

## EZEKIEL 4:1-5:17 – “THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM PORTRAYED; A SWORD AGAINST JERUSALEM; THE DEATH OF A GREAT CITY”

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

**THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM - Eze 4:1** (592BC – Six years before the fall) *"You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem.*

*Eze 4:2 Lay siege against it, build a siege wall against it, and heap up a mound against it; set camps against it also, and place battering rams against it all around.*

*Eze 4:3 Moreover take for yourself an iron plate, and set it as an iron wall between you and the city. Set your face against it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.*

**THE JUDGMENT OF JUDAH - Eze 4:4** *"Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it.*

*According to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.*

*Eze 4:5 For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.*

*Eze 4:6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.*

*Eze 4:7 "Therefore you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem; your arm shall be uncovered, and you shall prophesy against it.*

*Eze 4:8 And surely I will restrain you so that you cannot turn from one side to another till you have ended the days of ur*

### INTERPRETATION

This is the first of several “action sermons”, that will be given to Ezekiel. Here he is being asked to sketch the city of Jerusalem on a soft clay tablet to illustrate the coming judgment of God on the city.

The sketch was to include a siege wall, mounds and camps as well as battering rams against it all around. The people while not willing to listen, would easily be able to see the visual demonstration.

He also was to take an iron plate, some think it's a griddle used in sacrifices by priests (Lev. 2:5; 6:21; 7:9), setting it between him and the city. This might have meant that God was placing a wall between Himself and the city because of the continuing idolatry. It could have meant the struggle between Jerusalem and the Babylonians was to be severe and resolute.

Ezekiel was commanded to lie on the ground, facing the model he had constructed of the siege of Jerusalem. The number of days he was to lie on his side would be indicative of the time from which the judgment was from.

Each day was to represent a year, so the time on his left side of 390 days was to represent 390 years of their disobedience. This would seem to coincide with the period beginning with the wickedness of Rehoboam's reign on down through he reign of Zedekiah. Another view is from 597 to 167BC when Jewish rule returned through the Maccabean revolt. Missler -  $7 \times 390 = 2730$  from time of captivity = 6/7/1967

Following the completion of the 390 days on his left side, he was to then lie on his right side for 40 days, which may represent the 40 years in the wilderness following the exodus from Egypt, due to their unbelief. (Heb. 3:10)

Setting his face toward the siege of Jerusalem with his arm uncovered may have meant to depict the firmness of the justice of God and the baring of His arm against Judah in His judgment of their disobedience.

The Lord would restrain Ezekiel to make the strong demonstration of the coming judgment over the two periods of 390 days and 40 days.

### APPLICATION

**The second section of Ezekiel begins here and goes all the way to Chapter 24. We are now at 592BC where we see action sermons beginning. The slaughter, which will take place in just six more years (586BC) in described in great clarity!**

**WE NEED TO STUDY THE BIBLE!!! BY APPLICATOIN, ALL NATIONS OF+ THE WORLD ARE HERE.**

**Here we have: “God said it” and HE DID IT!**

**Have you forsaken the fear of the LORD?**

**Do you really know Him?**

**Are we better than God's people (Israel)?**

**Does God punish people for their sin?**

**What happens when we don't follow the LORD?**

**We need to be careful how we live in the world Watch and Pray!!!**

**Do you believe the Bible? Do you live by it?**

**In 930 BC Rehoboam began to reign – now would represent 393 years. But Rehoboam did walk with the Lord for 3-4 years. (2 Chron. 11:16-17) So this time period was exactly 390 years.**

**It is thought the 40 days (years) represent the 40 years in the wilderness, because of unbelief.**

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### OBSERVATION

***THE FAMINE IN THE CITY - Eze 4:9 "Also take for yourself wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt; put them into one vessel, and make bread of them for yourself. During the number of days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days, you shall eat it. Eze 4:10 And your food which you eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day; from time to time you shall eat it. Eze 4:11 You shall also drink water by measure, one-sixth of a hin; from time to time you shall drink. Eze 4:12 And you shall eat it as barley cakes; and bake it using fuel of human waste in their sight." Eze 4:13 Then the LORD said, "So shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, where I will drive them." Eze 4:14 So I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Indeed I have never defiled myself from my youth till now; I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has abominable flesh ever come into my mouth." Eze 4:15 Then He said to me, "See, I am giving you cow dung instead of human waste, and you shall prepare your bread over it." Eze 4:16 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, surely I will cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and shall drink water by measure and with dread, Eze 4:17 that they may lack bread and water, and be dismayed with one another, and waste away because of their iniquity.***

### INTERPRETATION

This is the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> action sermon, which will show the coming suffering of famine. The ingredients of the foods was shown-an inferior flour made from several grains and vegetables. “Bread” made from this flour would be of the very poorest quality. **(Lev. 26:14-33)**

The precise amount of this food to be eaten daily was given. The amount was quite small, indicating the coming famine. **(Dt. 28:49-57)** This daily allotment of food would amount to about ½ pound of the cheap bread.

This is to indicate that water would be rationed during the siege of Jerusalem as well as food. One sixth of a hin is less than a quart of water.

Ezekiel was instructed to make barley cakes from the cheap flour mixture, using human waste as the cooking fuel. **(Dt. 23:9-14)** Using human waste would defile the bread, making it unclean. It also was an indication of the depth of the coming suffering. Rejected by God through His judgment, Judah’s fate is being portrayed for the unfaithful nation-defile, as shown by using human fuel.

Ezekiel’s comment is similar to that of Peter’s in Acts. **(Acts. 10:14)**

A priest was not to defile himself and his food by using human excrement for cooking his food. **(Dt. 14:3; 23:12-14)**

The prophet is reminded the people would eat about eight ounces of bread and drink about 2/3 of a quart of water, but that there would be no relief. **(Lam. 1:11, 19; 2:11-12, 19)**

In all these signs, Ezekiel is to remind the spectators of the horrors that were to come to Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

### APPLICATION

**The six ingredients represent generally poor quality items which were not normally eaten. God is illustrating what unclean lives can bring upon a nation and it’s people. God’s people did know what the consequences would bring. (Lev. 26)**

**Be careful – what you eat and use can defile you! Yet, God’s judgment is always just! He is patient and long suffering, but...! People would experience the defilement that their misconduct caused.**

**The wages of sin is indeed death. Famine and wasting away would be occurring during the siege.**

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### OBSERVATION

**THE DESTINY (SCATTERING) OF THE PEOPLE** - Eze 5:1 *"And you, son of man, take a sharp sword, take it as a barber's razor, and pass it over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the hair.*

*Eze 5:2 You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around it with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them.*

*Eze 5:3 You shall also take a small number of them and bind them in the edge of your garment.*

*Eze 5:4 Then take some of them again and throw them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will go out into all the house of Israel.*

*Eze 5:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.*

*Eze 5:6 She has rebelled against My judgments by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against My statutes more than the countries that are all around her; for they have refused My judgments, and they have not walked in My statutes.*

*Eze 5:7 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have multiplied disobedience more than the nations that are all around you, have not walked in My statutes nor kept My judgments, nor even done according to the judgments of the nations that are all around you'—*

*Eze 5:8 therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Indeed I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.*

### INTERPRETATION

Another “action sermon”. Ezekiel represents the Jewish nation; the hair, the people; the razor, the Babylonians. The cutting the beard and the hair, the calamities, sorrows, and disgrace coming up on the people. A sign of great disgrace. (2 Sam. 10:4; Is. 7:20)

The 1/3 burned with fire represented those killed by fire following the siege; the 1/3 struck round represented those that would still be in the city to be struck and hurt; the last 1/3 were those who would flee or be taken captive away from Jerusalem. They would be pursued with the sword.

The few hairs which he was to take in his skirts (2 Sam. 10:3) was intended to represent those few Jews that would be left in the city.

This last part thrown into the fire was intended to show the miseries that these suffered in Jude, in Egypt and finally in the being carried to Babylon on the conquest of Egypt.

Jerusalem here is described as being dignified and preferred above the neighboring nations and their cities, set in the midst of them. (Ps. 48:2; 137:5-6) But they will have no city to return to. **What a shock to hear that “this is Jerusalem”!**

They had adopted the wicked ways of the Gentiles and **had become greater sinners than their neighbors**. They had refused to walk in His ways.

Therefore, because you have multiplied disobedience more than the nations around you; you have not walked in My ways nor kept My judgments, nor even done according to the judgments of the nations around you - You were/are worse than your Gentile neighbors!

Therefore, the Lord says that He, **even He, is against them and will execute judgments in their midst in the full view and sight of the surrounding nations.**

### APPLICATION

**This is a sign of purification-the shaving of a beard.**

**The burning represents what will happen to the city as well as an indicatin of the coming judgment.**

**THIS REPRENTS A REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED!**

**THIS IS JERUSALEM!!!! DESCRIBING THEIR LOVELY AND SEEMINGLY PROTECTED CITY AS THE PLACE OF GREAT DISOBEDIENCE! So! Judgment is coming not only on Israel but also on Judah! In how many ways are we more corrupt than other nations? Misuse of God’s Word? Speaking evil against our leaders! WHAT HAPPENDED TO JERUSALEM 2500 YEARS AGO COULD JUST AS EASILY HAPPEN TO US TODAY!**

**THE COMING OF JUDGMENT IS FROM THE LORD!! We must be aware that God says what He means and means what He says! We don’t know whether catastrophic events are His judgment but we do now the ways He judges. We must not forsake the fear of the LORD!!!**

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*Eze 5:9 And I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations.*

*Eze 5:10 Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments among you, and all of you who remain I will scatter to all the winds.*

*Eze 5:11 'Therefore, as I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will also diminish you; My eye will not spare, nor will I have any pity.*

*Eze 5:12 One-third of you shall die of the pestilence (plagues), and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.*

*Eze 5:13 'Thus shall My anger be spent, and I will cause My fury to rest upon them, and I will be avenged; and they shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spent My fury upon them.*

*Eze 5:14 Moreover I will make you a waste and a reproach among the nations that are all around you, in the sight of all who pass by.*

*Eze 5:15 'So it shall be a reproach, a taunt, a lesson, and an astonishment to the nations that are all around you, when I execute judgments among you in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I, the LORD, have spoken.*

*Eze 5:16 When I send against them the terrible arrows of famine which shall be for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, I will increase the famine upon you and cut off your supply of bread.*

*Eze 5:17 So I will send against you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword against you. I, the LORD, have spoken.'*

### INTERPRETATION

**Because of all your abominations, the Lord is going to do things, the like of which He has never done nor will ever do again!**

Thing will be so severe during the siege that fathers shall eat their sons and vice versa. This of course happened. Because of the thoroughness of God's judgment, they would be scattered by captivity among all the nations of the earth.

“As I live”, a solemn oath, found 14 times in this Book, pledging the very existence of God for the fulfillment of the prophecy. Their greatest sin was defiling the sanctuary, showing the height of their wickedness.

This is basically a repeat of what was shown in Chapter 4, describing the meaning of what would happen to the different groups of Jews during the siege and capture of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

Ezekiel's purpose was to impress on Israel's conscience God's intense hatred of idolatry and apostasy. My displeasure and the evidences of it shall not be transient. They shall be permanent upon you-even to the present day.

The result of God's wrath would result of making God's people an object lesson of warning among the on looking neighboring nations.

God's curses on disobedience, such as this, were given in Leviticus and in Deuteronomy. (*Dt. 28:15-68*)

“The terrible arrows of famine” represented as terrible or poisoned arrows, inflict death wherever they wound. The supply of food will be cut off – exactly what happened during the siege.

In addition to the famine, wild beasts will be sent against you. Pestilence and blood shall also pass through. Many of you will be killed by the sword – **“I the LORD have spoken!”**

### APPLICATION

**We need to realize of how severe God's judgment can be! God's judgment on Judah from Babylon was more severe than any other. Here we see the extent of the consequences that will come on Jerusalem. Family survival will be devastated. The scattering of the whole remnant.**

**We see here God is not just a warm, fuzzy God. We see here that God hates the workers of iniquity. They defiled His sanctuary.**

**We must now lose our fear of the Lord! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!**

**Do we know that I the LORD have spoken it in My zeal? Do you really know Him?**

**Ezekiel's warning went unheeded. The destruction of Jerusalem and the suffering endured by the people should be a warning to us of the reality of divine judgment. But we are far removed from it with very few being really acquainted with the Word of God. One of the greatest sins of Christians is their ignorance of the Scriptures.**

**Because of this coming judgment, “they shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spend My fury upon them”!!**

**God explains why He has done this! Vs. 14-15 – to prove to the nations what He will do to them as well; If God judged Israel, what do you think will happen to us?**

**To punish them for their sin (vs. 16-17) To proclaim the authority and reliability of His Word.**

**WATCH AND PRAY!! – WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF HOW WE LIVE IN THIS WORLD!!**