Ezekiel - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, May 7

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“Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities and let them measure the pattern”—Ezekiel 43:10.

THE reason that God gives for showing this marvelous vision of the millennial temple to Israel is that it might make them ashamed of their iniquities as they measured the pattern and entered by faith, into the blessedness that was in store for them in the latter days, and that they might abhor themselves and realize how many sins and failures had robbed them of blessings in the days that had gone. So as we today contemplate the things which God has prepared for those that love Him, we may bow in contrition before the Lord and be ashamed of the sins that in days gone by hid His face from us and caused us to fail to enter into any true apprehension of our blessed portion in Christ. Our inheritance is reserved in heaven for us. The Father’s house above shall be our eternal home.

—Charles Wesley.

Daily Sacrifice, May 6

“Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel-abib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days”— Ezekiel 3:15.

IT is a great thing to enter in spirit into the trials and circumstances of others. It is easy to look on coldly while others suffer, and to criticize and blame; but he who, like Ezekiel, puts himself in their place and can say, “I sat where they now sit,” will find his heart going out to every sufferer in pity and compassion, and will seek to be a blessing and a help to those who are in any distress it was the Spirit of Christ manifested in the prophet which led him thus to enter into the sorrows of his people, and that same Spirit, when He controls our lives, will fill us with loving sympathy for the needy and despairing, who await a kind word or kind deed to cheer them on their way.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 3

“When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul” —Ezekiel 33:8, 9.

WILLIAM BOOTH, the first General of the Salvation Army, called Ezekiel 33 “the duty chapter,” and was constantly pressing its importance on his officers and soldiers. Every one who professes to be a follower of Christ may well lay it to heart. On the other hand, it is quite necessary that we understand the dispensational place of such a passage as this. It is not the unfolding of the gospel, but the setting forth of the principles of the divine government. In other words, it has to do with this life and man’s responsibility to walk before God in righteousness here on earth. It has no bearing whatever upon the question of eternal salvation. It is not by turning from sin and walking in righteousness that we are justified before God. Nor does the believer forfeit life eternal who in the hour of temptation forgets the responsibilities resting upon him and turns into the bypath of disobedience. Such conduct will bring him under the disciplinary government of God, of which physical death is the last stroke. But this does not touch the matter of his redemption by the precious blood of Christ. It is because people are in covenant relationship with God that He chastens those who err (Heb. 12:6). The two principles of grace and government run side by side and should never be confused, but carefully distinguished.

—Grace Troy.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 1

“He saith unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against Me: they and their fathers have transgressed against Me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiff hearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them” — Ezekiel 2:3-5.

THE servant of God is responsible to the Lord Himself. Having received his commission, he is to go forth in the name of the One who sends him, declaring the message committed to him. The results must be left with God. Whether men hear or whether they forbear, he who proclaims the Word faithfully has delivered his soul. The apostle Paul entered into this when he spoke of being a sweet savor of Christ unto God both in them that are saved and in them that perish (2 Cor. 2:15). God is honored when His truth is preached, no matter what attitude the hearers take toward it, and that Word will not return void, but will accomplish the divine purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

—J. J. P.

Daily Sacrifice, May 5

“They went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went”— Ezekiel 1:12.

THE marvelous vision which is brought before us in this chapter is that of the government of God—Jehovah riding in triumph on His chariot down through the ages and exercising His righteous sway over all the nations. No matter how things may seem to go in this lower scene, the chariot-wheels of the Lord, moved by the living creatures, go every one of them straight forward; nothing can turn aside the divine purpose. God works all things in accordance with the counsel of His own will. To the trusting soul this gives peace despite circumstances.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 2

“The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, What is the vine tree more than any tree, or than, branch which is among the trees of the forest? Shall wood be taken thereof to do any work? or will men take pin of it to hang any vessel thereon? Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire devoureth both the ends of it, and the midst of it is burned. Is it meet for any work?” — Ezekiel 15:1-4.

GOD is the God of truth. He loves reality and detests pretense. The Lord Jesus when on earth, as God manifest in the flesh, took this same attitude. While filled with love for lost sinners and tenderly compassionate toward any who desired to know the truth, He sternly denounced hypocrisy and self-righteousness, pronouncing severe judgments on those who thus attempted to cover up their real condition before God. Where there is divine life in the soul there will be fruit for Him outwardly. No amount of profession can make up for the lack of this evidence of genuine repentance and the regenerating grace of God. Character produced by the work of the Holy Spirit within will result in behavior that is in keeping therewith. The Lord is glorified when those who profess to belong to the household of faith bear the precious fruit which proclaims the genuineness of that which they say has been wrought in their souls. A professor who does not bear fruit is like a vine that does not produce grapes. It is practically useless. Believers are intended to be lights in a dark world, attracting others to Christ.

In order to meet these responsibilities one must be born from above, for the natural man cannot live on a spiritual plane. He has no understanding of the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14). Therefore it is by their fruits that the servants of God are known. Service and fruit spring from the divine life implanted in the new birth.

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