

### **Transforming Daily**

*“... for My name’s sake that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles ...”  
Ezekiel 20:9, 14*

“Ezekiel” is said to mean “God strengthens.” So it is no wonder that God sent Ezekiel to the exiled children of Israel. They needed the message of God through Ezekiel as a reminder of who God was, and is, both before the exile and now during. The message from God to His children had not and has not changed. The book of Ezekiel is one of several books containing apocalyptic writings (Daniel and Revelation being two of the more prominent ones). Ezekiel is full of varying literary device, but its main point is to reemphasize the truth of God’s sovereignty over and covenant with His children, even now while in exile.

Whereas the book of Ezekiel was historically written regarding the exiled children of Israel, there are universal points of application for the 21<sup>st</sup> century children of God. One application is to hear and heed the never changing Word of God or otherwise face the potentially adverse consequences. Another point of application is to be aware that we are a nation that is inextricably linked together; what one of us does (positively or negatively) all of us might very well experience. A third point of application is that no matter how many fall away God always has a remnant. Similarly, God will always raise up a leader(s) for His cause. A fifth point of application is just as Ezekiel prophesied to the children of Israel about the second coming of Christ, that message is the same for us.

I have a friend who has several siblings. She said that when she was growing up, her dad would often discipline the whole lot of them for a violation by just one of them. The reason being was they all knew the rules and what was required of them so each was responsible to some extent for the encroachment by the others on the father’s words of instruction. It doesn’t sound fair at first hearing, but when you think about it from a responsible family member’s point of view, it makes sense, but of course based on varying circumstances.

Do you feel the strength of God in your life through His Word? When you enter into or are in the midst of or just coming out of some form of faith crisis, do you lean on your own understanding or God’s? Do you hear and heed His Word? Are you confident that Christ is soon to return? God’s people exist for one primary reason and that is “for My name’s sake that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles.”