

EZEKIEL SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON 5  
CHAPTERS, 12-14

Say-In the previous lesson from Ezekiel, we discussed the vision Ezekiel saw of the pending destruction of the Temple of God and the city of Jerusalem, all brought on by the disobedience of God's people.

Say-Our lesson today is how Ezekiel portrayed the role of a captive being taken away into exile and what was about to happen to King Zedekiah and the people of God still remaining in Jerusalem. Judah, still deviating from what she knew was right in the sight of God, carried on stubbornly and obstinately disobedient to heed the warnings of God's prophet, Ezekiel, Ez. 12:2.

Say-In front of their eyes, the time had come for Ezekiel to perform what living away from their longed for city of Jerusalem would be like in captivity 500 miles away in Babylon. Through the faithful prophet, Ezekiel, they would see the necessary preparations played out one more time for the coming calamity upon God's people.

Say-God's people in captivity understood well what Ezekiel was doing because six years earlier they had made the same preparations as they were captured and hastily left their beloved city for Babylon. Nevertheless on went Ezekiel; he gathered a staff, a knapsack and a supply of food and clothing all which would be needful equipment for living in Babylon, the land of exile.

Say-Ezekiel's portrayal was to remind once again the people in captivity to put their faith in God not back in King Zedekiah and begin to think their captivity was going to be short lived. Oh that they would consider the outcome of their failure to listen and repent and turn to God.

Say-King Zedekiah, a weak king of Judah, had been warned in a letter from Ezekiel and Jeremiah that he would be captured and carried to Babylon but he believed neither. Led on by the king, the people turned their hearts from God and His prophet and they would soon see King Zedekiah would become the greatest sufferer of the impending destruction, Ez. 12:9, 10.

Say-Now just as Ezekiel had seen in vision from God, King Nebuchadnezzar and his army, determined to put an end to Judah, struck with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final siege on Jerusalem. They set God's Temple on fire and broke down the walls of protection for the city and destroyed everything in sight. The siege lasted 1½ years

due to the strong fortified walls which surrounded the city and which King Zedekiah had relied on too heavily for protection.

Say-Jerusalem, once a fertile, flourishing, fruitful city of God, lay in utter disrepair and with famine throughout the land, the people of Judah suffered greatly, 2 Kings 25. Nebuchadnezzar had captured all the people leaving behind the poor and feeble to fend for themselves.

Say-But where was King Zedekiah and his army? Just as prophesied, they had left the city at night trying to escape undercover of darkness but soon in the plains of Jericho, about five hours distance from the city of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar's army overtook King Zedekiah and his men. First capturing Zedekiah's sons, they slayed them right before his eyes and as for King Zedekiah, it was believed a blind man could not rule, and out went his eyes! He was chained and carried off and imprisoned in Babylon, Jer. 52:11, 2 Kings 25:6, 7.

Say-Just as God had told Ezekiel, "I will spread my net upon him (King Zedekiah) and he shall be taken in my snare and I will bring him to Babylon, even though he will not see it (because of blindness) and he will die there", Ez. 12:14. Yes, the prophecy had come to pass! As for the people, they were scattered among the nations to wean them from idolatry and to make known God and His laws of righteousness to the heathen in captivity, Isaiah 43:10.

Say-Just as is happening in our day, so was it in Ezekiel's day. People said, "All these things will never come to pass in our time". God in His opposition to their scoff said, "I am the Lord, ALL I speak will come to pass". Now they believed as Jerusalem lay destroyed six years later.

Say-The apostles experience the same thing in their day and the warnings are for us as well. "...Be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets (like Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah, etc.), and of the commandment of the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For ..., all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation", 2 Pet. 3:2-4.

Say-God always chastises or disciplines whom He loves to bring them back to Him. Just as Judah, His spouse, had placed their trust in kings and false prophets, so do many in our day look elsewhere for fulfillment. God will show ALL one day soon, that their Gods are

powerless to save them. For “we are without excuse”, (2 Pet 3:5) God says and whether I chasten them or strengthen them, they devise mischief against Me and follow not the Most High God, Hos. 7:15-16, Matt. 24:34.

Say-False prophets were plentiful in Jerusalem and in captivity just as they are today in our society. Nevertheless, Israel was to be God’s vineyard (garden of outstanding quality) and His people were to guard it and be a representative to the nations. Instead they spoiled it with their corruption. It no longer looked like a fruitful vineyard but like a desert where there was nothing to eat and unimaginable desolation.

Say-Wondering about were foxes (wolves in sheep’s clothing/false prophets) and through their craftiness the people followed them because they supported their sins. God continually denounced the false leaders as they spoke lies all in the name of God and they would not be allowed back into His country, Ezekiel 13:9.

Say-God said, “Woe unto the foolish prophets that follow their own way, though they pretend to be wise”, Ezekiel 13:1-3. The false prophets prophesied what they and the people wanted to hear but it was inexcusable as God had planted His prophets among His people who spoke NOT their own thoughts but “As the spirit moved them”, 2 Pet. 1:21. Remember a prophet speaks what God tells him only.

Say-God also denounced the women which took an active part in maintaining idolatry, Ez. 13:18. The self-proclaimed prophetesses or more accurately, witches, did almost anything to lure the people to the love of themselves, as they made cushioned pillows and kerchiefs for those who came to them promising them perfect “tranquility and peace”, Ez. 13:18, Prov. 6:26, 2 Pet. 2:14.

Say-They polluted God’s name by using Him as the cover-up for their falsehoods thus He said, “I am against your pillows...”, Ez. 13:20-23, and your trickery of divination (witchcraft) for they lured the people into their evil snares. He said, “You make them fly” and it brings destruction, I will let them go in order to save them from the predicted calamities”, Ps. 91:3.

Say-In contrast to God, “All your lies have done is make My people sad and promote evil doers”. He said, “I will put an end to it and you will know I am the Lord”, Ez. 13:21-23.

Say-The people had only themselves to blame as they had been forewarned how to discern and to treat a false prophet. “You shall not listen to the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proves you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul”, Deut. 13:3.

Say-God would not allow such activity to continue. He said, “Hear this I pray, you... that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity (fairness). ... The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they (pretend to) lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? No evil can come upon us. For this, God said, “Therefore shall Zion (Jerusalem) for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become (ruinous) heaps, and the mountain of the house (Temple of God) as the high places (battleground) of the forest” Micah 3:9-12.

Say-What had brought God’s people then and now to believe such divination and lust after them? Letting God’s laws depart from their eyes, (we are told God’s laws are done away with), they were sure to stumble, Prov. 3:21-23. First their heart was corrupted and then with idols set before them, soon they became a stumbling block and a barrier to the God of Heaven.

Say-They continued to come to God’s Temple pretending to be a true worshipper and they would come to God’s prophets for advice but God said, instead of My prophets answering, “I will answer a “Fool according to his folly”, Prov. 26:5. I will make the sinner’s sin his punishment. Is that what God will do in the future; a double minded people He will not accept for “No one can serve two masters”, Matt. 6:24.

Say-While other calamities God had spared on His people because of righteous men among them, now Israel’s sins had been too great to be pardoned any longer, James 5:16. The people had continued to mistakenly believe God would not carry out the warnings with His prophets in the land. How wrong they had been.

Say-For only the righteous had been spared from famine, noisome beasts, the sword and pestilence, Lev. 26:22. All the while amidst accusations from those in captivity that said His four judgments were too harsh. God answered them this way, He said, “And they shall ... see (the wickedness) of their ways and their doings: and

would know that I have not done without cause all that I have done...saith the Lord GOD", Ezekiel 14:23.

Say-You see God used Babylon as the instrument to carry out the punishment Judah had brought on itself and it will happen in the end time once again unless God's people repent and "Come out of Babylon" and seek Him and His ways wholeheartedly, Rev. 18:4.

MEMORY VERSE

*"WOE UNTO THE FOOLISH PROPHETS  
THAT FOLLOW THEIR OWN SPIRIT (WAY),  
THOUGH THEY PRETEND  
TO BE WISE".  
EZEKIEL 13:3*

[http://www.msssbible.com/memoryverses/exodus20\\_3.htm](http://www.msssbible.com/memoryverses/exodus20_3.htm)

[http://www.msssbible.com/memoryverses/kindergarten/kb2\\_7.htm](http://www.msssbible.com/memoryverses/kindergarten/kb2_7.htm)

Below are the memory verses to be cut out and placed with the accompanying picture for their Sabbath notebook

MEMORY VERSE

“WOE UNTO THE FOOLISH PROPHETS  
THAT FOLLOW THEIR OWN SPIRIT (WAY),  
THOUGH THEY PRETEND  
TO BE WISE”.

EZEKIEL 13:3

*Memory verse for tots*

MEMORY VERSE

“WOE TO THE FOOLISH PROPHETS  
WHO FOLLOW  
THIER OWN SPIRIT...”  
EZEKIEL 13:3

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

## EZEKIEL, DESTRUCTION AND FALSE PROPHETS

IN THE MIDST OF RUIN LAY, ONCE FRUITFUL JERUSALEM,  
THE BELOVED CITY OF GOD;  
AS UP OVER THE WALLS CAME NEBUCHADNEZZAR  
AND HIS ARMY OF TONS!

SENT BY GOD BECAUSE OF JUDAH'S SINS,  
WARNED BY EZEKIEL, "REPENT OR WAR WOULD BEGIN".  
YOUR EVILNESS MUST BE PUNISHED, I AM YOUR GOD WHO  
CAN BRING YOU OUT OF SIN.

FALSE PROPHETS THERE WERE MANY, THEY WERE  
CRAFTY LIKE A FOX;  
THEY SPOKE LIES IN THE NAME OF GOD  
"TIL HIS PEOPLE SOON BECAME HIS DISOBEDIENT FLOCK.

"I HATE YOUR TRICKERY WITH YOUR "PILLOWS" PROMISING  
PEACE, EZ. 13:20-23  
WHILE ONLY SADNESS THEY BRING. TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE;  
I AM THE LORD GOD, AND NOW YOUR EVIL MUST CEASE"!

KING ZEDEKIAH, THE WRATH HE WANTED TO ESCAPE,  
TOOK OFF INTO THE NIGHTTIME, IT ENDED UP HIS FATE.  
KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR TOOK HIS SIGHT THEN CHAINED  
AND IMPRISONED, OH IT'S TOO SAD TO RELATE. EZ. 12:14

IN THE SAME PLAINS OF JERICHO, NEBUCHADNEZZAR  
CAPTURED HIS SONS,  
ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS HAD BEEN SPARED AS THE  
JUDGEMENTS FELL ONE BY ONE. LEV. 26:22

WOE TO THE FOOLISH PROPHETS WHO FOLLOW THEIR  
OWN SPIRIT. EZEKIEL 13:3 By: B. Burnham