

COMMENTARY

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 17

Ezekiel proclaims a story of an eagle that comes and takes the loftiest of all branches (which is taken home with it) and then plants a vine. The vine grows and turns to another bird for nourishment and care. That vine will be destroyed.

God explains the parable as the King of Babylon (first eagle) coming and taking the King and leaders of Judah into exile and placing another man on the throne. This new man turns to the Egyptians for protection; therefore God is going to destroy him, having him carried off into exile in Babylon.

God goes on to further explain that He will raise up another plant (the Messiah and His Kingdom) where men of all nations can come and dwell.

Ezekiel 18

The people of Israel had believed that each succeeding generation bore the punishment of their forefathers sin (many people felt that the only reason they were being punished was because of the idolatry of their forefathers; ignoring their own sinfulness). God uses Ezekiel to make it clear that each person is rewarded according to what they deserve.

Ezekiel 19

Ezekiel is called upon to mourn the fall of Judah's leaders. The greatness the nation once enjoyed is compared to a lioness. One of the cubs (Jehoahaz) grew up to be vicious and was sent to Egypt as an exile as punishment. A later king (Jehoiachin or Zedekiah) came along and was also vicious and was taken into exile in Babylon for their sin.

God again compares His once blessed people to a unusually fruitful and productive vine that is now being uprooted and taken to a place where life will be difficult (exile in Babylon).

Ezekiel 20

On August 10, 590 B.C. the leaders of Judah came to Ezekiel to hear from the Lord. The only message that God gave them was the one they had been hearing for years-- time and again God's people turned away from Him and were worthy to be destroyed, but the Lord had not allowed it to take place. This generation was to learn from how God had disciplined in the past and repent while there was still time.

God would have a people who would be faithful to Him, by the time that He finished with the upcoming judgement executed by Babylon (God's sending fire to the land of the south was: judgement upon Judah).

Ezekiel 21

God again speaks of the coming judgement upon His people (the sword sent to slaughter) because of their sin. He even foretells how the King of Babylon will come to a fork in the road and the manner in which he will decide to go up against Jerusalem to destroy it.

God also informs the Ammonites that they too, will be punished for their sin.

Ezekiel 22

The sins of God's people are listed at the start of this chapter. God concludes that they have become worthless, even as the "dross" (inferior elements) when silver is melted down and separates itself from that which is precious. In the same way, God is going to "turn up the heat" through the trials that they will face and their sinfulness will be "burnt" away.

Ezekiel 23

God speaks in vivid detail of how appalling the sinfulness of Israel and Judah had become. He demonstrates how unfaithful they were, even bringing their pagan worship and practices into His House. This is the reason that they are worthy of death.

Ezekiel 24

On January 10, 587 B.C. God speaks to Ezekiel (who is in exile in Babylon). God informs Ezekiel that Babylon is laying siege to Jerusalem that very day.

Ezekiel is then told to compare God's people to a cooking pot that is heavily rusted (representing the sin and bloodshed of the people) and cannot be cleansed. Because of this "rust" all that comes in contact with it is defiled and has to be poured out.

Ezekiel is to be an example to the nation. Even though his wife dies that very night, he is not to mourn-- in the same way the exiles are not to mourn at the destruction of Jerusalem. From that point on, Ezekiel was to be silent until they received word that Jerusalem had fallen, and then he would speak the Lord's message.

Ezekiel 25

Even as Judah's enemies, who had sought to destroy her (Ammon, Moab, Edom and Philistia) rejoiced at her destruction by the Babylonians, so the Lord was going to deliver and destroy them.

Philistia fell to the Babylonians when Judah did. The other 3 nations were overthrown 3 years later.

Ezekiel 26

The city of Tyre (coastal city on the Mediterranean) rejoiced at Judah's fall. Though it had been a prosperous center of trade and shipping, it would be completely destroyed by the Babylonians.

The city was composed of two parts, one on the coast and the other out on an island just off the coast. After the Babylonians captured the city (13 years it took to accomplish), they were continued to be ruled over-- by the Babylonians, then the Persians and finally the Greeks (Alexander the Greek-- 332 B.C.). The portion of the city out on the island continues to be used as a place to spread fishnets, just as the Lord prophesied!

Ezekiel 27

Tyre is pictured as a luxury trading ship (she specialized in shipping) who has accumulated great wealth [this gives you an inside look at world trade in that day and what each nation sought and could offer). At the latter part of the chapter, the ship (representing Tyre) is pictured as sinking to rise no more-- an image of the near future of the city itself.

Ezekiel 28

The King of Tyre felt safe and comfortable in his fortress. Because of his pride and self-indulgence, the Lord was going to destroy his city [vs 12-17-- depicting the King of Tyre; is also attributed by some as portraying the fall of Satan].

Sidon (20 miles to the north of Tyre) was also going to fall. They, too, would see the power of the Almighty God.

God's people would then be restored and would prosper once again in the place that God had prepared for them.

Ezekiel 29

January 12, 586 B.C. the Lord speaks to Ezekiel. He is to prophesy against Egypt (because of their self-reliance and idolatry) and prophesy the fall of Egypt and that it would never again become a world power (fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Egypt-- 571 B.C.). Egypt would be carried into slavery for 40 years (fulfilled when the Babylonians captured and then 40 years later they were released when the Persians came to power). By such subjugation, God's people would finally learn not to rely on Egypt, but on the Lord as their source of strength!

April 1, 570 B.C. the Lord reveals that Egypt will be the reward for the Babylonians for their long siege and destruction of Tyre (very little was left for plunder when the city finally fell).

Ezekiel 30

The pronouncement of Egypt's and her allies fall is given. April 7th, 586 B.C. the Lord warned of Egypt's fall.

Ezekiel 31

Pharaoh and the Egyptians are warned to learn that even as Assyria (far greater and more powerful than Egypt-- pictured as the grandest of all trees) fell to the Babylonians, so would Egypt.

Ezekiel 32

March 1, 584 B.C. the message of Egypt's future fall to Babylon is again uttered by Ezekiel in the land of Babylon, among the Jewish exiles.

March 15, 584 B.C. Ezekiel is told to remind Egypt of all the other "great" and "powerful" nations that now and will in the future lie defeated; overcome by the Babylonians. In the same way, they (the Egyptians) will fall!

EZEKIEL 17

1. What did a great eagle do? (vs. 4)
2. What did the vine do? (vs. 8)
3. What did the King of Babylon do? (vs. 12,13)
4. What did the new King of Judah, do? (vs. 15)
5. What would happen to the King of Judah? (vs. 16)
6. What would happend to the shoot that God would plant? (vs. 23)

EZEKIEL 18

1. Who is the one who will die? (vs. 4)
2. What will happen to the righteous man? (vs. 9)
3. Who will not share guilt? (vs. 20)
4. What were Judah to get new? (vs. 31)

EZEKIEL 19

1. What happened to the first cub? (vs. 4)
2. What happened to the second cub? (vs. 9)
3. What happened to the vine? (vs. 12,13)

EZEKIEL 20

1. What would the Lord not allow? (vs. 3)
2. What was Ezekiel to confront them with? (vs. 4)
3. Why would they loathe themselves? (vs. 43)

EZEKIEL 21

1. What was Ezekiel to preach and prophesy against? (vs. 2)
2. What was God going to do with His sword? (vs. 4)
3. What would all people then know? (vs. 5)
4. What would the King of Babylon do at Jerusalem? (vs. 22)
5. Upon whom would the Lord pour out His wrath? (vs. 28,31)

EZEKIEL 22

1. What would the Lord put an end to? (vs. 15)
2. What had the house of Israel become as? (vs. 18)

EZEKIEL 23

1. What were the names of the 2 daughters and who did they represent? (vs. 4)
2. What would Oholibah's lovers do? (vs. 24)

EZEKIEL 24

1. What had begun on the day that the Lord spoke? (vs. 2)
2. What could not be removed, even by fire? (vs. 12)
3. What was taken from Ezekiel? (vs. 16)

EZEKIEL 25

1. Against whom, was Ezekiel to prophesy? (vs. 2,11,14,16)

EZEKIEL 26

1. What would Tyre become out in the sea? (vs. 5)
2. What would result from Tyre's destruction? (vs. 6)

EZEKIEL 27

1. What did Tyre say? (vs. 3)
2. What would sink into the sea? (vs. 27)

EZEKIEL 28

1. What was the ruler of Tyre saying? (vs. 2)
2. What was God going to do? (vs. 7,8)
3. How would they know that God is the Lord? (vs. 22)
4. What would God do for His people? (vs. 25,26)

EZEKIEL 29

1. What was God going to do to Egypt? (vs. 8,9)
2. How long would the Egyptians be scattered? (vs. 12,13)
3. Why was God giving Egypt to the Babylonians? (vs. 20)

EZEKIEL 30

1. What day was near? (vs. 3)
2. Who would fall? (vs. 6)

EZEKIEL 31

1. Who was Egypt to consider? (vs. 3)
2. Why was the "cedar of Lebanon" handed over? (vs. 11)

EZEKIEL 32

1. What would happen to Egypt? (vs. 12)
2. Who would be, or had been destroyed? (vs. 22,24,26,28,29,30)