

Ezekiel

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Ezekiel's Visions of God's Judgement And Hopes

Ezekiel lived during a time when the people were into heavy idol worship and had forgotten God. Even though they were about to be destroyed by Babylon, they did not turn back to God. Instead they tried to rely on outside help and their idols to solve their problems. Ezekiel was already exiled to Babylon when he was called to become a prophet because God wanted those who were still living to hear His message of doom. Perhaps they would be willing to repent if they knew what would happen to their homeland. Unfortunately, they did not and Jerusalem was ultimately conquered and crushed by King Nebuchadnezzar. We focused on three visions Ezekiel saw which dealt with the judgements of God over His people because of their idol worship and their refusal to repent.

Ezekiel had a vision of Destruction. The LORD showed Ezekiel the vision of Destruction. He saw 6 angelic men carrying a deadly weapon each, he also saw men clothed in linen with a writing kit. God told the linen men to mark the foreheads of those who did not worship idols and were righteous. Then the LORD

commanded the 6 men to kill off the rest of the men that did not have a mark.

Ezekiel had another vision where God took him to the temple in Jerusalem. God told him to look towards the north and he saw an idol of jealousy, which meant that in the temple of God, the people had set up an idol. Historians think that this idol was likely the image of Asherah, a Canaanite fertility goddess. God then told him to dig a hole in the wall in the entrance of the wall, and he saw images of detestable animals drawn on the walls of the temple and seventy elders there worshipping them.

The third vision Ezekiel saw was the Vision of the Burning Vine. God compared them to a useless unfruitful vine. God said the vine would be thrown into a fire and be burned since it was useless and unfruitful to

begin with. In verse 7 God said that although some would come out the fire (escaped Babylon) a more devastating invasion that would ultimately destroy Jerusalem was to follow. These visions all pointed out the sins of the people and the judgements that would fall upon the Israelites. They would be destroyed and conquered by Babylon and lose their homeland because they had refused to turn back to God.

In Ezekiel 8:18, God said, "My eye will not spare nor will I have pity and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them." Therefore, by the time the people realized their mistake and wanted God to deliver them, He would not be there for them any more.

God commanded Ezekiel to do some unusual things. Some include lying on his left side for 390 days and then on the right for 40 days. God also commanded him to shave his hair with a sharp sword and to split in into three piles. One would be scattered into the wind, the other would be burned in the fire in the midst of the city. The other pile would be struck around with a sword. Another includes cooking his food with cow manure being the fuel source.

God used visions and commands to show what was to come for Jerusalem. Despite some of these events to be somewhat absurd but God works in mysterious ways. So in the end we must learn from Ezekiel to obey the commands of God. This concludes our survey of Prophet Ezekiel. Amen.

