

EZEKIEL 6:1-7:27 – “JUDGMENT ON IDOLATROUS ISRAEL; JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL IS NEAR – AND THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD”

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

Read Lev. Chapter 26:27-33 - THE END HAS COME! – GOD’S INTENT BEHIND THIS COMING JUDGMENT (7X) Eze 6:1

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Eze 6:2 "Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,

Eze 6:3 and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: 'Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places.

Eze 6:4 Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.

Eze 6:5 And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars.

Eze 6:6 In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

Eze 6:7 The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know (understand and realize!) that I am the LORD.

Eze 6:8 "Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries.

Eze 6:9 Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations.

God had commanded Ezekiel to remain silent except for those times when he was commanded to preach a special message. Here we have the first spoken message.

Ezekiel is being told to look toward Israel and prophesy against her.

“They shall know that I am the LORD – cf. Ez. 6:7, 10, 13, 14; 7:4; 9, 27) Does it not seem that in the US we are acting more like God doesn’t exist?

The sword of the LORD will reveal the purposes of the LORD and He will deal with the high places. (*1 Kings 14:22-24; Jer. 3:6,13*).

Israel was worshipping as the Canaanites at the high places in the hills and the valleys. – Worship practices included sexual misconduct, sorcery, spiritism, snake worship and child sacrifice. (*Gen. 6:3; Ps. 103:9; Num. 33:52*)

And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. “I WILL DESTROY YOUR HIGH PLACES”

And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols. – A public declaration by the LORD.... Which is repeated for the confirmation of it: and I will scatter your bones round about your altars as an indication of the pollution of them; (*2Ki. 23:13-15*).

Because of the idolatry throughout the land, the cities shall be destroyed. The places for pagan worship shall be desolate; altars laid waste and desolate; your idols broken and made to cease. Your incense altars cut down and your works be abolished. TO DESTROY ALL IDOLATRY (*Dt. 12:1-4; 2 Chron. 15:8; Is 66:3*)

The enemies of Israel would come in and kill the worshippers around their shrines and stack up the corpses like so many logs and defiled flesh.

Against this backdrop of slaughter, we see the grace of God in preserving a remnant, like the topic illustrated when Ezekiel put some of the shaved hair into the hem of his garment (*Ez. 5:1-3*)

That remnant will remember Me when they are carried captive. The scattering of the remnant will convince them of the purpose of the LORD! THE SCATTERING OF THE REMNANT!

Abominations – involves idolatry as well as sexual immorality!

FROM CHAPTER 4-24, GOD SPENDS ALL THIS TIME WARING US ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN! CHAPTER 4-7 IS A PROPHECY ABOUT THE FALL OF NOT ONLY JERUSALEM, BUT THE WHOLE LAND!

We see here the watchman Ezekiel warning the people that a Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem was coming because God had seen their sins and was about to punish them. WE ARE GUILTY OF MUCH OF WHAT IS MENTIONED HERE!

Is there any part of your life that you are infatuated with, as was Judah? Are you mistaking God’s patience and forbearance for His continuing to allow any sinful practices in your life?

Description of “high places” – The high places were places of religious worship. Six religious activities occurred here: animal sacrifices (1 Kings 3:2), prostitution (Jeremiah 3:2), the burning of incense (1 Kings 3:3), daughters walking through fire (Jer 32:35), and human sacrifices (2 Kings 23:20, Jer. 7:31). It appears that there were sacred pillars at the high places (2 Kings 17:8-12). These appear to be carved pillars depicting the female goddess of fertility and male deities. It appears that each high place had priests (Num. 22:41). The "gods" that were worshipped at the "high places" included Baal (Num. 22:41), Asherah (2 Kings 21:3), Asherim (2 Chron. 17:6), Topheth (Jer. 7:31), and the gods of the sun, the moon, the constellations, and all the host of heaven (2 Kings 23:5, 2 Chr. 33:3). The gods at the "high places" were depicted as carved and molten images (2 Chr. 34:3).

Do we recognize that our sexual immorality “crushes” God’s heart?

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OBSERVATION

Eze 6:10 And they shall know that I am the LORD; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them."

Eze 6:11 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, 'Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.

Eze 6:12 He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them.

Eze 6:13 Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols.

Eze 6:14 So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.'

Eze 7:1 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 7:2 "And you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: 'An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.

Eze 7:3 Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways(4X, vs. 3,4,8,9), And I will repay you for all your abominations.

Eze 7:4 My eye will not spare you, Nor will I have pity; But I will repay your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst; Then you shall know that I am the LORD!"

Eze 7:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come!

INTERPRETATION

"They shall know that I am the LORD – cf. Ez. 6:7, 10, 13, 14; 7:4; 9, 27) The purpose of Biblical prophecy- so that when it does come to pass, as prophesied, the people will know that *"I am the LORD!"*

Their abominations are so wicked, that they must be exterminated on account of them. The seriousness is noted by the pounding of fists and stamping of feet! THIS SMITING OF THE LORD WILL MAKE THE LAND DESOLATE!

Their demise by God is prophesied – those afar shall die by the pestilence or plagues; those near shall fall by the sword; those who remain shall die by the famine.

Again, we see the purpose in these things, that *"then you shall know that I am the LORD!"* Remember it's the LORD when you see the slain bodies around all the pagan worship places, where the idolatrous Israelites had been worshipping.

Yes, the LORD will stretch out His hand and make the land desolate, yes more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, probably a shortened form of Beth Deblathaim in Moab. (Jer. 48:22) Again, *"Then they shall know that I am the LORD."*

Here we have the second spoken message.

Judgment was to come upon the whole land. God is saying their cup of iniquity is full and His forbearing, His patience is at an end! Judgment is coming on the people as well as the land. They will be judged according to their ways. They will be repaid by the LORD for all of their abominations.

He will not look the other way; nor will He spare because of pity, but He will repay their idolatrous ways—again, *"Then you shall know that I am the LORD!"*

A disaster, singular and remarkable above all others, has come. Yes, indeed, it has come!

APPLICATION

The six ingredients represent generally poor

God says He will spend His fury upon them! Nu pestilence or plagues, sword (war) and by famine!

God demonstrates His judgment in the places where the land will be slain.

The sparing of the land will no longer be possible

"According to your ways" – all your abominations!! - 4X

Oftentimes in Israel's history, God's pity caused His judgment to be delayed, but not here—"Nor will I have pity!"

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OBSERVATION

*Eze 7:6 An end has come, The end has come; It has dawned for you; **Behold, it has come!***

Eze 7:7 Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; The time has come, A day of trouble is near, And not of rejoicing in the mountains.

*Eze 7:8 Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, And spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, And **I will repay you for all your abominations.***

*Eze 7:9 'My eye will not spare, Nor will I have pity; I **will repay you according to your ways,** And your abominations will be in your midst. **Then you shall know that I am the LORD who strikes.***

(vs. 10-27-strength of the people no longer present!)

*Eze 7:10 '**Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; The rod has blossomed, Pride has budded.***

Eze 7:11 Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; None of them shall remain, None of their multitude, None of them; Nor shall there be wailing for them.

Eze 7:12 The time has come, The day draws near. 'Let not the buyer rejoice, Nor the seller mourn, For wrath is on their whole multitude.

Eze 7:13 For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, Though he may still be alive; For the vision concerns the whole multitude, And it shall not turn back; No one will strengthen himself Who lives in iniquity.

Eze 7:14 'They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, But no one goes to battle; For My wrath is on all their multitude.

Eze 7:15 The sword is outside, And the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field Will die by the sword; And whoever is in the city, Famine and pestilence will devour him.

Eze 7:16 'Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains Like doves of the valleys, All of them mourning, Each for his iniquity.

INTERPRETATION

The end or final destruction is here made plain and represented as an executioner who has arisen early for His sleep and is waiting for His orders to execute judgment. Every note of time is used in order to show the certainty of the coming judgment. All is come! The hostile troops are advancing. Don't think that the noise proceeds from festivals, form the joy of harvest. It's the noise of those by whom you are going to fall! I will soon pour out My fury and My anger. I will judge and repay for all your abominations, says the LORD!

Again, as was told in verse 4, I will not look the other way, nor have pity. You will be repaid because of your idolatry. Your abominations will be shown before you, and again, ***“Then you shall know that I am the LORD who strikes!”*** In order to alarm this infatuated people, looks to the day! It is come! It will wait no longer The rod has blossomed. It is ready! Your insolence, obstinacy and daring opposition to God have brought forth their proper fruits. Your wickedness has burst for into violence. None of you shall remain, but all shall be destroyed. MORAL CORRUPTION TO EXTREME Economic collapse has come. Buyers are losing their purchases. Seller's need not mourn their forced sales. Wrath is on the entire multitude.

The coming judgment was so certain and its effects would be so lasting and devastating, that transactions of buying and selling would be concluded improperly or not at all.

No one goes to battle for Judah because the nation and the land would be so devastated by death and diseases brought on by warfare and famine.

War throughout all the country and pestilence and famine within the city, shall destroy everything, except a small remnant. He who tries to flee from the one shall fall by the other.

Those who were left alive would hide in the hills and be characterized by four things: 1. v. 16 – mourning or moaning like doves.

APPLICATION

What do you think of the moral corruption that has come into our Government and into the church at large?

Do we see the nearing of economic collapse?

Do we see our military confidence failing? Should we?

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OBSERVATION

Eze 7:17 Every hand will be feeble, And every knee will be as weak as water.

Eze 7:18 They will also be girded with sackcloth; Horror will cover them; Shame will be on every face, Baldness on all their heads.

Eze 7:19 'They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them In the day of the wrath of the LORD; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.

Eze 7:20 'As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations— Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it Like refuse to them.

Eze 7:21 I will give it as plunder Into the hands of strangers, And to the wicked of the earth as spoil; And they shall defile it.

Eze 7:22 I will turn My face from them, And they will defile My secret place; For robbers shall enter it and defile it.

Eze 7:23 'Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence.

Eze 7:24 Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, And they will possess their houses; I will cause the pomp of the strong to cease, And their holy places shall be defiled.

Eze 7:25 Destruction comes; They will seek peace, but there shall be none.

Eze 7:26 Disaster will come upon disaster, And rumor will be upon rumor. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; But the law will perish from the priest, And counsel from the elders.

Eze 7:27 'The king will mourn, The prince will be clothed with desolation, And the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, And according to what they deserve I will judge them; Then they shall know that I am the LORD!' "

INTERPRETATION

2. Weakness will characterize all hand and every knee!

3. Horror and shame will also characterize them. It will be on every face. Baldness, a sign of mourning, will be on all their heads.

4. Disgust and disillusionment over wealth – their riches are of no use, as in a time of famine there is nothing that can be purchased. Gold and silver cannot fill their stomachs. A pound of gold is not worth an ounce of bread! (Prov. 11:4; Zeph. 1:18)

Their beautiful temple was their greatest ornament, but they had even taken its riches to make their idols, and had brought them into the very courts of the Lord's house. Therefore God had given it up to pillage and destruction by the wicked of the earth (Babylon) as spoil and they shall defile it! (Daniel 5:23)

They shall not only destroy Jerusalem, but they shall enter the temple, deface it, plunder it, and burn it to the ground.

The chain may signify the siege of Jerusalem, or the slavery of those that were carried into captivity or were all bound over to the righteous judgment of God. I will use the Babylonians, the most cruel and idolatrous of all nations to take your houses; to still the pomp of the strong; and to defile Israel's holy places.

No turning back, they will seek to make peace with Babylon by paying tribute to the king, but he will not hear. He is resolved on their destruction.

One disaster will come after another. Rumors will abound. Visions will be sought from the prophets. The priest will be powerless. There will be no good counsel from the elders. No more hope. Israel's king will mourn. Their princes will be clothed with desolation. (Ps. 74:9; Lam. 2:9) All the common people be tremble with fear. The LORD will indeed bring judgment upon them, according to their way, according to what they deserve. "Then they shall know that I am the LORD!"

APPLICATION

In verses 16-19, we see spiritual confessions in the remnant. Would that remnant include you and me?

God says their religious treasures will be removed!

God say their ruin is deserved

They think peace can be achieved (Ps. 83:1-5), but it cannot.

The reliance on their leaders will not help. How about us?

The resulting judgment is deserved and the reason is desperately needed – “and they shall know that I am the LORD”

The reason why it cannot be stopped is that they shall know that He is LORD of all!!!

It's somewhat difficult to see the coming judgment upon Jerusalem? - BUT WHAT ABOUT US? DO YOU LISTEN TO THE FALSE PROPHETS BECAUSE YOU LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR OR ARE YOU PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THOSE TRULY TEACHING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS? WILL YOU AND I LEARN THE HARD WAY OR THE EASY WAY? ARE YOU SURE THAT OUR GOD IS A HOLY GOD? Heb. 10:26-30