

Ezekiel 4 – Prophecies to the Children of Israel through Dramatization

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VV1-3

What does God tell Ezekiel to do?

Is he laying out a battle scene on this tile, sort of like toy soldiers used in my day? GI Joe?

What was Ezekiel to build during this re-enactment?

What did the iron pan represent?

What is the message God is sending in this action?

If Ezekiel was taken out of Jerusalem during the reign of Jehoiachin – the final king of Judah – what good does sending this message via Ezekiel do now, after the king has fallen? [Read 2 Kings 23-25. What was taking place in Jerusalem toward the end?]

Understanding 2 Kings 23-25, could this be the reason for Ezekiel's bitterness or anger toward God?

Who is Ezekiel's audience?

VV4-8

What does God next tell Ezekiel to do?

What do the number of days stand for?

Why does God call out Israel separate from Judah?

How many "days" did Ezekiel have to bear the iniquity of Israel?

How many days did he bear the iniquity of Judah?

How many days was Ezekiel bearing the iniquity of both houses?

Why would God be laying the iniquity of Israel and Judah on Ezekiel? Exodus 28:12,29-30

How is Ezekiel's lying on one side and the other related to the tile image he had constructed?

What is the message that God is giving to the children of Israel?

VV9-14

What will Ezekiel eat while he is acting out this play?

What is significant about the cost of meat?

Will Ezekiel have plenty of it to eat?

What about the water to drink?

How will the food he eats be prepared?

What is the message that God is giving to the children of Israel in the food that Ezekiel eats?

Is Ezekiel OK with all these instructions for God? When does he speak up?

On what grounds does Ezekiel argue with God? Leviticus 17:15; 22:8

VV15-17

Does God hear Ezekiel's complaint?

What concession does God make to address Ezekiel's complaint? Does this mean that the same will be the case for the children of Israel?

What is the point of this play Ezekiel is putting on?

Why do you think God is choosing this format to get a message to the children of Israel?