

THE RULES OF WRATH

Text: Ezek. 14:12-23

OVERVIEW

- Ezekiel lived at the same time as the prophets Daniel and Jeremiah.
 - _____ prophesied to God's people in Judah and Jerusalem during nation's final days.
 - _____ prophesied to kings of Babylon and Persia in the palace.
 - Ezekiel was prophet to God's people already living in Babylonian _____.
- At this time, _____ was under siege and in danger of destruction.
- In this passage, God assured the Jews through Ezekiel that Judah would be _____ because they had departed from Him.

- Four specific truths about the wrath and judgment of God:

I. THE _____ OF GOD'S WRATH (vs. 12-20)

- In this section, God explains His general principles of justice that apply to His dealings with any nation.
- Vs. 13, "the land" = _____ land, country, or people
- "Saith the Lord God" (4x) = God has spoken.
 - The "rules of wrath" are decrees of the living God.

II. THE _____ OF GOD'S WRATH (vs. 13)

- "When the [a] land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously":
 - Literally, "when the land sins treacherously or _____" against God; or
 - "When the land sins against me by persistent unfaithfulness" or "sins against me by transgressing grievously, or by traitorous betraying."
- This is sinning _____ against the light and knowledge of God by turning their backs on God in pursuit of sinful depravity.
- The condition applies to:
 - The _____ in the Northern and Southern Kingdoms
 - Any wicked _____
 - Especially to nations who have had greater _____ of the truth but have rejected it (like America)
 - Increasingly, all the nations of the _____

III. THE _____ OF GOD'S WRATH

1. _____ (vs. 13)

- "Break the staff of bread" = severe food shortage, cutting off the food _____ (probably through drought or natural disasters).

2. _____ beasts (vs. 15)

- _____ = "harmful, evil, deadly, vicious"

3. The _____ (vs. 17)

- The sword = symbol of _____ and all its accompanying devastation.
- "Go through the land" = not just the death of soldiers but _____ as well.

4. _____ (vs. 19)

- Pestilence = not ordinary sickness but a _____ of disease.
- "Pour out My fury in blood" = a _____ plague.

- These are not only options God has at His disposal but specific _____ of the kinds of devastating judgments that come upon a sinning, treacherous nation from the hand of God.

IV. THE _____ OF GOD'S WRATH

- The _____, represented by three Old Testament saints known in Scripture for their outstanding righteousness—Noah, _____, and _____.
- Vs. 14 = the principle of personal _____—the personal righteousness of the saints delivers them personally from God's wrath.
- Vs. 16 = the principle of personal _____—when God's wrath is poured out upon a nation, no amount of personal righteousness or fervent intercession on the part of the godly will be able to spare sinners from their just fate.

APPLICATIONS

- Application 1: The troubles that America is dealing with today are designed to get our _____ and give us an idea of what lies in store for nations that do not repent.
- Application 2: We need to be ready for the _____.
 - All four judgments listed in our text—famine, beasts, sword, and pestilence—will be used by God to judge this world during the _____ (Rev. 6:8).
 - The only hope of escape from those horrific events of the Tribulation is by personal _____ through faith in Christ (Titus 3:5, 2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 10:9-10).