

The Bozrah Deliverance

The Protection and Ministry of the Wise Virgins in the 7th Seal
“Great Tribulation”

By
Jim Sayles

(My thanks to Dr. Gavin Finley, whose End Time Pilgrim website brought this passage to my attention.)

I am continually amazed and delighted by the discovery of passages, events, types, and patterns established in the Old Testament that have their fullest revelatory meaning and application to the church, and, particularly, to the end times church.

This should not surprise us, though. Paul clearly stated this truth in his first letter to the church at Corinth.

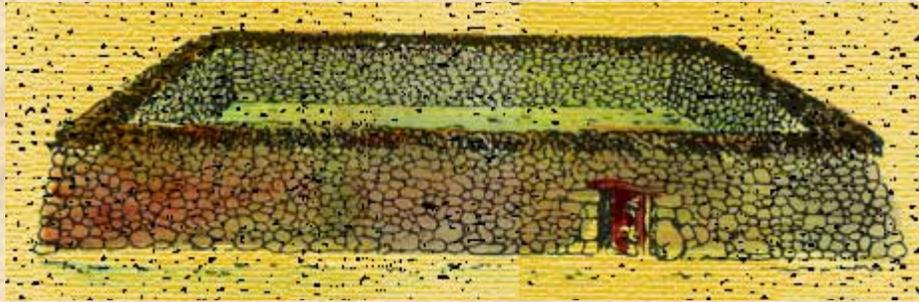
Now these things befell them... (Israel in the wilderness)... by way of a figure [as an example and warning to us]; they were written to admonish and fit us for right action by good instruction, we in whose days the ages have reached their climax (their consummation and concluding period).

1 Corinthians 10:11 Amplified

Micah was a prophet in Israel prior to the Babylonian exile, and he thematically prophesied the discipline of Israel for their idolatry, led by the false prophesying of the prophets, which is extraordinarily applicable to the divided church of today, as we are “... ***tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead.***”

Ephesians 4:14 Amplified

Micah’s theme, though, included Israel’s ultimate end times protection and deliverance by the very presence of the Lord, called the “Breaker.” The Lord is among them like a shepherd in the sheepfold and then breaks forth through the gate to lead them from their captivity and into the millennial kingdom as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



Sheepfold

The sheepfolds of Israel were like fortresses of protection for the sheep, not only from thieves but from predators like wolves, lions, and bears. The enclosure contained a door, an opening for the sheep to come in and go out. And it was at this opening that the shepherd would lie, so that he could intercept the thief or the predator before they could get to the sheep. The shepherd would also inspect each of a sheep as it passed under his rod at the door of the sheepfold. In the morning the shepherd would call his sheep and they would exit the fold because they knew his voice.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.
John 10:1 KJV

As we examine the specific passage in which the Lord is identified as “the Breaker,” denoting His specific purpose in the passage, we recognize that this passage is not about national, ethnic Israel’s return from captivity in Babylon. It is about spiritual Israel’s protection in the Babylonian world system by the presence of the Lord among us, and our ultimate deliverance into the millennial kingdom.

I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel... (spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God”)...; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.

The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them. Micah 2:12,13 KJV

Jacob (the trickster) in this passage represents the rebellious and disobedient elect who will ultimately become the remnant spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God.” Although this passage includes the elect among national, ethnic Israel, it is not about the deliverance of national, ethnic Israel from their Babylonian captivity. It

is about the ultimate deliverance of the “sheep” from the fallen Babylonian world system into the millennial kingdom, and the “remnant of Israel” in this passage is the church, which is now one new man in Christ.

“Bozrah” has the literal meaning of “fortress,” but like many biblical names it also identifies a literal city in Edom, the cursed land of Esau, which represents the entire Babylonian world system. Thus “Bozrah” is a fortress, a sheepfold for the protection of the sheep in the middle of the Babylonian world system at the height of the Antichrist rule and reign.

This is not a physical fortress, as men without revelation have presumed, imagining that the fleeing woman (spiritual Israel) in Revelation 12 will be air-lifted by 747s into some remote wilderness setting.

It is a spiritual fortress in the midst of the world. Thus Bozrah is the spiritual wilderness in which the woman clothed with the sun, the “Israel of God,” is upheld by the wings of the great eagle, the Holy Spirit.

A parallel typology is the story of the Hebrew children thrown into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, as “god.” This literal event in the life of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego foreshadows the larger event of the “wise virgins” and the Philadelphian type of church who have endured and overcome the persecutions of the Antichrist during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of Revelation.

However, the Bozrah passage does not apply specifically to their experience during the persecutions and difficulties of the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals. The Bozrah experience applies to the remnant elect of mankind, spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God,” the “wise virgins” who endure the hardships and persecution of tribulation prior to the opening of the 7th seal at the very same time that the “foolish virgins” run out of oil and become apostate.

Many of the “wise” faithful saints will die and will be martyred during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals, and these will be rewarded accordingly. At the same time many unfaithful saints will fail to read and heed the warnings and required repentance specifically written for the full and complete revelatory understanding of the end times church in Revelation 2 and 3, and their experience is the most tragic I can imagine.

Yet, the promise to the end times Philadelphian type of church is that they will be kept from the “hour of trial that will come on the whole world,” which is the 7th seal “great tribulation” judgments of Revelation.

This is not an indication that there is no spiritual protection for believers during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals. Our protection, and the accompanying empowerment of the Spirit, during that time will be similar to that of believers in the book of Acts, only multiplied, as the Holy Spirit warns us, directs us, and

empowers us with the latter rains anointing to administer the love and truth of the Lord in dangerous times.

I remember a testimony given to our church by a ministry that smuggled Bibles into Russia during the Cold War. They told of a house church raided by the KGB. The KGB arrested the elders of this house church, beating them and threatening to kill them if they met again. The following week, at the next meeting, the pastor announced that they would not have a meeting that night, because one of those present was a spy for the KGB.

Then the pastor said that each one present would have to receive the time and place for the next meeting by the Spirit.

When next they met, only one man was missing.

Thus for the wise virgins the latter rains outpouring of the Spirit during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seal events will empower the faithful in the face of great evil, yet without the guarantee of physical survival.

What we see in this astonishing passage in Micah is that the Lord is fully present with them in this Bozrah fortress, which is like the stone sheepfolds of Israel that protect the sheep from predators at night. His presence with them is like His presence with the Hebrew children. It is not merely the presence of His Holy Spirit indwelling them, it is the total, intimate, immediate presence of the Lord as all the saints will ultimately experience Him in the millennial kingdom.

It is this presence of Christ with the wise virgins, a.k.a. 144,000, a.k.a. the woman clothed with the sun who infuriate the dragon, because he cannot harm them in the Bozrah sheepfold though they are in the midst of the cursed land of Edom.

During the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals the sheep have experienced the Lord's presence as a shepherd, much as we experience Him now, but magnified sevenfold. Yet, they do not have the absolute, inviolable protection of the Bozrah sheepfold fortress where the sheep crowd around and press into the Shepherd as they anticipate their breaking forth from the Bozrah sheepfold into the millennial pasture, led by their King, who is the head of them.

It is impossible to relate this experience to the captivity of national, ethnic Israel in Babylon, yet, among those who were in captivity in Babylon, Daniel and the three Hebrew children did experience this. Ultimately national, ethnic Israel was restored to their homeland, though many died in captivity. Yet, only Daniel in the lion's den and the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace experienced the absolute protection and immediate, intimate presence of the Lord as

Nebuchadnezzar (a type of the Antichrist) attempted to kill them for refusing to worship him as “god.”

It is in the Bozrah fortress, the sheepfold of God, in complete fellowship and union with the Lord, yet in the midst of the world, that the wise virgins, a.k.a. the Philadelphian church a.k.a. the 144,000 a.k.a. the woman clothed with the sun, will be protected from the wrath of Satan and the judgments of God during the events of the 7th seal.

And it is in the Bozrah fortress that these firstfruits of redemption unto God and the Lamb, in deep, intimate, unhindered fellowship with the Lord, bring in the final harvest of an uncountable number of the multitude from every nation, tribe, and tongue, and then break forth from the Bozrah sheepfold as they follow their King into the millennial kingdom.

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And deep darkness the peoples;
But the LORD will rise upon you
And His glory will appear upon you. Isaiah 60:1,2 NASB*

Other Articles on Biblical Prophecy by Jim Sayles

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