

Sermon Notes August 16 2009 Graham Fabian

*Understanding the background helps to rightly understand the text. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: our light and momentary afflictions are working for us **while** we fix our eyes on the eternal.*

Isaiah 6:1-9 when sin is atoned for, 'then' I heard.. righteous attitudes allow you to hear and speak properly – this propels you forward even when it is difficult

Background.. in the year King Uzziah died: came to reign at 16; reigned 52 years – good king.. had great wisdom; could see things others couldn't.. became very powerful – was innovative and creative; amassed wealth .. was blessed until he grew 'powerful'..ended leprous and alone for rest of his life (full story in 2 Chronicles 26) had a good dad, but no matter good dad, bad dad we all have the responsibility to give glory to God. (See Ezekiel 18)This grieved Isaiah; let it never happen again; catapulted him into another realm.. 'then I heard'.. 'then he could speak'

Daniel 10:1-12 when the power of God comes on you, you can not stand.. v11 God responded to His words and 'came' because of them.. v12 is gold.. 'Do not fear Daniel.. from the moment you set your mind to understand, and humbled yourself before your God, your words were heard and I have come in response to your words.'

The moment you 'set'.. fixed your eyes; set it in concrete; decided..

If we seriously consider Him, humbled – He will seriously consider us.. our words (not our thoughts).. sends angels; sends peoples,..

Background Ezekiel 37: people out of their own land into slavery; Ezekiel taken personally – out of home; lost his wife.. a sad time.. the temple had been ransacked and then sometime later demolished.. great grief to Ezekiel (sometimes some things are lost in translation)..

God took Ezekiel to the most hopeless sight you could see.. no matter what you go through there can be life.. these bones can live.

When holiness comes upon you, holiness gives you the ability to speak His Words.. (not ours – consider the spies..one word enough to keep a generation out)

Ezekiel was smart enough to say/speak what God had said. Flesh and skin came to the bones but what was and is needed is the 'ruach' – the breath – the Spirit of God – the power of God. V10; order: on their feet like a vast army of the Lord.. the previous chapter prophecies the Jewish nation coming back and flourishing. Ezekiel 'saw' but didn't 'see'.. he saw a glimpse – Israel now one of the most prosperous/productive nations.

Write it down; make it plain. A right attitude allows you to hear and see and speak in a manner that will catapult you forth – despite the sometimes very difficult background and circumstances.