

EZEKIEL

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INTRODUCTION

A. Historical Background:

1. Fall of Nineveh and rise of Babylonian Kingdom.
2. Defeat of Israel and death of Josiah, 609 B.C.
3. Jehoiachim on throne, died and Jehoiachin, king ... Carried away to Babylon with the upper classes of Israelites; Ezekiel was among them (597) .
4. Ezekiel; Name Means = “God will strengthen”.

B. ZEDEKIAH IS KING.

1. A time of undue optimism; ... lead by false prophets.
2. Ezekiel message - (see also Jeremiah).
 - a. Doom for Jerusalem.
 - b. Eventual return of the captives.

C. IN JERUSALEM THE FEELING WAS: (They said of the exiles)...

1. “They have gone far from the Lord; to us the land is given for a possession” (Ezekiel 11:15).
2. “Abraham was only one man; yet he got possession of this land; but we are many: the land is surely given us to possess” (33:24).

D. IN EXILE...THE FEELING WAS:

1. “Our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live.” (33:10).
2. “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; and we are clean cut off” (37:11).

E. TO COMBAT THIS DESPAIR, which if unchecked might lead to a complete abandonment of Jehovah, is the aim of the second portion of Ezekiel.

HIS COMMISSION

A. HIS CALL: (Chapter One).

1. Describes his vision as arising from a storm cloud.
2. Without getting lost in the details this vision represents the glory of God.
3. God’s glory is not tied to just one locality but can be any where.

B. HIS INSTRUCTION: (Chapter Two).

1. Go to a rebellious people....Imprudent and Stiff Hearted.
2. Preach whether they hear or refuse (v. 7) read.
3. Ate the book given to him ...in the mouth sweet as honey...(3;3).

C. HIS FEAR.....Overwhelmed...Seven days, speechless.

D. HIS DUTY:

1. “Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel.”
3:17

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2. A watchman, once chosen must warn of approaching danger, otherwise he is responsible for the inevitable calamity.
 3. When the warning is sounded..whether heeded or not..Watchman did duty
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HIS MESSAGE

A. "JERUSALEM MUST BE DESTROYED."

1. Regardless of what false prophet may say.
2. As already seen...attitude of those left in Jerusalem.

B. SYMBOLIC ACTION...a pantomime by which the prophet's message is graphically acted out.

1. Clay brick... plays war...shows the siege of the city by Neb.
2. Eat sparingly...poor food...worse conditions...portray what it will be like during the siege.

3. Cut off his hair:

- a. One part is burned....
 - b. 2nd part hacked to pieces with the sword.
 - c. Third part scattered to the wind.
 - d. **A few hairs saved in his robe.
 - e. This describes the fate of the people of Jerusalem.
- #### **4. His Wife: "The desire of his eyes"...was taken from him by death.**
- a. He was to show no sorrow.
 - b. When people asked him the reason for his strange behavior, it gave him a chance to preach his message: Jerusalem, and the temple, "the delight of their eyes" is doomed.

C. TO COMBAT THE FEELING OF DESPAIR that came as a result of the message that Jerusalem was destroyed.

1. Read Psalms 137.

2. The story of "Dry Bones" (Ezekiel 37).
3. The two sticks...that became one stick (37:16) Ephraim and Judah will be restored as one nation.

D. EZEKIEL AND REVELATIONS:

1. Some time we need to do a study of these two books together.
 2. Much of Revelations finds its beginning in Ezekiel.
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Other Messages of Ezekiel

A. MANY ERRORS REFUTED BY EZEKIEL. Some examples are:

1. No Payday For Sin Refuted.
 - a. Israel lived as though there were no payday for sin, as though God had no law for sowing and reaping.
 - b. Babylon Captivity was their Payday.
 - c. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” (18:20). (See Article at end of this outline.)
2. Calvinism Refuted.
 - a. Total Hereditary Depravity....Ezekiel...”son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither...father of the son” (18:20).
 - b. Original sin: Sin is an act that is committed, Not inherited.
 - c. Unconditional Security: Wicked can repent...or ... the righteous can become wicked. (18:24-27).

B. GOD WILL NOT BE QUESTIONED, TRIED BY MAN (20:31).

Message For Us Today

A. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY: (18:4; 20).

1. **The Preacher - Watchman**
 - a. “I have made thee a watchman” (3:17) .
 - b. Great Commission (Matthew 28)
2. **The Hearer:** Can either hear, and heed the watchman or forbear, that is refuse to listen. (2:7).

B. PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die...”(18:4; 20).
2. “But if the wicked turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.” (18:21).

C. GOD’S INVITATION:

1. **READ Ezekiel 18:30-32.**
 2. Now Read. **II Peter 3:9...** “Longsuffering...not willing (wishing) that any should perish; but that all should come to Repentance.
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