

**"THEN THEY WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD"**  
**STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL**  
**Ezekiel 4-7**  
**WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN GOD TURNS AGAINST YOU?**

One of the most well known statements from street corner theologians is "God is love", and the assumption is that He only does nice, loving things for people no matter how they behave. All of the attributes of God must work in perfect harmony at all times, which means love, grace, mercy, holiness, justice, etc, operate at all times. Therefore, do not make the mistake of thinking because He loves you, He will ignore your sinful actions. In fact, those who disobey soon discover that God is against them. Do you want the most powerful being ever to turn against you??

**I. SERVANTS OF GOD OFTEN HAVE TO DELIVER BAD NEWS TO REBELLIOUS PEOPLE. (Ezekiel 4:1-17)**

**A.** Ezekiel was given the assignment of demonstrating the judgment of God in ways that were unforgettable, yet personally humiliating. Do we have the courage to deliver the bad news along with the good news?

1. Choose carefully the reasons why you will look foolish! (*1st Corinthians 4:8-13*)

**B.** The judgment of God against sin is consistent and unavoidable for those who love their sin more than they love the Savior. We are deceiving ourselves if we believe that being the people of God gives us a blank check to do wrong without consequences. Israel and Judah are a living example of exhausting the patience of God.

**C.** Ezekiel had to cook his limited food in an unclean manner to illustrate the hard times coming upon the Jews, and identify with how the Lord felt about the unclean lifestyles of His people. Is your lifestyle clean before the Lord? (*Ezekiel 4:9-16*)

**II. THE GREATEST ACTS OF DISOBEDIENCE ARE DONE BY THOSE WHO KNOW BETTER. THEREFORE, JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. (Ezekiel 5:1-17) (1st Peter 4:17-18)**

**A.** Ezekiel had to cut and divide his hair to illustrate how God was going to scatter His people. It is a fearful thing when the Lord who created you says "He is against you." (*Ezekiel 5:8*)

**B.** When human beings choose to defile the holiness of God, He will leave those persons to themselves, which will bring out the most detestable behavior you can imagine. The horrific behavior that seems unimaginable to most of us (cannibalism, mass murder, etc.) and situations we cannot control (wild beast attacks, famine, starvation) are painful evidences of the wrath of God. (*Ezekiel 5:9-17*)

**C.** It is good to know that God's anger against sin was ultimately paid by the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the only reason His people survive the spankings associated with sinful behavior.

*“Yet in spite of this, while they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject or abhor them so as to destroy them and break My covenant with them, since I am Yahweh their God. For their sake I will remember the covenant with their fathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God: I am Yahweh.” (Leviticus 26:44-45)*

### **III. THE LORD WILL DESTROY EVERY IDOL BECAUSE HE WILL HAVE NO RIVALS WHEN IT COMES TO WORSHIP. (Ezekiel 6:1-7:27)**

**A.** The Lord knows that for many people it takes painful judgments before sinners will recognize that He is the Lord. He says it seven times in this section. (Ezekiel 6:7, 10, 13-14, 7:4, 9, 27) Do you want more pain before you give Him the praise?

**B.** Idolatry is dangerous because we ultimately will become like whatever or whoever it is that we worship. Idolatry is spiritual adultery (Exodus 20:2-4) and the consequences are deadly. (Ezekiel 6:8-14) (Psalm 115:4-8)

**C.** For those who choose to sin, the Lord will repay you in accordance to your behavior. Sin is costly, and money cannot buy you out of its consequences. (Ezekiel 7:1-27)

**THE ONLY REASON THE JEWS WERE NOT DESTROYED COMPLETELY IS BECAUSE GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANTAL PROMISES. THE ONLY REASON WE CAN ESCAPE THE WRATH OF GOD IS BECAUSE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TOOK IT FOR US. YOU WILL PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE IF YOU DISHONOR HIS SACRIFICE. CAN YOU AFFORD TO KEEP LIVING THE WAY YOU HAVE BEEN LIVING?**

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### **BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS**

**1. How do you think you would have responded if God had given you an assignment that made you look foolish as you expressed His message? What is the most awkward assignment the Lord has given you, and how did you handle it?**

**2. How would you answer someone who feels the judgments of God are too severe? Has studying this passage in Ezekiel given you a greater appreciation of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for you?**