



International Conference – Feb. 2023

General Theme: **Christ: The Connecting Center of God's Work**

Mess. 8: **The Restoration of God's People Revealed in the Book of Ezekiel**

Scripture Reading: Eze 33:3; 34:6, 11; 36:26-28

Link to this Message on the IVPT Channel

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC8MbgCfk\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC8MbgCfk_s)

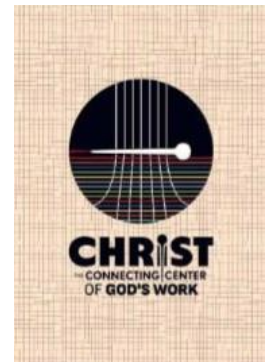


Offering Centre

<http://institutovidaparatodos.org.br/central-de-ofertas/>



Word given by brother **Pedro Dong**, transmitted by Instituto Vida para Todos directly from Estância Árvore da Vida - Sumaré, Brazil, on **02/20/2023**. Text not revised by the author.



**1. Everything that happens to the people of Israel happens to the church in the spiritual aspect.** We are in the context of the disconnection between man and God. Through the fall, man became disconnected from the truth itself. But **Christ is the connection center to connect man again with the truth.** In the Old Testament, God sought a people to be called His own, because all the nations of the earth had become heathen; so He chose the people of Israel as a shadow of what He would do with the church. For this, He chose Abraham and of his seed, rescued from Egypt by His mighty hand, He made a people, a holy nation. This prefigures what God has done with us: He has rescued us from the world in its material and religious aspect.

#### **Ex 19:1, 4-6**

**2.** At Mount Sinai God declared His desire for Israel. Although walking in the desert is an arduous task, in the presence of God it is like flying on eagles' wings. Anything without God is a difficult task. **God wants to be close to His people and have His people close to Him.** The Colossians were deceived by Greek philosophy (Gnosticism), which said that God was too grand and we human beings too small; then, we would be presumptuous to approach Him directly, so we should use angels to mediate our contact with Him as a form of humility. This is Satan's lie. We have a God close to us and we are a people close to Him.

**3.** This afternoon we had our co-workers' meeting and we have never experienced a meeting like this; we were in the third heaven. The presence of God was very strong and the Lord led the meeting in such a living way that we are floating until now, carried by the wings of the Lord. **In the church we have the Connecting Christ, which is a ladder** that reaches to the top of heaven, through which we can see angels going up and down. We can have intimate fellowship with God. So let's not worship God religiously.

**4.** How can we have a God close to us and be a people close to Him? Hearing His living voice (vs. 5-6). **Today we have the living voice of the Lord through the prophetic word.** Let us hear it and practice it diligently. Do you follow all the messages? Let's have reverent love for His Word and put it into practice. If we listen diligently, we will certainly be drawn close to Him. Hear and keep

His covenant. **The voice of the Lord always brings an order for the church to execute.** We are executors of the Lord's order. Therefore, we are forming the **Energy Transmitting Nucleus of the Lord's work** to put all of God's work into operation. Finally, God has on earth a people who are His peculiar property, who exercise the priesthood and are a holy nation.

5. In Exodus 20-23, God gave the people the Ten Commandments, the law, the statutes and ordinances – to establish the constitution of this new nation and the divine principles to govern His people. Likewise, today we have the **Bible – our constitution and the principles that govern us.** However, this does not replace God's speaking to us at all times.

#### **Num 9:18, 23; Is 55:10-11 KJV**

6. In Numbers 9:18, in Hebrew, **the word command is literally “mouth” and can also be translated “voice”.** Well, the Lord gave the Ten Commandments, the law, but He speaks to us, accompanies us and gives us direction. Only this voice here was not an audible voice, because when the Lord spoke with thunder to the people, they were afraid. What voice is this? in v. 23, we see the voice of God spoken by Moses, but according to God's command. **God today uses man to speak His voice.** From the mouth of God comes the word for the moment. Every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord, spoken by Moses or a prophet, will do the will of the Lord. It will not return empty to Him without doing His work (Is 55). Today we are living a moment of normality, under the blessing of the Lord. **In this normal situation, we receive the rain of God's word at the right time.**

#### **Jl 2:23-24**

7. Joel 2 speaks of the children of Zion rejoicing. In Zion was the stronghold of David, who fought for the kingdom. Jerusalem symbolizes the whole church, but Zion is part of it and defends and fights for the kingdom. Today the church in Philadelphia does this work. **Everyone can become Zion as long as they care about the kingdom of God,** as people are not rescued from the empire of darkness without a fight. Those who sow wait for the rain at the right time, if not, there is no fruit. In the normal situation of the church, the Lord sends His rain at the right time and produces His work in us. The church needs to realize the importance of the prophetic word in this final moment, like rain at the right time for the Lord to bless the church and close the age. **I want to enable the Lord to close this age.** I can't wait any longer, so I summoned you together to give Him these conditions.

8. God's desire is that all his people serve him as priests. But **the people who came out of Egypt were loaded with Egyptian culture;** As Moses took time to come down from the mountain, the people already asked Aaron to make a golden calf as a god to go before them, replacing the true God who had brought them out of slavery with a mighty hand (Ex. 32:1-4). **This is the Egyptian concept.** Therefore, the first generation was the most complicated, because it was formatted in Egypt. May the Lord grant us mercy that we may have the same spirit as Joshua and Caleb.

9. Indignant, Moses summons who would be willing to kill his brother, friend and neighbour - the sons of Levi consecrated themselves to what Moses commanded (Ex 32:25-29), and thus the tribe of Levi was separated to serve to the Lord, and the house of Aaron, to serve as priest. **God wanted everyone to serve Him, but because of the Egyptian culture, the world's concept, He had to separate only one tribe to serve Him, because they sided with Him.** Unfortunately, this gave rise to a class - only this tribe serves God and the others do not have this right. But the Lord is restoring this in the church. Peter said we are a holy nation, God's own people, a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9). Therefore, **God hates the work of the Nicolaitans** - who set up a hierarchy between clergy and laity. The clericalism introduced in the church from the second century onwards was inspired by this Jewish model in terms of dress, rites, ceremonies and hierarchy.

#### **Num 9:15-23; 1 Cor 12:28; 2 Cor 10:8; Rev 1:1**

10. The twelve tribes marched as an army, following the cloud, according to the command of the LORD through Moses (Nm 9). **Each tribe did not have the autonomy to follow its own direction, but the Lord's direction through Moses.** We are many members, but one Body. This indicates that each church does not have its own direction, but all are under the same direction given by the Lord through the prophetic word. God placed the apostles first in leadership and gave them authority to build up and not to tear down (1 Cor 12:28; 2 Cor 10:8). Therefore, in the church in Ephesus, when some began to speak words different from those of the apostle Paul, he had the authority to interfere and sent Timothy to go there and warn it. **Although he does not handle administrative matters, the apostle has spiritual authority over the churches.**

11. **The apostles prophesy inspired by the Spirit, according to the revelation given by God** (Eph 3:2-10; Rev 1:1-2). Every time He has a word, God reveals it to His servants – the organic leaders of the church, the ones who really work, who are part of the **figure of Zechariah 4** (see **image opposite**). This vessel refers to servants, but in order to receive God's revelation, they need a person. God then notifies John. John is part of this group of servants, but God uses him to bring His revelation to the other servants. John plays the part of the two golden spouts above the vase that is above the golden lampstand. The two golden nozzles pour the golden oil (the prophetic word, the rain that falls at the right time). That word does not fall directly on the church, but first on that vessel.



12. Everyone who faithfully and accurately receives and loves the Word of the Lord and faithfully transmits it is part of this vessel. **They are faithful servants who first immerse themselves in the word.** It then passes through the seven tubes feeding each light bulb. Some versions of the Bible mention seven tubes for each lamp, that is, 49 tubes. I believe in this version for the end time. We are in the age of the Apocalypse, in which God intensifies the works. **In the early years, it was one tube for each bulb; today there are seven, because the Lord greatly increased the number of servants.** All of you can be those servants: if you love, digest and practice the Word. Today there is a group of teenagers participating in this vessel and renewing the church.

**Mt 21:23, 45-46; 26:3-5**

13. **Regarding the degradation of the people of Israel:** Over the years, the people that God separated from Egypt and in whom He placed the hope of being very intimate with Him, close to Him (Ex 19:4), to know His heart and walk according to the word of His mouth, it turned everything into structured religion, with leadership accommodated in power, and became corrupted. When Jesus came to earth, there was no longer the reality of the determined service to the people of Israel in the desert. Who killed Jesus? The Jews who were in the leadership.

14. In Jesus' time, those who persecuted Jesus to death were not the Jewish people, but the leaders, chief priests and elders of the people (Mt 21:23, 45-46; 26:3-5; 27:12, 20), who were in power and felt threatened with losing everything they had conquered: power, privileges, illicit enrichment. **Jesus said nothing against the law, but denounced their hypocrisy, their privileges and illicit enrichment** (Mt 23). They didn't want to tithe a large amount, because it was a lot, but they were concerned about tithing the mint, because it was cheaper. Jesus exposed this by becoming a threat to the power of these Jewish leaders.

15. **In the degradation of the church, the fall was the same:** to like the structure of power, of privileges... The decay of the people of God is also originated by the lack of the word of the prophet, that is, in the chair of Moses sat the scribes and Pharisees (Matt 23:2). In the absence of a prophet,

the teachers replace him, but there is no voice of God that gives direction to the people. Hence, man needs to assemble the human structure to support the people of God, and thus all sorts of corruption enters.

## MESSAGE 8

16. Ezekiel spent several chapters saying that the people did not heed God's warnings through him, but God's heart was to restore the people. **All that pertains to the restoration of Israel will be fulfilled at the coming of the Lord.** However, **as far as the church is concerned, the restoration has to take place today**, otherwise there is no one to bring this age to an end. With that, there will be no restoration of Israel. Therefore, God has to restore us first.

### Eze 1:4, 13-14

17. This shiny metal is "electro". **God again uses this electricity among us today.** The 4 living creatures zigzagged like lightning. The lightning does not descend in a straight line, but zigzags, because it looks for a path for the electricity to reach the earth. Air is refractory, so through its high temperature it needs to find some loose electrons in the air; when it finds, the current is discharged. After that, at a certain point, it becomes refractory again and encounters another loose electron and then goes the other way; this is zigzag. That's what colporteurs are like: they ask someone, "May pray for you?", if the person didn't want the prayer, there was no "electric discharge" from God, and they zigzag to another place. **Colporteurs do immersion in the Word until they go crazy and come out like hot coals zigzagging.**

### Eze 2:3-7; 3:7, 17-18

18. Let's see **the situation of degradation of Israel in the time of Ezekiel.** Ezekiel must have been among the Jews taken captive to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C. He belonged to the priestly family and was called to be a prophet of God in order to announce God's judgment on Israel and the heathen nations, and to announce the restoration of the people and the completion of the building of the house of God, which will take place in the millennium for Israel and at the end of time to the church.

19. God sent him to the house of Israel, who will not listen to him, for he does not want to listen to the Lord, because he has a stubborn forehead and a hard heart (Ezekiel 3:7). It doesn't matter if they listen or stop listening, they are a rebellious house, but they will know that a prophet was among them (Ez 2:5). **The prophet is a watchman - watchman, sentinel; he carries a lot of responsibility.** He must be faithful to warn the wicked from his evil way, to save his life. If the prophet does not warn him, and he dies in his iniquity, his blood will be required of the prophet. But if the prophet warned him, and he did not turn from his wickedness, the prophet did his part and saved his soul (vv. 18-19). Let's not be politicians, we are not here to please people, but the Lord. Ezekiel prophesied against the idolatry of the people and the elders of the people desecrating the temple (Ez 8). But the Lord will restore these people and we see, from Ez 33, the beginning of this restoration.

20. **When did the restoration start?** When the people realized that there was a prophet in Israel. For a long time the people listened to the words of the false prophets, who said that everything was fine, that Ezekiel exaggerated and that Jerusalem would not fall into the hands of the enemies. One day, however, Jerusalem fell, and this came as a great shock to the people. However, before this fall, God's glory (His presence) had already departed from the temple.

### Eze 33:21; 22:25-31

21. **The beginning of the restoration of God's people begins with the awareness that there is a true prophet.** The fall of Jerusalem (Eze 33:21) was in the year 586 B.C. Ezekiel prophesied between 592 B.C. and 570 BC, about 22 years. For 6 years Ezekiel prophesied and the people preferred to listen to the false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear. The people

continued in their wickedness, because they believed it was impossible for the holy city to fall, where the glory of the Lord was, after all it was the place that He chose to make His name dwell.

**22. The Jewish religion became a power structure for the leaders of the people, whether prophets, priests or princes of the people.** The prophets devoured souls, took treasures and precious things, multiplied the widows. The priests transgressed the law, profaned the holy things of God, and could not discern between the holy and the profane. Princes were like wolves, they shed blood to destroy souls and gain dishonest profit. There was not even one to close the gap in the wall before the Lord (Ez 22:25-31). To restore the people, the end must come. **The church today is in the final age and is responsible for completing God's will in this age.** This prophecy about Israel is for us today.

#### **Eze 33:30-33 KJU**

**23.** After the fall of Jerusalem, the people awoke to the prophetic word; but has not yet cleansed himself of the customs of Egypt. In church history, there has been degradation for 19 centuries, with the many religious and worldly customs and vices. **The people of Israel wanted to be entertained by the word of the prophet** – like a romantic poet or singer with a beautiful voice who played an instrument virtuously – but they didn't put it to work. Each aimed at his own interest and profit. Today **God is restoring things in the church age in Philadelphia.** We hear the prophetic word and put it into practice. In it is the blessing.

#### **Eze 34:2; 1 Pet 5:1-3**

**24. When the leadership of God's people enjoy the power structure and enjoy the privileges and ill-gotten gains that power brings, they no longer care about the sheep.** On the one hand, it is necessary to take care of the structure of the church (services); on the other hand, the framework for caring for people cannot be allowed to make us lovers of the privileges it brings. Let's not become lovers of structure and forget the sheep. **We are here to take care of the sheep.** Pick them up from the streets and take care of them in the church. **Our eyes can never stop being on the streets.** Let's leave the privileges of the structure to, as shepherds, seek the sheep.

**25.** Our hope is to share in the glory that is to be revealed, not in the privileges of power from here. **Our expectation in this life is not to bask in the glory of men.** We are willing to suffer as shepherds of sheep. Let's go to the streets and suffer to get some sheep out of the enemy's clutches. Let us not seek anything for ourselves today (sordid greed); we are not lords of the brethren, but the Lord. Let us be models in care networks, men of prayer; let us participate in BookExpo, Bookafé and all the tools that the Lord has given us.

#### **Lk 10:30-37**

**26.** The structure is for caring for the injured. **The structure that the church must have is one of shepherding, caring and building,** like the inn of Luke 10. It is a service structure set up according to the demand created by preaching the gospel in the streets. All the people of the world are exhausted, suffering under the rule of darkness. We must never stop looking for the wounded, the sheep without a direction, without direction from a shepherd.

**27. Responsible brother of the church, watch out!** Don't do like this priest and pass on the other side, not giving importance to those who need the Word. Do not say: "I am a priest, my clothes are clean and my job is to serve in the temple; so I don't have to worry about that half-dead person. I'm a responsible brother of the church, I have to take care of the structure of the church, so I don't have time to take care of people on the street who need the Word". Nor be like the Levite, who thinks: "My function is to help with the practical things that the priest needs and not to help a half-dead". Thank God for the Samaritan, who passed and moved with compassion, with empathy – **splagchnon of Christ.** Our colporteurs don't do colporting for money, it doesn't work. **Colporting is done out of compassion, out of love, out of surrender.**

**28.** The Samaritan bandaged his wounds (v. 34). In the KJU version the wine comes before the oil. Wine disinfects, heals, treats the wound. The inn is the church to receive and care for these wounded. The structure of the church is not set up for someone to have power and privilege, but to care for the wounded. **Today we must be that Samaritan who goes out into the street to look for the wounded.**

**Eze 34:11, 23-24; 37:26-28; Rev 4:5; 5:6**

**29.** The Lord Himself will seek and seek His sheep. He will raise up for them one Shepherd, Christ, who will shepherd them. The Lord will be their God, and Christ will be a prince among them. **It is the Lord through the church who will feed the sheep.**

**30.** Even if there is a true prophet, if we don't get out of Egyptian customs, we can't be straightened out. Therefore, **there is a need for change through life on the inside: a new heart, a new spirit.** Finally, the Lord managed to touch our heart. He changed our luck; we didn't do anything. He is restoring us and giving us sensitive hearts that love the prophetic word. At this time When the basic conditions of the church in Philadelphia came about, **the Lord initiated the age of Revelation**, sending His seven Spirits, which are the seven torches of fire that burn before the throne of God (Rev 4:5) and are sent throughout the earth (5:6), for it is happening all over the earth. Why do things in our midst happen so fast, are the teenagers awakened to the Lord? Because of the seven Spirits.

**31.** The people of God have been greatly corrupted by lies, deceived over the centuries by the father of lies; the religious structure was built on the struggle for power, the struggle for position, status, privileges and personal gain. But thank God, the Lord restored us today and sent the seven Spirits, **the seven torches that burned inside the throne of God today burn in our hearts.** The seven Spirits were sent to the various continents of this earth. It is the fire burning in all the earth. He will cause us to dwell in the good land (Ezek. 36:28), the good land that the overcomers will inherit in the Millennium, the rest that God promised His people (Heb. 4:3, 8-10). As a **result of restoring His people to life** → God has today an army of the dry bones of that valley, formed as a result of prophetic speaking, to fight for the kingdom of God. Let's take the land back to Him!