

Ezekiel's Prophetic Sermon – part 2

Ezekiel 7

Ezekiel 7: *“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ²“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. ³ Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. ⁴ My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst; Then you shall know that I am the Lord!’ ⁵“Thus says the Lord God: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster! Behold, it has come! ⁶ An end has come, the end has come; it has dawned for you. Behold, it has come! ⁷ Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble is near, and not of rejoicing in the mountains. ⁸ Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, and spend My anger upon you. I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. ⁹ ‘My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst. Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes. ¹⁰ ‘Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out. The rod has blossomed, pride has budded. ¹¹ Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain, none of their multitude, none of them; nor shall there be wailing for them. ¹² The time has come, the day draws near. ‘Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for wrath is on their whole multitude. ¹³ For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, though he may still be alive; for the vision concerns the whole multitude, and it shall not turn back. No one will strengthen himself who lives in iniquity. ¹⁴ ‘They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, but no one goes to battle; for My wrath is on all their multitude. ¹⁵ The sword is outside, and the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field will die by the sword; and whoever is in the city, famine and pestilence will devour him. ¹⁶ ‘Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, each for his iniquity. ¹⁷ Every hand will be feeble, and every knee will be as weak as water. ¹⁸ They will also be girded with sackcloth; horror will cover them; shame will be on every face, baldness on all their heads. ¹⁹ ‘They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse. Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord. They will not satisfy their souls, nor fill their stomachs, because it became their stumbling block of iniquity. ²⁰ ‘As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty. But they made from it the images of their abominations— their detestable things. Therefore I have made it like refuse to them. ²¹ I will give it as plunder into the hands of strangers, and to the wicked of the earth as spoil; and they shall defile it. ²² I will turn My face from them, and they will defile My secret place; for robbers shall enter it and defile it. ²³ ‘Make a chain, for the land is filled with crimes of blood, and the city is full of violence. ²⁴ Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, and they will possess their houses. I will cause the pomp of the strong to cease, and their holy places shall be defiled. ²⁵ Destruction comes! They will seek peace, but there shall be none. ²⁶ Disaster will come upon disaster, and rumor will be upon rumor. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet, but the law will perish from the priest, and counsel from the elders. ²⁷ ‘The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with desolation,*

and the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, and according to what they deserve I will judge them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord!”

Background Notes

The prophet Ezekiel lived and prophesied at the time when the kingdom of Judah was under the control of the Babylonians. Ezekiel was a contemporary of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah lived and prophesied in Jerusalem during the time that Ezekiel lived and prophesied as a captive in Babylon. Ezekiel was taken into captivity in 597 BC, at the same time as King Jehoichin.

Jehoachin was the king mentioned in verse 27 - the king who would mourn when Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed: *“The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, and according to what they deserve I will judge them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord!” (v27).*

The king is King Jehoichin, but who was the “prince” mentioned in this verse? The prince was Zedekiah, the puppet king whom the Babylonians installed when they took King Jehoichin into captivity. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. He ruled from 597 BC to 586 BC, when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed.

During those eleven years, Ezekiel prophesied to the captives who had already been taken away to Babylon. He told them that it was only a matter of time before Jerusalem would fall, the beautiful Temple would be destroyed, and most of the Jewish people who remained in the city would be either killed or taken into captivity.

In chapters 4 & 5 Ezekiel acted out a series of dramatic object lessons to portray the coming siege of Jerusalem. In chapters 6 & 7 Ezekiel gave two prophetic sermons that predicted the coming fall of Jerusalem and the kingdom of Judah. The first sermon (chapter 6) revealed that the terrible sin of idolatry was the reason for God’s coming judgment. In the second sermon (chapter 7), Ezekiel gave a further announcement and description of the coming judgment.

Doctrinal Points

1. There is an end to God’s patience with sinful people.

In the first six verses of chapter 7, the word “end” is mentioned five times! The end had come for Jerusalem and Judah. There is an end to God’s patience with sinful people - and the kingdom of Judah had reached that point. Now God’s wrath against sin would result in God’s judgment upon sin.

The period of God’s patience with Judah was over. The time had come when His eye would show no pity, and they would no longer be spared. Verse 4: *“My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways.”* And verse 9:

“My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways.” The people of Judah would reap what they had sown, because the end to God’s patience with their sinful ways had come.

This has always been true. Remember what God said before His judgment of this world with the global Flood? Genesis 6:3: *“And the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh.’”* God is gracious, patient and longsuffering - but there is an end to God’s patience with sinful people.

Is it possible that you’ve been thinking you’re getting away with some area of sin in your life? Are you thinking that somehow God doesn’t see you, or somehow there will be no day of reckoning? Listen – it’s only because of God’s patience that you have been spared God’s judgment thus far! Lamentations 3:22 says, *“It is because of God’s mercies we are not consumed.”* Have you come to repentance because of your sin? Remember, there is an end to God’s patience with sinful people.

2. There is a day when God will judge sinful people.

Verse 12: *“The time has come, the day draws near.”* The day had almost arrived – the day when the Lord would allow the Babylonian army to sweep in, conquer Jerusalem and destroy the temple. Again verse 10: *“Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; the rod has blossomed, pride has budded.”* Israel had budded and blossomed - but it was not with good fruit. No, it was with the fruit of arrogance and wickedness. Therefore God would use the Babylonians as His rod of correction and punishment (v11).

The day had come when property would have no value, because soon all property would all be in the hands of the enemy (v12-13). Jerusalem would have no one left to defend the city (v14). The sword would kill those who tried to escape. Those who stayed in the besieged city would die by plague or starvation. Verse 15: *“The sword is outside, and the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field will die by the sword; and whoever is in the city, famine and pestilence will devour him.”*

Chapter 6 predicted that from the survivors of this tragedy, God would preserve a “godly remnant.” This remnant is in view in verses 16-18 of chapter 7. This godly group not only mourned the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple, but they repented because they realized that the iniquity of God’s people had caused this disaster to happen. They would realize that this was God’s judgment on His sinful people.

In that coming day, people would throw their money out into the streets because there was no food to buy. It wouldn’t matter how much gold and silver you owned, because gold and silver would have no value (v19). In that day God would allow the pagan Babylonians to enter the Temple, God’s “secret place.” They would desecrate it - because Israel had already desecrated it with their idolatry (v20-24).

In that coming day there would be no peace. Every rumor or vision or communication about a possible peace treaty, or possible help from some outside source, would prove to be false (v25-26). It was too late. The day of judgment was upon them.

There is coming a day when God will judge sinful people. The judgment day of Ezekiel 7 certainly looks ahead to the future “day” when God will judge this sinful world. That day will be the “*day of vengeance*” spoken of in Isaiah 61:2. That day will be the “*day of God’s wrath*” of Revelation 6:17. This is the coming Tribulation period of the future - and that day may not be too far off.

Right now is the **day of salvation**. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says: “*Behold, now is the accepted time. Behold, now is the day of salvation.*” Have you been saved from the penalty of your sins by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?

Today is the day of salvation! Make sure you receive Christ as your Savior before it is too late, because a day is coming when God will judge sinful people.

Practical Application

What is the real value of your silver and gold?

Verse 19: “*They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse.*”

Question: When would anyone ever throw his or her money out into the streets? Answer: when it has no value. Their silver and gold would be unable to deliver the people of Judah on the day of the wrath of the Lord, when the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem.

And that’s the way it will be in the future day of God’s wrath. When God judges this world in the future, all the money in the world will mean nothing. No one will be able to buy an escape from the judgment. The wealthiest person in the world will have no advantage.

The real value of your money is determined only by how it is being used **now** - for the **glory of God!** If you are a true Christian, you can use your money for the glory of God by supporting His work throughout the world. And that way it will have eternal value! You **can** take it with you!

This is a good question for all of us: ***What is the real value of your silver and gold?***