

# THE GRAINS OF TRUTH

## EZEKIEL 4:1-17

(Outline # 10)

**Meditation:** COL 79; 1T190

**INTRODUCTION:** In the entire 66-book library of the Bible, the book of Ezekiel (like the Revelation) is one of the most mystical. In fact, parts of the book "appeared so obscure and full of mysteries" that historians tell us that the ancient Hebrews suffered none to read it until 30 years old (1 Tr 11-12). This book, consequently, has baffled and confused theologians for centuries since it was written around 597-588 BC. However, in harmony with God's promise that in the last days "knowledge shall increase" (Dan. 12:4) God has "unrolled the scroll" revealing wonderful, precious light for His children today.

1. **Objective Of Our Study**

To discover and understand:

- a. A special 430 year Bible prophecy
- b. The purpose of this prophetic probationary period
- c. Trace our position today in this time prophecy
- d. An indispensable spiritual diet to attain Righteousness by faith today
- e. God's command to those with this diet (their mission) and finally,
- f. What befalls those who fail to receive and eat this diet of heavenly manna.

2. **Is Ezekiel's Book Historic Or Prophetic?**

- a. The message was directed to all 12 tribes (Israel & Judah). However, the 10 tribes were already scattered, since 721 B.C. (2 Kings 17:23)
- b. The future tense is used. Eze.4:13
- c. Ezekiel himself - not some Gentile King - is to besiege the city.
- d. He himself did not understand the vision (Eze. 3:15)
- e. Judah spent 70 years in captivity, not 430 years

**Read: EZEKIEL 4:1-8**

3. **Why Symbolism Of Siege And Warfare?**

The Jews of Ezekiel's days had undergone the bitter and traumatic experiences of siege and warfare because of their sins. Thus, like Jesus in His parable teaching, God employed their familiar experience to teach and inculcate vital truth. Further, Jerusalem (the Church) is symbolically depicted here as having rebelled and become so estranged from God that to rescue her, He has to do battle with her, so to speak, in order to effect this great Revival and Reformation. See 2TG 39:10

4. **Symbols In Ezekiel 4:1-3**
- a. *Jerusalem* - city; the Church
  - b. *Tile* - everlasting material; a people (city) that shall live forever.
  - c. *Lay siege* - invade with an army of reformers and compel it to surrender
  - d. *Built fort* - make sure none escape, good or bad.
  - e. *Set a camp* - establish headquarters (temporary lodging place) from which to carry on the work.
  - f. *Battering rams* - chief leaders, hammering/battering with clear, cutting, convincing truth.
  - g. *Iron pan* - virtual wall of separation.
  - h. *Israel/Judah* - Antitypical Ten/two tribe kingdoms (Protestants/SDA's)
  - i. *"Set thy face toward the siege"* - means undertake this reform like a mighty army general.
  - j. *"Thine arm...uncovered"* - Signifies that the might of the reformation would be revealed.

5. **Explain Time Prophecy: Ezekiel 4: 4-6**

Here is shown a period of 430 years in two sections: 390 and 40 respectively for Israel and Judah (anti-typical). Each day represent a year (Eze.4:9). Ezekiel's lying down, bearing their iniquity during this time indicates a special period of Grace allotted to the Church during which time God bears (tolerates and pardons) their iniquity. God is also disciplining His church for its unfaithfulness. During this period, God expects the church to attain through His grace to Righteousness by faith. Ezekiel here typifies Christ who bears His children's iniquity.

6. **When Did The Prophecy Period Begin?**

The siege of Jerusalem is symbolized by the Reformation of the church during the latter part of the Dark Ages. The church had grievously fallen from grace. At the turn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Reformation began with Martin Luther. His call came around 1500 A.D.

7. **Symbol Of The Grains - Its Significance And Characteristics**

The grain represent the spiritual food fed to God's people in six steps (courses) during the time of the Reformation. The Protestant denominations are built chiefly on the six doctrines;

Grain	Represents	Brought By	Proclaimed By	Reference
<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Faith</i>	<i>Martin Luther</i>	<i>Lutherans</i>	<i>Hebrews 11:6</i>
<i>Barley</i>	<i>Holy Spirit</i>	<i>John Knox</i>	<i>Presbyterians</i>	<i>Judges 7:13-14</i>
<i>Beans</i>	<i>Grace</i>	<i>John Wesley</i>	<i>Methodists</i>	<i>Rom. 3:24; 4:4</i>
<i>Lentils</i>	<i>Baptism</i>	<i>Alexander Campbell</i>	<i>Baptists</i>	<i>Matt. 3:16</i>
<i>Millet</i>	<i>2300 days</i>	<i>William Miller</i>	<i>1<sup>st</sup>-Day Adventists</i>	<i>Dan. 8:14</i>
<i>Fitches</i>	<i>Sabbath/Sanctuary</i>	<i>E. G. White</i>	<i>SDA</i>	<i>Gen. 2:1-3</i> <i>Ex. 20:4-6</i>

8. **Characteristics:**

- a. **"Eat as barley cakes"** - barley symbolizes Holy Spirit. Hence, these truths were to be received and indited by the Holy Spirit.
- b. **"One vessel"** - signifies here the Bible (1 SR 121). Also, the SDA church (1SR 81)
- c. **"Baked on dung fire"** - defiled by private interpretation (1T 471-472; 8T 250)
- d. **"By weight" and "measure"** - sparingly, not all the light on the subject.

9. **What Took Place At The Close Of The 390 Days (Years)**

By adding 390 to 1500, the date Luther found the Bible at the University of Urfurt and began his protest, it would bring us to year 1890 A.D. —the date the SDA church generally rejected the Righteousness by Faith message brought by A.T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner. The message first arrived at the Minneapolis General Conference in 12888 but was rejected by the Leadership. By 1890, two years later, it was rejected by the general body. *See Christ Our Righteousness*, p. 51

Further References: *ISM* 234-235; *TM* 76,79,80,91-92; 467-468; *3SM* 178. See also E.G. White, *Taking up a Reproach* (Unpublished).

10. **Significance Of Fast:**

The fast signifies an absence of progressive truth occurring during the time of SDA's. It dates from the rejection of Righteousness by Faith message (1888-1890). This rejection caused Ezekiel to symbolically rum on his right side signifying withholding of new light for a time as Ezekiel began to fast. 2T 606.

11. **What Message Came In 1930?**

The Shepherd's Rod. It is the only message that arrived in 1930 and proves to be the return in full of the 1888 message of Righteousness by Faith.

12. **After The Fast:**

New light was to be given from 1930 after the fast. Present truth "undefiled" by "dung fire" and given unsparingly —not by weight or measure. Since the number seven represent completeness (*AA* 585), six grains shows incompleteness of truth. Consequently, more light was due after the fast. The message of Revelation 18:1 —pure and undefiled.

13. **Need To Feast On This Food Today: Why?**

Now that antitypical Ezekiel is no longer lying —bearing the iniquity of God's people, we must attain to Righteousness by faith because we have the truth from Luther's time until now, and the grace period over. We must now walk by faith or perish. Heb. 10:38-39

14. **What Befalls Those Who Fail To Eat This Diet Of Heavenly Manna?**

These will remain in their Laodicean condition without the "gold tried in the fire" (Revelation 3:14-18. left without the seal of God (57211,121) and to perish in Ezekiel 9 —bear their own iniquity.

**CONCLUSION:** How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation brought to us in these precious, wonderful truths. Let us strive through Grace, to attain to Righteousness by faith and thus be crowned with the Righteousness of Christ.

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