

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”**  
**October 14, 2016**

**Ezekiel 28:1–29:21.** King of Tyre and the satanic power behind him denounced.

**Revelation 13:11–14:13.** The beast out of the earth.

**Job 36:24–33.** Greatness of God and second person relationship.

**COMMENTS.**

**Ezekiel 28:1–29:21.** Outline: the king of Tyre denounced (**28:1-19**), judgment against Sidon (**28:20-26**), and judgment on Egypt (**chapters 29-32**). Although evangelicals differ on their views of Ezekiel 28 as a reference to Satan or just hyperbole, they all agree that chapter 28 is prophecy against the city of Tyre and its ruler. This ruler exalted himself above God and deserved the judgment that God would bring upon him. This ruler thought himself God (**28:1–10**). He was indeed exquisitely wealthy and wise, but his power and pride corrupted him (**28:11–19**). Moreover, all agree that Satan himself is the ultimate example of all such proud creatures (**1 Tim. 3:6**). Following this section of reading, we have judgment promised to Sidon, by plague and sword (**28:20–23**). God’s judgment and destruction of the surrounding nations show His sovereign holiness. He is cutting back the ‘briers and thorns’ of Israel’s enemies, to make a safe place for her to live (**28:24–26**). In January 587 BC, God declares to Ezekiel his judgment on Egypt. Pharaoh, king of Egypt, is like a great dragon or crocodile ruling the River Nile, his lair. God will hook him up and fling him out (**29:1–5**). Egypt is condemned because she was an unreliable support in Israel’s need—like a reed staff which breaks when leaned on, tearing the shoulders and buckling the knees (**29:6–7**). God will punish Egypt by laying waste her land and scattering her people for forty years. Afterwards he will restore her, but only as a shadow of her former power. Israel will never again look to depend on her (**29:8–16**).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** Regardless of whether one thinks that the reference in Ezekiel 28 is Satan (I do), the bottom line for us is to be aware that the prince of Tyre and all ungodly leaders are motivated and energized by the devil himself as they engage in dishonest business and violence (**28:16-18**). Every person, believer or unbeliever, who accepts Satan’s motivation of pride and living for the world, likewise lives under the influence of Satan. It is a frightening thing to think about Satan’s power to fill our hearts (see Acts 5:3), Only by walking in God *with proper knowledge and proper love* can the believer insulate his heart from being fashioned by Satan and his demons, and avoid a dark soul that actually serves Satan (Matt. 6:19-24). The frightening thought of our wills being molded by Satan should cause us all get serious about the Lord and give ourselves only to Him completely (Rom. 12:1-2).

**Revelation 13:11–14:13.** In **13:11-18** John sees the beast out of the earth. This beast has the appearance of a lamb but the voice of a dragon. He promotes the power of the beast from the sea—the monster of tyranny and dictatorship. He performs mighty miracles—even, like Elijah, calling down fire from heaven (1 Kings 18). In **14:1-5**, there is the Lamb and the 144,000. In **14:6-13**, John sees three angels.

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** Note how the beast from the earth looks like a power for good, but he is in fact a deceiver. He is a picture of a corrupt church serving the interests of worldly governments. In particular he uses the desire for money to bring all people under the control of materialism. Materialism is the great evil in the church today. It both corrupts and enslaves. Materialism enslaves the heart (Matt. 6:19–21), the mind (Matt. 6:22–23), and the will (Matt. 6:24). We can become shackled by the material things of life, but we ought to be liberated and controlled by love for God. If the heart loves material things, and puts earthly gain above God, then the result will be a tragic loss—of a loving relationship with God and all of the riches that come with that love. Instead of spiritual enrichment, we will experience impoverishment. We have been offered so much in a 2<sup>nd</sup> person relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and to throw it all away for an empty life filled with frantic search for happiness in materialism is sad indeed. In fact, it is sick, and all one has to do is look at the sickness of our country. Many Christians complain about the deplorable state of America, but how many of them are making a positive influence as they continue to reject Christ's local church?—because the world really does have first place in their hearts. Only by walking with Christ *by knowledge and by love* can the believer ever get it and live in the life above dreams, above materialism, above empiricism: 1 Corinthians 2:9 *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.* Those who walk with God by *proper knowledge and proper love* understand the spiritual and metaphysical realities in this verse. Those whose hearts are wrapped around the world have no clue and, at best, tend to apply this to a future time in Heaven instead of in a daily life in God *with proper knowledge and proper love.*

**Job 36:24–33.** In this speech Elihu emphasizes God's greatness and sovereignty over all of creation. With the mind of a scientist but the heart of a poet, Elihu describes the storm. He begins with the formation of the clouds (**26–29**), then the release of power by the lightning (**30–32**), and then the sound of the thunder (**36:33–37:5**). To Elihu, the lightning is the weapon of God (**36:32**).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** While Elihu should be commended for recognizing that God controls all things and for intimating that this is all part of God's care for creation, what is missing is a second person loving relationship with God. It is one thing to quote the Bible about God's greatness, power, and love. It is another thing to be related to that God in a very personal and intimate second-person loving relationship that includes reverence at the highest level. Again, it always comes back to loving God *by second person proper knowledge and proper love.*

*Life in God by proper knowledge and by proper love.*

*Pastor Don*