

Overview: Ezekiel is a book full of humanity (I). That is the subject of this book is the building of God's house as the mingling with God and His chosen people and the main ingredient of the building is the humanity of Jesus who is uplifted and enriched with divinity(II , III).

I . Ezekiel is a book full of humanity :

A. In the book of Ezekiel the term son of man is used more than ninety times; this indicates how much God desires to have a man.

B. The number six, used to describe parts of the holy temple, signifies man, who was created on the sixth day

C. The One on the throne looks like a man, yet with Him there is the appearance of the glory of Jehovah, indicating that the One sitting on the throne is both God and man :

1. This is Jesus Christ, the God-man, the mingling of God and man

2. He was the complete God, and He was incarnated to be a man

3. Having the nature of man, He lived, died, resurrected, and ascended as a man, and now as the One on the throne, He is still the Son of Man

4. Since the ascension of the Lord Jesus there has been a man on the throne, and in the millennium and in the new heaven and new earth there will still be a man on the throne

D. The four living creatures, who are reckoned as one entity, are the corporate expression of the man on the throne, indicating that God's central thought and arrangement are related to man

II . The Son of Man is for the building of the house of God :

A. In His incarnation Christ is the Son of Man :

1. On the divine side, the Lord Jesus is the Son of God; on the human side, He is the Son of Man

2. In order to accomplish God's purpose, it was necessary for Christ to be a man; without man, God's purpose cannot be carried out on earth.

B. The Lord Jesus became a God-man, but He also became the man-God, the God in humanity, the God who is the Son of Man

C. The Son of God is for life, and the Son of Man is for building :

1. If He were not the Son of Man, He could not be the essence of the building of God

2. For building God's habitation on earth among man, He is the Son of Man; God's building needs His humanity

3. After we have received eternal life by believing into the Son of God, we need to realize that this Jesus who is the Son of God is also the Son of Man; His divinity is life to us, but His humanity is for the building of God

D. "You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" :

1. This is the fulfillment of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28:11-22.

2. Christ as the Son of Man, with His humanity, is the ladder set up on the earth and leading to heaven, keeping heaven open to earth and joining earth to heaven for the house of God, Bethel.

3. Wherever Christ is in His humanity, there is the gate of heaven and there is Bethel, the building of God's house with transformed persons

III . For God's building we need the humanity of Jesus :

A. The humanity of Jesus is His human life in resurrection :

1. The main vision of Jesus in the Gospels is that He lived a life that was human but in resurrection.

2. Jesus lived in His humanity, but He did not live a life of His humanity; rather, His living was a humanity in resurrection

B. The wood in the holy building of God revealed in Ezekiel signifies the uplifted, divinely enriched humanity of Jesus

C. For God's building we need to be human not by our natural humanity but by the humanity of Jesus :

1. We were created as man, but we were corrupted, poisoned, and damaged by the fall; therefore, we need the Lord's redemption :

a. Through Christ's redemption we are brought back to the proper humanity—an uplifted, resurrected humanity :

(1) What Christ terminated on the cross was our old man, our fallen humanity, yet the God-created humanity remained to be resurrected

(2) In Christ's resurrection God regenerated our redeemed, God-created humanity, and the divine element uplifted the regenerated humanity

(3) After being regenerated to be a new man, we still have our humanity, but it is a resurrected, regenerated humanity

b. The humanity that we now have for God's building is the uplifted, resurrected humanity of Jesus

2. The more spiritual we become, the more human we will be; the more we have Christ as our life, the more we will have the humanity of Jesus

D. For God's building we need to be the most human of people, those who are "Jesusly" human :

1. We need to have the highest human life, a life lived out according to the eternal life given to us by God

2. In the forty days between His resurrection and ascension, the Lord Jesus trained His disciples to live a divinely human life :

a. He trained them to know that He had become them, that He had entered into them, and that He had brought them into Him.

b. This kind of training was to help the disciples realize that they were mingled with the Triune God, that they were no longer merely human but divinely human, even "Jesusly" human.

c. They were no longer merely men but God-men, divine men, with the Triune God as their intrinsic essence to become their divine being

d. They could now live a life in which they were one with the processed and consummated Triune God

E. In order to have the humanity of Jesus for God's building, we need to experience the Spirit of Jesus :

1. The Spirit of Jesus is a particular expression concerning the Spirit of God and refers to the Spirit of the incarnated Savior who, as Jesus in His humanity, passed through human living and death on the cross.

2. In the Spirit of Jesus there is not only the divine element of God but also the human element of Jesus and the elements of His human living and His suffering of death as well

3. The uplifted, resurrected human nature of Jesus is in the Spirit of Jesus

4. The virtues of lowliness, meekness, and long-suffering, which are required for keeping the oneness of the Spirit, are included in the Spirit of Jesus

5. In resurrection Christ, who was the only begotten Son of God in His divinity, was born of God in His humanity to be the firstborn Son of God :

a. His humanity was "sonized," made divine; this "sonizing" in resurrection sanctified, uplifted, and transformed Christ's humanity, which He put on in incarnation

b. Now such an uplifted humanity is in the Spirit of Jesus and can become our experience so that we may become "Jesusly" human, having the humanity of Jesus for God's building

I. Ezekiel is a book full of humanity:

Ezek 40:3 And He brought me there, and there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze, with a line of flax and a measuring reed in his hand, standing in the gate.

5 Now there was a wall all around the outside of the house, and in the man's hand there was a measuring reed six cubits long, each cubit being a cubit and a handbreadth. So He measured the thickness of the structure, one reed; and the height, on reed.

8 He measured also the porch of the gate toward the house, one reed.

41:16 The thresholds, the latticed windows, and the galleries of the surrounding side chambers with their three stories, opposite the threshold, were paneled with wood all around, even from the ground to the windows (now the windows were latticed),

43:2 And it was like the appearance of the vision which I saw, that is, like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city; and the visions were like the vision that I had seen by the river Chebar. And I fell on my face.

6 And I heard someone speaking to me out of the house, and a man stood beside me.

1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

28 Like the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud on a day of rain, such was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Jehovah...

1:5 And from the midst of it there came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: They had the likeness of a man.

43:6 And I heard someone speaking to me out of the house, and a man stood beside me.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Ps 8:4 What is mortal man, that you remember him, / and the son of man, that You visit him? 5 You have made Him a little lower than angels / And have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 For you have caused Him to rule over the works of your hands; / you have put all things under His feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, / As well as the beasts of the field, 8 the birds of heaven and the fish of the sea, / Whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

II. The Son of Man is for the building of the house of God:

John 1:51 And He said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, You shall see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.

Eze 1:26 And above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, like the appearance of a sapphire stone; and upon the likeness of the throne was One in appearance like a man, above it.

40:3 And He brought me there, and there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze, with a line of flax and a measuring reed in his hand, standing in the gate.

Gen 28:11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and he lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on

the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the god of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed. 14 And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 And, behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will cause you to return to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. 16 And Jacob awake from his sleep and said, Surely Jehovah is in this place, and I did not know it. 17 And he was afraid and said, How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning and took the stone that he had put under his head, and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz previously. 20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and garments to put on, 21 So that I return to my father's house in peace, then Jehovah will be my God, 22 And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that you give me I will surely give on tenth to You.

III. For God's building we need the humanity of Jesus:

Phil 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

Titus 2:14 Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all lawlessness and purify to Himself a particular people as His unique possession, zealous of good works.

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

2Cor 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

11 For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Act 16:7 ...When they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, yet the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

Rom 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) 6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit. 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, 15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named, 16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man, 17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Experience①: Putting “old I” on the cross to live “new I” in resurrection

The humanity of Jesus is His human life in resurrection. When we go out to contact people, we must be persons living a human life in resurrection. In John 11:25 the Lord told Martha, “I am the resurrection.” Martha complained to the Lord that if He had come sooner, her brother would not have died. But the Lord revealed that resurrection is not a matter of time but a matter of His person, because He is the resurrection.

The main vision of Jesus in the four Gospels, especially in the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, is that He lived a life that was human but in resurrection. Jesus was not a man living a natural life. He always put His humanity aside. He was in His humanity, yet He did not live a life of His humanity. Every day while He was on the earth, Jesus was in the flesh, but that flesh was in resurrection. Apparently, He was a Nazarene, a natural Galilean. He was in that flesh. But His living was in a humanity in resurrection.

In Ezekiel 41 all the parts of the building related to the temple were paneled with wood. This differs from the tabernacle raised up by Moses, in which every part was overlaid with gold. Whereas gold signifies divinity, wood signifies humanity, especially the uplifted humanity of the Lord Jesus. In God’s building in Ezekiel, the primary material is the crucified, resurrected, and ascended humanity of Jesus.

For junior high and high school students

While Lord Jesus was living on the earth, He always denied His own natural life and live the Father’s life. This means He went through the cross and lived in resurrection.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God; ...

The first “I” in Galatians 2:20 is “the old I”, “I without the life of God”, but the next “I” is “the new I”, “I in whom Christ is dwelling and who have the life of God”. During your junior high and high school days, please learn little by little to crucify and deny your natural life, “the old I”, to live “the new I”, because the will of God is to let Christ dwell in you. Such humanity in which Christ indwells is the main material of the building of God.

“The old I”, accompanying individualism, insists on peculiar things, keeps nervously worrying about some not very important matters, keeps himself away from what he should do, or keeps doing what he should not do. “The old I” includes sinful “I” but may not be always sinful.

For example, you may be offended by the words you were told, so you worry about it and feel depressed. The more you worry, the more you burn with anger. This is the condition of your soul being fat and your spirit is weak and there is no faith. If you find yourself in this situation, you need to tell your “old I”, saying “Old I who do not have Christ, have you not already been put on the cross with Christ? Old I, go back to the cross. I’ll walk away from this wandering soul, and live ‘the new I’ by faith to let Christ indwell in me by exercising my spirit. O, Lord Jesus, I thank You and praise You.” Please learn and train yourself as early as possible from your youth, to get out from wandering soul of “the old I”. Concerning this training, Hebrew chapter 4 tells you as follows;

Heb 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter into that rest lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

“The old I” is a “soulish man”. If you live in him, you will fall down soon or later. In order to get out of this “soulish man” and live according to spirit by exercising spirit, you must pray-read the constant word of God, logos, and touch the instant word of God, rhema. This rhema is the living word of God that can divide your spirit and soul. Hallelujah!

Experience②: The more spiritual we become, the more normal and human we will be

As believers in Christ, we are no longer the old man—we are the new man....Instead of casting away our created humanity, God regenerated this humanity. Yes, Christ crucified, terminated, the fallen old man, but He regenerated, germinated, our God-created humanity with God’s life.

Resurrection follows crucifixion, and without resurrection there can be no regeneration. What Christ terminated on the cross was the fallen humanity, the fallen old man, yet the God-created humanity remained to be resurrected. In resurrection the divine element uplifted the regenerated humanity. Now after we have been regenerated to be a new man, we still have our humanity, but it is a resurrected, regenerated humanity.

Because this is difficult matter for believers to understand, we need to have a clear vision concerning the old man and the new man. On the one hand, our old, fallen humanity has been terminated in Christ’s crucifixion; on the other hand, our God-created humanity has been germinated, regenerated, through Christ’s resurrection....The humanity which we have today is not the old, terminated, fallen humanity but the new, germinated, uplifted humanity.

If we pay attention only to [the first] part of Galatians 2:20, we may think that Paul is saying that his humanity has been altogether terminated, for he says, “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives.” But where and in whom does Christ live? Paul answers this question when he says, “Christ...live in me.” Furthermore, Paul immediately goes on to say, “And the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith.” First, Paul declares, “I am crucified;it is no longer I who live,” but then he says, “I live.” The crucified “I” is the old “I”. The “I” who lives is the new, regenerated “I”, the regenerated humanity.

Yes, we experience the Lord as the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, but the issue of this experience is that we bear the face of a man. As living creatures, we are not angels but are very human. In fact, the more spiritual we become, the more normal and human we will be. The more we will bear the face of a man. In the Epistles we are taught by the apostles to be proper human beings, in particular how to be proper husbands, wives, and parents. God’s salvation causes us to be proper man for His manifestation, move, and administration.

For young working saints/services

As a business person, you need to realize that your performance does not depend only on your knowledge and talent, but also on your humanity. The Bible teaches us to have proper humanity, in particular how to be a proper husband, wife, parent, child, and an employee. If you are not a proper husband or wife, due to the lack of proper humanity, you cannot be a proper business person. For example, even if you are a skillful person, no one would want to work with you if you cannot care for people and harmonize with them. In such case, you cannot gain cooperation from people; hence you cannot become a successful business person.

Proper humanity comes from the humanity of Jesus. Only in the humanity of Jesus can one find the complete and perfect humanity. As you open your heart to the Lord, calling on the name of the Lord, the more you have affectionate and intimate and personal fellowship with the Lord, the more you can eat the humanity of Jesus and be constituted by the humanity of Jesus.

Brother’s testimony: Recently, one of my subordinates has gotten transferred abroad. Just prior to his transfer, he testified the following to me and my leadership team, "My boss has never abandoned me or betrayed me, he took my big problems and difficulties as if his own and helped me to solve them in the hidden ways. He has demonstrated the example of how a highly efficient manager should behave. I truly appreciate this." The confidence that my subordinate has in me comes from the humanity of Jesus, which has motivated and enabled him to work hard.

- 115 主を賛美する — 彼を高く揚げる
- 見よや、天上に座すイエス！ 主キリストの御座を！
ひととしてたかめられ、 えいこう、 尊貴受く。
 - ひとのせいしつを着て、 けいかくにより死ぬ、
からだもてよみがえり、 ひととし、 昇天する。
 - 主のなかで、 かみくだり、 地じょうでひとに住む；
主のなかで、 ひとのぼり、 かみとともに住む。
 - 主はかみとひとの調和、 ひとにて、 かみしめす；
かみ・ひとなる主にあり、 ひととは栄光を得る。
 - イエスはえいこうを受け、 そのれいとして来る；
イエスの人位とみわざを、 そのれいはしめす。
 - えいこう受けたイエスと、 しょうかいはつらなる；
このイエスのれいにより、 かく肢体は生きる。
 - 見よや、天上に座すひと！ 万ゆうの主の御座を！
それは、 すくいぬしイエス、 とわに栄光あれや！

- 115 赞美主—祂的高举
- 看哪，耶稣天上坐着！我主基督登宝座！
祂是那人神所高举， 荣耀、尊贵已得着。
 - 祂曾穿上人的性情， 照神计划且死过，
带着身体从死复活， 仍然是人升天坐。
 - 在祂里面神降为卑， 神来地上同人处；
在祂里面人升为高， 人到天上同神住。
 - 祂是真神与人调和， 神在人里被宣告；
祂是真人与神联合， 人在神里得荣耀。
 - 从那升天得荣耶稣， 降下包罗万有灵；
耶稣身位和祂工作， 全由这灵来证明。
 - 和那升天得荣耶稣， 今天召会能联合；
藉着这位耶稣的灵， 基督肢体能同活。
 - 看哪，一人天上坐着！万有之主在宝座！
这是救主耶稣基督， 荣耀、尊贵永得着！

132. Praise of the Lord - His Exaltation

- Lo! In heaven Jesus sitting,
Christ the Lord is there enthroned;
As the man by God exalted,
With God's glory He is crowned.
- He hath put on human nature,
Died according to God's plan,
Resurrected with a body,
And ascended as a man.

- God in Him on earth was humbled,
God with man was domiciled;
Man in Him in heav'n exalted,
Man with God is reconciled.
- He as God with man is mingled,
God in man is testified;
He as man with God is blended,
Man in God is glorified.
- From the Glorified in heaven
The inclusive Spirit came;
All of Jesus' work and Person
Doth this Spirit here proclaim.
- With the Glorified in heaven
Is the Church identified;
By the Spirit of this Jesus
Are His members edified.
- Lo! A man is now in heaven
As the Lord of all enthroned;
This is Jesus Christ our Savior,
With God's glory ever crowned!

<Composition for prophecy>