

GO INTO THE PLAIN AND I WILL TALK TO YOU THERE



(Ezekiel 3:22-27)

The Prophet Ezekiel was one of the prophets who received from YAHWEH difficult tasks to represent the spiritual conditions of the nation Israel. He grew up in the environment of the temple, having been born in the priestly family. Unlike some prophets, he grew up knowing the things of God firsthand. He was only thirty years old when YAHWEH called Him while he was in the midst of idolatrous surroundings of Babylon. In chapter one of his book, he describes the vision given him. He starts by saying, **the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God** (Ezekiel 1:1). After seeing the vision in its completeness, he was instructed in three things: to **hear** what YAHWEH was telling him; **not to be like those**

rebellious people, and to **eat the words given him**. Meanwhile, the Lord warned him that the people were not going to listen to his message, for they were a rebellious nation. Ezekiel's responsibility, however, was to warn them, listening or not, otherwise, he would be held responsible for the blood of that person. The instructions how to deliver YAHWEH'S message were difficult for one to follow. Ezekiel, however, had no complaint, except for one. He willingly did exactly what the Lord commanded Him. Arise, YAHWEH told him, go forth into the plain and I will talk with you there (Ezekiel 3:22b).

He arose and went forth as YAHWEH commanded him, into the plain. There, YAHWEH gave him clear instructions how He wanted Ezekiel to deliver the message of warnings to his people although, the people's hearts were not going to listen to him. YAHWEH warned Ezekiel that the blood of the wicked not being warned, it would be required of him. Likewise, YAHWEH said, Yet if you warn the wicked and he turns not from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered yourself (3:19). The heavy responsibility weighted on Ezekiel's shoulders. He had no other way, but to do what he had been told. YAHWEH never brings judgment to a nation without first letting the people know. His mercy and compassion are abounding in the midst of the rebellious heart. He looks for someone who will be willing to stand in the gap so that His judgment will not fall on the wicked people. He invites each one of us who love Him to receive the warning messages of judgment coming upon the iniquity of the wicked people, for He does not willingly and from His heart afflict or grieve the children of men. Although He causes grief, yet will He be moved to compassion according to the multitude of His loving-kindness and tender mercy (Lam. 3:32, 33).

Isaiah heard the question, whom shall I send and who will go for Us? He, after a supernatural encounter with YAHWEH, when he was purified of his pride, and only then, could he have answered, Here I am, send me. To him was given the warnings against his people, Israel: Go and tell these people, Hear and hear continually, but understand not; and see and see continually, but do not apprehend with your mind. Make the heart of this people fat; and make their ears heavy and shut their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts and turn again and be healed (Isaiah 6:9,10). Surely the Lord God will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken

who can but prophesy? (Amos 3:7-8). Why can't we hear Him? YAHWEH is powerful, and wise to perform all He desires without telling anyone, but He chose to reveal His plans to His servants, provided that they are willing to listen and receive the message.

The Lord YAHSHUA said, My sheep hear My voice. Where are we in this day and age that we are not hearing the YAHWEH'S voice? Have we become deaf to His invitation, "Come to the plains and I will talk with you there." He calls us to a specific place- to the plains, only there He will speak to us. Wherever that might be for each of us, we must be listening to Him to obey. Every day someone is at the crossroad of death without knowing it. Our availability to the Lord will save one person at a time. In order to be alone with Him, we do not need to leave home. Early mornings, when all are fast asleep, are for us the plains where and when we can hear the Lord's voice. Moses went up the mountain to meet with YAHWEH. There He proclaimed the sovereignty of His name to Moses: YAHWEH, gracious to whom He will be gracious and will show mercy and loving-kindness on whom He will show mercy and loving-kindness (Exodus 33:17b). The young Samuel had no idea the voice he was hearing was the Lord's. All the three times Samuel heard his name being called, he went to Eli answering, here I am. The problem with Samuel was that the Word of the Lord was not yet revealed to him. He did not know the Lord to the point of discerning His voice. Eli, realizing it, instructed him to answer Him by saying, Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening. Samuel did with a willingness of his heart. YAHWEH then spoke and announced to him His judgment against the priest Eli and his house. Today, YAHWEH not only speaks in the audible voice, and dreams and vision, but He speaks mainly through His Word. The secret to know and recognize His voice is through His Word, for He will never contradict Himself. When His Word is in our heart, we will hear Him often. The sensitivity to Him and to the spiritual things comes from knowing His Word. The psalmist said, I have hidden Your Word in my heart so that I will not sin against You (Psalm 119:11).

The Word of God unstops the ear and softens the heart to hunger for Him. Many who profess to be a believer, live in ignorance of God's purpose for their lives because they have not applied to know the Author of the Bible. They act circumstantially. If it feels good, or if I am lucky, it must be right. There is no acknowledgment of YAHWEH'S way in their life; they go forth thinking to be doing what they were created to do based on their good deeds. YAHSHUA said, If you

live in Me and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you (John 15: 7). (That is, in agreement with My Word). Two cannot walk together without agreeing. The dryness of the heart is the result of the ignorance of YAHWEH'S Word. Many believers want revival; many, want to experience the supernatural while they are starving spiritually for not being able to hear and discern YAHWEH'S voice. Because their primary desires are to satisfy themselves with the things of the world, the Word of YAHWEH sits on a shelf, collecting dust, muzzled, unable to be heard. Only by the opening of His Word will we have the spiritual understanding with ears ready to hear. "Go to the plain and I will talk to you there." His voice will never be heard in the midst of the chaotic world, neither in the midst of worldly concerns. In the relationship psalm- the psalm twenty-three, His sheep declares YAHWEH to be her faithful Shepherd: YAHWEH is my Shepherd; my needs are satisfied. He makes me lie down in green pastures (symbol of His Word); He leads me beside quiet waters – (the peaceful presence of His Holy Spirit); He refreshes and restores my life; He leads me in the path of righteousness for His namesake. (By accepting His invitation to be alone with Him we will experience the restoration of our soul, and His leading to righteousness). I will not fear the evil when passing through the dark valley of death, for His presence comforts me. My enemies are defeated when He presents me a banquet of blessings, and His anointing in presence of my enemies. His Holy Spirit fills me His goodness, mercy, and love as long as I live, as I abide in His presence.

The table He has prepared for us is complete with spiritual blessings. Only we must separate ourselves from the world to conform ourselves to His holiness, daily presenting our body as a living sacrifice, ready to sit at His feet to hear His voice and feast on the richness of His presence. "Come away", He says. Do you hear? Get up and come to Him. Call unto Him today, for wonderful and mighty things He wants to share with you. Come!