

Mystery of the Millennium Part 5

As we sit down and give the MOM 5, Mystery of the Millennium 5 a little attention. In the last message we spent a fair bit of time in Zechariah 14. It's my hope that the concept of an unconformity showed clearly and transition phases, like Zechariah 14: 15-16.

They have in between them indeterminate periods of time and they represent two entirely different geopolitical situations. It also occurred to me that the phrase, "In that day, or some variant of it" appears some nine times alone, at least by my count, in Zechariah 14.

Since, "In that day", represents different time events it couldn't possibly be referring to a twenty-four hour event. Although when we look at the day of the Lord as historically taught; Christ returns, resurrects everybody, returns the same day, sets up the millennium and Bobs your uncle and a way we go.

Curiosity got the better of this cat, so I looked up day in the concordance, its word 3117 in Hebrew, and if I am pronouncing it right it is, "Yowm." And while it indeed can refer to the quote, unquote "warm portion of the day," as in the sun is out, or it can also mean "sunrise to sunset". It can also mean a "literal twenty-four hour period from sunset to sunset."

It can also be used figuratively to mean, "A space of time, or a block of time if you prefer, defined by an associated term", as in "Day of the Lord" which we see in Zechariah 14:1.

Wandering through Zechariah 14 with our gray matter even turned on low, we should be able to figure out which of those definitions of quote, unquote "day" actually applies. Look it up for yourself in the concordance to see what you read of it and perhaps it will open doors that you had not considered before.

Before going on to the millennial topic; in a conversation that came up regarding spirit beings and their capacity. I thought maybe I would address this because it is possibly something none of us, I certainly hadn't before doing the Spirit study, understood it or even thought about it.

In the study of spirit one invariably comes up against this and it might be helpful to mention this at this juncture. One of the major points of COG's (Church of God's) theology is that no one has ever seen God. It's a biggie! It's sacred ground! Untouchable and unassailable!

I would like to ask you a question. Could God the Father sit across the table from you; yeah, you personally? Staring you eyeball to eyeball and you couldn't see Him? Unless we can see the spirit world the answer would have to be, well of course he could.

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Can angels, who are spirit beings, change form and appear as humans? Can they do that? Well we have record of that in scripture. In the book of Hebrews; Hebrews 13, Hebrews 13 and verse 2, we're admonished:

²Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

So I guess they do. Well who gave them that capacity? It would have to be God, wouldn't it?

What does Jesus Christ look like in his glorified form? What does he actually look like? Well we get a description of that, if you turn with me to Revelation 1, verses 12 – 17, it says:

¹²And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³and in the midst of the seven lampstands one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to his feet, and girted about the chest with a golden band. (So it is Christ) ¹⁴His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; ¹⁵and his feet like unto fine brass, as if refined in the furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. ¹⁶And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. (Well no kidding!) And he laid his right hand on me, saying, don't be afraid; I am the first and the last:

Well, that's interesting. Was Christ as a spirit being, as this glorified spirit being we just read about; was he able to appear as a human? Could he do that, was it within his capacity?

Let's go back and look at John 20, John 20 and we will pick it up in verse 12. John 20, verse 12.

¹²And she saw (Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.) And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

So were these angels able to appear in some form that she could see them? Yeah!

¹³Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.

Well how could that be?

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¹⁵And Christ said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking? "She, supposing Him to be the gardener,

Clearly a woman who knew him, she had no clue who he was.

*said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). ¹⁷Christ said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her. ¹⁹Then, on the same day at evening, (So we are talking probably 12 hours after the first encounter) *being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace be with you."* ²⁰and when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side.*

Notice that there is no paranoia here about don't touch me, stay away from me, no. Totally different than his first encounter.

and the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord ²¹So Christ said to them again, "Peace to you!"

And you notice he now gives them a commission.

As the Father has sent Me, so I also send you." (He was giving them a task to do) ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

This is during the Days of Unleavened Bread, not the Day of Pentecost.

²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Is it possible for them to, Christ to send them out as He had been sent and to give them this capacity without God's Spirit? Does that even make any sense to you? Think about that!

But when we look at this thing it shouldn't really surprise us that Christ was able to appear in His non-glorified form, which He clearly did. Look at my hands, look at my feet, nothing like the being we see in the glorified state in Revelation 1.

So obviously Christ as a spirit being could appear as a human. Well, was Christ able to appear as, "Joe Sixpack", to use a modern term? Could he do that? If he is a spirit being so that no one recognized who he was. Well the bible says, not only could he, but

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he did. And we read about that in Mark 16, Mark 16. Funny when you start doing these studies on various things the stuff you can actually pick up and learn, if one actually chooses to believe it, Mark 16, verses 9-13.

⁹Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, (Which we read about) out of whom He had cast seven demons.

¹⁰She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.

¹¹And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. ¹²After that, (Notice) He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. ¹³And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

Well that whole account where Christ appeared in yet another form, clearly he wasn't the glorified spirit being and he didn't look like the physical human of Christ because they didn't recognize him.

You can read of that account in Luke 24, verses 13-35. Why should it surprise us that spirit beings, even at the God level of existence, as Christ was, be able to do these things. It's just plain in the scriptures and isn't it wonderful thing that God the Father can only appear in His glorified state, unlike these lesser beings who he gave the capacity to so we can have our cherished theology. Just saying! We really thought that out through well.

In the last message, in MOM 4, we looked at the timing of what the COG (Church of God) has historically suggested, their basic doctrine actually, that Ezekiel 37, verses 1-14, that event occurs after the thousand years, the millennium in that vernacular, after that time has played its self out. And we look at other passages such as Isaiah 26, 19-21 that shows us that the historical perspective just does not square with the biblical text. It just doesn't!

If we read Isaiah 26 again, just as a refresher, Isaiah 26 and verse 19:

¹⁹Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

Well if that isn't the resurrection, I guess I just don't get it.

²⁰Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; (Physical beings) hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.

²¹For behold, Jehovah comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.

Well does that make the slightest bit of sense as an after the millennium situation? It just doesn't fit. There is a logical story flow which we went through in MOM 4.

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In Ezekiel 35, when we walk through that, it shows that God is not real happy with the activities of the people when Israel, the modern state of Israel, was overrun and the people who walked into it didn't behave real well and all of Ezekiel 35 is God, how he is going to deal with those people who overrun the Holy Land.

And if we go on in Ezekiel 36 it shows again or reviews that the ancient heights have become our possession. This is the Gentiles who run into there and they defiled the land and swallowed you up on every side. Verse 3

...so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations,

Well okay, that is pretty clear and that logically followed Ezekiel 35 and we can walk through that passage and He's, God is restoring the land and He shows who He is going to repopulate it with and he shows what kind of spiritual condition they will in when they do.

Makes perfect sense, there is a logical historical geopolitical flow to that. In Ezekiel 36, and verse 24, we read, God says:

²⁴For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries and bring you into your own land. (The one that had been overrun by the Gentile nations) ²⁵Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. ²⁹I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.

Well that is pretty plain. And we walk right into that where God has prepared the land and tells us what he is going to do. And then we get to Ezekiel 37 where He says:

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.

And I changed my mind and were not going to do this right now were going to do it a thousand years from now. Ah, no that's not what it says, nor does that make the slightest bit of sense.

²... He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. ³And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord God, You know." ⁴Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of Yahovah! ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

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⁶I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am Yahovah.””” ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸... as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

⁹Also He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.””” ¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.

No mistaking that! It is the same, all of it that we read in Ezekiel 36

... ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, Yahovah, have spoken it and performed it,” ...

It flows in a logical, perfectly logical flow; prepare the land, bring the people and bring them in. It is continuous, it is not unconformable, it is completely conformable. And while we are at this thing even though we read about this is the house of Israel, I would like to throw this puzzle piece in for you, for you to consider in your own time. Because that is clearly talking about the house of Israel being resurrected.

If you go to Matthew 12, notice Christ’s words here in verse 39:

³⁹.... An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

He is talking to the Scribes and Pharisees of the day, but notice this:

⁴¹The men of Nineveh (Gentiles) will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. ⁴²The queen of the South (Queen of Sheba) will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

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You think about that. The Gentiles will rise with that generation of Israel and we read of that resurrection in Ezekiel 37. There is a place for the Gentiles. You need to think about that.

So they are going to restore, going back to Ezekiel 37, we see them restored to the land and does it then not logically follow that once they are, going on it verse 15:

¹⁵Again the word of Yahovah came to me, saying, ¹⁶“As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.’ ¹⁷ Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.

¹⁸“And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, ‘Will you not show us what you mean by these?’— ¹⁹ ... ‘Thus says God: “... I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.”’

²⁰ And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes. ²¹ “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely (Same thing) I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into your own land; ²² and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

Does this sequence in Ezekiel 35 through 37 seem a logical, continuous, conformable, series of events to you? It sure does to me!

²³ They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

²⁴ “David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

²⁵ Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.

²⁶ Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. ²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God,...

Remember Christ’s words in John 20 when he was talking to Mary, “Your Father and My Father, My God and your God” I will be your God, this is God the Father.

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²⁸The nations also will know that I, Yahovah, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”””

Pretty plain!

Where can we go, well actually let's just take back a few pages and once this is done I want to set the stage because we are told, once that is completed, what is the attitude of the nations around the restored Israel?

Well it's given to us in Ezekiel 28, verses 24 – 28, It says:

²⁴“And there shall no longer be a pricking brier or a painful thorn for the house of Israel from among all who are around them, who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord (their)God.”

²⁵ ‘Thus says the Lord God: “When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, (Okay) and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob.

²⁶And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them.

Does that sound like a millennium condition to you? After they are restored what the surrounding nations feel about that is anything but millennial.

Well what can we learn of this gathering and restoration of Israel and the rejoining of the houses in scripture? Where would you personally look for details of that event? What passages would you turn to, where, would you go?

Well if we go to Jeremiah 23, Jeremiah 23, verses 7 and 8 it gives us a pretty accurate description of the condition of Israel at the time. Verse 7 of Jeremiah 23, it says:

⁷ “Therefore, behold, the days are coming,” says Yahovah, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’

⁸ but, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.”

So it's talking about a huge event that's so big, so dramatic on the world's stage that the first exodus will be just a footnote of history. The second exodus will dwarf it. We can see a little more of that in Isaiah 43. Isaiah 43 and verses 5 – 7. Isaiah 43, verses 5 – 7 where it says:

⁵ Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; ⁶ I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth — ⁷

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everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.”

Pretty clear!

What is Israel’s lot, what is their condition when that process gets set in motion? Well Jeremiah 30 tells us exactly that. Jeremiah 30 and verses 1 – 11.

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahovah, saying, ²“Thus speaks the Lord God of Israel, saying: ‘Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you. ³For behold, the days are coming,’ says Yahovah, ‘that I will bring back from captivity My people Israel and Judah,’

So when that regathering begins it shows Israel and Judah in a position of captivity.

... ‘And I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.’”

Obviously the same event.

⁴Now these are the words that the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah.

⁵“For thus says Yahovah, ‘We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. ⁶Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? ⁷ Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

⁸‘For it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; foreigners shall no more enslave them. ⁹But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.

¹⁰‘Therefore do not fear, O My servant Jacob,’ says the Lord, ‘Nor be dismayed, O Israel; for behold, I will save you from afar, and your seed from the land of their captivity. Jacob shall return, have rest and be quiet, and no one shall make him afraid.

¹¹For I am with you,’ says the Lord, ‘to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.’

You notice that in verses 12 through 15 we read of strong correction.

¹²“For thus says Yahovah: ‘Your affliction is incurable, your wound is severe.

¹³There is no one to plead your cause, that you may be bound up; you have no healing medicines. ¹⁴All your lovers have forgotten you; they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased.

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¹⁵Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you.

Notice, He has allowed this to happen and when verse 16 and 17, we have seen in the history God has often used other nations to correct his people.

In verses 16 and 17 we see the correction of the correctors:

¹⁶Therefore all those who devour you shall be devoured; and all your adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; those who plunder you shall become plunder, and all who prey upon you I will make a prey.

¹⁷For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,' says God, 'Because they called you an outcast saying: "This is Zion; no one seeks her."'

And again we get into verse 18, the restoration, once the correction comes.

¹⁸ "... 'Behold, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; the city shall be built upon its own mound, and the palace shall remain according to its own plan.

¹⁹Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry; (Quite a change from the correction) I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

²⁰Their children also shall be as before, and their congregation shall be established before Me; and I will punish all who oppress them.

Well isn't this the millennium and everything is all happy? Ah, no; no it's not!

²¹Their nobles shall be from among them, and their governor shall come from their midst; then I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach Me; for who is this who pledged his heart to approach Me?' says Yahovah. ²²'You shall be My people, and I will be your God.'"

²³Behold, the whirlwind of Yahovah goes forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind; it will fall violently on the head of the wicked. ²⁴The fierce anger of Yahovah will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days (Not the millennium) you will consider it.

Notice that pattern.

We see in Jeremiah 31 the same thing and with more details. Verse 7

⁷... "Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O Lord, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!' ⁸Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among

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them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return...

⁹They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.

¹⁰"Hear the word of Yahweh, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.'

¹¹For Yahovah has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. (A condition of captivity)

¹²Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the Lord— for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all.

A restoration of the people. And we get some details again showing how severe the correction will actually be, in verse 15.

¹⁵Thus says the Lord: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

¹⁶Thus says the Lord: "Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for your work shall be rewarded, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope in your future, says Yahovah, that your children shall come back to their own border.

And notice the repentance of Israel. Verse 18:

¹⁸"I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself: 'You have chastised me, and I was chastised, like an untrained bull; restore me, and I will return, for You are Yahovah my God.

¹⁹Surely, after my turning, I repented; and after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, because I bore the reproach of my youth.'

²⁰Is Ephraim My dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For though I spoke against him, I earnestly remember him still; therefore My heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, ...

Correction is given, repentance is received. Verse 27 of this same passage:

²⁷"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and the seed of beast. (We read about that in Ezekiel 36) ²⁸And it shall come to pass, that as I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to throw down, to destroy, and to afflict, (All through that period of correction) so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says God.

²⁹In those days they shall say no more: 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.'

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³⁰*But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge.* ³¹*Behold, the days are coming, says Yahovah, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says Yahovah.*

³³*But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; (Didn't we read about that in Ezekiel 37) and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* ³⁴*No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

Well how can you know God without God's Holy Spirit? You can't! And the certainty and surety of this is in verse 35:

³⁵*Thus says Yahovah, who gives the sun for a light by day, the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The Lord of hosts is His name):* ³⁶*"If those ordinances depart from before Me, says Yahovah, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever."* ³⁷*Thus says the Lord: "If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done,...*

He is not real happy with Israel's performance, but there will be a restoration and it is absolutely certain.

We have seen that prior to Israel's restoration they are in captivity. Does this make any sense in a post millennial setting after the millennium? Well I will submit it makes no sense whatsoever.

Where are we given more information regarding details of this regathering? If you had to turn to a section of scripture where this would be described more fully, where would you go?

Well there is such a place turns out; let's read it. In Ezekiel 20: Ezekiel 20 is a very interesting passage because it goes through, and we will get to this, and it is very important to understand this. You read Ezekiel 20 and Israel blows up, does it wrong, God is choked. Over and over they just refuse to keep his statutes and judgments. They just won't do it. And He relents and He relents and he relents and He relents and he finely gets to the point where, ah, okay sports fans, we are done here. We see that in verse 32. It's important to remember this:

³²*What you have in your mind shall never be,*

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So the spirit of the house of Israel, still in idolatry up to their ears will be like the Gentiles.

...like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.’ ³³“As I live,” says the Lord God, “surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. ³⁴I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, (There is a tie in) with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. (He has had enough)

³⁵And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. ³⁶Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” ... (We need to think about that)

³⁷“I will make you pass under the rod, (Make you pass under the rod) and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;)

But notice something else here, we are given more details of the regathering in verse 38.

³⁸I will purge the rebels from among you,

Just because they passed under the rod, were given God’s Spirit does not mean that they are with the program. And notice what God does with them.

I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, (They are going to be regathered) but they shall not enter the land of Israel. (The rebels are not going into the land of Israel, they will be purged out before that happens) ³⁹“As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says God: “Go, serve every one of you his idols—and hereafter—if you will not obey Me; (They have had their opportunity, they knew they were to obey God; He has had enough.) ... *profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols.*

And today we call on God’s name and we worship Baal with the celebrations we keep, and we are going to be in it up to our ears in the next month or so. God is going to get to a point where He says, “We’re done with this folks, it’s over!” Verse 40:

⁴⁰For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel,” says the Lord God, “there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, (So you are going into that restored land, whoever is alive at the time, they will serve God) ... I will accept them, and there I will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things.

⁴¹I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles.

⁴²Then you shall know that I am Yahovah, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I raised My hand in an oath to give to your fathers.

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⁴³And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed.

⁴⁴Then you shall know that I am Yahovah, when I have dealt with you for My name's sake, (This is all about God, it's not about us) not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel,"

That's pretty plain, so when he gets to the time or when, okay let's get on with the program, it's going to be fast, it's going to be furious and there will be no quarter spared. Now it's very interesting, what we look for these patterns. Ezekiel 20 is very, very clear about what goes on. Well can we, can we see that someplace else in scripture where it would make sense? So I would like you to turn with me to Isaiah 65. We need to turn our thoughts on here and start thinking.

God said:

¹ "I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' to a nation that was not called by My name.

²I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts; ³a people who provoke Me to anger continually to My face; who sacrifice in gardens, and burn incense on altars of brick;

⁴who sit among the graves, and spend the night in the tombs; who eat swine's flesh, and the broth of abominable things is in their vessels; ⁵who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, (No Sir) for I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, a fire that burns all the day.

And if you take that passage and you think back to Ezekiel 20, that describes the fire that burns in God's nostrils, for smoke that comes up to Him, and He is not happy. Now notice this:

⁶"Behold, it is written before Me: I will not keep silence, (Even God has an end to his leash) I will repay—even repay into their bosom—⁷your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together,

So those alive at the time as well as their fathers, when God gets around to dealing with it, He is going to deal with them all together. Well do the math, He has to resurrect them. Is this millennial? No it is not!

"Says Yahovah, "Who have burned incense on the mountains and blasphemed Me on the hills; therefore I will measure their former work into their bosom."

⁸Thus says the Lord: "As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one says, 'Do not destroy it, for a blessing is in it,' so will I do for My servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all. ⁹I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,

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He resurrects them so that He can deal with those who are alive and those who are resurrected at the same time.

and from Judah an heir of My mountains; My elect shall inherit it, and My servants shall dwell there.

As we read in Ezekiel 20 those mountains will be inhabited by God's servants and those who will not serve Him are not going in there.

¹⁰Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for My people who have sought Me.

Well now notice here sorting and sifting.

¹¹"...you are those who forsake the Lord, who forget My holy mountain,

They were gathered, they were brought in, were passed under the rod, entered into the covenant; they are just not going to do it.

who prepare a table for Gad, and who furnish a drink offering for Meni. ¹²Therefore I will number you for the sword, and you shall all bow down to the slaughter;

They had their shot, they continue to worship false things. Notice:

because, when I called, (It's in the past tense) you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not hear, but did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight."

They were given the opportunity and they chose team dark; God will slaughter them! And we understand it is the Father who calls so if we look in verse 12, "*when I called*". There is no mistaking it, this is the Father who is speaking. And you notice the difference between the two.

¹³Therefore thus says God: "Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; ... My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed;

You can walk down through that and verse 15

¹⁵Yahovah will slay you and call His servants by another name;

You have the sheep, you have the goats, you have those who follow God and those who will not. They are dealt with in verse 16:

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¹⁶so that he who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My eyes.

The sorting and the sifting has already occurred. Is this the millennium yet? It is not!
Verse 17:

¹⁷For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;

Opps, we're having a bit of a change here but it is after the cleanup has occurred. And when we get to verse 20 we see:

²⁰No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

So clearly a change in the scenery.

²¹They shall build houses and (physical people) inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree,

These people are going to live a very long time. Well who are they? Going on:

as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be (Who are they?) the descendants of the blessed of the Lord,

The ones we saw called out in the previous part of Isaiah 65 which is before the millennium is in place before the change comes.

and their offspring with them.

That is pretty plain; it shows us who that is. The physical beings who will live into the future are the children of blessed of the Lord. The cursed of the Lord have been dealt with prior to the onset of the millennium.

We see exactly the same thing where Israel died in the wilderness, their children went in. They still booted it, but their children went in and they didn't. The millennial children will live a very long time. And they will face Satan when he is released at the end of the millennium.

Unless you think we are dealing this together as a one off, as we finish up here go to Micah 2, the little book of Micah 2 where you see them being gathered together as

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Isaiah 65 points out. Go to the little book of Micah, if I can find it, and we see, we see that in Micah rather, verses 12 and 13, notice:

¹²"I will surely assemble all of you, O Jacob, (And in my reference point I have Isaiah 65:7) I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; (So all of Jacob plus the remnant) I will put them together like sheep of the fold, like a flock in the midst of their pasture; they shall make a loud noise because of so many people.

¹³The one who breaks open will come up before them; they will break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it; their king will pass before them, with Yahovah at their head."

Huh, how about that, it's not a "one off" it is a repeatable thing. And notice, and we will just end with Hosea 3 and verse 5. Again to nail this thing, this is not a millennial setting when Israel is restored.

Notice Hosea 3 verse 5:

⁵Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek Yahovah their God and David their king. They shall fear Yahovah and His goodness in the latter days.

Well if unless the millennium and the latter days are the same thing, and they are not, we have a time frame of this and we have been working on a map, actually a timeline of these events and this is clearly not millennial, nor is it after the millennium.

If you are making your own map; I wish you would, because it is extremely helpful or if you want a copy of what we have done so far fire us and e-mail and we will send it off to you.

But we are not even to the millennium yet and many things have happened. The Mystery of the Millennium continues.