

Ezekiel 9

Read Ezekiel 9:1-6: Jeremiah devoted a lot of writing to disobedience and judgement. Jeremiah was very specific about how the Babylonians were raised up by God to stop the Jews from continuing like they were. Ezekiel shares the same story from a different perspective. It is the spiritual or heavenly lens. Both stories are true and both are concurrent. This chapter is a continuation of the spiritual journey Ezekiel was taken on in chapter 8. The angel took Ezekiel on a tour. Ezekiel begins by focusing on angels who have charge over the city of Jerusalem. The bible tells us that different angels and demons have different responsibilities and authority levels.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

The residents of Jerusalem did not see any angels walking around with swords. They just saw Babylonians and other raiders. What we see on earth is authorized and executed from heaven.

O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. "Look among the nations and watch— Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. (Habakkuk 1)

It's hard to imagine a role that angels have when all that you see are swords swinging. Our view of things seems to be so conclusive. We think that we see the cause and the effect. God is the master of syncing heaven and earth.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25)

Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all me (John 2)

There is a relevant account of the King of Syria sending an army to surround the prophet Elisha. Elisha was not worried, because he knew that a much more powerful angel army was there to protect him. Elisha's helper only saw the Syrian cavalry surrounding him.

The king of Syria was greatly troubled... and he called his servants ...¹³ So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." ...¹⁴ Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. (2 Kings 6)

This chapter is about the invisible activities of Angels, which were walking through the leadership groups of Jerusalem, studying each Jew during the siege. The time to *separate the sheep* has come. God is about ready to separate the sheep from the goats. He will put his sheep into his protection, and the goats will go to the slaughter. Our good shepherd is putting his own mark on his own sheep as an indication of ownership. The angels put a mark on the forehead of each person who hated the ongoing sin around them. Those who were not bothered by the sins in their country were not marked, so they could be slaughtered. Another consideration is that they are described as looking like men.

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. (Hebrews 13)

The angel warriors are taking inventory and marking men for life or death. The word for *marking* is H8420, meaning a signature provided for something desirable. Job uses this word 'to mark' as something that he has signed for as

bearing his consent and reputation H2496. When God signs for us what we do is a reflection on him. One way he does that is with the Holy Spirit living within us. We want to be certain that we are in God's flock.

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²²who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (2 Corinthians 1)

So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." (Mark 12)

Conversely, Satan also has his forehead marking for his own goats.

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." (Revelation 14)

Read Ezekiel 9:7-11: The authorization to kill has been made, and these angels go about their business taking out these evil men one by one. It is nothing for an angel to kill one person or 200,000 at a time. Ezekiel describes his escort as a cherub. Cherubs have 4 wings and 4 faces; so they must be able to present themselves as a man too.

And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. (2 Kings 19)

We tend to focus on our secret service angels who never take their eyes off of us. Some angels never take their eyes off of God or us. That is why they have eyes on the front and on the back, so they can do both at the same time.

¹⁰ “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 18)

These protection angels can do just about anything

that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. ⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.” ⁹ So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. (Acts 12)

The dark team also has assignments. They have countries and people they are assigned to. There are countries and leader assignments.

Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, ⁵ I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶ His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. ⁷ And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. ⁸ Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. ⁹ Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. ¹⁰ Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹ And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. ¹² Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to make

you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.” (Daniel 10)

The bottom line is that we tend to assess our situation by what we see. “Oh look, the barbarians are at the gate!” “O look, the enemy is retreating”. In reality, only spirit realm eyesight reveals what is really about to happen.