

Ezekiel

Chapters 17 -18

Notes with NKJV: Ezekiel Chapter 17

And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel, 3 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God:

“A great eagle with large wings and long pinions,

Full of feathers of various colors,

Came to Lebanon

And took from the cedar the highest branch.

4 He cropped off its topmost young twig

And carried it to a land of trade;

He set it in a city of merchants.

- This is a parable of a great eagle that came to Lebanon, cropped off the highest branch of the cedar tree, and carried the young twigs off to a land of commerce. The eagle was an emblem of a major Assyrian god, Nisroch, (see Isa 37:38) and was also an emblem of the great king of Babylon (see Jer. 48:40, 49:22) The wings were his armies and forces. Coming to Lebanon was a reference to the temple in Jerusalem , as the houses and building were made of the renowned cedars of Lebanon. Taking the “highest branch” was a reference to the king being taken (King Jehoiachin) as a large tree such as a cedar can refer to the highest leader in a nation. The “city of merchants” where the exiles were taken was Babylon, located between two major rivers of commerce and merchants; the Euphrates and the Tigris. – the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote pg. 1256

5 Then he took some of the seed of the land

And planted it in a fertile field;

He placed it by abundant waters

And set it like a willow tree.

6 And it grew and became a spreading vine of low stature;

Its branches turned toward him,

But its roots were under it.

So it became a vine,

Brought forth branches,

And put forth shoots.

7 “But there was another great eagle with large wings and many feathers;

And behold, this vine bent its roots toward him,

And stretched its branches toward him,

From the garden terrace where it had been planted,

That he might water it.

8 It was planted in good soil by many waters,

To bring forth branches, bear fruit,

And become a majestic vine.” ’

9 “Say, ‘Thus says the Lord God:

“Will it thrive?

Will he not pull up its roots,

Cut off its fruit,

And leave it to wither?

All of its spring leaves will wither,

And no great power or many people

Will be needed to pluck it up by its roots.

10 Behold, it is planted,

Will it thrive?

Will it not utterly wither when the east wind touches it?

It will wither in the garden terrace where it grew.” ’ ”

11 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 12 “Say now to the rebellious house: ‘Do you not know what these things mean?’ Tell them, ‘Indeed the king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and took its king and princes, and led them with him to Babylon. 13 And he took the king’s offspring, made a covenant with him, and put him under oath. He also took away the mighty of the land, 14 that the kingdom might be brought low and not lift itself up, but that by keeping his covenant it might stand. 15 But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and many people. Will he prosper? Will he who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and still be delivered?’ ”

16 ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke—with him in the

midst of Babylon he shall die. 17 Nor will Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company do anything in the war, when they heap up a siege mound and build a wall to cut off many persons. 18 Since he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, and in fact gave his hand and still did all these things, he shall not escape.’ ”

- The prophet rebukes the leaders of Israel for trusting in Egypt to deliver them from the Babylonians and Egypt failed them. . – the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote pg. 1256

19 Therefore thus says the Lord God: “As I live, surely My oath which he despised, and My covenant which he broke, I will recompense on his own head. 20 I will spread My net over him, and he shall be taken in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon and try him there for the treason which he committed against Me. 21 All his fugitives with all his troops shall fall by the sword, and those who remain shall be scattered to every wind; and you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken.”

- The king would die in captivity in Babylon because he broke God’s covenant. The top of the tree would be cut down however the Lord would replant the tree in Israel and eventually bring restoration. . – the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote pg. 1256

Israel Exalted at Last

22 Thus says the Lord God: “I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. 23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. 24 And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the Lord, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the Lord, have spoken and have done it.”

A False Proverb Refuted

18 The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, 2 “What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying:

‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes,

And the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

3 “As I live,” says the Lord God, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel.

- The proverb in verse 2 also in Jeremiah 31:29. The children of Judah were complaining by saying these troubles and hardships were falling upon them from the guilt and sins of their forefathers. But God tells them no this judgment is coming upon you for your own sins as well, You cannot use your forefathers sin as an excuse anymore!

4 “Behold, all souls are Mine;

The soul of the father

As well as the soul of the son is Mine;

The soul who sins shall die.

- The Lord God Almighty is the source of all spirits. The souls of mankind belong to Him and He judges our souls eternal state by our actions and obedience in life. This passage is all about the spiritual health and well-being of an individual.

5 But if a man is just

And does what is lawful and right;

6 If he has not eaten on the mountains,

Nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel,

Nor defiled his neighbor’s wife,

Nor approached a woman during her impurity;

7 If he has not oppressed anyone,

But has restored to the debtor his pledge;

Has robbed no one by violence,

But has given his bread to the hungry

And covered the naked with clothing;

8 If he has not exacted usury

Nor taken any increase,

But has withdrawn his hand from iniquity

And executed true judgment between man and man;

9 If he has walked in My statutes

And kept My judgments faithfully—

He is just;

He shall surely live!”

Says the Lord God.

10 “If he begets a son who is a robber

Or a shedder of blood,
Who does any of these things
11 And does none of those duties,
But has eaten on the mountains
Or defiled his neighbor's wife;
12 If he has oppressed the poor and needy,
Robbed by violence,
Not restored the pledge,
Lifted his eyes to the idols,
Or committed abomination;
13 If he has exacted usury
Or taken increase—
Shall he then live?
He shall not live!
If he has done any of these abominations,
He shall surely die;
His blood shall be upon him.
14 "If, however, he begets a son
Who sees all the sins which his father has done,
And considers but does not do likewise;
15 Who has not eaten on the mountains,
Nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel,
Nor defiled his neighbor's wife;
16 Has not oppressed anyone,
Nor withheld a pledge,
Nor robbed by violence,
But has given his bread to the hungry
And covered the naked with clothing;
17 Who has withdrawn his hand from the poor

And not received usury or increase,
But has executed My judgments
And walked in My statutes—
He shall not die for the iniquity of his father;
He shall surely live!

18 “As for his father,
Because he cruelly oppressed,
Robbed his brother by violence,
And did what is not good among his people,
Behold, he shall die for his iniquity.

- Iniquity: Difference between carrying the propensity or curse of sin with iniquity and the carrying the guilt of the iniquity.

Curse of iniquity passes on: Children deal with the “consequences” of sin. And the weakness or propensity it brings.

Exodus 20:5

Exodus 34:6-7

Numbers 14:18

Deuteronomy 5:9

In this passage Ezekiel is re-emphasizing sons will not pay for the guilt of their father’s sin:

Deuteronomy 24:16

Turn and Live

19 “Yet you say, ‘Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?’ Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

21 “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

- These two verses (20-21) simplify the previous message, Every soul is responsible for walking in truth and obedience and is responsible for his or her own sins. If people turn from wickedness they shall live and not die. . – the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote pg. 1258

22 None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. 23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

- When a person has asked for forgiveness of sins and begins a new covenant of redemption, the past sins are not mentioned again. Sins are cast into the sea of forgetfulness, never to be remembered. Isaiah 43:25 promises that God blots out our transgressions and remembers our sins no more. . – the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote pg. 1258

24 "But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.

25 "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?"

- Here God presents a truth that New Testament believers often overlook or ignore. If a righteous man turns from righteousness and commits iniquity, then all his righteousness will not be remembered, and he will die in his sins. In the same way, if a sinner turns from his ways, then God will not recall his sins but will forgive him, and his souls will be saved. Some believers are taught that once a person believes, they cannot become an apostate or walk from their righteousness; they cannot sin. They cannot die lost. This is not the case according to this passage. . – the Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, footnote pg. 1258

30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord God. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!"