

## The Foretelling – The Call From Sin

January 16-17, 2021

**Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)** – “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations”.

**Acts 18:9 (NIV)** – “One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent’”.

**2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV)** – “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God”.

“Ezekiel’s audience offers a classic example of people in denial. Hauled off to Babylon in chains as part of God’s promised judgment, the people refuse to admit their condition. They insist that God will never let Jerusalem fall, believing that somehow He will preserve the city and rescue the people. Ezekiel informs them that God doesn’t operate by their rules. They can’t compromise with Him or negotiate Him into a corner. He always does what’s right and consistent with His character. God promised to preserve His people on His terms, not theirs” – **Zondervan Men’s Devotional Bible**

**Jeremiah 29:19-21 (NIV)** – “For they have not listened to my words”, declares the Lord, “words that I sent to them again and again by my servants the prophets. And you exiles have not listened either”, declares the Lord. Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, all you exiles whom I have sent away from Jerusalem to Babylon. This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says about Ahab son of Kolaiah and Zedekiah son of Masseiah, who are prophesying lies to you in my name: “I will deliver them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will put them to death before your very eyes”.

“Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all” – **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

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**Ezekiel 3:1-3 (NIV)** – And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel”. So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it”. So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

**Ezekiel 3:7-9 (NIV)** – “But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people”.

**Ezekiel 3:16-21 (NIV)** – At the end of seven days the word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for<sup>[a]</sup> their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself.

<sup>2</sup>“Again, when a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before them, they will die. Since you did not warn them, they will die for their sin. The righteous things that person did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the righteous person not to sin and they do not sin, they will surely live because they took warning, and you will have saved yourself.”

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**Ezekiel 14:2-6 (NIV)** – Then the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? Therefore, speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: When any of the Israelites set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet, I the Lord will answer them myself in keeping with their great idolatry. I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols’. Therefore, say to the people of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!’”

**Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV)** – 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. 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. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath<sup>[a]</sup> enter you, and you will come to life. 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.’” 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. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. 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.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. 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.’ 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. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I

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open your graves and bring you up from them. 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.”

**1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)** – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light”.

4 in 10 women who have had abortions were churchgoers at the time; Only 7 percent of women discussed their abortion decision with anyone at the church; 65 percent say church members judge single women who are pregnant; 54 percent think churches oversimplify decisions about pregnancy options; Only 41 percent believe churches are prepared to help with decisions about unwanted pregnancies; Only 3 in 10 women think churches give accurate advice about pregnancy options

***2015 LifeWay Research study shared by Focus on the Family***

“A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on” – **Winston Churchill**