

“Little Sanctuary’s & Fleshy Hearts!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **The Golden Compass** – Check out our web site ccmurrieta.com ; click on **Multimedia**, then **Movies**. 3 articles **to have an answer for the hope that is w/in us.**
- 1.2. **Open:** Imagine a **hot air balloon** tied up just outside our sanctuary in our parking lot, near the entrance to our foyer. You get in & start sailing towards Monroe Ave. When it stops & turns, facing you again towards the church. 25 leaders now stand out front, & 2 of them come into focus. They are the key **religious & political** leaders of our valley. You prophecy against them & their terrible leadership, & one falls over dead as you speak. Well, there’s our intro...

2. LITTLE SANCTUARY’S & FLESHY HEARTS! (1-25)

- 2.1. **CHICKEN POT PIE!** (1-13)
- 2.2. (1) **The gate** – the traditional place where the elders of a city sat to administer **justice** & oversee **legal matters**.
- 2.3. Really don’t know too much about this **Jaazaniah**, nor **Pelatiah**.
 - 2.3.1. They probably belonged to Israel’s’ nobility.
- 2.4. (2,3) **False optimism** - The elders were encouraging the Israelites to build houses...i.e. don’t listen to the prophet’s predictions build! (i.e. peace/safety)
 - 2.4.1. **We’re safe!...as precious & protected “meat in a kettle!”**
 - 2.4.1.1. **Like a baby in a bassinet!**
 - 2.4.2. **They** (those not in Jerusalem) **are like table scrapes!**
- 2.5. (5) God said **I know what you’re thinking!**
- 2.6. (6-12) No, the slain righteous were the meat(protected) from the flame.
- 2.7. (11) **I will judge you at the border** – i.e. right when you think you’ve made it; right when you think you’re out of God’s reach; running for a time with no consequences, the line of safety is in site...then it happens.
 - 2.7.1. This was literally fulfilled in 2 Kings 25:18-21.
- 2.8. (13a) **While he was speaking one falls over dead!**
 - 2.8.1. Foreshadowed the judgment soon to come.
- 2.9. (13b) Ezekiel responded again by pleading to God for mercy.

- 2.10. **LITTLE SANCTUARY'S!** (14-18)
- 2.11. 2-fold response: [1st] The remnant would **not** be destroyed, but preserved.
[2nd] The need for judgment on Jerusalem. Jerusalem's moral compass was bent.
- 2.12. (16) Those in Jerusalem felt that those in exile were far away from the Lord.
- 2.12.1. They **localized God & thought in terms of *geographical* rather than *spiritual* proximity.**
- 2.12.1.1. The religion I grew up with had the same results with me. **I saw God as geographical.** When I was at **church** I'd pray, confess sin, or feel closer to him because of the place I was in.
- 2.12.2. **Yet He desires us to be close to Him everywhere I go, wherever I go!**
- 2.13. **Give me other names for a sanctuary or define what a sanctuary is:** A place set apart(*sanctus/sacred*); a safe place; a holy place; a refuge.
- 2.14. They had lost access to the "Sanctuary" (i.e. Temple in Jer.); but God Himself would be a sanctuary for them in Babylon.
- 2.14.1. **As He was a refuge to Joseph** in Egypt.
- 2.14.2. **As He was a shelter to Daniel** in Babylon.
- 2.14.3. **As He will be to a business man/woman** doing business in Vegas.
- 2.14.4. **As He will be a sanctuary to a dishwasher** working at Pechanga.
- 2.14.5. **As He will be a safe haven to our missionaries** away from home.
- 2.14.6. **As He will be a sanctuary to you while away from your city, your church, your home. "I will be with you, even to the ends of the earth!"**
- 2.14.6.1. **You may be taken from your city, your home, your church, but you can't lose the presence of God, Christian!**
- 2.15. Ps.31:20 **"You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence."**
- 2.16. Ps.90:1 **"LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations."**
- 2.17. Ps.91:9 **"Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,"**
- 2.18. (17,18) There is to be a distinct future for Israel **nationally**.
- 2.18.1. A partial restoration after the Babylonian captivity; ultimately in Mill.
- 2.19. **STONY HEARTS!** (19-21)
- 2.20. Israel's **physical** return will be accompanied by a **spiritual renewal**.
- 2.20.1. **When they get back to the land they'll remove all vile images & detestable things.**
- 2.20.2. **The land** will be purged of idolatry & so will **the people**.
- 2.20.3. Israel's **external** difficulties resulted from her **internal** condition.
- 2.21. **New spirit** – This promise refers to the **permanent indwelling** of the H.S. in Israel.
- 2.21.1. **Before the church age** the H.S. dwelt in select individuals, temporarily for specific tasks. {Saul/prophecy; Samson/strength; etc.}

- 2.21.2. **In the Millennium** the H.S. will indwell all believing Israelites.
- 2.21.3. **The inauguration of the New Covenant** (which includes the permanent indwelling) began w/the death of Christ.
- 2.21.3.1. **The church today** is participating in the *spiritual* not the *physical* benefits of the covenant.
- 2.22. **Let's talk about stony hearts!**
- 2.23. **Dinosaur** – On September 1993 in South Dakota, Dinosaur hunter Michael Hammer was amazed at what he saw. Sticking out of the ground were the remains of a *Thescelosaurus*, a plant-eating dinosaur. The skeleton was almost complete. Scientists reported that inside the dinosaur's chest was a **stone heart** - the first **dinosaur heart** ever seen, about the size of a grapefruit.
- 2.24. **Rock in water** – Take a rock sitting for a long time sitting in water. Take it out & break it open. Dry inside. The water never penetrated it.
- 2.24.1. Christ wants to penetrate more than our minds.
- 2.25. **Cher sang**, “Don't you wish you had a **heart of stone?**”
- 2.25.1. Uhhh not really our goal.
- 2.26. **Potato** – Looks good on the outside, but cut it open & **black & hollow inside**.
- 2.26.1. So many in the church today that look like a good edible potato on the outside. Yet inwardly they're **hard & hollow**, & need Christ to take over inside them to make them clean!
- 2.26.1.1. Jesus is the cure for a rotten inside.
- 2.27. **How do you identify a heart of stone?**
- 2.27.1. **Sometimes it's easy to spot:** like the **Pharisees** who w/joy brought the woman caught in the act of adultery & couldn't wait to stone her.
- 2.27.2. **Sometimes it's difficult to see on the outside:** like those who come to church & even live a pretty clean life. Or believers who aren't evil or even immoral yet heir heart just feels cold.
- 2.27.3. **Here are some symptoms. Time for a check up:**
- 2.27.4. Lost compassion for the **sick**, the **hurting**, & for **sinners**.
- 2.27.4.1. **How do you feel when you see someone who is down & out?**
- 2.27.4.2. **Compassion** is to be an identifying characteristic of our faith!
- 2.27.5. Lost desire to **grow & do** God's will.
- 2.27.5.1. **As Christians** we are in the process of being **changed & transformed** into the likeness of God.
- 2.27.5.2. **It is the disease of apathy** (apathy = *lack of interest or concern*).
- 2.27.6. Lost excitement in the **work of God**.
- 2.27.6.1. **Do you still like stories of kingdom victories, souls saved, lives changed?**

- 2.28. How do you soften a **heart of stone**?
- 2.28.1. Have a heart of flesh tender to **God's will!**
 - 2.28.2. Have a heart of flesh tender to your **bro's & sis's** in Christ!
 - 2.28.3. Have a heart of flesh tender to **others!**
 - 2.28.4. Let your heart be wiped clean by **repenting** of your sin.
 - 2.28.5. Let your heart be protected from **what you allow** in your heart.
 - 2.28.6. Let your heart be chiseled by the **Word** of God.
 - 2.28.7. Let your heart soak in the **Spirit** of God.
- 2.29. **UP, UP & AWAY!** (22-25)
- 2.30. (22-25) With this announcement the cherubim lifted their wings and the glory of the Lord left not only the **temple** but **the city itself**, hesitating briefly over the mountains East of Jerusalem (Olivet).
- 2.30.1. God had left His sinning people to the fate that, in their hardness of heart, they themselves had chosen.
 - 2.30.2. Lingered, hesitating, as if pleading what Jesus would later plead, standing in the same place, "**Lk.19:41-44**".
- 2.31. It's no coincidence that Christ ascended from this same mount.
- 2.32. **Ezekiel's vision** is now ended & he is transported by the Spirit back to the captives in Babylon. (started in **8:3** where he was "*hair-borne*")