

THE WRITER'S INKHORN

8/15/09

Why in the world are we talking about a "writer's inkhorn?" It is a phrase found in Ezekiel 9:2-3 of the King James translation of the Bible.

Today, we are going to look at the prophecy in Ezekiel 9.

For the record -- when I quote prophecies as we are doing today, I am not interpreting the prophecy to have a direct application to a specific nation or event today. (Many teachers and self-proclaimed prophets make dramatic claims when they are merely giving some personal opinions -- as recorded in Jeremiah 23:16-17.)

When I quote this prophecy, I am asking you to see the historical record and to learn any lesson that might help you in your Christian walk as we live in turbulent times.

Before we go to Ezekiel 9, let me remind you about the well-known phrase -- hate the sin and love the sinner. I hope that the prophecy in Ezekiel 9 can help you to fulfill the phrase -- hate the sin and love the sinner.

*Is it permissible for a believer to have an emotional reaction when he sees the evil around him in this society?

Eph. 4:26	be angry, but sin not
Exod. 34:7	passing on consequences to our grandchildren
Deut. 28:43-44	allowing the stranger (the illegal immigrants) to hurt the nation
Amos 6:1-6	the leaders and their cronies benefit -- while the poor continue to hurt
Jer. 6:14	all they ever offer to my deeply wounded people are empty hopes for peace
2 Pet. 2:19	people who promise liberty -- they themselves are the servants of corruption

*Notice how Christ had an emotional reaction when He hated the sin he saw.

John 2:14-17	Christ flipped over the tables in the temple
Mark 3:5	Christ was angry with their approach
Matt. 21:12-13	Christ flipped over the tables in the temple

Matt. 23:1-28 Christ hated their hypocrisy
*Notice how Christ had an emotional reaction when He loved the sinner.

Matt. 9:36 Jesus was moved with compassion
Luke 19:41-44 Jesus wept when He considered the events that were about to occur for the citizens of Jerusalem
Luke 23:28-31 Jesus felt badly for the people as He was being led away to die

Ezek. 1:1 Ezekiel saw visions from God
2-14 vision of the 4 cherubim
15-25 vision of the 4 wheels
26-28 vision of God's glory
Ezek. 8:1-18 Ezekiel sees the sins of Jerusalem
Ezek. 9:1-11 Ezekiel sees the command to punish Jerusalem
1 come to Jerusalem and bring your weapons
2 6 men through the north gate with a weapon of destruction in his hand -- 1 man dressed in a linen robe with a writer's inkhorn in his hand
3 the glory of the God of Israel moved from the cherub to the entrance -- and God called to the man in the linen robe who had the writer's inkhorn
4 God said -- go through the middle of the city and set a mark on the foreheads of the people who sigh and cry for the abominations that are being done
5-6 God turned to the other 6 men and said -- follow him through the city and smite those who do not have the mark on their forehead -- show no mercy -- slay old and young -- women and children -- do not go near those who have the mark -- begin at My sanctuary -- (they began with the leaders)
7 God said -- pollute the temple, by putting the dead bodies there
8 Ezekiel asked -- why are You doing? are you so angry that all these people must die?
9 God responded -- the iniquity of Israel and of Judah is exceeding great -- the land is full of blood and perverseness -- they say that I have forsaken them and that I don't see
10 God continued -- I will not have pity and I will repay them
11 the man with the writer's inkhorn said -- I have done as You have commanded