number they had rejected the Lord's advances sent to them through His Word spoken by the prophets, and held on to their personal comforts, ease, and lack of care for the things of God's heart. A pro-self spirit had infected them, and they functioned in the same heart and way as the world. At that time Babylon was the world power, and God's people were more Babylonian than they were as His lambs purposed to fragrantly be given on His altars. Days without number the Lord had been robbed of the evening and morning sacrifices, and almost no one noticed or cared.

So God sent His people to Babylon. He sent them in three separate deportations. The first deportation happened in 605 BC, and Daniel and the three Hebrew Children were a part of that group.

The second deportation happened in 597 BC, and Ezekiel was a part of that group.

We are going to start with Ezekiel and end with Daniel in two things the Spirit has been really strongly dealing with me on during the last two weeks.

Ezekiel chapter 1

The climate with Ezekiel's group of the 2nd deportation found in chapter one:

- Jerusalem had not fallen yet and would not fall for ten years after that date.
- The people were either depressed with the dealing and all the personal

loss and inconvenience.

- OR they were growing comfortable in Babylon which was a culture of personal comfort and profit.
- MANY held out hope and belief that Jerusalem would not fall and that everything would soon be ok, even if their pro-self spirit remained undealt with.
- Few if any understood WHY they were there, in Babylon. WHY Babylon and the Babylonian spirit was emptying out and tearing down Jerusalem. And WHAT God was needing from them during this time period in Babylon.

The people had a choice:

- Pretend to love a Jerusalem they never loved because they lived for self in the midst of it.
- Conform to Babylon and complete their process of being conforming to the world (Romans 12).
- Let their time in Babylon bring them to their true Purpose.

Ezekiel 1:1, "**Now it came to pass** in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God."

Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year.

- Ezekiel is turning 30 years; Ezekiel is a priest and at **30 years of age is when a priest goes through his consecration ceremony.**
- All is happening according to God's times and seasons. NOTHING is random or outside of his control and more specifically His purpose.
- ***His consecration ceremony is happening in Babylon.***

God is orchestrating this ceremony and the congregation that Ezekiel is with are the captives sitting with him at the river Chebar.

Now let's go to Leviticus 9:6 to look at what happens in the priests' consecration. (*Leviticus chapter 8 is dedicated to the consecration of the priests themselves, but in chapter 9 a portion of the ceremony also includes the congregation*).

After 7 days of consecration and separation in the tabernacle, the consecrated priests came out to the congregation.

Leviticus 9:5-6:

*"And they brought that which Moses commanded before the tabernacle of the congregation: **and all the congregation drew near and stood before the Lord.***

*And Moses said, **This is the thing which the Lord commanded that ye should do: and the glory of the Lord shall appear unto you.***"

Lev. 9:12-14:

*"**And he slew the burnt offering;** and Aaron's sons presented unto him the blood, which he sprinkled round about upon the altar.*

***And they presented the burnt offering unto him,** with the pieces thereof, and the head: and he burnt them upon the altar.*

And he did wash the inwards and the legs, and burnt them upon the burnt offering on the altar."

*** **The people were to be prepared as a burnt offering ready to be offered up to God.** **This** was Ezekiel's job as a priest over those in Pro-self captivity. Their inward parts and legs were to be WASHED and made ready for the altar FIRE!

THEY WERE TO RECEIVE A NEW SPIRIT, A NEW HEART, AND A NEW WALK THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO BE AS BURNT OFFERING LAMBS (BY CHRIST) ON THE ALTARS
rather than PRO SELF BABYLONIANS.

Remember,

- God is in control of this ceremony and HE will provide the FIRE for the consecration of His people.
- God will provide the OPPORTUNITIES for them to fulfill their purpose as a people and walk as offerings instead of Babylonians, as lambs instead of beasts.

Ezekiel 1:3 - The word of the Lord came EXPRESSLY to Ezekiel and the hand of the Lord was upon him.

The WORD OF GOD is powerful and specific and with incredible timing and purpose. But did the people perceive that? Or did Ezekiel just seem like a passionate priest with powerful messages and lovely words with no impact for God's altars?

Ezekiel 33:32, "Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them."

GOD wanted to help His People break free of that loveless and fruitless pattern so HE PROVIDES THE ALTAR FIRE!!!

Ezekiel 1:4, "And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire enfolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire."

A fiery trial has come to them from the north (Babylon), an opportunity to fellowship with Him in His sufferings, to pass through the corridor and give glory to God through Christ, to be tried with fire and bring forth Jesus Christ and give God glory.

I Peter 1:6-7, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and

honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ..."

Ezekiel 1:5, "Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man."

**** These living ones came from out of the midst of the fiery trial fires bearing the glory of God like altar fire within!!!**

NOT a golden image untested by the flames.

Ezekiel 1:13, "As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning."

These do not carry ideas, doctrines, deep teachings, belief systems... they are FULL OF FIRE. FULL OF FIRE . FULL OF FIRE!!!

What kind of fire? **ALTAR FIRE.**

Where did they get the altar fire?

From their fiery trials that came to them like a consecration gift from God in that whirlwind He sent from the north (Babylon).

What did their washed legs look like?

Huge wheels full of eyes that see the Lamb and move in oneness with His nature!!!

Ezekiel 1:18, "As for the rims of the wheels, they were so large they were awesome; and their rims were full of eyes, all around the four of them."

The Lord does not bestow eyes upon our brains or souls, but upon that which moves in a new spirit, carrying the altar throne of the Lamb and His fire WITHIN. These LIVING ONES passed through the corridor of suffering in their fiery trials in

oneness with the enthroned Lamb, fellowship in His sufferings, partaking of His altar Fire and coming forth in His Image with a new Heart (His) and New Spirit (His) and a tremendously changed new walk. Now here is a picture of walking in the Spirit!!

Ezekiel 1:26-27, "And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about."

These ones are carrying the throne which is also an altar and the slaughtered Lamb is ON FIRE on it (see verse 27).

These pro-self captives stuck in their pro-self bondage needed FIRE not teaching.

REAL ONENESS with the slaughtered lamb that can be only found by holding up the altar and partaking of its FIRE!!!

NOW THE QUESTION IS OUR APPROACH TO THESE FIERY TRIALS?

SOME CAPTIVES GIVEN TESTING FIRES IN BABYLON:

These past years were not and all the years to come are not just filled with trivial tests... Rather this is a testing from God to see if (*Daniel and His three friends*) and we **truly received or will receive the revelation** God gave them concerning the image of His Kingdom and the Kingdoms of this earth... lambs and beasts. The question is, can we spot the

truth... 'Is the love of the truth in us' or have we made it an idol that cannot pass and **will not** pass through the fire and be refined.

Daniel

What is an IMAGE OF GOLD (Daniel 3:1)??

***** An image of what is glory when it passes through the fire.**

Pro-self says to go through these trials and maintain our strength and wisdom – to come out of the flames taller, stronger, more established in a self-condoned culture *Babylonian* filled with golden idols rather than slaughtered lambs. **A culture that is willing to bow down and worship an idea and image of what God is while refusing to go into the flames (Daniel chapter 3).** How many robbed God of His lamb that day in Babylon?

?? What is a Babylonian idol?

- An image of God that requires no sacrifice or loss. Those Judeans in Babylon were able to maintain their comfortable, profitable, self-gratifying lifestyle while claiming oneness with their culture that revolved around slaughtered lamb.

- Something that LOOKS LIKE DIETY (gold) but has not passed through and will not pass through the fire. The people were able to declare this idea is GOD (GOLD) while rising up in pride, injustice, unforgiveness and offense against their brother.

- A forming of God that has no essence or savor, but stands as GOLD (GOD) in our midst unchallenged and bowed down to.

Jeremiah 23:18, *"For who **hath stood** in the counsel of the Lord, and hath perceived and heard his word? Who hath marked his word, and heard it?"*

The three Hebrew children STOOD in the counsel of the Lord and went into the flames in His spirit.

The statue itself may have passed through the fire when it was smelted, but those fires NEVER TOUCH US, and remain a static truth in the idol itself. It is impossible to fellowship with an idol of God. True fellowship (the kind He desires, in His sufferings) happens in the fiery trial flames (Daniel chapter 3).

Idol worship is huge with the people of God, and the prophets incessantly cried out against it right up to the captivity. Exodus 20:2-5, *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God."*

Prayer: "Let everything I have be as gold that has passed through the fire. Let nothing that I claim in me as yours be that which has not been refined by the flames and come forth in the very spirit and nature of the Lamb Himself."



Note: In this picture the emphasis is on the FIRE and The GLORY and GOD and the four living creatures are swallowed up in the glory of Him and not the focus 😊