

# Survival 8 of 14

## *Ezekiel 9 and Survival*

#0432

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

This wonderful chapter of Ezekiel 9 has much light for those who wish to survive. As you will see, that's the purpose of the chapter—is to tell who will survive and who won't in the awful plagues that are just about to be poured out upon this wicked world, and even on the people of God who have not met the divine standard. The prophet says:

“He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand. And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lies toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brazen altar. And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side...”

Now will you read the fourth verse with me?

“...And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” Ezekiel 9:1–4.

What is Jerusalem a type of? The church. This is so applied in this wonderful chapter in *Volume 5*, called “The Seal of God,” which begins on page 207. I recommend that you study this chapter very thoroughly in connection with tonight's lesson.

Yes, this is the church. This prophecy, of course, had a fulfillment back at the time it was written to a degree. But the eye of the prophet we are told was fixed especially upon these latter days—The last hour of human history. He sees the angel going from home to home in Jerusalem. He's listening. What's he listening for, what does it say? Sighing and crying. Sighing and crying for what? The abominations that are done. Where, in the midst of what? Jerusalem. Now the angel that is listening, he is told to do what when he finds somebody that's sighing and crying over these abominations? He's supposed to put a mark on it.

Now let's see what that's for, the next verse:

“And to the others...”

All these men that had these slaughter weapons.

“...he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary...”  
Ezekiel 9: 5–6.

These men that have the mark then are what? Survivors. They’re the only survivors. The Lord says to slay everybody except those who have the mark. Don’t touch anybody that has the mark. These are the survivors. And when these men with the slaughter weapons get through their work everybody in this world and in the church will be dead except those that have what? The mark. Where? In the forehead. That’s it. Do you have that mark? Well, if you want to survive, you must receive that mark. Everything hangs on that.

You remember that when Israel was about to be delivered from Egypt, the last plague that came upon that rebellious nation was the angel coming to slay the firstborn. God said to His people, “Take a lamb, slay it, and strike the blood on the doorpost, and when the angel comes at midnight, he will pass over you.”

Those that believed and obeyed were spared. Everybody else experienced that awful plague. In every house, the firstborn were slain.

But this time, it isn’t just the firstborn. What does he say here in the sixth verse: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women. But come not near any man upon whom is the mark, and begin at my sanctuary. Oh, my dear friends, if anything remotely like this is going to happen in our day, we ought to be interested for ourselves and our loved ones in knowing how to receive that mark, what do you say? Everything depends on this. What a shame that so many are busy about anything and everything but this.

Perhaps I ought to read on this from the book *Early Writings*:

“Now is the time for the law of God to be in our minds, foreheads, and written in our hearts. The Lord has shown me the danger of letting our minds be filled with worldly thoughts and cares...”

Any of you know about that danger?

“...I saw that some minds are led away from present truth and a love of the Holy Bible by reading other exciting books; others are filled with perplexity and care for what they shall eat, drink, and wear... In these things I saw great danger; for if the mind is filled with other things, present

truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God" *Early Writings*, page 57–58.

Think of it very literally friends, anatomically, there's just so much space up here in our minds. What is your mind being filled up with? I'll tell you this, it's being filled with what you look at and listen to, largely. That's what's filling it up. Whatever you look at and listen to, that's most of what goes in there. We have a few other senses through which we get certain things, but most of our thoughts come from what we've heard or seen. So if the mind is filled with other things, present truth is shut out, and there is no place in our foreheads for the seal of the living God.

The people who get the mark then will be all absorbed in this one thing: to be like Jesus, for that's what this seal means. You remember in Revelation 14, another picture of this same group—the survivors, the 144,000, standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion, and it says they have His name and His Father's name written in their foreheads: Same people, same mark, same place.

This is the only place God marks anybody—just in the forehead. That's where the forebrain is. That's where you have that part of the mind which deals with conscience, reason, and judgment. This is where the character is largely, right here.

That's why the Devil is so busy using all the poisons that he has found that effect the forebrain, and inventing others by the minute—All kinds of things, to affect people's thinking. He passes a lot of them off under the guise of being a benefactor. He's helping people to get over their worries and over their fears and over their guilt.

My dear friends, if my soul is guilty, I don't want any drug that'll make me feel happy. There's only one fountain where I can get my guilt washed away, and that's in the blood that flows from Calvary. God keep me from the help of any man or devil who will quiet the turbulent thought of a guilty mind. There's only one solace, and that is to find in Jesus cleansing from sin, forgiveness of sin. Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world, not covers it up with some drug.

Now, look back at Ezekiel 9. "Go through the midst of the city, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." I want to ask you a question: If this is talking about our time, and Volume 5 says it is, would you think that the church at the present time will be lily-white and pure from every bit of worldliness? What would there be to sigh and cry about?

Now offshoots make great capital of the fact that the church has within it the evidence of worldliness, worldly trends. I'm dealing with some very practical things in these studies friends. There's no sense in being like the proverbial ostrich; hiding ones head in the sand. Anyone, who has one eye half-open, can see about him many evidences of the fact that worldliness has made terrible inroads among us. But this is no reason to become nervous and upset and worried about what's going to happen to the church. It's certainly no time to jump out of the boat in the waters where sharks abound—oh, no.

The ship is going through, but there's going to be a tremendous purging of the deck, and the cabins, and everything from one end to the other. But God is now—watch this point—allowing this very situation to develop in each one of us the character that will be marked for Heaven or marked for destruction. One reason that the Lord allows the worldly trends that have swept in is that everyone in the church may have the fullest opportunity to choose just what he pleases.

Esau and Jacob were twins. One wanted a mess of pottage. Did he get it? Yes, he got it. The other wanted the blessing of God. Did he get it? Yes—too bad the way he went at it. But the point is he wanted it with all his heart. Whatever it cost over the years of sorrow and trial he kept on until finally, he received it.

What do you want? Do you want the mess of pottage? Well, it's around. You can get it. And you don't always have to go to Hollywood or New York to get it friend. You can sometimes get it under the guise of religion. That's right; you can get it at a party. You can get it at a social. You can get it at a feed. You can get it in all kinds of activity where anything but sighing and crying is going on. The mess of pottage is here. God in Heaven has allowed that so that everybody can have exactly what he wants.

There are some souls that are heart to heart with Jesus. When He is hurt, they hurt. When Jesus weeps, they weep. They can never laugh at what He cries over. They can never see fun in what breaks His heart and causes His soul to bleed.

Tell me, friends, what makes you cry, and what makes you feel happy? If you know the answer to those questions, then you can know if you're going to get the seal or not. If looking at sin makes you thrill with joy, if you laugh a hearty laugh as the comedians of this world perform on the radio and on the TV screen, you are not even started to get this seal. Heaven weeps over the idolatry, and the foolishness, and the frolic, and the mirth, and the vice and the impurity, the fornication, the adultery, the sin of all kinds; the immodest fashion, and the terrible indecency of the present style. Heaven weeps over those things. God is going to have a few people in this world, in His church that cry and sigh over these things. They're the ones that are going to get the seal. That's what this says, doesn't it? Look at it again.

“...the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” Ezekiel 9:4.

My dear friends, modern dress is an abomination. Modern education, with its disregard of the Bible, and its putting in infidelity, is an abomination. The way the world is eating is an abomination. The kind of things the world is doing in amusement, in music and reading, those are abominations. And when they come into the church, they become no better. When a Hollywood movie is shown on the screen in a Seventh-day Adventist home or a Seventh-day Adventist church or a Seventh-day institution, that does not sanctify it any more than taking the alcoholic wine of Babylon and putting it into the communion cup and serving it as part of the Lord's Supper. It is sacrilege my friends!

How does your soul react when these things happen? When the pleasures of this world are brought in among the people of God, when the dress of this world is adopted by the daughters of Zion, when the diet of this world is followed by the remnant, when the education of this world creeps and seeps in and takes over, how does it affect your soul?

Jesus says to His angel, Go through the midst of Jerusalem and set a mark upon the foreheads of men that do what? Sigh and cry for the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. Now, let me make very plain what this does not mean. It does not mean to get out a mimeographed sheet and send it all over the country to tell people about the faults of the church and its leaders. Oh no.

In the first place, it isn't necessary. There's plenty of sin and worldliness evident. We do not need some self-appointed reporter to keep us in touch with the worldly trend. They're all about us, are they not?

In the second place, (don't miss this, and remember what we studied last night) the very spirit to hunt for such things develops in one a critical, judging, self-righteous attitude, and it's just a question of which way we get out of the remnant church. We can go with the worldly crowd and be washed overboard in the terrible storm of persecution that's ahead, or we can go with the critical crowd and go off eventually with some offshoot; you can take it on the one hand, or you can take it on the other.

But God will have a remnant, a solid core within His last day church, the Seventh-day Adventist church who hold to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. They're not going to be diverted by this worldliness; neither are they going to be diverted by this criticism, and off-shootism—neither one. They're not going to spend their time reading these offshoot papers and books and letters. That isn't the way to sigh and cry, my dear friends. Do you know the way to sigh and cry? Do you remember what we were studying last night, this chapter on the shaking? *Early Writings*, listen:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God..."

Pleading with whom? With God.

"...Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them" *Ibid.*, page 269.

"Oh," says one, "this looks rather serious and somber to me." Yes, it is.

"I don't see much fun in this." No, there isn't.

"Well, I don't think I want to go that way."

My dear friends, do you want to take a joy ride to hell? Do you want the jazz and the rock and roll, or whatever the latest name for the world's music may happen to be? Do you want that to keep your mind so hypnotized that you can't even hear the cries of the lost as they plunge over the Niagara into eternal loss and eternal death? Do you want to be made as comfortable and thrilled as possible in the last few remaining moments of probation, or do you want to awake to the reality of life?

Life is real. The One who loves us and wants us to be happy, and will make us happy if we will let Him; His heart is bleeding and broken. He had to attend a hundred thousand funerals today. How would you feel if even 5 of your best friends had died in one day? Wouldn't you like some sympathy, some understanding, somebody to at least put their arm around you, and perhaps weep a few tears with you?

But Jesus must attend another hundred thousand funerals tomorrow. And every one of those is more precious to Him than anybody is to you. Nearly all of them are lost for all eternity.

Is this the meaning of life? Yes it is. There will be an eternity (I was about to say to gad about) to take trips all through the universe. We're living in a time when anybody, high or low, rich or poor, young or old, if they get an idea they want to run here, run there; somewhere they find the time and the money. An account must be rendered to God for every hour of time and every dollar spent.

A physician on the west coast told me not long ago of the pressures his boy was putting on him that he must go and spend the summer in Europe. The father, of course, must pay the bill. All his friends were doing it. Why sure, why not? Money's floating, it's running like streams—why not have it.

Ah, my friends, somebody is going to sigh and cry over these abominations, the extravagance, the luxury. The waste of money by young and old today is appalling, while in other parts of the world, literally millions of people go to bed every night never having had a full meal. But here in this country, we're just wasting. Every young person has to have an automobile today—why? Status, he's not anybody if he doesn't have one, and so families have 2, 3, 4 cars. Where does all the money come from?

Don't misunderstand me. It isn't for me to judge you or you to judge somebody else. I challenge your soul to go in the secret place of prayer and find out from God what He wants you to do with your time, your money, your family.

I challenge you to go on your knees and ask God whether you have been contaminated with the spirit of worldliness; whether worldly dress has made its inroads in your life; whether worldly diet is being followed in your household; whether worldly reading abounds on your library table, and on your shelf; whether worldly music is being heard from your instruments of music; whether worldly education has been sold to you. All these things are solemn challenges, are they not?

"Go through the midst of Jerusalem, the Lord says to His angel, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations

that be done in the midst thereof. These are not my words. These are not my thoughts. This is what Heaven has sent as its message in this closing hour. Read the ninth [chapter] of Ezekiel. Study it on your knees. Read this chapter in *Volume 5*, beginning on page 207.

Wrestle with God over these matters, and my dear friends, sin will cease to appear funny. Worldliness will cease to appear desirable. All thought of keeping up with the Joneses will be banished from your soul. There'll be just one thing you want to keep up with, and that is the blood-stained steps that Jesus has left on the highway to Heaven. Oh, let us get anxious and earnest to keep up with Him, what do you say?

Concerning the remnant, these with the mark, it is written:

“...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goes...” Revelation 14:4.

We're going to follow Him through Orion soon. We're going from world to world and star to star. But first, we must follow Him here. We must follow Him from Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Nazareth to Jordan, from Jordan to the wilderness, from the wilderness to Capernaum and the ministry, the medical missionary work to help others. Then on to the upper room to minister with the towel, and on to Gethsemane to pray while others sleep, and then to the judgment hall, to witness before the howling mobs and the frowning judges. Yes friends, and on to Calvary.

Some of us here tonight may die as martyrs. Those who don't and live through the time of trouble will go through the agony of Jacob's trouble which will be more than death. But finally, like our Lord Who rose in triumph and ascended to the skies, we too shall ascend in glory to the greatest reception that any group of people have ever had in all the history of the world. These are the survivors. These are those who stand on Mount Zion with the Lamb, having the harps of God and having the name of Jesus and His Father's name written in their foreheads.

Oh friends, it will be an eternal satisfaction to have stood with Him, even if we have to stand alone. But do not think that this program of sighing and crying and pleading with God in secret means a mournful, sorrowful, burden-filled, unhappy life—Far from it. It's just the opposite. The happiest people in this world tonight are not the ones that are pepped up hipped up with the world's drugs and music and fiction, and all the rest. They're not the happy ones at all; they're just deluded.

You know the happy ones are those who are closest to Jesus in His heart burden. Let me illustrate it. Suppose that one you love very dearly, perhaps your mother or father or husband or wife is sick and in pain. Here they are in a room at home, and they lie there, day after day in pain. You don't want to go around there, do you? That's a killjoy. That puts a wet blanket on things. Let's have a party tonight; throw a party and forget all this. The more you love the suffering one, the more you find your greatest satisfaction in being where? With them, if you can't do anything more than hold their hand.

Now if you don't know what I mean, then you don't know enough about love, that's all. If what you think when you hear the word love is what the hippies think, friends you don't understand what I'm talking about. If you really love somebody, you want to be with them most of all when they're suffering. Am I right? And you don't keep looking at your watch and say, "let me see, I've been here five minutes, I wonder how much time I ought to stay. I wonder when I can get back where the band is playing, and the dance is on, and the movies are showing, where there's life—that's where I want to be. I wonder how much longer I have to sit here. I wonder if she'd feel bad if I go now. I don't like this, it's depressing. I don't like being around. Do you see what I mean, my friends? The soul that feels that doesn't even know the ABCs of love.

Let me tell you friends, if someone you love, and really love, is suffering, you want to be right there. And then if you find there's something you can do to lift the load and ease the pain, you're happy, am I right? It's not an exciting happiness that makes you drunk and act foolish, but a deep happiness, an abiding peace that you wouldn't trade for all the froth and mirth of this world. Some of you know what I'm talking about; all of you can know it.

Listen, Jesus our friend is on the cross. It didn't start when they nailed Him there at nine o'clock Friday morning, and it didn't stop when they took Him down and put Him in Joseph's tomb. It began when sin began, and it can never stop until sin stops. Every sin in this world, from that day Eve took the fruit from the tree and gave it to Adam, down through that sad and terrible experience of the murder of Able by his brother, Cain, on down through the long series of tragedies to the present hour—every sin has pierced the heart of Jesus. Every failure has wounded His soul.

Do you think about it? Some do. They're the ones that will be marked in the foreheads. Their sorrow is His sorrow—the sorrow for sin. Their joy is His joy—the joy of getting people to leave the life of sin and accept His glorious way.

My dear friends, for over 40 years it has been my blessed privilege to preach this message and to see souls coming to Christ. I testify to you that the greatest joy in all this world is the joy of soul-winning. But it comes through pain and heart burden. It doesn't come through throwing a party, and imitating Hollywood and Babylon. Oh, no.

The power to win souls comes in prayer, as I read here in *Early Writings*. Pray alone in the secret place, and pray with one or two others. Young people, some of the greatest joys of my life have been, as a teenager and in my 20s having little prayer bands with young people, and getting them to start other prayer bands. If you want something that will really thrill your heart in the proper use of the word thrill, not the thrill of some drug, or of some fiction, or some hippy program. If you want a real satisfaction (that perhaps is a better word than thrill), start praying for some soul, or somebody that isn't converted, in the church or out. Then ask God to give you some other young person that will pray with you for that soul. Keep storming Heaven until something breaks.

Oh, I've seen young people do this. In one of the great cities of this country, one of the citadels of sin, I saw an army of young people that, by the grace of God,



pulled 29 young people out of the world in two years by this prayer band ministry. You can have an experience, my dear young friends.

The challenge of God is not just to keep out of the penitentiary. Oh, no. It's to go all out for Him in winning souls. Give your life to soul-winning ministry. Your job in this last hour isn't to make a living; it's to make a life—the life of Jesus.

Put your life on the altar and say, dear Jesus, from this moment on, my life and my love I give to Thee, Thou Lamb of God who died for me.

These are the survivors. All else are going to go so far and fast in the worldly way that eventually they will become marked with the mark of the beast—the mark of selfishness, the mark of self-interest. When that time comes, there's only one thing that can happen: The men with the slaughter weapons are coming. And notice the young people as well as the older are going to be affected

Oh, my dear young friends, you will either be a Daniel, a Joseph, an Esther, or you will be a Samson selling your soul for fleshly lust, an Esau selling your birthright for a mess of pottage.

Which will you be? This is the time, the harvest time when every plant is going to seed. The grapes are gathering that black hue which shows that they're ready for the winepress. The grain is gathering that golden color shows that it's ripe for the sickle.

The Son of God is soon to descend with His mighty angels to gather the harvest of the earth. Which will you be the golden grain for the garner of God, or grapes for the winepress of His wrath? You will be fully one way or the other. There will be no middle ground, no neutral party. When the last crisis comes and probation closes, there will be none who are halfway on the way to hell or halfway on the road to Heaven. Everyone will either have the seal of the living God or the mark of the beast. This is the crisis to which we have come, what will you do about it?

Can you this coming week go back to just ordinary living, just keeping up with what the political conventions are doing, and what the stock market is, and what the latest TV programs are, and how to have a good time, what to do to keep from being board. Can you my friend? While the Son of God hangs upon a cross, not of wood—the cross of this world's sin and in woe and in sorrow. He's looking for somebody who will come and stand by His side and cheer His heart with sympathy and understanding. Who will join with Him a hundred percent in reaching other souls and bringing them into the circle of His love?

Friend, I ask in Jesus' name, is there somebody here that for you this is decision night? For you, you could never go back and be what you were last week and the week before. Is there somebody here tonight that has heard the call of God in your soul, and that from tonight on, there's got to be a change in your life? If other people think you're a fanatic, so be it. If other people think you're extreme, so be it. There's nothing extreme or fanatical in what I'm talking about my friends. It is just the opposite. This is real since. This is what Jesus says. I have read it to you from His Bible, and from His testimony. And so I ask you, is there somebody here tonight

that knows that if you follow what you have heard from God's book tonight unless you turn your back on it, it means you've got to turn your back on what you've been doing. Is there anybody like that here tonight?

[Appeal]

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