

# KINGDOM SPIRIT

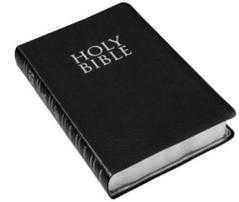
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**“SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD”**

Matthew 6:33



Issue 1410

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

We are ready for the 17th chapter of Revelation. (Read Rev. 17:1-3) Verse 5 gives us the name of this great whore—**“Mystery, Babylon the Great. The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.”** Verse 15 interprets the **“many waters”** as peoples and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. So we are talking about the Babylonian system, or man’s system of government. The book of Daniel in the Old Testament and the book of Revelation in the New Testament have to be taken together to, for the most part, be talking of the same thing. Though Daniel starts out with the Kingdom of Babylon in chapter 2 speaking of the nation of Babylon ruled by Nebuchadnezzar, when he describes the complete metal image in that chapter and John speaks of the beast with all of the characteristics of the four beasts of Daniel 7, they are talking about the completed Babylonian system, a system that dominates and rules the whole world today. Opposed to that is the stone cut out without hands in Dan. 2 that became a great mountain and ultimately destroyed the metal image and then filled the whole earth which is the Kingdom of God. With this, I would like to quote from a paper written by Dr. Stephen Jones that introduces us to these first 3 verses and the events that the next few chapters portray.

**Babylon Sits on “Many Waters”**

Revelation 17:1 says,  
<sup>1</sup> **And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the**

**great harlot who sits on many waters.”**

The “many waters” are interpreted in verse 15:

<sup>15</sup> **And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”**

John’s description of Babylon is similar to that found in Jer. 51:12,13, which says,

<sup>12</sup> **Lift up a signal against the walls of Babylon; post a strong guard, station sentries, place men in ambush! For the Lord has both purposed and performed what He spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. <sup>13</sup> O you who dwell by many waters, abundant in treasures, your end has come, the measure of your end.**

The Babylonian harlot sits on “many waters.” This indicates Babylon’s rule over all nations, even as we see in the original Babylon in Jer. 27. Verse 5 sets forth God’s legal right to give all nations to Nebuchadnezzar, saying,

<sup>5</sup> **I have made the earth, the man and the animals that are on the face of the earth, by My great power, and by My outstretched arm, and I have given it to whom it seemed right in My eyes.**

In other words, by right of creation, God owns all things, and this gives Him the right to give dominion to whomsoever He wishes. He gave to the king of Babylon not only Judah, but ALL nations. Why? Because God had chosen the House of David and had given his descendants the divine right to rule all nations. But that right was still conditional upon their obedience. When they misused their divine authority and oppressed the other nations, God had mercy on those other nations and limited Jerusalem’s power. Thus, all the nations that David once ruled were able to revolt and become independent. Of

course, that also meant that they were able to continue worshipping their idols and rejected the rule of the God of Israel.

Judah's world authority ended with God's judgment to put the nation under the authority of Babylon. But because all the nations were technically under the spiritual authority of Judah, God gave ALL these nations to Babylon—not just Judah. He says in verse 6,

**6 And now I have given ALL THESE LANDS into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and I have given him also the wild animals of the field to serve him.**

It is important to understand that God had a reason for giving all nations to the king of Babylon, and that all the modern nations have been given to Babylon for the same reason—SIN and a refusal to repent.

#### **The Lawful Reason for Babylon's Captivity**

God told Israel in Deut. 28 that if they were obedient, God would bless them and make them the head of the nations (28:13). But if they were disobedient, verses 48 through 52 tell us the divine judgment:

**48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord shall send against you, in hunger, and in thirst [a famine of hearing the Word—Amos 8:11], in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you. 49 The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar. .. 52 and it shall besiege you in all your towns. .. 63. .. and you shall be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it.**

This describes the "iron yoke." It is an iron yoke when they are taken off the land and forcibly taken to a foreign land. This iron yoke did not come upon Judah until God gave that land into the hands of the king of Babylon. But meanwhile, they had experienced a number of lesser forms of judgment, recorded in the book of Judges. This was where God brought foreign nations to conquer Israel, but Israel was allowed to remain in their land. Their judgment was primarily in paying taxes to those foreign nations.

Such lesser judgment is not defined in Scripture until the time of Jeremiah. Jeremiah defines it as a wooden yoke, as opposed to an iron yoke. God says in Jer. 27:2,

**2 Thus says the Lord to me—**

**“Make for yourself bonds and yokes and put them on your neck.”**

So the prophet did so as an illustration of the captivity that was to come. But when he told the people about God's judgment and the captivity that was coming, another prophet disagreed. Jer. 28:10 says,

**10 Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke it.**

This shows that the original yoke was made of wood, not of iron. If the people had submitted to God's judgment, they would have been sentenced to a wooden yoke only. This means they could have remained in their land and just paid the Babylonian tax each year. But the people refused to submit to God's judgment. So the word again came to Jeremiah in 28:13, 14, saying,

**13 Go and speak to Hananiah, saying, “Thus says the Lord, ‘You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made instead of them yokes of iron.’ 14 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him. And I have also given him the beasts of the field.’”**

So the people sinned, and God judged them with a yoke of wood. They refused to submit to the divine judgment, and were thus guilty of contempt of court. That is a capital crime (Deut. 17:8-12). For this reason, Judah as a nation was sentenced to death. God then authorized the king of Babylon to carry out the sentence by destroying the nation itself and bringing the survivors as captives to Babylon.

It is of utmost importance that we understand the story of Jeremiah and the original Babylonian captivity as well as the laws underlying God's judgments upon Judah. These are the same principles by which God has judged America and the rest of the world in the past century.

America as a nation was blessed by God, because the people originally committed themselves to forming a Christian government. And so Deut. 28:1 was fulfilled,

**1 Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.**

But the Church discarded God's law, saying it was an evil thing. They disagreed with the moral principles on which society ought to be based. They allowed "freedom of religion," which brought in every ungodly religion, including witchcraft into the country. And then those ungodly people were elected as our representatives in Congress. And then they passed ungodly laws and refused to allow godly judges to rule according to biblical law.

The Church was called to be God's watchdog, but they refused to bark. The Church saw nothing wrong with usury so they allowed the banking system to be established. Finally, those same bankers became powerful enough and rich enough to establish a union of banks under one roof, a private corporation of bankers who were powerful enough to actually take over the government in 1914. It was called the Federal Reserve Bank. It is neither federal, nor is a reserve. It is a private corporation that creates money out of nothing and lends it at face value to other banks and to our government at interest.

Because of America's sin, and because the Church cast aside His law, God put America under a yoke of wood. He brought in foreign bankers and set up a system of taxation in 1916 by which we would pay tribute to "Babylon."

It is fortunate for us that God blinded the eyes of the people to what was happening. In blinding us and making this a "secret, hidden" Babylon, God prevented us from fighting the captivity. Instead, we submitted to it and were thus allowed to remain in our own land, rather than being conquered and destroyed by war and then deported, as Judah was in Jeremiah's day.

#### **How Mystery Babylon Came to Power in 1914**

The great harlot is Babylon—not the original city, as some have supposed, but the secret, hidden Babylon. In the past, some prophecy teachers have insisted that the old city of Babylon would be rebuilt, and indeed, Saddam Hussein attempted to rebuild it. All the bricks were inscribed with his name, as he attempted to make a name for himself. But that has come to an end with his fall from power in 2003.

There is also an inherent contradiction in that view. They say in one breath that "the Antichrist" will rule from

a temple in Jerusalem, but they also say that Babylon will be rebuilt. Well, which city is his capital city? In such an interpretation, he could hardly rule from both cities.

But the fact is, Babylon has manifested in our time as a worldwide system. It rules all nations today. We do not have to wait for a future Babylon to rise up. It is already here, and, in fact, it has been here for most of the past century. It came to power in 1914, precisely 2,520 years after the original Babylon became an empire (607 B.C.)

Many are still looking for a future fulfillment of Babylon, not realizing that it has held us captive since 1914. It is now ready to FALL, not rise up in the future. But God blinded the eyes of most of the people in order to judge them without their knowledge—lest they would rise up and try to overthrow it, thereby incurring an even greater judgment.

#### **The Secret ("Mystery") Kingdom of Babylon**

Modern "Babylon" became an empire in 1914 with the signing of the Federal Reserve Act, which brought America and the whole world under its economic bondage. Its real purpose was planned in secret on Jekyll Island in 1910, and was first reported in Leslie's Magazine in 1916 in an article written by B.C. Forbes in praise of Paul Warburg, the primary founder of this system:

"Picture a party of the nation's greatest bankers stealing out of New York on a private railroad car under cover of darkness, stealthily traveling hundreds of miles south, embarking on a mysterious launch, sneaking on to an island deserted by all but a few servants, living there a full week under such rigid secrecy that the names of not one of them was once mentioned lest the servants learn the identity and disclose to the world this strangest, most secret expedition in the history of American finance.

"I am not romancing. I am giving to the world, for the first time, the real story of how the famous Aldrich currency report, the foundation of new currency system, was written." [Quoted in The Creature from Jekyll Island, by G. Edward Griffin, p. 9]

This was later confirmed in the official 1930 biography of Senator Aldrich, writing,

"Aldrich entered this discussion at Jekyll Island an ardent convert to the idea of a central bank. His desire was to transplant the system of one of the great European banks, say

the Bank of England, bodily to America.” [Griffin, p. 17]

Griffin quotes speeches by Senator Aldrich himself and A. Barton Hepburn on pages 19 and 20,

“The organization proposed is not a bank, but a cooperative *union* of all the banks of the country for definite purposes.” Precisely: A union of banks.

“Two years later, in a speech before that same group of bankers, A. Barton Hepburn of Chase National Bank was even more candid. He said, ‘. . . it will make all incorporated banks together joint owners of a central dominating power’. And that is about as good a definition of a cartel as one is likely to find.”

The fact that the Federal Reserve System is a private corporation owned by bankers is known to many, but not by the average American, who assumes it is part of the United States government. The bankers have allowed this myth to be perpetuated, but only God could blind the people to such an extent that it could remain a secret.

On page 23 of his book, Griffin quotes from Paul Warburg’s biography,

“Paul M. Warburg is probably the mildest-mannered man that ever personally conducted a revolution. It was a bloodless revolution: he did not attempt to rouse the populace with arms. He stepped forth armed simply with an idea. And he conquered. That’s the amazing thing. A shy, sensitive man, he imposed his idea on a nation of a hundred million people.” (Griffin’s quote from Warburg, the Revolutionist, by Harold Kellock).

This is how America and the whole world came under the dominion of Mystery Babylon. Kellock says, “*It was a bloodless revolution.*”

The fact that it was done precisely 2,520 years after the original Babylonian Empire was established in 607 B.C. is astounding. All of the major events of modern history from 1776 to the present day are tied to that 2,520-year time cycle. We are repeating biblical history in the greatest parallel of all time. Next year (2006) will be 2,520 years after the completion of the second temple in the days of Ezra and the prophet Haggai.

### **When Will This Captivity End?**

It is obvious that our captivity to this Babylon is more than the 70 years of Judah’s captivity. Why? First of all, the captivity will not and cannot end until America repents of her sin (the cause of the captivity). The law is clear on that point, as well as all the precedents in the book of Judges. In Lev. 26 we find a

chapter that runs parallel to Deut. 28. There we find the lawful answer in verses 40-42,

**<sup>40</sup> If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me—<sup>41</sup> I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies—or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,<sup>42</sup> then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.**

This tells us that God will not remember His covenant until we humble our hearts and confess our iniquity. And so, theoretically, if America does not repent, we will be forever under the dominion of Babylon. We will remain under this bondage until we do repent.

We are nearing the end of the book of Jeremiah, but we did not have space enough to finish it last issue, so we will finish it in this issue and move on to the book of Ezekiel.

(Read Jeremiah 51:17-24) God through Jeremiah mocks the idols and the idol makers of Babylon and the other nations. He says they are falsehood, vanity and the work of errors and will perish in the time of their visitation, or judgment. But the God of Jacob is not like them. He is the **“Former of all things.”** The King James goes on to say, **and Israel is the rod of his inheritance.** The words “Israel is” have been added by the translator because he didn’t understand the verse I believe. The word “rod” here is from the Hebrew *“shebet”* which means “sceptre.” Leaving these words out and substituting scepter for rod, the scripture would read, **“He is the Former of all things: and the sceptre of His inheritance: the LORD of hosts is His name.”** Sceptre would indicate ruler and inheritance is a reference to all Israel. Then speaking of Israel, He says they are his battle axe and weapons of war. Then follows ten successive sentences starting out with the same phrase, **“I will break in pieces.”** The object ranges from nations to man and woman to young and old to captains and rulers. While this happened in a sense with the fall of Babylon, I think it appropriate to again look at the book of Revelation. (Read Rev. 19:11-16) At first this

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sounds like He is ready for a literal battle until we realize that the sword He carries comes from His mouth, i.e. the sword is His Holy Word. To a certain extent, this is what has happened with Israel and Judah. As they left their captivities both, though in different ways and different times, have expanded the kingdom of God here on the earth. I believe this is what is meant by the “breaking in pieces.”

(Read Jeremiah 51:25-33) The word “mountain” is a good example of where “mountain” stands for “kingdom,” in this case the kingdom of Babylon. While we’re told that the Medes and Persians were the ones to bring down Babylon, I’m sure other nations were either a part of the army of the Medes and Persians or they did their part where they were to bring Babylon to her end. Part of the reason for the fall is given in verse 30, the soldiers of the Babylonian army refused to fight which is just what it sounds like in the story of the fall as we find in Daniel 5. “**at one end**” in verse 31 probably means at both ends since Cyrus diverted the Euphrates and entered the city through the river bed both where the river entered the city and where it left the city.

(Read Jeremiah 51:34-44) Jeremiah says in verses 34-35 what the inhabitants of Zion and Jerusalem say about Nebuchadnezzar. Therefore, God says that He will take vengeance on Babylon for them. He promises to make the city a desolation that only the jackal will inhabit.

(Read Jeremiah 51:45-58) Again, God commands His people (Israel and Judah) to leave Babylon to escape the fierce anger of the LORD as He takes vengeance on Babylon. God promises to do judgment on the idols of Babylon. Though Babylon’s strength should mount up to heaven, God says that from Him will spoilers come upon Babylon. The word “perpetual” in both verses 39 and 57 are from the Hebrew “*olam*” which means “age.” It does not mean perpetual in the sense that we think of it today.

We have already looked at verses 59-64, so will go on to chapter 52. This is a review of what we have already read and studied in the rest of the book of Jeremiah. (Read Jeremiah 52) We’re told in verses 28-30 that Nebuchadnezzar

carried away a total of 4600 persons in captivity. Normally, women and children under the age of 20 are not counted in a number like this. I tend to believe this is the case here since we’re told in the book of Ezra that there were 42,360 in the total congregation besides their servants that went back to Jerusalem to rebuild it. This sounds as if this included the women and children, but even then they would have had to multiply pretty rapidly to get to this number in less than 100 years. We know that not all of the Jews that were in captivity returned to Jerusalem, but we don’t know how many that did not return.

Perhaps I need to clarify the purpose of these lessons before we move on to the book of Ezekiel. A number of years ago, I realized that the Bible presented a contiguous story, or as I like to put it, a plan that God has laid out for us to understand His intention for man from creation to a future beyond our comprehension. However, one doesn’t find the story by just reading one book after another. We have to go to the dating that is usually given by the authors of the various books and to the context of various books to put this story, or plan, together. When I realized this I attempted to write a brief summary of that story for my own benefit and hopefully for others who might be interested. My thought was that once one had the basic plan in mind, then it would behoove him or her to go through the plan again in more detail. This series of lessons is the third series beginning with that original plan as I saw it. In this study, we do not cover all of the books of the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament as they do not add chronologically to the plan, however it is not my intent to render these books as irrelevant as they are far from that. Many have important prophecies, others expansion on information already presented, some advice on living and loving, some comfort, etc. They are all important, but not all add particular relevance to the plan we are pursuing. With this in mind, I am bypassing Lamentations as we take up the works of the prophet Ezekiel. JRL

been unable to find a satisfactory explanation of what the “thirtieth year” is in reference to. Verse 2, and other references in this book, use the carrying away of Jehoiachin as a date on which to base a timeline.

There were apparently two rivers by the name of Chebar. The river mentioned here is a river between the Tigris and the Euphrates that empties into the Euphrates about 45 miles north of Babylon. The other Chebar that we will find in chapter 3 is where Ezekiel was sent to be among the captives of Israel. I think that Habor may be another name for that river.

(Read Ezekiel 1:4-28) I cannot picture in my mind just what Ezekiel saw. However I find it interesting that the likeness of the faces that he saw on the four sides are the same as the standards of the dominant tribes as they were located on the four sides of the tabernacle as they moved from Mt. Sinai to Canaan in their exodus from Egypt. The tribe of Reuben had the face of a man on their standard; Judah had the semblance of a lion on their standard; Ephraim had the semblance of an ox or bullock on their standard and Dan had the semblance of an eagle on their standard. In verse 28 Ezekiel says that, **“This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.”** I believe we can see why Ezekiel fell on his face before what he saw. I think that we will see that each time that God appeared to Ezekiel, it was always in this same form.

(Read Ezekiel 2:1-5) According to the Companion Bible the term **“son of man”** is used 100 times in the book as this is the way that God addresses Ezekiel. It is never used with the article, so it simply means “son of Adam.” Christ uses the term referring to Himself as do some of the apostles, but always with the article which then changes the designation to mean the “second Adam” or the “last Adam.” In Ezekiel, because of this vision that accompanies God’s appearance to Ezekiel, the term is used of Ezekiel in contrast to the celestial living creatures. Ezekiel says that when he saw this vision, the spirit entered into him. God told him that He was sending him to the captives of the house of Israel that had been taken captive by the Assyrians. God says they are rebellious, impudent, and stiff hearted, but God was sending Ezekiel to them and he was to say to them, **“Thus saith the LORD God.”** Whether they will hear him or not, they would know that

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Ezekiel was a priest and had been taken captive to Babylon from Judah. He was married and lived in his own house, apparently following the advice of Jeremiah in the letter that he sent to the captives in Babylon. His calling as a prophet was quite dramatic and different from the calling of most prophets. (Read Ezekiel 1:1-3) I have

there had been a prophet among them.

(Read Ezekiel 2:6-10) What Ezekiel was going to face was not going to be easy, but God tells him not to be afraid of these people even though they are rebellious and would be like briars and thorns and scorpions to him. A hand then gives him a scroll and God tells him to eat it. Ezekiel says the scroll was written on both sides and contained lamentations, mourning and woe.

(Read Ezekiel 3:1-3) God again told Ezekiel to eat the scroll which he did and he said it was sweet like honey in his mouth.

(Read Ezekiel 3:4-14) God is sending Ezekiel to the house of Israel. He tells him that they probably won't listen to him because they won't listen to Him, because they are so rebellious. But as God told Jeremiah, He tells Ezekiel to not be afraid of them and He will protect him. Then Ezekiel says he was lifted up by the Spirit and behind him he hears the sounds that he heard when he saw the vision that indicated to him the presence of God.

(Read Ezekiel 3:15-21) As we have said, the river Chebar here is probably the same as the Habor River that we read in Chronicles where the Israelites were taken by the Assyrians. At any rate, Ezekiel is among these Israelites and we're told that he remained silent for seven days. Then God spoke to him and began to tell him what his job was going to be. First he was to be a watchman. There are four Hebrew words in the Old Testament that are translated "watchman or watcher." The word here is "*tsaphah*" and indicates one who looks out or views from a height, with the object of warning.

God makes it clear that He is going to hold Ezekiel responsible to carry out the job of watchman, giving him a couple of examples of this responsibility. If a wicked man dies because of his iniquity and Ezekiel hasn't warned him, God is going to hold Ezekiel responsible for the man's death. If Ezekiel has warned him and he doesn't change his ways, he will die but Ezekiel will not be held responsible. The same thing applies if a righteous man commits iniquity. If Ezekiel doesn't warn him and he dies, Ezekiel is going to be held responsible, but if he warns him and he doesn't change and dies, Ezekiel will not be held responsible.

(Read Ezekiel 3:22-27) The word "plain" here actually means valley. When Ezekiel went

to the valley, he was confronted with the same vision that he first saw as God is going to instruct him some more. He did it through the strange vision that indicated the presence of God to Ezekiel. Things that Ezekiel is to do to illustrate God's word are often quite strange. Here he says that "they," presumably meaning the Israelites, are going to bind him with bands so that he can't go about among them. But in addition, God tells him that He is going to make him dumb (not able to speak) until He tells him what to say. But then God is going to tell him to say to the people "**Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear.**" For God says they are a rebellious people.

I have used the example in the past of television. God is going to show Ezekiel what is happening in Jerusalem as we might see it today on television and Ezekiel is to relay this information to the Israelites among whom he is dwelling.

I have mentioned previously that God had Ezekiel do some strange things as kind of a show-and-tell message to the people of Israel in the Assyrian captivity, usually about what was going on in Jerusalem to the kingdom of Judah. Chapter 4 gives us the first of these strange show-and-tell messages. (Read Ezekiel 4:1-8) The tile he was to take was a clay tablet, or what is known as a Babylonian brick. These bricks were about 12" x 14". The word "pourtray" meant to grave, or take a sharp instrument and cut into the tablet a drawing symbolizing the city of Jerusalem. He then was to lay siege against the city, symbolizing the siege that Babylon was going to lay against the city. Keep in mind that Ezekiel is not in Jerusalem, but rather is with the Israelite captives south of and between the Black and Caspian Seas. What Ezekiel was doing with the clay tablet was to illustrate to the Israelites what was going to happen to Jerusalem.

Then God told him he was to lie on his left side for 390 days symbolizing 390 years. What Ezekiel did was actually an intercession for Israel against their iniquity. (*Intercede—1. To plead or petition in behalf of one in difficulty or trouble: 2. To mediate; attempt to reconcile differences between two people or groups.*) The 390 years had to do with the length of time of punishment, not the length of time it took to bring about this punishment. I am not sure when we might say the

punishment began or ended.

The number “390” and multiples of it was to become associated with Israel in a number of ways. For example, 6 x 390 years from the fall of Samaria in 721 B.C. brought us to 1620 when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

When the 390 days were completed, Ezekiel was then to lie on his right side for 40 days, again a day for a year. This time he was interceding for Judah. God says that He is going to lay bands or ropes on him to keep him from turning. Again, I’m not sure when the punishment began or ended.

The siege of Jerusalem figured into this punishment, but again, I’m not sure how.

(Read Ezekiel 4:9-17) A shekel equals about 5/8 oz., so Ezekiel would only be allowed to eat about 12.5 ounces of bread per day during this show-and-tell time. A hin is about equal to a gallon, so he would have 1/6 of a gallon, a little less than a quart, of water per day. The interesting thing here is that he was first instructed to bake the bread, that he was to prepare, by burning human dung. Though the bread mixture would have been clean food, baking it over dung rendered it unclean. When Ezekiel objected to eating something unclean, God told him he could use cow dung, or cow chips as they are referred to here in the west, to provide the fuel for his baking instead of human dung. This was to portray the fact that the people of Jerusalem would be measuring their food and water very carefully before the siege, that Nebuchadnezzar had launched against Jerusalem, was over. The people would be on the verge of starvation before the siege was over. We’ll begin next issue with Ezekiel 5. JRL

*I do not consider myself either a prophet or a preacher. Rather I consider myself one who enjoys studying God’s Word and sharing it with whoever might have a like interest. Sometimes as we read what the prophets, or the apostles have to say, it sounds very much like they are here today and warning us of the current sinfulness of our nation and of the world. It concerns me that it might be easy to talk above people’s understanding. I have known a couple of gentlemen, who because of their great understanding, have done this. I have tried to keep the level of my writing and teaching to an understandable level for most people.*

*I am running for county commissioner and I had some people question me about my Christian understanding. I attempted to explain to them Biblically only to realize that I did not get down to their level of understanding. I realize that most people receiving this publication are not that shallow, but if I am not being clear in my writing, I would appreciate hearing from you. I want to be able to share my understanding with everyone at all levels, but I need your help to be sure that I do. JRL*