

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—The Siege of Jerusalem (August 6, 593 BC)

Ezekiel 4

The Clay Brick

- 1 "Now you son of man, get yourself a brick, place it before you and inscribe a city on it, Jerusalem.
- 2 Then lay siege against it, build a siege wall, raise up a ramp, pitch camps and place battering rams against it all around.
- 3 Then get yourself an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between you and the city, and set your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This is a sign to the house of Israel.
- 4 "As for you, lie down on your left side and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it.
- 5 For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.
- 6 When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, *but* on your right side and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year.
- 7 Then you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared and prophesy against it.
- 8 Now behold, I will put ropes on you so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have completed the days of your siege.

The Unclean Meal

- 9 "But as for you, take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet and spelt, put them in one vessel and make them into bread for yourself; you shall eat it according to the number of the days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days.
- 10 Your food which you eat *shall be* twenty shekels a day by weight; you shall eat it from time to time.
- 11 The water you drink shall be the sixth part of a hin by measure; you shall drink it from time to time.
- 12 You shall eat it as a barley cake, having baked *it* in their sight over human dung."
- 13 Then the LORD said, "Thus will the sons of Israel eat their bread unclean among the nations where I will banish them."
- 14 But I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I have never been defiled; for from my youth until now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has any unclean meat ever entered my mouth."
- 15 Then He said to me, "See, I will give you cow's dung in place of human dung over which you will prepare your bread."
- 16 Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror,
- 17 because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their iniquity.

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—The Fall of Jerusalem (August 6, 593 BC)

Ezekiel 5

The Shaved Head and Beard

- 1 "As for you, son of man, take a sharp sword; take and use it *as* a barber's razor on your head and beard. Then take scales for weighing and divide the hair.
- 2 One third you shall burn in the fire at the center of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. Then you shall take one third and strike *it* with the sword all around the city, and one third you shall scatter to the wind; and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.
- 3 Take also a few in number from them and bind them in the edges of your *robes*.
- 4 Take again some of them and throw them into the fire and burn them in the fire; from it a fire will spread to all the house of Israel.
- 5 "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her.
- 6 But she has rebelled against My ordinances more wickedly than the nations and against My statutes more than the lands which surround her; for they have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes.'

First Announcement of Judgment on Jerusalem

- 7 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have more turmoil than the nations which surround you *and* have not walked in My statutes, nor observed My ordinances, nor observed the ordinances of the nations which surround you,'
- 8 therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I, even I, am against you, and I will execute judgments among you in the sight of the nations.
- 9 And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again.
- 10 Therefore, fathers will eat *their* sons among you, and sons will eat their fathers; for I will execute judgments on you and scatter all your remnant to every wind.

Second Announcement of Judgment on Jerusalem

- 11 So as I live,' declares the Lord GOD, 'surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable idols and with all your abominations, therefore I will also withdraw, and My eye will have no pity and I will not spare.

12 One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.

13 ‘Thus My anger will be spent and I will satisfy My wrath on them, and I will be appeased; then they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken in My zeal when I have spent My wrath upon them.

14 Moreover, I will make you a desolation and a reproach among the nations which surround you, in the sight of all who pass by.

15 So it will be a reproach, a reviling, a warning and an object of horror to the nations who surround you when I execute judgments against you in anger, wrath and raging rebukes. I, the LORD, have spoken.

16 When I send against them the deadly arrows of famine which were for the destruction of those whom I will send to destroy you, then I will also intensify the famine upon you and break the staff of bread.

17 Moreover, I will send on you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you of children; plague and bloodshed also will pass through you, and I will bring the sword on you. I, the LORD, have spoken.”

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Message to the Mountains (c. 592 BC)

Ezekiel 6

Destruction of All Idolatry

1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

2 “Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them

3 and say, ‘Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord God! Thus says the Lord God to the mountains, the hills, the ravines and the valleys: “Behold, I Myself am going to bring a sword on you, and I will destroy your high places.

4 So your altars will become desolate and your incense altars will be smashed; and I will make your slain fall in front of your idols.

5 I will also lay the dead bodies of the sons of Israel in front of their idols; and I will scatter your bones around your altars.

6 In all your dwellings, cities will become waste and the high places will be desolate, that your altars may become waste and desolate, your idols may be broken and brought to an end, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be blotted out.

7 The slain will fall among you, and you will know that I am the LORD.

“Then They Will Know”

8 “However, I will leave a remnant, for you will have those who escaped the sword among the nations when you are scattered among the countries.

9 Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive, how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which played the harlot after their idols; and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed, for all their abominations.

10 Then they will know that I am the LORD; I have not said in vain that I would inflict this disaster on them.”

11 “Thus says the Lord God, ‘Clap your hand, stamp your foot and say, “Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, which will fall by sword, famine and plague!

12 He who is far off will die by the plague, and he who is near will fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged will die by the famine. Thus will I spend My wrath on them.

13 Then you will know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the tops of the mountains, under every green tree and under every leafy oak—the places where they offered soothing aroma to all their idols.

14 So throughout all their habitations I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land more desolate and waste than the wilderness toward Diblah; thus they will know that I am the LORD.””

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Disaster Is Coming (c. 592 BC)

Ezekiel 7

The First Alarm

1 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 is coming on the four corners of the land.

3 Now the end is upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways and bring all your abominations upon you.

4 For My eye will have no pity on you, nor will I spare you, but I will bring your ways upon you, and your abominations will be among you; then you will know that I am the LORD!’

The Second Alarm

5 “Thus says the Lord God, ‘A disaster, unique disaster, behold it is coming!

6 An end is coming; the end has come! It has awakened against you; behold, it has come!

7 Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come, the day is near—tumult rather than joyful shouting on

the mountains.

8 Now I will shortly pour out My wrath on you and spend My anger against you; judge you according to your ways and bring on you all your abominations.

9 My eye will show no pity nor will I spare. I will repay you according to your ways, while your abominations are in your midst; then you will know that I, the LORD, do the smiting.

The Third Alarm

10 'Behold, the day! Behold, it is coming! *Your* doom has gone forth; the rod has budded, arrogance has blossomed.

11 Violence has grown into a rod of wickedness. None of them *shall remain*, none of their people, none of their wealth, nor anything eminent among them.

12 The time has come, the day has arrived. Let not the buyer rejoice nor the seller mourn; for wrath is against all their multitude.

13 Indeed, the seller will not regain what he sold as long as they *both* live; for the vision regarding all their multitude will not be averted, nor will any of them maintain his life by his iniquity.

14 'They have blown the trumpet and made everything ready, but no one is going to the battle, for My wrath is against all their multitude.

15 The sword is outside and the plague and the famine are within. He who is in the field will die by the sword; famine and the plague will also consume those in the city.

16 Even when their survivors escape, they will be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, each over his own iniquity.

17 All hands will hang limp and all knees will become *like* water.

18 They will gird themselves with sackcloth and shuddering will overwhelm them; and shame *will be* on all faces and baldness on all their heads.

19 They will fling their silver into the streets and their gold will become an abhorrent thing; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their appetite nor can they fill their stomachs, for their iniquity has become an occasion of stumbling.

20 They transformed the beauty of His ornaments into pride, and they made the images of their abominations *and* their detestable things with it; therefore I will make it an abhorrent thing to them.

21 I will give it into the hands of the foreigners as plunder and to the wicked of the earth as spoil, and they will profane it.

22 I will also turn My face from them, and they will profane My secret place; then robbers will enter and profane it.

23 'Make the chain, for the land is full of bloody crimes and the city is full of violence.

24 Therefore, I will bring the worst of the nations, and they will possess their houses. I will also make the pride of the strong ones cease, and their holy places will be profaned.

25 When anguish comes, they will seek peace, but there will be none.

26 Disaster will come upon disaster and rumor will be *added* to rumor; then they will seek a vision from a prophet, but the law will be lost from the priest and counsel from the elders.

27 The king will mourn, the prince will be clothed with horror, and the hands of the people of the land will tremble. According to their conduct I will deal with them, and by their judgments I will judge them. And they will know that I am the LORD.'"

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