

# **“I HAVE DONE NOTHING WITHOUT CAUSE”**

## **Ezekiel 12-17**

### Introduction

1) **Ezekiel** was a prophet among the Jewish captives in Babylon

### **I) Judah’s Captivity and Judgment Portrayed (Ch. 12)**

- A) God has Ezekiel give two visual aids to help the people understand what is happening
  - 1) Ezekiel packs his belongings and carries them as though going into captivity (vv. 1-16)
    - a) A sign of the people going into Babylonian captivity – caught in God’s snare (vv. 11-13)
  - 2) Ezekiel to eat his bread with quaking and drink water with trembling and anxiety (vv. 17-28)
    - a) The time of judgment is at hand and will not be postponed (vv. 25-28)
- B) To ignore the warnings of the Lord is foolish and perilous!

### **II) Woe to the False Prophets (Ch. 13)**

- A) False prophets are those who speak from their own heart and follow their own spirit (vv. 2-3)
- B) False prophets of Israel preached lies and false visions – preached peace when there was no peace (vv. 4-16; cf. Jer. 5:30-31; 6:13-14; 14:13-14; 23:16-17, 21-22; 2 Pet. 2:1)
  - 1) Prophets built whitewashed walls of cheap and weak construction that would fall
- C) False prophetesses also followed their own heart – hunted souls of people (vv. 17-23)

### **III) The Problems of Idolatry and Persistent Unfaithfulness (Ch. 14)**

- A) Some of the elders of Israel come to Ezekiel and sat before him (v. 1)
  - 1) Their hearts were full of idols and came to inquire of God like another idol (vv. 2-6)
- B) Persistent unfaithfulness will result in divine judgment (vv. 12-23)
  - 1) Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the land, only they themselves would be delivered; divine judgment would still come on unfaithful Jerusalem
  - 2) When Ezekiel sees the ways and doings of those brought into captivity, he will be comforted about why God is bringing judgment – **“I have done nothing without cause”**

### **IV) The Useless Vine (Ch. 15)**

- A) The vine branch is not useful to make wooden objects – only good to fuel fire (vv. 1-5)
  - 1) Unfaithful inhabitants of Jerusalem will be given up to fire like the vine (vv. 6-8)

### **V) God’s Love for Jerusalem; Jerusalem’s Harlotry (Ch. 16)**

- A) God’s love for Jerusalem [Israel] described as God caring for her from birth and then entered a covenant marriage relationship with her (vv. 1-14)
- B) Jerusalem played the harlot and became an adulterous wife (vv. 15-59)
  - 1) Arose from a degenerate heart that sought other lovers who would later abuse them
  - 2) Jerusalem did worse than her sisters, Samaria and Sodom (vv. 46-52)
- C) God would establish an “everlasting covenant” and provide an atonement (vv. 60-63)
  - 1) Prophecy of the messianic covenant and the atonement of Christ

### **VI) Riddle of the Vulture and the Vine (Ch. 17)**

- A) A riddle/parable about the political interactions of Judah with Babylon and Egypt that ends with the fall of Judah (vv. 1-21)
- B) The tender twig that will grow into a majestic cedar is the Messiah (vv. 22-24)

### Conclusion

A major lesson is that God keeps His word concerning His judgment of all men. There can be no excuse or argument from man against God’s judgment. Are you seeking to please God today?