

Ezekiel's Puzzle in Chapter 4

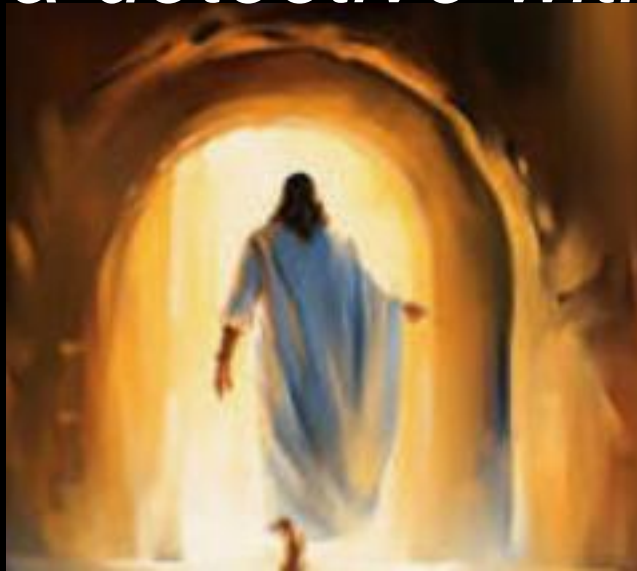
Chapter 4 of Ezekiel, was written about 565 BC (almost 600 years before Jesus) at the time when Ezekiel was among the captives in Babylon.

(I'd like to introduce to you our Sunday School at 9am.)

Jeremiah had already told the Jews, they would remain in Babylon for 70yrs

Ezekiel 4: is similar to Daniel's chapter 9, His famous "70 Weeks of Years, prophecy," something which used to be a puzzle to modern Bible scholarship.

But in the late 1800's Sir Robert Anderson, a detective with Scotland Yard...



was able to determine the actual date of Palm Sunday and the Resurrection by determining the data provided by the “70 Weeks” prophecy.



*....quote by Charlie Dyer “Land and the Book” (Jon Gauger)
(page 42 and 43 of our Tsarfati book.)*

“Now you son of man, get yourself a brick, place it before you and inscribe a city on it, Jerusalem. Then lay siege against it, ...pitch camps and place battering rams against it...get yourself an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between you and the city...This is a sign to the house of Israel...” Ezekiel 4: 1-3

So.. Ezekiel chapter 4 has remained a puzzle. We are sure it's important....

1. This was a sign to both the Houses of Israel and Judah about their sin. God does not waste words; we also see that Israel's sin far exceeded Judah's.

2. One day would equal one year.

3. Judging by what Daniel's prophecy yielded, Samaria (Israel) Would be assigned 390 days of captivity, and Judah would be assigned 40 days, a total of 430 days for the two countries.

4. People would listen to the prophet preach from his prone position, as they walked by his little encampment.



Ezekiel is told to get on his sides and build a model of “captivity” against Jerusalem. A total of 430 days.

Scholars attempted to link Ezekiel's prophecy to years of discipline by the Lord, but nobody could link this 430 years of Ezekiel 4 to anything in the Bible? Charlie Dyer is the rule.

Most prophecy scholars just ignore it, but when does God put stuff in the Bible to be ignored or worse approximated?

Today prophecy students say many of the same things they used to say about Daniel. We will understand it better by and by. There is a principle of progressive illumination in the Word of God. We will know when we see Jesus!

1 Cor. 13... “then face to face”

Here is the problem:

*390 days (Israel) + 40 days (Judah) =
430 “days” years of discipline*

But there is no obvious place in Scripture or history where the Hebrews (Samaria and Judah) are under God's chastisement for 430 years.

Some might try to approximate as in Egypt, but the Jews time in Egypt is well before the establishment of Judah and Samaria, so it is the wrong time frame? And there the number is exactly 400 years...and does God ever approximate?

And here is a basic component of prophecy. When dealing with the Jews vs. the Church, Jewish times are always noted down to the day and hour. They are designed to measure time.

Exact time...7 years of Jacob's Trouble, 400 years in Egypt, 70 years in Babylonian Captivity, and now 430 years of discipline – what, where, why?

One thing the Chosen People always perform in prophecy is to provide a clock in specific times. But here Ezekiel seems to have a clock which has no purpose? We ask why?

Meanwhile, the Church's times are given in such a way as to keep Christians in an attitude of suspense based on faith. "Of that hour knoweth no man..." (i.e.. The time of the Rapture is left to faith)

Just for a little background, Samaria vanishes, gobbled up by Assyria.

2 Kings 17 says

“In the ninth year of Hoshea (721 BC) the king of Assyria (Sennacherib) took Samaria, [the northern kingdom] and carried this northern kingdom away into Assyria.” This was substantially earlier than Judah was carried away into Babylon.

Then the first wave of the “true” Babylonian Captivity began for Judah in 606BC, 115 years later, when Nebuchadnezzar invaded the southern kingdom. Jeremiah’s prophecy of 70 years captivity was fulfilled in 536BC when some of them went home at Cyrus’ command.

Cyrus of Persia sent the people held in Babylon back to the land.

(606 – 536 = 70 years.)

However proving their continued disobedience, only a remnant left for Jerusalem. Most of the Jews liked the luxury of Babylon, and stayed among the idols and special foods.

Captivity in Babylon was only a introduction to a much longer dispersion (Diaspora) which the OT told Israel was coming in the “Latter Days”

....In 70AD (right after Jesus) the Romans invaded the Promised Land and dispersed Israel over the globe, and so they have roamed in Diaspora since.

(The “wandering Jew”)

But the Bible always reminded the Jews that they would return again to their land, as they had after their brief Babylonian captivity. But this time the return from all the world would happen just before the Messiah Himself would return!



OK but back to our problem?

No-where in history did any period of 430 years of chastisement appear for the Jews. It was a complete blank...God does not mince words but this time the scholars shrugged.

Grant Jeffrey of Canada came up with what may be a solution.

*Here is his reasoning....first he subtracted
70 years already served in Babylonian
captivity.*

430 (combined years) – 70 (captivity years served) = 360 years remaining years to serve.

*...but there was no period of servitude for
360 years either!*

Remember, the Jews did not repent of their sins in captivity, most would not even bother to go home again, and that brought about a significant change.

(and here is where some might disagree with Grant Jeffrey) But he remembered way back to Moses' instruction about the land.

“If also after these things (the setting of My face against you), you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.” Leviticus 26:18

Seven times over?

*In the ancient world every year held only
360 days (12 months of 30 days each) (12
 $\times 30 = 360$ days in a year)*

*...and 360 years remained to be banished
after the 70 already accounted for.*

OK... Converting this to days...

*(360 days/year)(360 years)(7) the multiplier
for continued sin = 907,200 days of
discipline*

or 2438.8 current years (of 364.25 day years.) There is no year zero, BC-AD, and there are leap years.

So..from 1 Nisan 536BC, the date of Cyrus decree to return to Jerusalem,... plus 907,200 days...we land exactly on May 14, 1948, and our mouths ought to fall open! (We depend upon Josephus to give us the exact date of the return.)

*Did Ezekiel predict the return from wandering throughout the world, to the very day over 2 millennia away in time! **How can that possibly be? Yes how.***

This is the day when modern Israel ran up her flag and declared herself a nation! “Can a nation be born in a day?”

Isaiah 66:8

Written by Isaiah over 700 years before Christ and 2650 years before modern Israel.

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