**Ezekiel**

**Chapters 13 – 14**

**Chapter 13 and 14 NKJV:**

**13** And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, ‘Hear the word of the Lord!’ ”

3 Thus says the Lord God: “Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! 4 O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. 5 You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the Lord. 6 They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord!’ But the Lord has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed. 7 Have you not seen a futile vision, and have you not spoken false divination? You say, ‘The Lord says,’ but I have not spoken.”

8 Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Because you have spoken nonsense and envisioned lies, therefore I am indeed against you,” says the Lord God. 9 “My hand will be against the prophets who envision futility and who divine lies; they shall not be in the assembly of My people, nor be written in the record of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord God.

* Here is a strong rebuke against the false prophets. They speak from their own hearts and not from the Spirit of God; they refuse to stand in the gap in intercession; and they prophesy lies in hopes that their lies will come to pass as confirmation that they are “true”. Their visions are vain and they speak vanity or useless words. They predict peace when there is no peace and predict that, if the people will reinforce the walls, they will be protected. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1250

10 “Because, indeed, because they have seduced My people, saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace—and one builds a wall, and they plaster it with untempered mortar— 11 say to those who plaster it with untempered mortar, that it will fall. There will be flooding rain, and you, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall tear it down. 12 Surely, when the wall has fallen, will it not be said to you, ‘Where is the mortar with which you plastered it?’ ”

13 Therefore thus says the Lord God: “I will cause a stormy wind to break forth in My fury; and there shall be a flooding rain in My anger, and great hailstones in fury to consume it. 14 So I will break down the wall you have plastered with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation will be uncovered; it will fall, and you shall be consumed in the midst of it. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

15 “Thus will I accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untempered mortar; and I will say to you, ‘The wall is no more, nor those who plastered it, 16 that is, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her when there is no peace,’ ” says the Lord God.

* Un–tempered mortar refers to patching holes in the wall; however, in this case the mortar would fail to hide the holes when the storm and rain come (in other words, when trouble strikes); when that happens, the city and the wall of Jerusalem will fall. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1250

17 “Likewise, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them, 18 and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive?

* Now a warning is issued to the false prophetesses to the idol-worshiping women of Jerusalem. Older scholars interpret the “pillows” as a form of charms and the “kerchiefs” as some form of veil. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1250

19 And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?”

* Here, barley and bread were a payment for a false prophetic word through the use of divination. It appears the false prophetesses would sew a pocket on their garments under the arm to the elbow and allegedly control the power and destiny of a human soul by capturing it in these “pillows”. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1250
* Leviticus 20:6, 27 mediums and necromancers “kept” familiar spirits near them.

20 ‘Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds. 21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

* One of my missionary friends pointed out that the voodoo witch doctors in Haiti claim to control the souls of the living and dead in clay jars in their huts. Of course, this causes much fear and superstition among their followers. In the text, God was going to rip the pillows off the false prophetesses and deliver His people from the hands of these wicked women. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1250

22 “Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life. 23 Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” ’ ”

**14** Now some 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 set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?

4 “Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, 5 that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.” ’

* Here are a group of elders in exile came to speak to Ezekiel and God revealed that they, too, we’re idol worshipers in their hearts. God asked, should He give a word to such men who caused Israel to stumble? – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1251

6 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. 7 For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself. 8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

9 “And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the Lord have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel. 10 And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, 11 that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their God,” says the Lord God.’ ”

* The real prophets would bring warning, and the false prophets would say peace was coming but would bear their own iniquity. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1251

**Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness**

12 The word of the Lord came again to me, saying: 13 “Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. 14 Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord God.

15 “If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through 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; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate.

17 “Or if I bring a sword on that land, and say, ‘Sword, go through the land,’ and I cut off man and beast from it, 18 even though these three men were in it, as I live,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.

19 “Or if I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, 20 even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness.”

* Four types of judgments, called God’s “four sore judgments upon Jerusalem” are coming against the land: famine, dangerous beasts, the sword, and pestilence. In all four instances, God mentions three Old Testament men who would be spared as a remnant from three of four judgments: Noah, Daniel, and Job. Ezekiel noted that these were righteous men and that by their righteousness, meaning their purity of heart and right standing with God, they could escape the dangers, but their sons and daughters could not. This indicated there was a remnant of men in the city of Jerusalem who would be spared just as the three righteous men would be. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1251

21 For thus says the Lord God: “How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it? 22 Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it. 23 And they will comfort you, when you see their ways and their doings; and you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it,” says the Lord God.

* In some instances, their sons and daughters would go into captivity, but the Lord would bring forth sons and daughters from the remnant and comfort the righteous remnant. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1251
* For those who believe the Church will go through the entire seven-year tribulation, this passage is revealing because it shows that God always separates the righteous remnant from the unrighteous throughout the scripture, as the righteous can pray to escape and the wicked suffer the judgment. Jesus even instructed believers that when they saw the army surrounding Jerusalem, to flee to the mountains. Christ also instructed believers to pray to be found “*worthy to escape all these things… and to stand before the Son of man*.”(Luke 21:36) Serving God and remaining pure in Spirit are beneficial to ensure God’s favor in the time of judgment. – Perry Stone Hebraic Prophetic Study Bible, pg. 1251