

## Bible Study Book Of Ezekiel

I. Inaugural Vision Eze. 1:1-3:27)

II. Judgement on Jerusalem and Judah (Eze.4:1-24:27)

\* A Promise of Judgement and Hope (Eze. 4:1-11:25)

\* The Case of Judgement Opened (Eze. 12:1-16:63)

\* The Case of Judgement Closed (Eze. 17:1-24:27)

Review - A Promise of Judgement - (Chapters 4-5)

Not only verbal warnings - but also with sign - acts dramatizing the fate awaiting Jerusalem and its people.

{Street Theater}

Eze. Is commanded to begin his ministry immediately by performing a series of sign-acts, warning of the coming of judgement upon Jerusalem and Judah.

Ezekiel performs more sign-acts than most prophets, perhaps because his communication task is harder than most.

He must preach a message of Jerusalem's inevitable downfall to a people convinced it could not be captured by the nations — and then, after the city's fall, he must convey hope for the future to a people crushed by despair.

His message is not repent before it's too late, but rather, it's too late; the end is here. (Chapters 6-7).

Ezekiel is given a tour of the Temple in Jerusalem, where he learns the reason the glory of the Lord has departed from Jerusalem and has come to Babylon. (Chapter 8-11). But the final word from God is not one of judgement. Rather, is one of Hope, that after judgement therein will be grace for a remnant of the nation.

Big Picture - due to Israel's unfaithfulness and Idolatry - Judgement on His people. Yet because of His grace and faithfulness the Lord will become their sanctuary.

Reflection; God against Jerusalem - (Chps. 4:1-5:17).

(vv. 1-3) God commanded Ezekiel to enact the siege against Jerusalem. Then dramatize the experience of those inside the city.

The first of his sign-acts is in three related parts, depicting Jerusalem as a city besieged not

merely by Babylonians but by God as a result of the people's long history of sin.

The first sign - act involves electing an elaborate model depicting Jerusalem as a city under siege. He takes a clay brick, and draws a map or a picture of Jerusalem on it while it is still soft. (1).

Then the prophet is to create a diorama of a besieged city, and battering rams to break through the walls (2) — all the latest weaponry and the overwhelming force for the Babylonians will bring to bear on Jerusalem. When the city is surrounded by Babylonians, there would be no way into or out of the city.

Ezekiel plays the part of both God and the people.

The prophet himself is to take the Lord's part in the drama, with his face fixed toward Jerusalem, representing a settled attitude toward the city, and an iron griddle, or pan, between him and the city, depicting the complete severing of relations between Israel and her God. (3).

[Q] What is the significance of the iron griddle? The use of the iron object highlights the impenetrability of the barrier.

This griddle is Lord's forbidding Ezekiel in the previous chapter to act as an intercessor for the city.

The second sign:

The prophet is required to perform is related to the first and involves lying down next to the model he has built for a lengthy period of time, first on one side and then on the other.

He is to be tied with ropes, {cords} - these cords are placed on him by the Lord Himself, emphasizing the Lord's agency in the series of events and the unchangeable nature of what is being signed. (4:8).

The prophet is to lie on his left side for 390 days to bear [the] punishment of the house of Israel (4-5).

Then he is to lie on his right side for another forty days to "bear the punishment" of the house of Judah (6).

He is to be tied with ropes {cords} - these cords are placed on him by the Lord Himself, emphasizing the Lord's agency in the series of events and the unchangeable nature of what is being signed. (Eze.4:8)

The sinfulness and unresponsiveness of the people would limit his freedom in preaching.

One spirit can be crushed when people refuse to give a sympathetic hearing.

The Third sign;

The third part of the sign-act comes in the form of the prophet's diet during this acted-out siege.

He joins them in consuming siege rations while he lies down next to the surrounded city.

(4:10-12) those who remain inside the city will be reduced to starvation rations and worse, forced to eat defiled food.

\*{The people eat the rations of starvation}.

This represents a situation in which food shortages are so desperate that there is not enough grain of any kind to make proper flour, and so scraping of whatever can be found must be mixed together into a single loaf.

Chap 5:5-13) The sign-act and motivation are explained - God declares that He will “satisfy” His wrath and has “spoken in jealousy”.

(In v.11) - Helps us to make sense of wrath and jealousy in God, emotion that are inappropriate in us.

In (chap.5:1-4). Dramatize the final fate of the inhabitants, as he burns slices and scatters the hairs on his head. He remain mute until God gives him something to say.

Repeatedly in his acts, Ezekiel plays the part of both God and the people.

(Chp.4:7) representing God, he passes the siege with “arm bared” and weighs the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the scale (Cp.5:1)

(Chaps.6:1-7:27). The End Has Come

Chapter 6 announces the judgement of God against the mountains of Israel.

[Q]. What is occurring on the mountain that occurs God’s wrath?

God declares that the people’s altars and idols will be “broken“ and defiled by their own dead bodies. (6:5-7).

How does this help us to understand God’s feelings about sin ?

In (Chapter 6 & 7) of Ezekiel are punctuated by repented variations of the statement, “You shall know that I AM the Lord.” (6:7).

Compare (6:10, 13, 14: - 7:4, 9, 12) - but that knowledge is not the result of repentance and faith.

[Q] What brings them to this knowledge?

[Q] How does such knowledge reveal the glory of the Lord ?

In (Ezekiel 7) the focus of judgement switches to the “land of Israel,” and the background is no

longer idolatry and the curses of (Lev. 26) but rather social injustice and the prophecy of (Amos 8).

Five times in this chapter God says He will punish or judge Israel "according to your ways."

In light of Amos 8 what "ways" are particular in view?