

## <I Did So As I Was Commanded>

### *Ezekiel Chapters Twelve and Thirteen*

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~ When should God say to a sinner, “*enough is enough.*” What are the limits of God’s patience? Does His love and mercy ever reach an end? These tough questions have some hard answers; because the Bible teaches us that these answers are really not about God – they concern the condition of our heart. Ezekiel was sent to a people – his own people – the children of Israel – who had stiffened their necks in rebellion against the True and Living God. The Israelites reached a place where they wanted nothing to do with God, His prophets, His precepts, His statutes or His Law anymore. Contrary to popular opinion, there comes a time when rebellion against God becomes so entrenched in our thinking that we can cross a line of no return. That never means God doesn’t love us, and it never means He couldn’t still save us, but it does mean a time comes when someone has heard the Gospel, but has repeatedly rejected to obey, and they lose the capacity to believe in, trust, or obey the True and Living God.

**Romans 1:** *21 ....because, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God .... and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools .... 24 Wherefore God GAVE THEM UP to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves .... 26 For this cause God GAVE THEM UP .... 28 And because they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God GAVE THEM UP .... 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness ~*

Before we reach the place those people in Romans reached – God will use extreme methods of discipline in an attempt to bring us to Him. Well, God’s discipline is meted out in love, though; never in anger – although God does become angry – He never moves against us in malicious or petulant wrath. Jesus Himself has given us His Word that says, “*whosoever will come to Me, I will in no wise cast out.*” I understand this can begin to sound like a contradiction – but it isn’t a contradiction – it is a paradox; all of it is true. The only contradiction is in our inability to reason. God’s thoughts are not our thoughts. And there are no contradictions in the Bible. All of the Word

of God is true; irrespective of whether we can fully understand and grasp it — or not.

Our Spiritual Safari occasionally deviates from being a chapter by chapter, verse by verse, and word by word Bible study — although we try to maintain that as much as possible; but there are some sections of Scripture that only require an overview commentary of some spiritual theme or truth. That's when prayer for understanding, and reading the passages in your own Bible become critical. That's what a proper, correct, and complete Bible study should bring you to. Even in these areas, such as we are in at this time in Ezekiel, I attempt to bring you a doctrinally sound, literal interpretation. That should enable you to make application by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Only then can one decide if my understanding is what God wants you to understand. They may be the same interpretation; they may not be. So, that brings us to what is actually a subsection of this prophecy of Ezekiel in which judgment is imminent for the nation Israel — but God's message is still not believed by the people.

The children of Israel are already in Babylonian captivity at this time; but they continue to doubt the destruction of Jerusalem, they refuse to accept that the decimation of the entire land was happening, and the crushing and burning of Solomon's Temple was now a past-tense promise delivered by king Nebuchadnezzar. What is important here is not the reception of the Word of God by the people from Ezekiel — because the Lord has already told him the people would reject this message; no, what is most important is the proclamation of the Word of the Lord by Ezekiel. God explicitly and severely warned him to give His message *PRECISELY* as God gave it to him; irrespective of the fact that they would reject it wholesale. So, Ezekiel repeats *five times* in chapter twelve “... *the Word of the Lord came to me.*” See verse one, verse eight, verse seventeen, verse twenty-one, and verse twenty-six. When God says something five times in one chapter, I have to believe He means what He said. These visions Ezekiel had were from the Word of the Lord; and that's what this prophet was trying to give his people — the Word of the Lord...

## XII

**1 The word of the LORD also came unto me, saying,**

**2 Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.**

**3 Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house.**

**4 Then shalt thou bring forth thy stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for removing: and thou shalt go forth at even in their sight, as they that go forth into captivity.**

**5 Dig thou through the wall in their sight, and carry out thereby.**

**6 In their sight shalt thou bear it upon thy shoulders, and carry it forth in the twilight: thou shalt cover thy face, that thou see not the ground: for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel.**

**7 And I did so as I was commanded: I brought forth my stuff by day, as stuff for captivity, and in the even I digged through the wall with mine hand; I brought it forth in the twilight, and I bare it upon my shoulder in their sight.**

**8 And in the morning came the word of the LORD unto me, saying,**

**9 Son of man, hath not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said unto thee, What doest thou?**

**10 Say thou unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; This burden concerneth the prince in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel that are among them.**

**11 Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done unto them: they shall remove and go into captivity.**

***12 And the prince that is among them shall bear upon his shoulder in the twilight, and shall go forth: they shall dig through the wall to carry out thereby: he shall cover his face, that he see not the ground with his eyes.***

***13 My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.***

***14 And I will scatter toward every wind all that are about him to help him, and all his bands; and I will draw out the sword after them.***

***15 And they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and disperse them in the countries.***

***16 But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the LORD.***

***17 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,***

***18 Son of man, eat thy bread with quaking, and drink thy water with trembling and with anxiety;***

***19 And say unto the people of the land, Thus saith the Lord GOD of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and of the land of Israel; They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein.***

***20 And the cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

***21 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,***

**22 Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth?**

**23 Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision.**

**24 For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.**

**25 For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD.**

**26 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,**

**27 Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he seeth is for many days to come, and he prophesieth of the times that are far off.**

**28 Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.**

~ God told Ezekiel from the moment He called him as a prophet, way back in chapter two, that the children of Israel were a rebellious house, that they weren't going to listen to him, and that they would reject the message of God; and that the reason they wouldn't listen to Ezekiel is because they didn't want to hear God. Frankly, that's one hell of an indictment. These people had their eyes closed and their hands over their ears so they couldn't hear anything – like a three year old child would do. God told Isaiah the same thing, saying to Isaiah, “... go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed” — Isaiah chapter six verses nine and ten.

Jeremiah – same story, God told his prophet Jeremiah to say, “... *hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone*” — Jeremiah chapter five verse twenty-one. It seems to me the nation Israel *PARTICULARLY* hated Jeremiah beyond any other prophet. Further, the Book of Acts closes with Dr. Luke writing, “... *go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them*” — Acts chapter twenty-eight verse twenty-six.

Anyone today who says, “... *I cannot believe in God because I have no evidence and, therefore, I have an intellectual problem that prevents me from believing....*” is a simple-minded fool. Belief is always a will of the heart – not the mind. They don’t *WANT* to believe they are sinners, my friends. The human mind is not big enough to have intellectual problems. Mankind is not smart enough to have intellectual problems. The only reason that *ANYONE* rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, and refuses to believe the Bible is the Word of God, is because there is sin in their lives that they refuse to give up. *NO* other reason; *NONE* whatsoever. They don’t *WANT* to believe the truth that there will be condemnation against perverted, lying, filthy, greedy and selfish lifestyles. The nation Israel, in this scenario, is just a miniature model of the world at large. The condition of the nation Israel as we see them here in Ezekiel is the current condition of all of mankind. The spirit of unbelief is a worldwide epidemic as I type this report and as you read it.

The atheist who asserts that they cannot believe because they have no evidence is really asserting intellectual superiority. They presume that they understand things most others cannot comprehend; and, usually, in the

case of extreme megalomaniacal and narcissistic behavior, they actually believe that *NO ONE* is as smart as they are. It's a *HUGE* problem; and it is much more common in society than you might think it is — especially in government circles. Interestingly, those people are typically at the very bottom of the intelligence quotient curve. I just happen to know this as a fact; because I have seen an entire graduating doctorate program's intelligence quotient scores from the psychology department of an Ivy League University. Let me just say that, out of a class of around four hundred, roughly a dozen exceeded one hundred thirty. Most of them were *alarmingly* low; at least *fifteen* percent bordering on mentally incompetent. Naturally, the ones with the lowest score *INVARIABLY* asserted their cognition to be the most exclusive. Well, the sin in their lives is their "*intellectual*" problem regarding belief; they're just too blinded by Satan to come to the truth.

The children of Israel honestly and sincerely thought Ezekiel was a sociopathic weirdo who didn't know what he was talking about. Well, my estimation is that Ezekiel was beyond what we would label as brilliant; *AND* he had a profound sense of humor, too. I would have loved to have seen his body language as he executed the mechanics of some of these parables that he acted out. I am sure he was an intentional ham-actor who was greatly amused with his own performances. Frankly, I believe God laughed, too; God laughing *WITH* Ezekiel — but in derision against the children of Israel.

When Ezekiel packed his suitcase and broke through the wall in his house, and dug into the streets, the people were affected; you may be sure. These children of Israel mockingly asked him, "*.... what in the world are you doing?*" When Ezekiel explained to them the message was that King Zedekiah believed he would slip out and escape from Nebuchadnezzar, and flee Jerusalem before the Babylonian army besieged the city, but that Zedekiah would be caught trying to escape, I am sure Ezekiel laughed in their faces as he told them that. I am sure God laughed, too; but, the false prophets and the people were not laughing — not even a little bit — you may be sure of that. Ezekiel said that Zedekiah wouldn't even see the ground; and Nebuchadnezzar put out Zedekiah's eyes after killing his entire family before him. That's the record; and it happened exactly the way God told

Ezekiel to tell them it would happen. It was a hard message for the captives to hear - and they refused to believe it – until it happened....

## **XIII**

**1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,**

**2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD;**

**3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!**

**4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.**

**5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.**

**6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.**

**7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken?**

**8 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.**

**9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.**

**10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:**

**11 Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.**

**12 Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?**

**13 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.**

**14 So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.**

**15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it;**

**16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.**

**17 Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,**

**18 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?**

**19 And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?**

***20 Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.***

***21 Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

***22 Because with lies ye 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:***

***23 Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with another extremely unpopular message from God. Even the Christian today that thinks they don't mind giving an unpopular message winces at the unpopularity of this section of Scripture. I doubt any one of you dear readers have *EVER* heard a message from this wholly ignored, blank, black hole in the Bible. In general, most Christians think things are going to be beautiful for the world as we move into the future, and that they're going to build a kingdom, and love will usher in utopia, whereby the world is converted and everyone becomes a believer — and Christ rules. Well, the only accurate phrase in that entire previous sentence is "*Christ rules.*" The rest is an idiosyncratic belief contradicted by reality; and is a severe symptom of an underlying acute mental disorder. You can just write that down – because Ezekiel did.

The *ONLY* hope the church has today is for the rapture to remove us from this world. Outside of that, we are destined to a bleak, dismal, utterly hopeless future. If you do not believe me about *ALL* of this, then you do not believe Ezekiel, you do not believe the apostle Paul, and that, by de facto, means that you do not believe the Bible is the Word of God. Well, that's your problem, not mine. The world is *NOT* going to get better, friends. You

can forget that. This sick society is *NOT* going to be “*made great again;*” and we are *NOT* going to have peace. In fact, the wars are going to escalate *dramatically* in the very near future; likely in the lifetimes of most of you who are reading this report.

Chapter thirteen is a damning indictment against the false and lying prophets; and Ezekiel is still giving us the Word of the Lord. I suggest you read it all extremely carefully. These false prophets were prophesying from their own deceitful hearts – especially the women; and mainly for a sexual purpose, or a paycheck – or both. May God have mercy on any man who stands in the pulpit and gives his own viewpoint. Neglecting the Word of God will result in abject denunciation by God Almighty – sooner or later – likely sooner. I regret that this report must end this way; but God makes no apologies for ending this report this way, so, neither do I ~

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