

**Ezekiel: The Glory Returns! Part 9**

10/10/10

**“A Peek Behind the Curtain Part 2”**

**Text: Ezekiel 11:18-12:16**

**Introduction: Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night**

**God's Promise of a New Heart 11:18-21**

w. 18-21

**Key Point:** Change must come from the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**The New Birth**

Deuteronomy 30:6

Jeremiah 31:31; 32:37-40

Ezekiel 36:24-26

Zechariah 7:11-12

Isaiah 53:2-6

**Ichabod - The Glory has Departed! 11:22-25**

w. 22-25

Matthew 23:37-24:3

**Captivity Portrayed 12:1-7**

w. 1-2

w. 3-7

2 Corinthians 3:3

Two primary gates into our hearts:

1)

2)

**Captivity Proclaimed 12:8-16**

v. 8

**Key Point:** We don't have to know the \_\_\_\_\_  
for everything that God tells us to do; we only need to  
\_\_\_\_\_.

w. 9-13

“The prince in Jerusalem” -

You can read some of this in the Bible.

Jeremiah 1:3; 37:1; 38:5; 39:1-7; 52:1-11

2 Kings 23:31; 24:17,18

Ezekiel 17:12-16

2 Chronicles 36:12-13

Zedekiah

Jeremiah 32:4,5

v. 13

v. 14-16

**Pulling back the curtain....**

Psalm 37

1 John 2:15-17

## Josephus

[The following was excerpted from Josephus, Flavius; Whiston, William: The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996, c1987, S. 273.]

**Now Zedekiah was twenty-and-one years old when he took the government; and had the same mother with his brother Jehoiachin, but was a despiser of justice and of his duty, for truly those of the same age with him were wicked about him, and the whole multitude did what unjust and insolent things they pleased;**

Flavius Josephus, Antiquities, Book 10,

### Chapter 7.2 (§103)

...for which reason the prophet Jeremiah came often to him, and protested to him, and insisted, that he must leave off his impieties and transgressions, and take care of what was right, and neither give ear to the rulers (among whom were wicked men) nor give credit to their false prophets who deluded them, as if the king of Babylon would make no more war against him, and as if the Egyptians would make war against him, and conquer him, since what they said was not true; and the events would not prove such [as they expected].

(§104)

Now as to Zedekiah himself, while he heard the prophet speak, he believed him, and agreed to everything as true, and supposed it was for his advantage;

but then his friends perverted him, and dissuaded him from what the prophet advised, and obliged him to do what they pleased.

(§105)

Ezekiel also foretold in Babylon what calamities were coming upon the people, which when he heard, he sent accounts of them unto Jerusalem; but Zedekiah did not believe their prophecies, for the reason following:—it happened that the two prophets agreed with one another in what they said as in all other things, that the city should be taken, and Zedekiah himself should be taken captive; but Ezekiel disagreed with him, and said, that Zedekiah should not see Babylon; while Jeremiah said to him, that the king of Babylon should carry him away thither in bonds;

(§106)

...and because they did not both say the same thing as to this circumstance,

he disbelieved what they both appeared to agree in, and condemned them as not speaking truth therein, although all the things foretold him did come to pass according to their prophecies, as we shall show upon a fitter opportunity.

(§107)

Now the city was taken on the ninth day of the fourth month, in the eleventh year of the reign of Zedekiah. They were indeed only generals of the king of Babylon, to whom Nebuchadnezzar committed the care of the siege, for he abode himself in the city of Riblah. The names of these generals who ravaged and subdued Jerusalem, if anyone desire to know them, were these:

Nergal Sharezer, Sangar Nebo, Rabsaris, Sarsechim, and Rabmag; ibid,

### Chapter 8.2. (§135)

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...and when the city was taken about midnight, and the enemy's generals were entered into the temple, and when Zedekiah was sensible of it, he took his wives and his children, and his captains and friends, and with them fled out of the city, through the fortified ditch, and through the desert;

(§136)

...and when certain of the deserters had informed the Babylonians of this, at break of day, they made haste to pursue after Zedekiah, and overtook him not far from Jericho, and encompassed him about. But for those friends and captains of Zedekiah who had fled out of the city with him, when they saw their enemies near them, they left him and dispersed themselves, some one way and some another, and every one resolved to save himself;

(§137)

...so the enemy took Zedekiah alive, when he was deserted by all but a few, with his children and his wives, and brought him to the king. When he was come, Nebuchadnezzar began to call him a wicked wretch, and covenant-breaker, and one that had forgotten his former words, when he promised to keep the country for him.

(§138)

He also reproached him for his ingratitude, that when he had received the kingdom from him, who had taken it from Jehoiachin, and given it him, he had made use of the power he gave him against him that gave it: "but," said he, "God is great, who hateth that conduct of thine, and hath brought thee under us."

(§139)

And when he had used these words to Zedekiah, he commanded his sons and his friends to be slain, while Zedekiah and the rest of the captains looked on; after which he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him, and carried him to Babylon.

(§140)

And these things happened to him, as Jeremiah and Ezekiel had foretold to him, that he should be caught, and brought before the king of Babylon, and should speak to him face to face, and should see his eyes with his own eyes; and thus far did Jeremiah prophesy. But he was also made blind, and brought to Babylon but did not see it, according to the prediction of Ezekiel.