

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 15-17: Pictures of Failure (Part 4)
Lesson 18 “The Two Eagles and Three Shoots”
Ezekiel 17:1-24 (ANSWERS)
January 10, 2021

Recap from Lesson 17:

1. Israel **Suffered a Great Discipline (Ezek. 16:35-47)**
 - a. The Lord was very patient with His people and warned them that their sins would bring them ruin, but they persisted in **Rejecting** His Word, **Persecuting** His prophets, and **Practicing** the abominable sins of their neighbors.
 - b. Their punishments are described as those of a **Prostitute**, an **Adulteress**, and an **Idolater**, because the nation had committed those very sins.
 - i. First, the Lord would announce the **Crimes (Vss. 35-36)**
 - ii. Second, the Lord announced the **Sentence (Vss. 37-42)**
 - c. Having described their sins, the Lord then **Defended** His **Sentence (Ezek. 16:43-52)**.
2. God Names the **Sins of Sodom (Vss. 48-52)**
 - a. These were abominable sins of **Attitude** and **Action, Commission, and Omission**; and yet the people of Jerusalem and Judah were more guilty than were the people of Sodom.
3. Israel Will **Experience a Great Restoration (Vss. 53-63)**
 - a. The phrase **“Bring again their captivity”** means **“Restore their Fortress.”**
 - i. The captives in Babylon would be restored, returned to the land, and rebuild the temple.

– One day, that **New Covenant** will bring to them the **Cleansing** and **Forgiveness** that only the blood of Christ can give.

Lesson 18

Background:

- From the images of a vine and a marriage, Ezekiel turned to the image of a **Great Tree, Two Eagles, and Three Shoots**.
 - This allegory is about Three **Kings** (“Shoots”), because the cedar tree represents the **Royal Dynasty** of David.
 - It was essential that a **Descendant** of David sit on the throne so that the blessing of God’s covenant with David might rest on the land.
 - At that time, the kingdom of Judah was a vassal state of Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar was in charge.
 - He, **Nebuchadnezzar** is the first “Great Eagle.” (**Ezek. 17:3**)
 - The second eagle (**Vs. 7**) is the ruler of **Egypt**, probably Pharaoh Hophra, who promised to help Judah in her fight against the Babylonians. (**Ezek. 17:7**)
 - The eagle is used as a symbol of a **Strong Ruler** who invades a land. (**Jer. 48:40; 49:22**)

1. King **Jehoiachin (Vss. 3-4, 11-12)**

- a. Jehoiachin was the **Highest** shoot or branch in David's family tree and he was "**Planted**" in Babylon.
 - i. In **Ezekiel 19:5-9**, Jehoiachin is compared to a **Lion** who would be caught and taken to Babylon.
2. **King Zedekiah (Vss. 5-10, 13-21)**
 - a. After deposing Jehoiachin, Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah the new king and he changed his name to Zedekiah.
 - i. He was the **Youngest** son of good King **Josiah**, and Nebuchadnezzar "Planted him in **Judah**" where he "Grew" for eleven years.
 - ii. But instead of producing a tree, King Zedekiah produced a **Humble** Vine.
 1. It was Zedekiah who asked Jeremiah to pray for him and the people and who hid him and cared for him. (**Jer. 37-38**)
 - iii. Nebuchadnezzar was kind to Zedekiah, and the king took an **Oath** to obey and **Serve** him.
 1. Had he faithfully kept this treaty, Zedekiah would have saved the city and the temple; instead he chose to break the covenant and turn to Egypt for help.
 - b. The second eagle represents Pharaoh, who tried to **Rescue** the kingdom of Judah but **Failed**.
 - i. This foolish decision on the part of Zedekiah resulted in the **Uprooting** and **Withering** of the vine, and this was the end of the kingdom of Judah.
 - c. But Ezekiel made it clear that it was not only Nebuchadnezzar's covenant that Zedekiah broke, he had broken **God's** Covenant, and it was God who punished him through Nebuchadnezzar
3. **Messiah the King (Vss. 22-24)**
 - a. Zedekiah had reigned for eleven years and was the twentieth and last king of Judah.
 - i. His **Dethronement** and **Death** in Babylon seemed to mark the end of the Davidic line and therefore the failure of God's covenant with King David, but this was not the case.
 - ii. The prophet Hosea predicted that the children of Israel would be "**Without a king, and without a prince,**" but the messianic line **Did not** die out. (**Hos. 3:4**)
 - b. Once again, a godly remnant stayed true to the Lord and the promised Messiah.
 - i. The name "**Zerubbabel**" means "**Shoot of Babylon,**" but he helped to make possible the birth of the "**Shoot of David,**" Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.
 - c. Jehoiachin had been a shoot **Plucked** from the top of the cedar and taken to Babylon, but his descendants were **Rejected**, while Zedekiah was a shoot planted. (**Ezek. 17:22**)
 - i. This "Shoot" is the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who came from the stem of **Jesse** and one day will establish His glorious kingdom on earth. (**Jer. 23:5-6**)
 - d. The "High mountain" Ezekiel wrote about is probably Mount Zion, where Messiah will reign over His people.

