

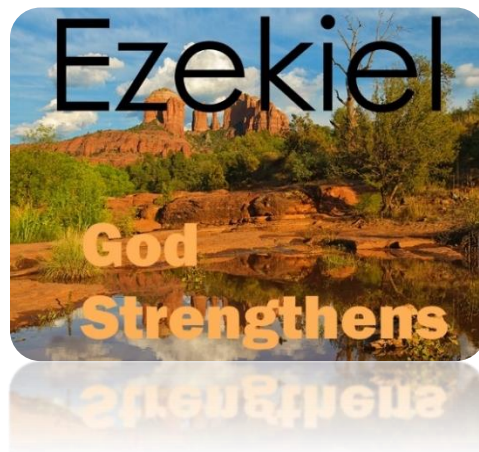
EZEKIEL 14 vs 1

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Ezekiel, just told the ones who said they were ruled by God: The days are near, and every vision will be fulfilled. Thus says the Lord God; none of My words will be delayed any longer.

Hearing the word, and prayer are two great ordinances of God, by which we are to give honor to Him and hope to find favor and acceptance with Him. Ezekiel's ministry was to keep before those in captivity, the sins which brought God's judgment on them, and to assure them of God's future blessing for those who would return to Him and keep His covenant. For this, Jewish history tells us, Ezekiel was finally dragged through the streets until he was murdered.



Idolatrous Elders Condemned

¹ Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me, and sat before me.

² And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

³ Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and put a stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I be consulted at all by them?

⁴ So tell them, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: Every one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart, and sets a stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet,

I the LORD will answer him who comes with the multitude of his idols;

⁵ that I may lay hold of the heart of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from Me through their idols.

⁶ So say to the house of Israel, Thus says the LORD God; reconsider, and turn from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

⁷ For every one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel,

who separates himself from Me / to be of the house ruled by God and then be severed and cut off from the Source of life – from the Lord God who created us, is not a good or wise situation to be in,

taking his idols into his heart, and putting a stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult Me through him;

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I the LORD will answer him myself:

⁸ And I will set My face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword, and cut him off from the midst of My people; and you will know:

I am the LORD.

⁹ And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him, and will destroy him from the midst of My people **Israel**.

¹⁰ And they will bear the punishment of their iniquity: -- the punishment of the *false* prophet and the punishment of the inquirer will be the same;

¹¹ that the house of **Israel** no longer goes astray from Me, nor defiles themselves anymore with all their transgressions; but that they be My people, and I be their God, says the LORD God.

Jerusalem Will Not Be Spared

¹² The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

¹³ Son of man, when the **land** sins against Me by faithlessly trespassing, and I stretch out My hand against **it**, and break **its** supply of bread, and send famine on **it**, and cut off man and beast from **it**:

¹⁴ even though these three men, **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job**, were in **it**, by their own rightness, they could only deliver their own souls, says the LORD God.

¹⁵ If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they destroy it, so that it is deserted, that no one passes through it because of the beasts:

¹⁶ even though these three men were in it, as I live, says the LORD God, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only would be delivered, but the land would be deserted.

¹⁷ Or if I bring a sword on that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; and I cut off from it man and beast:

¹⁸ though these three men were in it, as I live, says the LORD God, they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only would be delivered.

¹⁹ Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out My wrath on it with blood, to cut off from it man and beast:

²⁰ though **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job** were in it, as I live, says the LORD God,

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they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; but they would deliver their own souls by their rightness / these verses let us know all the saints and wonderful people in the world won't save us; there is only One who will – For there is One God, and One mediator between God and men – the Man Jesus Christ – **1 Timothy 2**.

²¹ For thus says the LORD God:

How much more when I send on Jerusalem My four sore judgments:

the sword, famine, wild beasts, and pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast!

²² Yet, behold, a remnant in it will be left, both sons and daughters.

Indeed, they will come forth to you, and you will see their ways and deeds:

then you will be comforted for the evil which I brought against Jerusalem, concerning all that I brought on it.

²³ And they will comfort you, when you see their ways and deeds: and you will know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, says the LORD God.

It's rather amazing when you hear the testimonies of many Jewish people who have come to embrace Jesus the Messiah. Often you hear, they never read the Old Testament scriptures, and never heard that they, being Jewish, had sinned against God. Yet having read the scriptures, they quickly discover that all the prophets sent them... warned them, starting with Moses. Justice must always begin with the household of God; those who have taken to heart His word and His ways, share a greater condemnation, who have tasted and seen that the Lord is good; who have walked in the brightest light of His word; who drift away – they become disconnected... how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? – **Hebrews 2**.

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