

<They Shall Not Satisfy Their Souls>

Ezekiel 7:1 – 8:4

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~ A fair and responsible legal theory begins with the question, “... *does the punishment fit the crime?*” Well, if you have been studying along with us in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in Ezekiel, you may have wondered if God’s severe, unrelenting and, frankly, abusive, punishment of the nation Israel was appropriate for their transgressions. When Uzzah was struck dead for merely touching the Ark of the Lord, that seemed excessive. Remember, even David was deeply disturbed when that episode took place in second Samuel. What we read in chapter four of Ezekiel regarding the bread of affliction God instructed this prophet to produce and eat was more than I cared to comment on; so, you know it had to be bad. However, relegating this all to a matter of historical record and avoiding its pertinent life-lessons for us is a huge spiritual death-trap; a trap our safari is going to avoid at all cost. God is truly having a heart-to-heart talk with Ezekiel in this book of the Bible; and God wants to have that same conversation with you and me in His Word through this report.

In our last report, we saw the judgments God was pronouncing were no longer confined to Judah and Jerusalem; they now branched out to cover the entire land of Israel. I seriously doubt that very many of you dear readers – if any – have ever heard or read a teaching on chapters four, five, six and seven of this book of the Bible. It’s possible that you have never even read it in the Bible; and, if you have, you likely forgot it as quickly as you read it – because it is definitely a passage that most people don’t want to read – or remember. The Word of the Lord has come to Ezekiel now. In other words: Ezekiel gets it. “The time is come” – for the judgment of the land and the final destruction of Jerusalem — and the crushing and burning of Solomon’s Temple. That harsh judgment is the theme of each of these chapters; particularly six and seven. And, let’s remember, Ezekiel is only passing along the message God gave him to give to his fellow Israelite’s who were now slaves of Nebuchadnezzar down in Babylon. With that background, I urge you to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read this text very carefully....

VII

1 Moreover the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying,

2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith Jehovah unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

3 Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and I will bring upon thee all thine abominations.

4 And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am Jehovah.

5 Thus saith the Lord Jehovah; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come.

6 An end is come, the end is come: it breaks upon thee; behold, it is now.

7 The morning of judgment is dawning, you that dwell in the land: the set time for your destruction is come, the day of your trouble is here, and there will be no more joyous sounding on the mountains.

8 Now will I pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger against and upon thee: and I will judge you according to your treacherous ways, and will bring hell upon you for all of your abominations.

9 And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will repay you according to your ways and according to your abominations that are in the midst of you; and you shall know that I am the LORD God Almighty – Jehovah - that has killed you.

10 Behold the day, behold, it is come: the morning is gone forth; the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded.

11 Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them.

12 The time is come, the day draweth near: let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.

13 For the seller shall not return to that which is sold, although they were yet alive: for the vision is touching the whole multitude thereof, which shall not return; neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life.

14 They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.

15 The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him.

16 But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.

17 All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water.

18 They shall also gird themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.

19 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

20 As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations and of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.

21 And I will give it into the hands of the strangers for a prey, and to the wicked of the earth for a spoil; and they shall pollute it.

22 My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it.

23 Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.

24 Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.

25 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none.

26 Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

27 The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

~ God is judging the children of Israel according to *all of their ways*. In other words: the punishment fits the crime. Friends, it is a serious infraction to be a professed witness for God, yet remain a religious racketeer. The consequences you will experience will not seem fair. To be a church member, and depart from the strict tenets of truth found in the Word of God, renders you unsaved; because you never genuinely trusted Christ as your Savior in the first place. Period. Full stop. Frankly, I would rather be a drunk, thieving, sexually-perverted, atheistic killer worshiping prostitutes than to be the church member who sits in a comfortable pew in a beautiful church professing to be a Christian, but who has no intentions of learning, exalting, trusting or obeying the Word of God. Those people can never

glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. I won't argue with you about what happens to the atheistic man – but we're reading about what will happen to the other man – the one who says he is saved – and the judgment is given in no uncertain terms. This is God's Word, friends. The religious man who rejects Christ doesn't have a chance; his place in hell will be *TEN TIMES* worse than the atheistic man.

Verses seven, eight and nine are so utterly horrific that few Bible teachers will dare read this passage. This section of Scripture is a black hole in the Bible to almost every church member I know. Most people say the Old Testament is not as important as the New Testament; but I don't know who told them that. If you take John chapter fourteen, you take Ezekiel chapter seven with equal time – because they're both in the Bible. Frankly, this language in Ezekiel is *tame* compared to what we'll come to in Revelation – in the New Testament! I should add: read what Jesus said to the religious rulers in Matthew chapter twenty-three – and other places. If you are part of the liberal church today who denies Christ Jesus while disguising it as worship, then I wouldn't read these reports, either. I wouldn't have anything to do with the Spiritual Safari. With every passing word one reads in this so-called safari, the more responsibility they assume before God.

Ezekiel wasn't reaching out to the lost man, friends; no, his warning was to God's chosen people – and it is all about judgment. In our last report, we examined the statements of a Rabbi who ultimately came to the realization he had no faith. If you have not read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now. God judges sin, friends. Paul said, “... *knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade others.*” The common gimmick of playing church with a cheap pledge of allegiance and “*dedication*” — but no full commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ or the Word of God — is no good, my beloved. Not at all. Christian Tragedy in contemporary society in the United States is our condition and, indeed, throughout the world.

Our problem is *NOT* that we don't have enough church members; our problem is that we have too many church members that are frauds and phonies. A great preacher in New York city, many years ago, said, “... *one single cold and disingenuous church member hurts the cause of Christ more than five-thousand blatantly blaspheming atheistic unbelievers in a protest*”

against religion.” Interestingly, the children of Israel in Ezekiel and Jeremiah’s day were a bunch of protestors who refused to stand for that which was good and right. They were a bunch of pacifists who refused to go to war. Well, the enemy came; and the enemy didn’t have any notion of being tolerant or accepting liberalism.

Moreover, the United States spent *TRILLIONS* of dollars throughout the decades in a futile attempt at perpetuating world peace. We may have recently abandoned that effort but, either way, we haven’t bought peace; but we sure have gone into massive debt. Money doesn’t happen to be the solution to every problem of life. Read verse nineteen in this chapter. That’s the whole message of this prophet named Ezekiel in a nutshell. When we get to Revelation chapters eighteen and nineteen, the destruction of commercial Babylon is revealed. That looks forward to a day when men trust in big business. They were depending on Wall Street, as it were; and Fifth Avenue — in a one-world economy, one-world banking system, and one-world religion — a religion of abject apostasy! Government was assuring men that rank perversion would make everything great again. Well, things weren’t alright, and their sick society wasn’t made great again, either — it was destroyed. Their hopes were dashed when that which they depended upon couldn’t deliver them in their time of desperation.

I think this prophecy of Ezekiel is a startling picture of right now as I type this report and you read it. I know this safari is not popular — I have told you dear readers I understand the disdain a thousand times. Executing a proper, correct and complete Bible teaching isn’t child’s play. It isn’t easy work without any problems attached. If you want to teach the Gospel in sound doctrine, and handle the Word of God responsibly, you had *BETTER* be prepared for *MANY* people to say “*good-bye*” to you. Many men are getting out of the ministry today and leaving the mission field as fast as others get into it. It’s like a massive revolving door. They all quickly figure out that selling used cars is *MUCH* more profitable and easier than a so-called ministry effort. Jesus never said to take up His cross — He said to take up *YOUR* cross. If you aren’t prepared for what that entails, then you are making a *HUGE* mistake dabbling in the Bible — you’re going to get hurt; and it won’t seem fair to you — and you can just write that all down....

VIII

1 And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.

2 Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber.

3 And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

4 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with the hand of the Lord upon His prophet again. More fire in verse two means more judgment is coming! God snatched Ezekiel up by the hair and carried him away. Of course, Ezekiel had shaved his head and beard in chapter five; but this is at least two full years later. Our Safari is moving very quickly now. This is another vision of God's glory in this chapter. I don't think anyone can be overly dogmatic about whether or not Ezekiel was physically transported to Jerusalem in this vision. I have read at least ten explanations of this fact regarding Ezekiel being brought to Jerusalem – and not a single one agrees with the other. Some say it's just a vision and Ezekiel simply saw it down by the river. Others say Ezekiel literally went to the temple and walked around in it. Well, I reject all of that. What we are seeing now is the same experience Paul had in Lystra – when he was stoned and left for dead, and he went to the third Heaven – because Paul *WAS* dead. Further, in chapter four of Revelation, the apostle John was called up into Heaven in a vision from the Word of God. John fell at Jesus' feet *as dead*. These are all pictures of the rapture of the church, too, by the way. I'll just let you take this up with the Spirit of God from here

in prayer; because this is a serious section of Scripture. Praise God for the hope He offers us through the Lord Jesus Christ. We're dealing with the supernatural now ~

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