



Amir Tsarfati
Steve Yohn

Authors' Corner: Exploring Ezekiel Part 2

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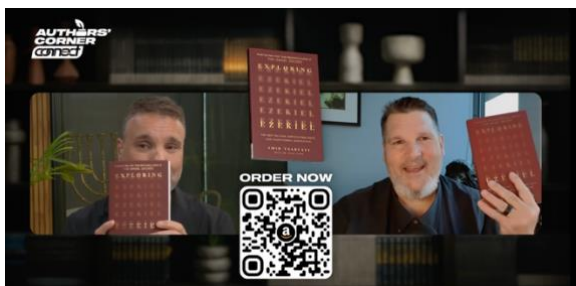
AMIR: Hey Shalom everyone, I'm Amir Tsarfati, live from CONNECT in Galilee, Israel. And we are super excited today is, you know—today with a lot of mixed feelings for me, for the nation of Israel, for the ministry.

And I want to thank Pastor Steve Yohn for joining me for

this Authors' Corner. We're going to talk once again about *Exploring Ezekiel*, but today is a very important day. Steve, why is it a very important day today?

STEVE: Well, honestly, it's a bit of a bittersweet day because it is the second anniversary of the tragedy of October 7th. But I appreciated your heart in wanting to bring some redemption to the day. We know that nothing can make up for the pain and the anguish of that time. But to bring God's truth out on this day, I think is so special. And today is the launch day of *Exploring Ezekiel*. Sorry... [AMIR: Yeah, you got that one right.] I can't even find a... [Steve's having trouble with holding book in front of camera] Yeah, I'm so backwards that... Okay.

AMIR: Yeah, well, that's the book and I'm excited. Again, it's a day of mourning in Israel. But again,



my hope, and it's always been my hope, not even now, but it's always been my hope; God is not done with Israel. And what the enemy meant for evil, God can turn into a good thing. And again, I've been telling people

everywhere around the world that as much as it's the most tragic thing ever, it was the biggest wake-up call that the nation of Israel in modern state of Israel ever received. And because of what happened, Israel

woke up to understand the looming dangers all around us. And today, October 7th, 2025, we're probably the strongest we've ever been since the nation was born. So I mean, I want to take comfort in this, but I also want to take comfort in the fact that as this book suggests, we are not a nation that has been forgotten. God is still working, and He still has *great* plans for the future with the nation of Israel. And maybe we start this program with a prayer. If you don't mind, I'll pray and then we'll continue.

Lord, we thank You so much that You are in full control of everything. You're sovereign, You're God. And today we commemorate a horrific event that two years ago surprised this nation on the last day of Sukkot, of Tabernacles. The happiest, the longest holiday in the Hebrew calendar, and yet it is now associated with a tragic event. But God, we know that although You have allowed it to happen, it was for a reason and for a season. And two years later, we see Your good hand in preserving, protecting, strengthening, encouraging, and empowering Your nation, Israel, here in this land. And although the world is falling in love with hatred towards Israel, You hate that. And there are not enough pages in the Bible to express Your love for Your nation. And we thank You that we could today look into one more time, into the book that You put in our minds to write about the prophet Ezekiel and the words that You gave him, words that are timely for the nation then as much as they are timely for our nation today. So Lord, we thank You and we bless You. And we ask now that You will open the eyes of our hearts to behold the wonders of Your Word through this program. We thank You and we bless You in Yeshua's name. Amen.

STEVE: Amen.

AMIR: So, Steve...

STEVE: Again, as you look at the book of Ezekiel, it's more than just (the chapters) 36 through 39. It's God telling the world, "Then they will know that I am the Lord." It's God showing Himself for who He is. And I think the parallel between what we read about in Ezekiel and where Israel is today and what Israel has experienced in these last couple years is, it's remarkable, the balance between the two. Because

in Ezekiel you see Israel at its lowest, Israel struggling because of their own sin, but then you see God stepping up and lifting them back up not just in this Ezekiel War but then eventually in the millennial kingdom where they will be with Him forever. And we see the same in Israel today, where Israel was at its lowest on October 7th. But again, as you've mentioned, God lifting the nation back up, strengthening it so that it's ready for what He has prepared for them in the years ahead.

AMIR: Yeah. And that's what the enemy hates to see. One of the reasons the hatred is so big right now is because the enemy is angry. The enemy is angry because it's defeated. He is watching a nation that was supposed to be dead already, alive and stronger than ever. And there's no doubt that it's not the hands of man. There's no doubt that it's not the wisdom of man, that it's not the strength of our military. Because we found out a few things about our military two years ago exactly today. We found out about our secret services and about our intelligence two years ago. And the good thing of all of that is that now we can say that where we are today is first and foremost because of the faithfulness of God. No more we can leave God out of the picture, and say it's all about us, and our military, and our might, and our strength, and our generals, and our government, and our wisdom. No. It is obvious to everyone in Israel today that the days where we could leave God out in the modern state of Israel because we are "enlightened, liberal people that live among people with whom we can make peace"; those days are over. Those days are over. The days that we understand that unless God protects the city, its guards are there in vain. And unless God is building a house, the workers are working in vain. These are today. These are the days that we see today. And again, that's why I love the very honest approach of Ezekiel. And that's why I think it's important to teach from chapter 1 and not from chapter 36 or 37. It's important to go all the way back to honesty was so well described in the way God viewed things, and the prophet expressed those things to the nation. And God did not spare any criticism in how things were done. He will not spare criticism in how things are being done, but at the same time, this book is not ending after 10 chapters. You see, God is still the perfect

promise keeper. And I take so much comfort in this. And that's why, again, I love the fact that this *Exploring Ezekiel* is exploring the whole book of Ezekiel and not just a small part of it.

STEVE: I appreciate what you said about just the honesty of Ezekiel. And that's what you find in this book. And it's a harsh honesty. There is a harsh reality that's brought out in this book, but he lived a harsh life. I don't know that any prophet experienced the same loss that he experienced. I mean, there're ones who had to go through this and go through that and suffer this and suffer that and spend days in the belly of a whale. But Ezekiel, he lost his wife. God took his wife as an example to the nation. So you think what this cost this man, and that's why his words are so raw, and so real, and speak so much to the average reader. And why it fits so much the Jewish nation, which because of your experiences over the millennia, you're a very raw, very real, very honest people because that's what you've had to be based on your history.

AMIR: Yeah, pain is a language that everybody understands. Unlike joy that can be interpreted differently in different places around the world, pain is a language. And many times God had to use pain in order to teach us a lesson or two, a lesson that we would have never been taught unless it was involved with pain. And the nation of Israel understands that. Ezekiel understood that. And Ezekiel, I think that pain refined his words. You know, Ezekiel was not a prosperity-gospel messenger. It was not about "everything is great, claim it, name it, take it." It's not about it. Ezekiel, just like many other—including some of the apostles, by the way—he had to go through so many hardships. And then when you go through hardships, and trust me, in the last few years, I went through personally some very, very major hardships and a lot of pain. I think that the pain I had over the past four years was a pain that I don't think I had experienced in the 48 years before combined.

And a lot of that, I think, shaped the way I teach today. And I think much of that is throwing me to the great need to teach the Word. Because every day that passes, and I look around me and I see the

horrific evil days that we see that we live in, and the ignorance that I see when it comes to Bible illiteracy among people who claim to be either God's people among Israel or God's people among the Gentile believers, it breaks my heart to see how the devil so easily steals their hearts. And that's why their love is growing cold. And that's why they are looking for people that will teach their itching ears, give them... because they don't know His Word, which means they don't know His heart and His character. And a lot of people stay away from the Bible because they don't understand it. And Ezekiel, let's face it, especially the very first half of that book, is very hard to understand. There's a lot of strange things that Ezekiel had to see and understand and learn from, which is all the more the reason why we need to simplify things and write this book.

STEVE: Right. And I know I've watched your struggles over the last years, and you've watched some of my struggles over the last years too. And the pain, the rebuilding, the growth again, but I know that you are very much like me and that I would never want to repeat what I went through. But I'm so glad I went through it because I know I'm a very different person today than I was from back then. And I know that there are people who are watching this right now who are in the midst of the fire. And I know that you're struggling with things and you're wondering, "Where is God in the midst of this?" The Jews in Ezekiel, they were wondering, "Where is God in the midst of this?" as they were being carted off to other lands because of the sins of other generations in the past. And they were wondering, "God, where are You in this?" But the whole time what we see in Ezekiel is God was there all along, every step of the way. And no matter what you're going through right now, you've got to know God is there with you, walking this with you. And there will come a time when you will come out the other side of this fire, and you'll look back, and you'll see that He was there. And you won't ever want to go through that pain again, but you can be thankful for what God allowed you to endure. Because you are so much better of a person, so much closer to God, so much better of a tool to be used by Him to impact the lives of people around you.

AMIR: Yeah, I totally agree with you. And again, that's why as we commemorate October 7th today, again, it's something that I don't think anyone wants to re-experience, but all of us are thankful of what happened since, and the fact that we're in a far better place right now. But again, it is because of what happened, as tragic as it was, probably it was the only way God could get our attention, and to start acting as His people in this part of the world.

And again, I think, Steve, the fact that we're launching this book today means a lot to me. I really want to change the paradigm here from a day that's supposed to leave shame and pain and sorrow to a day that will also be a day where we can release to the world a book that speaks of the promises of God for Israel that are still unfulfilled, the love of God for Israel. Yes, the discipline of God, but at the same time, the fact that He's a promise keeper, that He has not left us, never forsaken us. And this is important, and everybody needs to understand that it's crucial. And I want to encourage people to get it. If we get this book during the next four days, we will benefit a lot from it for the sake of the nonbelievers that can go into a secular bookstore and find this book there on one of the shelves, a book that can connect the dots. And you know, Steve...

STEVE: ...We've both been so excited watching the pre-orders and people stepping up and getting this, and ordering in this book before it was released. But now that it's released, these are still those days that matter for the next four days. Remember, with *The Israel Decree*, there was such a wave of interest, of passion that people had, that it even caused the old, Gray Lady, The New York Times, to have to sit up and take notice. And that's why, I mean, on this book up at the top, it says "From *The New York Times* bestselling author of *The Israel Decree*." That's nothing, I mean, in the past, you could have said the *USA Today* bestselling author, *The Publishers Weekly* bestselling author, *The Wall Street Journal* bestselling author." You could have said all those, but *The New York Times* was always out of reach because of the politics of the paper and their whole perspective. But your readers, they stepped up, and they forced *The*

New York Times to take notice. And we pray the same thing is true, and that can still continue through this week. Not that you have to stop buying the books at the end of this week, but through the end of this week, you purchase this book, it's going to force even *The New York Times* to once again take notice that here is a book that we cannot ignore. And once it gets on that *New York Times* bestselling list, there are people from all over who would not even step foot in one of the big box stores, but they will see this name and wondering, "Ezekiel; what's this all about?" And that's what will draw them in to hopefully picking up this book.

AMIR: Yeah, sadly, Steve, people like notoriety and they like to associate your name with something that they know and they consider, especially nonbelievers. I mean, let's face it, *The New York Times* will never be the place where you'll find great Christian literature, okay? It's not the place. It's not a go-to for a Christian reader. But that's exactly why, all the more it was amazing, astonishing and amazing, to be on their bestselling list. Because the nonbelievers highly value those type of titles. So, for them: "Oh, he's a *New York Times* bestselling author. Oh, now I think I want to read his book." I mean, they don't care that I have written 14 books before that, yeah, they were bestseller on other newspapers. But who cares. "It's not *The New York Times* bestseller. So I don't think it's that good." But now, this title will be on the top of every title of every book. And not because I need this type of honor, but it's because for the nonbeliever, it matters. And for them to grab a copy that says, "Wow, this author is a *New York Times* bestseller. Aha, I think I want to try and read."

And again, every single book, whether it's nonfiction or fiction, we make sure it's pregnant with the gospel. And there's no way you can finish reading that book and not know that the only way, truth and life is Yeshua the Messiah. So it's important that the believers, our brethren, will help us in this endeavor to open the gates for the nonbelievers to once again see a title that speaks to them, impresses them, and cause them to pick up that book and say, "Hmm, I want to give a shot." And yeah, help us. Look, I'm not

ashamed to say I need your help. After all, everyone needs to study this, the book of, all the Bible, of course. Everyone will benefit from it. But we have this ministry, all of us, every believer has, is being prepared for the work of ministry to share his faith with the nonbelievers. And that's the ultimate goal. So when we write titles, when we write books, and by the way, remember, you and I, when we pitched the fiction books to Harvest [House Publishers], which is, for the most part, a publishing agency that is dealing with just nonfiction Christian literature, they were a bit hesitant in the beginning. But we were convinced that that's a wonderful way to reach the nonbelievers. How much more when you write a book that is teaching the entire book of one of the prophets and one of the most relevant ones for today? So...

STEVE: Yeah. You know, and I think that for those who have read *Revealing Revelation* and *Discovering Daniel*, this is an essential book for rounding out really the big three of end-times prophecy. You find end-times prophecy throughout the Bible, but if you read *Revealing Revelation*, *Discovering Daniel* and *Exploring Ezekiel*, you will have a firm grasp, not just because of what Amir says, but because, as he said, you find Scripture throughout. It is chock full of Scripture. So it's not his words, it's the Words of God given through His people, through His prophets. And you find in Revelation, Daniel and Ezekiel, God's plan for Israel, God's plan for the church, and God's plan really for His people from now throughout the rest of eternity. So it is a wonderful trilogy that I think ties in so much with Thessalonians, where you can say, "Therefore, comfort one another with these words." You can comfort one another with these books because you see the heart, the love, the passion of God for His people in these books, and you find it the same way in *Exploring Ezekiel*.

AMIR: Yeah, and by the way, it's not just the plan of God for Israel and the church, the plan of God for the world. And that's the thing; we want the people of the world to understand what is awaiting.

STEVE: Blessed are those who are not part of the second death.

AMIR: Absolutely, absolutely. And so, you know, I always tell people that if you walk to a church on Sunday with only the New Testament, you're basically entering the church with half of the Bible, and I hope you paid half price for it. What makes the New Testament valid is the fact that it's confirming and fulfilling the Old Testament. Otherwise, it holds no water. In fact, what makes the New Testament new is the fact that there is an Old. And I always tell people, you know, if you lived in the first century, and even if you followed Yeshua or sat under Paul, you wouldn't hear the New Testament being preached there. I mean, the only Scriptures that were quoted by the Messiah, by the disciples, and by the apostles were Scriptures from the Old Testament.

How come it was so important and relevant for them to reach the whole non-believing world then, and it is "irrelevant" for us to reach the non-believing world today? It makes no sense, obviously. So, you know, for us to teach the Old Testament is a mission because of the fact that it is being forgotten. There are pastors that are saying, "We need to unhinge ourselves from the Old Testament." There are so many churches where the Old Testament is not being taught. There are so many churches that the prophets and prophecies are not being taught. But again, if you remember, Steve, prophecy is roughly 30% of the Bible. Unfortunately, if there are churches that don't teach prophecy. Unfortunately, there's also those that are prophecy freaks and that the only thing they study is prophecy, and they don't know the rest of the Bible. That's why for us to teach the entire book, not just the three or four chapters that are related to today, but the entire book is so important because I do believe with all of my heart that the knowledge of the entire Word of God is the key to the understandings of the times and the seasons and to the understanding of God's character, God's heart, and His plan.

STEVE: Which is, again, why I love the fact that in this series you have, you have Old Testament [Ezekiel], you have Old Testament [Daniel], and then you have New Testament [Revelation], which is really the way it should be. And I almost feel a bit like maybe we did these in reverse order because this

book really lays a strong foundation that I think a lot of what Daniel says builds off of that. And then you have Revelation that wraps it all up. So I would still recommend start with Revelation and work through if you haven't had any of them because the books themselves build off of each other. But yeah, I think it fits so much who you are as a Jewish follower of Yeshua that you have biblical prophecy end-times with two Old Testament and a New Testament rather than just all New Testament.

AMIR: Exactly, exactly. You're totally right. And that's why I want to urge everyone, today is October 7th, go; if you haven't pre-ordered it, go and get it today or in the coming two, three days. Let's get the word out. Let's make this book a bestseller so the non-Christian bookstores will order it to their brick-and-mortar stores to be on their shelves. And the non-believers, who really truly need to understand God's Word so they can find hope and a future and understand the times and the seasons in which we live right now, for them, it is a matter of life and death. It is a matter of salvation or being completely lost.

So I want to encourage you, if you haven't done that, so get one. Get one for yourself, get one for your friends, get one for your family members. Let this word go out. Help us to help others reach them with the message of God's heart and plan for people.

Thank you, Steve, for this very unique Authors' Corner. This is the second and the last program on *Exploring Ezekiel*. It's a timely program. It's October 7th. The nation is mourning. Our nation is lamenting. But this book brings us to this perspective of God is still out there fulfilling His plan for Israel, He is not done with them. In fact, He has great plans for them. Thank you, everyone, for watching. Thank you, Steve. Shalom and God bless you from Galilee and from Parker, Colorado.



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