

The Book of Ezekiel
“Ezekiel’s Call-Part 4”
Week 6: March 8, 2020
Ezekiel 4:1-17
Answers

Recap from Session 5:

- **The Watchman (3:16-21)**
 - o The message was the same: **The prophet must be Faithful to warn the people of judgment, and the people must Heed the warning and Turn from their sin.**
 - o We looked at four cases last week:
 - The **Habitual** sinner who is not warned (**Vs. 18**)
 - The Sinner who is warned but **Does not** repent (**Vs. 19**)
 - The Righteous man who **Apostatizes** but is not warned (**Vs. 20**)
 - The Righteous man who is **Warned** and **Remains** righteous (**Vs. 21**)
- **The Sign (3:22-27)**
 - o Ezekiel not only **Spoke** God’s Word to the people, but he also **Lived** before them in such a way that they saw God’s message portrayed before their very eyes.
 - **What About Glory?**
 - Glory has **Size.** (**Ps. 19:1**)
 - Glory has **Beauty** to it. (**Isa. 63:1**)
 - There is **Majesty** about Glory (**Ps. 8:1**)
 - Glory sets forth **Honor** and **Dignity.** (**Dan. 5:18**)

Session 6

- **The Babylonian Captivity**
 - o The Jewish exiles would not be happy with the three messages Ezekiel would bring them from the Lord, for he was going to announce the **Destruction** of Jerusalem and the **Ravaging** of the Promised Land.
- **The Outline of Ezekiel**
 - o **Chapters 4-24:** God’s **Judgment** on **Jerusalem.**
 - Reminder: This was given before the Siege of Jerusalem.
- 1. **The Sign Messages: The Siege of Jerusalem (Chapters 4-5)**
 - a. **The Siege of Jerusalem**
 - i. This “**Tile**” was probably an **Unbaked** brick or a soft clay tablet, both of which were commonplace in Babylon.
 1. On it, Ezekiel drew a **Sketch** of the city of Jerusalem, which the people would easily recognize, and then he set it on the ground and began to “Play soldier” as he acted out the siege of Jerusalem.
 2. He built a **Ramp** to facilitate scaling the walls, and he provided battering **Rams** for breaking down the gates and walls.
 - ii. **Vs. 3: “The Iron Pan”**- Symbolized the wall that stood between God and the sinful **Jewish** nations so that He could no longer look on them with **Approval** and **Blessing.**

1. God was **Against** them (**Ezek. 5:8**) and would **Permit** the pagan Babylonians to destroy the city and the temple.
- b. **The Judgment of Judah (4:4-8)**
- i. At specific times of each day (**Vs. 10**), Ezekiel was commanded to lie on the ground, facing the model he constructed of the siege of Jerusalem. He was to be **Bound (Vs. 8)**, his arm was to be **Bared**, and he had to eat the **Meager** food described in **Vss. 9-17**.
 1. He was to lie on his left side **390** days and then on his right side for **40** days.
 - ii. This symbolic act told the Jewish exiles why the Lord was allowing their Holy City to be ravaged and ruined: The **Nation** had sinned and their sins had **Caught** up with them.
 1. The Lord explained to Ezekiel that each **Day** represented a **Year** in the sinful history of the Jewish nation.
 - iii. Why **390** and **40**?
 1. The ministry of Ezekiel focused primarily on Jerusalem, the **Desecration** of the temple by idolatry, and the **Departing** of God's glory.
 2. However we calculate the mathematics of this sign, the message is clear: **God had been Longsuffering toward the sinful people of Judah, Warning them and Chastening them, but they would not remain true to Him.**
 3. Judgment begins with the **People of God**, not with the **godless Pagans (I Pt. 4:17-19)**.
 4. **390 Days:** He was to lie on his left side 390 days (**Vs. 5**) (About 13 Months); the siege of Jerusalem is compute to last **18** months.
 - a. If we deduct that five months' interval, the besiegers withdrew upon the approach of Pharaoh's army (**Jer. 37:5-8**), the number of the days of the close siege will be **390**.
 - iv. **The Famine in the City (4:9-17)**
 1. The Lord commanded him to combine three **Grains** (Wheat, Barley, and Spelt) and two **Vegetables** (Beans and Lentils) and grind them into flour and bake bread.
 2. Each day, the prophet would eat about **8 Ounces** of bread and drink about 2/3's of a **Quart** of water, reminding the **Spectators** that the people within Jerusalem's walls would be starving and thirsting for water, but there would be no relief.
 - v. **The Destiny of the People (5:1-17)**
 1. The prophet Isaiah compared the invasion of an enemy to the **Shaving** of a man's **Head** and **Beard (Isa. 7:20)**.
 2. The shaving of the head and the beard would be a sign of **Humiliation** and great **Sorrow** and **Mourning**, and that is the way the Lord felt about the impending destruction of Jerusalem and the holy temple.

- a. By using a **Sword** and not a **Razor**, Ezekiel made the message even more dramatic: An Army was coming whose **Swords** would **“Cut down”** the people of the land.
3. **Ezek. 5:5-6:** As far as His eternal purposes were concerned, Jerusalem was **His City** and the **Center** of the nations (**Ezek. 38:12**).
 - a. The Lord drew some telling conclusions or applications for this fact (**Ezek. 5:7-11**). God would punish Israel **Openly**, in the sight of the nation whose evil practices they followed. This would not only chasten Israel, but it would be a warning to the Gentiles that the God of Israel is a God of **Justice**.
4. **Ezek. 5:12-17:** As Terrible as these judgements were; perhaps the greatest tragedy was that Israel would **Cease** to bring **Glory** to Jehovah God, and would become a shameful **Reproach** among the nations.

Once a church has lost its **Witness** for the Lord, is there **Anything** Left?

