

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Ezekiel 1:1-3:15 Hebrews 3:1-19 Psalm 104:1-23 Proverbs 26:24-26

From Darren: I am out of town this week and do not have wifi readily available. I will be reading with you, but you will have to imagine how I might have commented.

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Ezekiel 1:1-3:15

1 1 On July 31 of my thirtieth year, while I was with the Judean exiles beside the Kebar River in Babylon, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

2 This happened during the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity.

3 (The LORD gave this message to Ezekiel son of Buzi, a priest, beside the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians, and he felt the hand of the LORD take hold of him.)

4 As I looked, I saw a great storm coming from the north, driving before it a huge cloud that flashed with lightning and shone with brilliant light. There was fire inside the cloud, and in the middle of the fire glowed something like gleaming amber.

5 From the center of the cloud came four living beings that looked human,

6 except that each had four faces and four wings.

7 Their legs were straight, and their feet had hooves like those of a calf and shone like burnished bronze.

8 Under each of their four wings I could see human hands. So each of the four beings had four faces and four wings.

9 The wings of each living being touched the wings of the beings beside it. Each one moved straight forward in any direction without turning around.

10 Each had a human face in the front, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle at the back.

11 Each had two pairs of outstretched wings—one pair stretched out to touch the wings of the living beings on either side of it, and the other pair covered its body.

12 They went in whatever direction the spirit chose, and they moved straight forward in any direction without turning around.

13 The living beings looked like bright coals of fire or brilliant torches, and lightning seemed to flash back and forth among them.

14 And the living beings darted to and fro like flashes of lightning.

15 As I looked at these beings, I saw four wheels touching the ground beside them, one wheel belonging to each.

16 The wheels sparkled as if made of beryl. All four wheels looked alike and were made the same; each wheel had a second wheel turning crosswise within it.

17 The beings could move in any of the four directions they faced, without turning as they moved.

18 The rims of the four wheels were tall and frightening, and they were covered with eyes all around.

19 When the living beings moved, the wheels moved with them. When they flew upward, the wheels went up, too.

20 The spirit of the living beings was in the wheels. So wherever the spirit went, the wheels and the living beings also went.

21 When the beings moved, the wheels moved. When the beings stopped, the wheels stopped. When the beings flew upward, the wheels rose up, for the spirit of the living beings was in the wheels.

22 Spread out above them was a surface like the sky, glittering like crystal.

23 Beneath this surface the wings of each living being stretched out to touch the others' wings, and each had two wings covering its body.

24 As they flew, their wings sounded to me like waves crashing against the shore or like the voice of the Almighty or like the shouting of a mighty army. When they stopped, they let down their wings.

25 As they stood with wings lowered, a voice spoke from beyond the crystal surface above them.

26 Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man.

27 From what appeared to be his waist up, he looked like gleaming amber, flickering like a fire. And from his waist down, he looked like a burning flame, shining with splendor.

28 All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone's voice speaking to me.

2 1 "Stand up, son of man," said the voice. "I want to speak with you."

2 The Spirit came into me as he spoke, and he set me on my feet. I listened carefully to his words.

3 "Son of man," he said, "I am sending you to the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have been rebelling against me to this very day.

4 They are a stubborn and hard-hearted people. But I am sending you to say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says!'

5 And whether they listen or refuse to listen—for remember, they are rebels—at least they will know they have had a prophet among them.

6 "Son of man, do not fear them or their words. Don't be afraid even though their threats surround you like nettles and briars and stinging scorpions. Do not be dismayed by their dark scowls, even though they are rebels.

7 You must give them my messages whether they listen or not. But they won't listen, for they are completely rebellious!

8 Son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not join them in their rebellion. Open your mouth, and eat what I give you."

9 Then I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me. It held a scroll,

10 which he unrolled. And I saw that both sides were covered with funeral songs, words of sorrow, and pronouncements of doom.

3 1 The voice said to me, "Son of man, eat what I am giving you—eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel."

2 So I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll.

3 "Fill your stomach with this," he said. And when I ate it, it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

4 Then he said, "Son of man, go to the people of Israel and give them my messages.

5 I am not sending you to a foreign people whose language you cannot understand.

6 No, I am not sending you to people with strange and difficult speech. If I did, they would listen!

7 But the people of Israel won't listen to you any more than they listen to me! For the whole lot of them are hard-hearted and stubborn.

8 But look, I have made you as obstinate and hard-hearted as they are.

9 I have made your forehead as hard as the hardest rock! So don't be afraid of them or fear their angry looks, even though they are rebels."

10 Then he added, "Son of man, let all my words sink deep into your own heart first. Listen to them carefully for yourself.

11 Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not."

12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a loud rumbling sound behind me. (May the glory of the LORD be praised in his place!)

13 It was the sound of the wings of the living beings as they brushed against each other and the rumbling of their wheels beneath them.

14 The Spirit lifted me up and took me away. I went in bitterness and turmoil, but the LORD 's hold on me was strong.

15 Then I came to the colony of Judean exiles in Tel-abib, beside the Kebar River. I was overwhelmed and sat among them for seven days.

Psalm 104:1-23

104 1 Let all that I am praise the LORD . O LORD my God, how great you are! You are robed with honor and majesty.

2 You are dressed in a robe of light. You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens;

3 you lay out the rafters of your home in the rain clouds. You make the clouds your chariot; you ride upon the wings of the wind.

4 The winds are your messengers; flames of fire are your servants.

5 You placed the world on its foundation so it would never be moved.

6 You clothed the earth with floods of water, water that covered even the mountains.

7 At your command, the water fled; at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away.

8 Mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed.

9 Then you set a firm boundary for the seas, so they would never again cover the earth.

10 You make springs pour water into the ravines, so streams gush down from the mountains.

11 They provide water for all the animals, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12 The birds nest beside the streams and sing among the branches of the trees.

13 You send rain on the mountains from your heavenly home, and you fill the earth with the fruit of your labor.

14 You cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use. You allow them to produce food from the earth—

15 wine to make them glad, olive oil to soothe their skin, and bread to give them strength.

16 The trees of the LORD are well cared for— the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

17 There the birds make their nests, and the storks make their homes in the cypresses.

18 High in the mountains live the wild goats, and the rocks form a refuge for the hyraxes.

19 You made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to set.

20 You send the darkness, and it becomes night, when all the forest animals prowl about.

21 Then the young lions roar for their prey, stalking the food provided by God.

22 At dawn they slink back into their dens to rest.

23 Then people go off to their work, where they labor until evening.

Proverbs 26:24-26

- 26** 24 People may cover their hatred with pleasant words, but they're deceiving you.
25 They pretend to be kind, but don't believe them. Their hearts are full of many evils.
26 While their hatred may be concealed by trickery, their wrongdoing will be exposed in public.

Hebrews 3:1-19

- 3** 1 And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest.
2 For he was faithful to God, who appointed him, just as Moses served faithfully when he was entrusted with God's entire house.
3 But Jesus deserves far more glory than Moses, just as a person who builds a house deserves more praise than the house itself.
4 For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.
5 Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant. His work was an illustration of the truths God would reveal later.
6 But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.
7 That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today when you hear his voice,
8 don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested me in the wilderness.
9 There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years.
10 So I was angry with them, and I said, 'Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.'
11 So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'"
12 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.
13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.
14 For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.
15 Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled."
16 And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt?
17 And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness?
18 And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him?
19 So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.