

EZEKIEL 13:1-23 – “WOE TO FOOLISH PROPHETS”

OBSERVATION

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.

GOD SPEAKS ABOUT THE FOOLISH PROPHETS:

Eze 13:1 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 13:2 "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, 'Hear the word of the LORD!'" "

Eze 13:3 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!"

Eze 13:4 O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts.

Eze 13:5 You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the LORD.

Eze 13:6 They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, 'Thus says the LORD!' But the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed.

Eze 13:7 Have you not seen a futile vision, and have you not spoken false divination? You say, 'The LORD says,' but I have not spoken."

Eze 13:8 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have spoken nonsense and envisioned lies, therefore I am indeed against you," says the Lord GOD.

Eze 13:9 "My hand will be against the prophets who envision futility and who divine lies; they shall not be in the assembly of My people, nor be written in the record of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

INTERPRETATION

1 We are seeing again that it is the LORD speaking through the prophet, Ezekiel.

2 The false prophets are neither inspired nor sent by Me. They are prophets out of their own hearts. They have their mission from their own assumption, and proceed in it from their own presumption. Such either go of themselves, or are sent by man. Such prophets, ministers, preachers, and clergy have been a curse to the Church and to the world for thousands of years.

3 “*who follow ... have seen nothing*” - A true prophet (like Ezekiel) spoke “the word of the Lord,” and declared what he had seen “in the visions of God.” These pretenders are stigmatized in scorn “prophets out of their own hearts,” “seers of what they have not seen.”

4 “*in the deserts*” - Foxes find a home among ruins etc. So the prophets find their profit in the ruin of their country.

5 In a time of siege when there are gaps or breaches in the walls, it is the part of the leaders to go up to defend them, and to throw up works to stop the in-road of the enemy. Yahweh is now assailing His people as an enemy, and where are those who claim to be prophets, leaders of the people?

6 The visions the false prophets pretended to see were nothing but the fruit of their own fancies and imaginations, and had nothing real in them; and what they divined or foretold should be were all lies, and never came to pass, and never would. They came to the people with a lie in their mouths, pretending that the Lord spoke by them; when they had no mission from him; nor any commission to say what they did; or any warrant from him for their prophecies. (*Dt. 18:9-14*)

7 The false prophets promised peace to this people and now they see their destruction, so that it is revealed that they are false prophets. (*Joshua 13:22*) – The false prophets, such as Balaam, practiced divination. This was the pagan art of FINDING “DIVINE” GUIDANCE THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS ASTROLOGY, READING SHEEP LIVERS AND OTHER ANIMAL ORGANS, AND CONSULTING SPIRITISTS OR WITCHES TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEAD. BY PREFACEING THEIR PREDICTIONS WITH “*THE LORD SAYS*” THESE FALSE PROPHETS WERE DECEITFULLY CLAIMING THAT GOD HAD SPOKEN TO THEM WHEN IN FACT HE HAS NOT. God’s prophets never sought visions through the methods of divination. Instead they received their visions and prophecies through the Spirit of the LORD.

8 This is what he says, and it may be depended on will come to pass; though the other he said not, they said he did, but was a false divination, which will in the issue prove so, lying and deceitful; what never came from God, but from themselves and the father of lies, and would never be accomplished. I will be your adversary; and a sad thing it is for any to have God to be against them; there is no contending with him; none ever hardened themselves against him, and prospered; men are but with him as stubble, or as thorns and briars to a consuming fire.

9 Meaning, by his hand, not the true spirit of prophecy, attended with a divine power and energy, as in *Eze 1:3*; but the wrath and power of God seizing on them and punishing them. The sense is, that they should feel the weight of his hand, and the lighting down of his arm with the indignation of his wrath, by inflicting punishment upon them:

APPLICATION

NOTICE HOW CONTEMPORARY THIS BOOK IS!!! We must listen to Him when He speaks to us!

It should be understood by us how the LORD feels about false prophets and those that use their own words as though they were received from the LORD!

May we never misrepresent the LORD in following our own spirit and let it be known that it is from the Holy Spirit, when we have seen nothing! We must not prophesy out our own heart. Sound like today when we are telling Israel to put down their arms and sign a peace treaty with the enemy! The Bible tells us that Jerusalem is going to be attacked!

We need to be on guard against about seduction from the false prophets.

They lie about their source!

They lie about the extent of what is said! They lie about what they supposedly have seen in their visions.

We know that the LORD will separate false prophets from God’s people! We need to be careful what we say!

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GOD SPEAKS OF THE RESULTS HE WILL BRING UPON

THEM:

Eze 13:10 "Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, 'Peace!' when there is no peace—and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar(the lies of the false prophets)—

Eze 13:11 say to those who plaster it with untempered mortar, that it will fall. There will be flooding rain, and you, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall tear it down.

Eze 13:12 Surely, when the wall has fallen, will it not be said to you, 'Where is the mortar with which you plastered it?' "

Eze 13:13 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "I will cause a stormy wind to break forth in My fury; and there shall be a flooding rain in My anger, and great hailstones in fury to consume it.

Eze 13:14 So I will break down the wall you have plastered with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be uncovered; it will fall, and you shall be consumed in the midst of it. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

Eze 13:15 "Thus will I accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, 'The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it,

Eze 13:16 that is, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,' " says the Lord GOD.

INTERPRETATION

10 Because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall (refers to plaster that has an inferior quality to it), and, lo, others plastered it with untempered mortar. While the true prophets prophesied the destruction of the city to bring the people to repentance, the false prophets spoke the contrary, and flattered them in their vanities, so that what one false prophet said, which is here called the building of the wall, another false prophet would affirm, though he had neither opportunity nor good ground to hear him.

11 That shall wash off this bad mortar; sweep away the ground on which the wall stands, and level it with the earth. In the eastern countries, where the walls are built with unbaked bricks, desolations of this kind are often occasioned by tempestuous rains. Of this sort of materials were the walls of ancient cities made, and hence the reason why no vestige of them remains. Witness Babylon, which was thus built.

12 Your vanity and folly shall be so manifested that it shall pass into a proverb, “Where is the mortar with which you plastered it?”

13 God repeats, *in His own name*, as the Source of the coming calamity, what had been expressed generally in *Eze 13:11*. Stormy winds sometimes rend rocks asunder, *1Ki 19:11*; and much more feeble tottering walls; what is before ascribed to the stormy wind is said to be done here by the Lord himself, making use of that as an instrument; stormy winds fulfill his word, *Psa 148:8*; the cause of which is his wrath, which made the dispensation, or the invasion of the Chaldean army, the more terrible.

14 *So will I break down the wall that ye have plastered with untempered mortar,....* Which is repeated and expressed in these words, both for the sake of confirmation and explanation of what is before said. “*You shall know*”.. Those that deceived others, will in the end be found to have deceived themselves.

15 Thus I will accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have plastered it with untempered mortar, and will say to you, The wall is no more, neither they that plastered it. By which is meant whatever man of himself sets forth under the authority of God's word.

16 One false prophet built the wall, set up the notion that Jerusalem should be victorious, and made himself acceptable by it. Others made the matter yet more plausible and promising; they plastered the wall which the first had built; but they would soon be undeceived when their work was beaten down by the storm of God's just wrath; when the Chaldean army desolated the land. Hopes of peace and happiness, not warranted by the word of God, will cheat men; like a wall well plastered, but poorly built.

APPLICATION

How often do we hear today that peace is coming or right around the corner if we negotiate correctly with our enemies?

The wall represented the false prophets prophesy of peace - in inferior wall! The fake plaster is deceitful!

We see the wall is going to come down! The coming of a storm!

A true prophet tells the people what they need to hear. The false prophet tells the people what they want to hear!

The consuming of the wall.

The results and consequences of God's wrath!

We need to note the absence of any real peace. Notice God gives the counterfeit prophets no hope at all!

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OBSERVATION

THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE FOOLISH PROPHETS TO THE WOMEN:

Eze 13:17 "Likewise, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them,

Eze 13:18 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive?"

Eze 13:19 And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?"

Eze 13:20 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds.

Eze 13:21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

PROMISES BEING MADE WILL NOT HAPPEN!

Eze 13:22 "Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life.

Eze 13:23 Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

INTERPRETATION

17 From this it appears that there were prophetesses in the land of Israel, that were really inspired by the Lord: for as a false religion necessarily implies a true one. So false prophetesses necessarily imply true ones, whom they endeavored to imitate. That there were true prophetesses among the Jews is evident enough from such being mentioned in the sacred writings. Miriam, the sister of Moses *Exo 15:20; Num 12:2*; Deborah, *Jdg 4:4*; Huldah, *2Ki 22:14*; Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, *Luk 2:36*; the four daughters of Philip the deacon, *Act 21:9*. Calmet observes that there was scarcely a heresy in the primitive Church that was not supported and fomented by seducing women.

18 Woe to the women that sew [magic charms upon all wrists, and make veils upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of my people, and will you save the souls alive that come to you? These superstitious women for money would prophecy and tell every man his fortune giving them pillows to lean on, and veils to cover their heads, to the intent they might the more allure them and bewitch them.

19 Profane me - Pretending My name for what I never spoke. My people - My own people. Handfuls of barley - For a mean reward. To slay - You denounce evil to the best, whom God wilt keep alive. To save - Declaring safety, to the worst, whom God will destroy.

20 There - At Jerusalem. Grow - You promise a flourishing, growing, state to all enquirers; and this is the net with which you hunt souls. Tear them - With violence, and suddenness.

21 The false prophetesses tried to make people secure, signified by laying them at ease, and to make them proud, signified by the finery laid on their heads. They shall be confounded in their attempts, and God's people shall be delivered out of their hands. They shall know that I am the LORD!! (*Is. 8:19-20*)

22 Because with lies you have made the heart of the' righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life, by threatening them that were godly, and upholding the wicked.

23 They pretended visions; but they were empty of reality. *Nor practice divinations* - As God would not speak to them, they employed demons. Where God is not, because of the iniquity of the people, the devil is, to strengthen and support that iniquity. And if he cannot have his priests, he will have his priestesses; and these will have a Church like themselves, full of lying doctrines, and bad works.

APPLICATION

We need to see the relationship of these women to the false prophets.

They prophesy out of their own heart.

They make magic charms on their sleeves and veils for the heads of people!

Note the pollution they caused!

But we need to see the power of the LORD being displayed!

Look at the false prophets:

- 1. Their deeds were based on lies.**
- 2. The LORD will remove the people from their control.**
- 3. What is the design of the LORD? - That you shall know that I am the LORD!**

Our Messiah is coming soon! Are you ready?

(Jer. 23:9-40; Jer. 14:14; Lam 2:14; Mat. &:15; 24:11, 24:24; Luk 6:26; 2 Pe 2:1; 1Jn 4:1; Jude 12-13)

NOT ALL PROPHETS WERE FALSE!!!! – NOTE THE FOLLOWING RE ISAIAH!!!**A. DATE OF THE MATERIALS**

When the scrolls first were discovered in 1947, scholars disputed their dates of composition. Scholars now generally agree that although some materials are earlier, **the Qumran materials date primarily to the Hasmonean (152-63 B.C.) and early Roman periods (63 B.C.-A.D. 68).** Several strands of evidence corroborate these conclusions. First, archaeological evidence from the ruins of the Qumran community supports these dates. After six major seasons of excavations, archaeologists have identified three specific phases of occupation at the ancient center of Qumran. Coinage discovered in the first stratum dates from the reign of Antiochus VII Sidetes (138-129 B.C.). Such artifacts also indicate that the architecture associated with the second occupational phase dates no later than the time of Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 B.C.). Also reflected in the material remains of the site is the destruction of its buildings in the earthquake reported by the first-century Jewish historian, Josephus (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 15.5.2). Apparently, this natural disaster occurred around 31 B.C. a position that prompted the occupants to abandon the site for an indeterminate time. Upon reoccupation of the area—the third phase—the buildings were repaired and rebuilt precisely on the previous plan of the old communal complex. The community flourished until the Romans, under the military direction of Vespasian, occupied the site by force (see Cross, 1992, pp. 21-22). Such evidence is consistent with the second century B.C. to first-century A.D. dates for the scrolls.

The second strand of evidence is that the generally accepted dates for the scrolls are corroborated by palaeographical considerations. Palaeography is the study of ancient writing and, more specifically, the shape and style of letters. Characteristic of ancient languages, the manner in which Hebrew and Aramaic letters were written changed over a period of time. The trained eye can determine, within certain boundaries, the time frame of a document based upon the shape of its letters. This is the method by which scholars determine the date of a text on palaeographical grounds. According to this technique, the scripts at Qumran belong to three periods of palaeographical development: (1) a small group of biblical texts whose archaic style reflects the period **between about 250-150 B.C.**; (2) a large cache of manuscripts, both biblical and non-biblical, that is consistent with a writing style common to the Hasmonean period (c. 150-30 B.C.); and (3) a similarly large number of texts that evinces a writing style characteristic of the Herodian period (30 B.C.-A.D. 70). This linguistic information also is consistent with the commonly accepted dates of the Qumran materials. Finally, as an aside, the carbon-14 tests done on both the cloth in which certain scrolls were wrapped, and the scrolls themselves, generally correspond to the palaeographic dates. There are, however, some considerable differences. Due to the inexact nature of carbon-14 dating techniques (see Major, 1993), and the possibility of chemical contamination, scholars place greater confidence in the historically corroborated palaeographic dates (see Shanks, 1991, 17[6]:72). At any rate, the archaeological and linguistic data provide scholars with **reasonable confidence that the scrolls date from 250 B.C. to A.D. 70.**

B. THE SCROLLS AND THE MASORETIC TEXT

This second point is of particular importance since, prior to the discovery of the Qumran manuscripts, the earliest extant Old Testament texts were those known as the Masoretic Text (MT), which dated from about A.D. 980. The MT is the result of editorial work performed by Jewish scribes known as the Masoretes. The scribes' designation was derived from the Hebrew word masora, which refers collectively to the notes entered on the top, bottom, and side margins of the MT manuscripts to safeguard traditional transmission. Hence, the Masoretes, as their name suggests, were the scribal preservers of the masora (Roberts, 1962, 3:295). From the fifth to the ninth century A.D., the Masoretes labored to introduce both these marginal notes and vowel points to the consonantal text—primarily to conserve correct pronunciation and spelling (see Seow, 1987, pp. 8-9). Critical scholars questioned the accuracy of the MT, which formed the basis of our English versions of the Old Testament, since there was such a large chronological gap between it and the autographs. Because of this uncertainty, scholars often “corrected” the text with considerable freedom. Qumran, however, has provided remains of an early Masoretic edition predating the Christian era on which the traditional MT is based. **A comparison of the MT to this earlier text revealed the remarkable accuracy** with which scribes copied the sacred texts. Accordingly, **the integrity of the Hebrew Bible was confirmed**, which generally has heightened its respect among scholars and drastically reduced textual alteration.

Most of the biblical manuscripts found at Qumran belong to the MT tradition or family. This is especially true of the Pentateuch and some of the Prophets. The well-preserved Isaiah scroll from Cave 1 illustrates the tender care with which these sacred texts were copied. Since about 1700 years separated Isaiah in the MT from its original source, textual critics assumed that centuries of copying and recopying this book must have introduced scribal errors into the document that obscured the original message of the author.

The Isaiah scrolls found at Qumran closed that gap to within 500 years of the original manuscript. Interestingly, when scholars compared the MT of Isaiah to the Isaiah scroll of Qumran, the correspondence was astounding. The texts from Qumran proved to be word-for-word identical to our standard Hebrew Bible in more than 95 percent of the text. The 5 percent of variation consisted primarily of obvious slips of the pen and spelling alterations (Archer, 1974, p. 25). Further, there were no major doctrinal differences between the accepted and Qumran texts (see Table 1 below). This forcibly demonstrated the accuracy with which scribes copied sacred texts, and bolstered our confidence in the Bible's textual integrity (see Yamauchi, 1972, p. 130). **The Dead Sea Scrolls have increased our confidence that faithful scribal transcription substantially has preserved the original content of Isaiah.**

TABLE 1. QUMRAN VS. THE MASORETES

Of the 166 Hebrew words in Isaiah 53, only seventeen letters in Dead Sea Scroll 1QIs^b differ from the Masoretic Text (Geisler and Nix, 1986, p. 382).

10 letters = spelling differences

4 letters = stylistic changes

3 letters = added word for “light” (vs. 11)

17 letters = no affect on biblical teaching