Israel's Hour of Decision pt. 2

By Dr. Charles Feinberg

This is part two of Israel's Hour of Decision on Hosea 5:15. Matthew 23:39. The message recorded by Dr. Feinberg Dean and Professor of Old Testament Talbot Theological Seminary.

In the first portion of our message on Israel's hour of decision we dealt with the departure of the Lord and Hosea 5:15. The words I will go away and return to my place, and the second feature of that hour of decision. The affliction of Israel in their affliction. Hosea 5:15.

Now we come to the third factor or element in Israel's hour of decision. You have it here in Hosea 5:15. Until he says, "I will go away and return to my place until they acknowledge their offense, until they acknowledge their guilt." The acknowledgment of their offense is the third part of this plan of their restoration. Now the trials of Israel as we saw in the matter their affliction, the trials of Israel with God's hand on them will have the intended effect. Israel will acknowledge their offense. Singular, the offense in rejecting Messiah's. He's going to remain in his place. He goes away and returns to his place and he will remain in his place till. Notice the till and Hosea 5:15 and the one in Matthew 23:39, "Ye shall not see me henceforth until they admit their offence in rejecting him." John 1:11, "He came unto his own things, his own land, throne, kingdom, right to rule." The world there is in the neuter, "He came unto his own things" and then it's masculine plural" and they who were his own, his people, received him not. They rejected him. So they're going to admit that offence and friends God is so sure of it. It is such a certain matter. It is beyond all doubt in the mind and purpose of God that the Lord has given us the very day and the very hour, the very occasion when Israel will admit their offence.
It's indicated in Zechariah 12:10 and just as anyone at the mourners’ bench. At the mourners’ bench in any church on any occasion just as one is melted down with conviction with tremendous emotion so Israel and they will weep Zechariah 12:10. Here is the, the condition, here are the surroundings, the circumstances says the prophet Zechariah by the mouth of the Lord and “I will pour out on the House of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem. He's speaking God's message. God is going to pour out of my house of David on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on me whom they pierce.

We know who it was that pierced the blessed son of David. We know who it is that pierced him on earth. He was not pierced in heaven, he comes from heaven as a pure said one so he must have been here before. The look on me whom they have pierced and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son. They will weep bitterly over him like the bitter weeping over a first born. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem just like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. When the latter part of the seventh century B.C. the godly King Josiah was killed at Megiddo at the hands of Pharaoh Necho. The whole and the land is going to mourn every family by itself, the family of the House of David by itself and their wives by themselves, the family the house of Nathan by itself and their wives by themselves. They all want to be apart by themselves with their sorrow and it will go from one stage of the nation, one plane and one portion of the nation to the other. The Kings the House of David, House of Nathan the prophet, the family of the house of Levi by itself priests, their wives by themselves and the regular priestly individuals the families Shimeites by itself and their wives by themselves. All the families that remain. Every family by itself and their wives by themselves."

So you see, it's going to be a tremendous occasion when Israel worldwide will look unto him whom they appears and especially will this be true in the land as he comes and his feet touch
upon the mount of olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east. God is so sure of it friends that you know what he indicates he even indicates the actual words of their penitential confession. The circumstances Zechariah 12:10, their reaction at the mourners bench, but here's what they're going to say, "Who has believed our message" Isaiah 53. Which one among us believe the thing reported to us and to who has the honor of the Lord revealed. He grew up before him grew up before God like a tender shoot like a route out of a dry ground. He didn't have any stately former or majesty that we should look upon him nor appearance that we should be attracted to him. They were rather repelled, were they not? He was despised and forsaken of men. You see they must be saying this with our hearts and minds and light through conviction of the Holy Spirit, he was despised and forsaken of men. In other words we did that to him, we despised him, we forsook him. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and life like one from whom men hide their face, he was despised. We did not escape him as though he was smitten with some type of leprosy. We hide our face from him, but with their enlightened hearts and eyes they say now, but contrary to all appearances and all our wrong views on the matter. Surely of a truth. Our grief's he himself bore and our sorrows he carried, yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken smitten of God and afflicted. But he was pierced through for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The chastisement of the chastening for our well-being fell upon him by his scourging were healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him and think.

As for his generation who consider that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due. Which one of us actually evaluated his suffering in the right way? We’re the right spiritual yardstick. Yes, they will be the prodigal nation, come home. Thank God for the blessed accomplices that will come about through their
affliction. There will be the acknowledgment of their offence. God will turn it to his eternal glory and their lasting benefit and the spiritual prophet. When you go to Japan they point out a mission there that has an interesting story to it. It has a meeting place built by certain stones. Those stones are special. They were thrown years ago when there was a great deal of anti-foreign feeling. Feeling against the missionaries just as there had been in the Boxer Rebellion.

So here in Japan stones were thrown at the Christians in years gone by. A mob rushed upon the company, unexpectedly, fearfully, and stoned the believers away, not only missionaries, but the national believers as well. When the time of peace came Christians picked up those stones and worked them into the building. So again God can, he does, he will overrule all to his marvelous glory. Now that is not the end of this picture. God says I will go away and return to my place. That's Messiah doing that, until they acknowledge their offense and their affliction. He mentions that, but notice twice over he says and seek my face. They will early or earnestly seek me. That's the meaning of Matthew 23:39. You shall not see me henceforth till you say, here's the acknowledgment. What are they going to say? They're seeking after the Lord. Blessed is he that common in the name of the Lord. The seeking after the lord.

After all, that's precisely what this Prophet Hosea has to say as he speaks of Israel's history in microcosm in small compass. In Hosea 3:5. Afterward, Hosea 3:5. "Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the Lord their God David their king." Even the Aramaic translation here gives us David their king the Messiah. Malcolm Ishihara, the greater David. David their king, and they will come trembling to the Lord. Not just some earthly king, but to the Lord. And to his goodness in the last days. Once Israel acknowledges, admits the offence they will seek with a longing yearning burning hearts after the Lord himself and the notation is given here that they will seek him early. More than just earnestly, but early. [Inaudible] has in it the word of
morning. M O R N I N G. It's going to be an early occupation. In that time they will seek him early, and isn't it interesting that every one of the four gospels has something to say about that time of day when the Lord Jesus was rejected? Oh, it was the first thing on their agenda. They were be times about it. They weren't a bit backward about it. They didn't wait late in the day, after all according to them, they wanted to be Levitical clean in order to keep the Passover. So they must rush this matter of the condemnation of Jesus of Nazareth so that they were spiritually semblance of justice. It was a travesty of justice, a crime of the ages. But notice now, notice now with poetic justice what a reversal.

Matthew 27 verse 1 and 2. Now when morning had come. Notice, "Mourning had come all the chief priests and the elders of the people to counsel against Jesus to put him to death and they bound him and let him away and delivered him up to Pilate at the governor." When was it in when the morning came? Tells the time of day mark and early. Mark 15:1 "An early in the morning" not just in the morning, but early in the morning. The chief priest with the elders and scribes and the whole council immediately held a consultation and binding Jesus they let him away and delivered him up to Pilate. So it's not only the morning it's early in the morning and Luke also has a notation concerning time. Luke 22, verse 66 "And when it was day the council of elders of the people assembled both chief priests and scribes and they led him away to the council chambers saying if you are the Christ tell us what is said to them if I tell you you will not believe. And if I ask a question you will not answer." So in Luke 22:66 there also we have a notation of time and then John's Gospel, though it's not one of the synoptics looking at Christ from a different vantage point, John is actually it emphasizes the last week of our Lord's earthly ministry. But in John 18:28 they led Jesus therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. That was the governor's official residence, the palace they led him from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and
notice the mark of time and it was early they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium. It's not indicated in order that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Oh what a travesty, and what a tragedy. Here was Messiah of the Passover being sacrificed for them, but they must get this business done early in the hour of rejection.

They did it so hastily, they did not want to be behind time with it. It was number one on their docket. It was the first thing on the agenda of that very fateful historic day. That day so vital in the redemption of the world. Yes, they will seek him early when they accept him and Paul tells us how that's going to be in Romans 11:25, I do not want your brother to be uninformed of this mystery. This which has been kept secret before, but now made known as to be wise in your own estimation that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. Until God takes out a remnant from Jews and Gentiles. Then what's going to happen? And these all Israel, after those rebels are purged out, mentioned in Ezekiel 20 versus 33 38. Then all Israel nationally will be saved just as it is written the deliverer will come from Zion in the first coming. As Malakai tells us he came to Zion. Now the second coming, the deliver will come from Zion. He will remove ungodliness from Jacob and this is my covenant with him when I take away their sins.

Yes they'll seek him early in their acceptance and they're going to pronounce upon him the great messianic blessing. Psalm 118 verse 26. There we have the words of the Old Testament, "[Inaudible SP], Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Every nation has a way of indicating pleasure at one's presence. Welcoming we say, our word in English, welcome, comes from the German willkommen. And so if we have someone that we are delighted to see we say welcome, and if we're enthusiastic about it we say thrice welcome. in German they say willkommen in French bienvenue, in Spanish and beinvenido, Japanese con
gay. All nations have a way, but did you know friend that in Israel they have a very special way of saying welcome?

They greet one who is welcome. With these words Moroka bah, blessed is he that cometh. Even when you go to the state of Israel over the entrance way into the land you come over the Jordan through the Allenby Bridge. They have a sign, borrow him Hobba im the edits Yisrael. Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord. And even in the Passover, when the youngest, so it will be etched on his memory. When the youngest member of the family, boy the youngest son is told to go to the door after the Passover meal has been eaten. Told to open the door. As the door is opened the cup has already been made ready. The Goblet of wine for Elijah. Elijah's cup is already there with the chair because Malakai says that he is going to proceed. You will be the forerunner of the coming of Messiah. He is to come before the great and terrible day of the Lord and all the members of the family as the door is opened by the little son, they all rise and you know what words they say? Barakah bah, [inaudible]. Blessed is he that common in the name of the Lord. Someday, the nation will say that in reality, in truth with conviction will adoration for him with great desire for him, and unknown to them, strange as it is. Unknown to them, they are using this expression and have used it for many centuries. The Lord is waiting for that hour and he will receive back his erring people. Campbell Morgan was one of the great exporters of another day of another generation. He used to tell of a dear godly mother in Scotland who reared as a widow. She reared her daughter in all Godliness in the Bible, in all of the catechetical matters, taught her the Catechism, taught her the reason for her faith. Somehow that daughter thought she knew better. So when she grew to mature years she went wrong. She didn't want to be in the little town, in the little village. She was going to go out and see the world for herself, be independent, make her own decisions. Well, she went wrong. She broke with her
home. She went to the big city and you may well imagine she went down, down, down to the lowest degradation hole when women fall. In a sense they're on a higher plane than men and when they fall the degradation is the deeper and the lower. Well, she did go down to the lowest degradation take part of the floats some jetsam of society the wreckage of society and the big city.

Mother didn't hear from her for a week. Didn't hear from her for a month. Didn't hear from her for a year, two years, three, six. That dear mother had not heard from her daughter her only, living kin. She had not heard from her for ten long years, but one night broken and ruined and wrecked. She had made a shipwreck of life. Janet, that was her name, thought she ought to go home. Few planned it however so that she would get there in the dead of night. So the neighbors would see her for they would scarcely recognize the marks of sin and of degradation were all over her face and in her body. She took her way home. She arrived there in the dead of night. She went up the little lane that led to the cottage that was home for so many years. She was so engrossed in thought that she didn't notice the house until she got near. She looked up and her heart missed a beat. She saw a light burning in the window. She was frightened. She wondered whether her mother had gone or was ill. How stupid of are not to think of that. She'd been gone ten years. Perhaps mother was ill and had to be cared for elsewhere or her mother had died or her mother had to give up the home and couldn't care for them, had to be cared for elsewhere. What did that light in the dead of night mean? Janet was concerned now, she hadn't been for ten years. But she almost turned around and went back, but she thought she had come so far it wouldn't hurt to make sure. So softly with many misgivings she crept up till she got to the cottage itself, put her hand on the latch. She found the latch was open the door was not locked
and the very moment she opened it. A voice said is that you Janet? Mother upstairs, waiting for ten long years, every day of it, every hour like an eternity.

The girl said what's the like burning for mother. I was afraid you were ill or something had happened she said Lassie, it has never been put out a night since you left and the door has never been locked. My dear friends, believe it, the door to God's heart is ever open and Israel will find it so in that day of seeking him. How infinitely tender as the heart of the Lord God of Israel that God allow Lord Jesus Christ that God that you and I know through faith in him. You know friend, God is waiting for you too. You will find him when your heart is open to receive him. If you have received him, your heart is open to his message, to his wonderful plead, to go out and bring in other sheep. He said, "Other sheep I have." John 10, other sheep I have, which are not of this fold them. Also he wants to bring that there may be one flock, one shepherd, one people are brought to him through faith. Yes, go out bring them in and while you're doing that don't forget the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Spread the news far and wide. Tell them, God's heart is still yearning for you. The door of his grace is still open. I thank God that some forty five years ago a Christian, a gentile Christian neighbor told me about the blessed messiah of Israel, the savior. Prayed for me, witness to me, yearned over me. I thank God she did because through faith in the Lord Jesus I came to know my savior. To know the fullness of God's love. You can know it, you can share it with others. May God abundantly bless you as you bring this message of all messages. This incomparable message concerning the open heart and the open door of grace because Paul tells us in 2nd Corinthians 6:2, "Now is excepted time. Behold now is the day of salvation." Friend make good the opportunity and may the Lord abundantly bless your every effort. To the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.