

Ezekiel 13 – Message to the Future

By Holly Effiom

VV1-6

To whom is Ezekiel told to direct his message from God?

To whom was he speaking before? Eze 6:1

Has God, at any point in Ezekiel, said “...speak to the common people...”? Why or why not?

What kind of prophet does God call out?

To what are Israel’s prophets likened? Explain.

What do the prophets fail to do? Is that the job of the prophet?

What do the prophets do instead?

What is the problem with what the prophets are doing?

LESSON: The Bible has such interesting terms and phrases, “... thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.” What does this mean?

I looked up desert foxes and read about Fennec foxes¹. They seem to spend an inordinate amount of time trying to stay cool during the heat of the day and hunting to feed themselves at night. Is this what God created prophets to do? Not according to Exodus 4, nor in this section of Ezekiel. We learn that not only have they not stood in the gap to strengthen Israel they hadn’t even prepared themselves to be Israel’s protection for the day of the coming battle.

Notice that God is directing His message to the prophets now. The last time Ezekiel was told to direct his message to a specific group, it was the “... mountains of Israel...” which we determined was the leadership of Israel; and now, he’s focused on the prophets. I believe that God is pointing out that there are different “categories” of leadership within the society – some within the church and some without. We’ve not heard Him to this point saying, “... speak against the common folk of Israel...” This is due to the fact that common folk, generally, are just trying to live and are vulnerable to the machinations and schemes of those with greater power – be it education, position, wealth, title, etc.

The problem with prophets prophesying lies is two-fold:

One, in your capacity as a leader, you are calling on God to bless your iniquity (taking the name of the Lord God in vain); and

Two, in your capacity as a leader, you are causing people to hope in your lies.

This section of scripture confirms what we had come to understand about the Law of the Firstborn (Ezekiel 5:7-13, LESSON) – all leadership is in God’s hands and He metes out all correction and judgment upon them. Unfortunately, those subject to people with power – the “common folk” – often bear the brunt of poor leadership.

VV7-9

What behavior, what words, does God describe as seeing a “vain” vision or “lying” divination?

What is the result from such activity?

Is God against you when you get into a disagreement with your neighbor?

Is God against you when you get angry over something?

According to this section of scripture, what will put you in opposition to God?

What will happen to those who will set themselves in opposition to God through such actions?

¹ <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/what-does-fennec-fox-say>

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LESSON: Among the children of Israel, prophets were those who were in relationship with God, and shared what they had heard and learned from God Almighty with their community. Among the Gentiles, who are the prophets of the day? The Gentiles were not in relationship with God Almighty as the Jews, as a nation, were. Would it not be those who gain power and position through their knowledge (including a knowledge of God) and education? While there are categories of knowledge and education... “disciplines”, we know that all knowledge and all wisdom are in the hands of God Almighty – He is *omniscient*. Furthermore, all power is also in His hands – He is *omnipotent*.

It is important to note that man is the one that separates “secular” from “sacred” – in order to justify poor behavior – not God.

VV10-12

Who has seduced God’s people? (Jer 50:6-7)

Who are God’s people during the time of that final Gentile world power?

In what way will the people be seduced?

What will one of them build?

What is being done with by untempered mortar? Will this be done by the one who built the wall?

What will be done to those who participate or validate the construction of that wall?

Why does God mention, “O great hailstone”? Rev 16:21

What will happen to the wall itself?

Who is it that will be blamed when the wall is bought down?

LESSON: This section of scripture is specifically directed toward those who are supposed to be speaking on behalf of God in the earth, the prophets, during the time of that final Gentile nation. Their correction will take place first because they “seduced” God’s people into believing, through their actions, that they are righteous before God; it’s the rest of the world, the sinners, that God is going to judge (us v. *them*). In fact, no one is righteous before God. There is no peace!

This is exemplified in the one who decides to build a wall and the “prophets” of the time encouraging the idea with false praise and blessings – half- or un-baked mortar that won’t stand when the storms and flood come. And, the untempered mortar will be exposed for what it is – the false praise and blessings of liars.

The mention of the hailstones is noteworthy. I believe it’s pointing to the 7th vial of the wrath of God (Rev 16:21), in which the law is executed upon all idolaters, with a shower of hail stones upon them, according to the law of idolatry (Deut 17:7).

VV13-16

Who will be the One who destroys the wall that “... one built up”?

Is verse 13 a repeat of verse 11?

What greater understanding does God impart in this repetition?

Will He break down the wall in half-measure?

To what point will God destroy the wall?

What is the import of the foundation being discovered?

Who will the destruction of that wall destroy?

How does God feel about that wall?

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What does He feel about those in position who praise and bless its construction?

What is the message to those who prophesy “peace”?

LESSON: This section of scripture affirms that while God is speaking metaphorically now about Israel – as we’ve not read anything about a wall in Israel being built and untempered mortar being applied – His word shall absolutely be performed in the time of that end-time Gentile nation. Notice, Eze 12:28 is a repetition of God’s message in Eze 12:25. As God’s word is spoken during that end-time Gentile nation, we will see Him perform it, and we will know and understand that it is God doing these things in the earth. Hallelujah!

VV17-23

Who else is Ezekiel to prophesy against?

Are these ones among the prophets? How do you know?

What exactly are they doing wrong?

What is it to “... sew pillows to all armholes...”? What does this do to a woman’s anatomy?

What is it to “... make kerchiefs on the heads of every stature...”? What does this do to a woman’s anatomy?

In what way do these things “... hunt soul...”?

Why would these want to take souls captive, according to the scripture?

What is the end or the goal of the all of these efforts? 2 Pet 2:14

What will God do about those pillows and kerchiefs?

What do the actions of these prophets cause to happen among God’s people?

Does it encourage the wicked to change their ways?

What does God promise He will do about this lying?

LESSON: This is such an interesting section of scripture! The pillows in the armholes are a real challenge to try to understand, but then I remembered to whom God is speaking in this section of scripture – female prophets.

What would pillows in armholes do to the female *anatomy*? Enhance the breasts – making the woman more attractive to men - *forever* causing women to fixate on the shape and size of their breasts, generally causing them grief throughout adolescence, and ultimately, refusing to go in public without wearing a bra! Who benefits from creating all this *angst*? The one selling the “pillows” or “bra”. And, another thought: is the woman telling the *truth* of who she is wearing these contraptions? Should a society be judging her based upon whether or not she wears the contraptions? No, and no.

What would kerchiefs on the heads of every stature do for the female *anatomy*? Enhance the height of the woman – giving the woman an aura of strength and power and position. Do elaborate headdresses tell the truth of who a woman is? Should a society be judging her based upon the size or elaborateness of her headdress? No, and no.

When viewing the scripture from this perspective, I completely understand the notion of “... hunting souls...” being associated with these activities. I’m one of those women who would feel mortified in public without my bra on. These days women use the more subtle means of high-heels to increase their stature; however, in my younger days, I knew many a young woman who preferred to wear heels when out in public.

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This is a hard part of scripture, admittedly, but I must tell you the joy, deep down inside, that I feel in being reminded that: 1) God does NOT *only* speak through men! 2) God does NOT want women enslaved to anything or anyone, least of all, *fashion!* He absolutely LOVES His daughters exactly as they are.

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