

God's People in Exile

What Comes After?: Demonstrative Prophecy

Ezekiel 4

What does God tell Ezekiel to do with the brick (or clay tile) and the iron pan? [1-3] How does he “put the sin of the house of Israel upon” himself, and “bear the sin of the house of Judah”? [4-8] (Compare Hebrews 9:28 and Isaiah 53:12.)

What was Ezekiel told to eat this time? Is this fancy food, like for a festival or celebration? [9-13] For the first time, Ezekiel speaks; who does he talk to, and what does he have to say? [14] What response does he get? [15] What significance does all the discussion about food have? [16-17]

What message from God does the watchman-prophet Ezekiel deliver to the captives in this chapter?

Ezekiel 5

After fourteen months of lying on his side and eating survival rations, God has something else planned for Ezekiel. What is he told to do this time? [1-4]

What is God's chief complaint against the people of Jerusalem? [5-7] What is He going to do about it? [8-10] Compare verses 2 and 12, and verse 5 with 14.

Is God actually going to cause the atrocities of verse 10, or is He merely pointing out what will be the natural outcome of the people's depravity during the time of distress that God has ordered for them (consider carefully verse 9 and the last half of verse 10)?

Critics of Christianity point to passages like verses 11-13 and say they could never serve such an angry, vengeful God. How might we explain this passage to them?

Does Ezekiel actually speak God's words to his fellow captives in these two chapters?

In Exodus 19:6 (compare 1 Peter 2:9) God told the people of Israel “you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” *“It must be remembered that Israel was called to be a kingdom of priests. She will be a testimony, either positively or negatively.” ... “God acts against disobedient Israel as a witness to the nations of His righteous character. It has always been His plan to reveal Himself through Israel. He wanted it to be in blessing, but if necessary, He will witness in judgment!”* -- Dr. Bob Utley <http://www.freebiblecommentary.org/old_testament_studies/VOL13BOT/VOL13BOT_05.html>

Next week: Ezekiel chapters 6 and 7.