

# The Prophets & Kings

## From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

### Book 1

#### A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 59

## “The Job Of A Watchman”

**Study:** Ezekiel 3:14-21

**Reading:** James 5:13-20, Hebrews 13:17-19

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:29

One of the great lessons I learned as a young pastor was that not everyone was meant to serve God the way I was called to serve him. One of the ladies that taught me this was a lady who was in charge of a quilting ministry at church. On a regular basis, she would give a report of what their ministry was able to accomplish and then she would take time to try to make every person in the auditorium feel guilty for not being a part of that ministry. No, she didn't do this on purpose, but she was passionate about her ministry and wanted others to be a part of it. I learned that just because I had a passion and calling for something, I needed to remember that not everyone has been given that same calling.

Today we are going to read how Ezekiel was given the responsibility to live in obedience to God.

### What Does the Bible Say?

For the third time in chapter 3, verse 14 mentioned that the Spirit lifted Ezekiel up. This is probably a continuation of being “lifted up” in verse 11. This time the Spirit took him away from the presence of God so he was now back among the men who were in exile by the Chebar canal. Ezekiel said that as he was being taken away, it was with great bitterness and turmoil. It is not clear exactly what he meant by this. It is probably an indication that he was being taken from the presence of God to go back to the presence of men that would not want to hear the message that He was going to have to deliver to them. After this vision of the throne of God Ezekiel felt the strong presence of God on his life. He had a clearer understanding of God's call and a little more of God's hatred towards the sin of the people. After this experience he sat in relative silence, contemplating the overwhelming things he had just seen and experienced (vs 14-15).

After God gave him time to comprehend and come to grips with his calling, God spoke to him and told him that he had been given the task of

being a watchman for the house of Israel. The job of a watchman was to stand on the walls of the city and report anything that was taking place outside the city walls. Two of their main tasks was to report if they saw messengers coming and to give warning if they saw any enemy activity. Ezekiel's job as a watchman was to warn the people when he heard a message from God. If God's message was that death was coming, the responsibility of Ezekiel was to warn them about what God said. If the people were not warned, the blood of these men would be on the hands of Ezekiel. If Ezekiel carried out his task and warned the wicked with the Words of God, Ezekiel would be found innocent (vs 16-19).

If a righteous person started sinning and Ezekiel refused to warn that man about his sin, then Ezekiel would be held accountable. Ezekiel also had the ability to spare others from death and destruction by warning them when they started to stray. By choosing to obey God and warn them about their sin, Ezekiel would help bring deliverance to this person (vs 20-21).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What job has God given you to carry out on this earth? It is important for believers to seek out and understand God's calling on their lives. This calling will change at times, but God will always have a plan for you. God made it clear to Ezekiel that his responsibility was to obey the call. How people responded to God's message was not to be the focus of Ezekiel. His main responsibility was to deliver the message that God gave him to deliver. God wants your heartfelt obedience above all else. This is not obedience to what others think you should do for God, but an obedience to His calling for your life. So often believers get trapped in the idea that the more they do for God, the more God will be pleased. This normally involves focusing on others rather than on God. It is easy to feel guilty because of what others do or say. Many Christians don't live in joy because they are not living in obedience. Sometimes obedience means doing more and other times it means doing less. Sometimes obedience requires great sacrifice and other times it requires a choice to be content. Choose today to put your obedience to Christ first. Seek to know His will and plan for your life, then carry it out.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

\* *Thank God for His special calling on your life.*

What did the Spirit do to Ezekiel (vs 14)?

How was the feeling of Ezekiel different after his vision (vs 14)?

Why do you think he felt this way (vs 14)?

Where was Ezekiel taken (vs 15)?

What did he do when he arrived there (vs 15)? Why?

How long did God let him contemplate (vs 16)?

What do you think we can learn from this?

What had God made Ezekiel (vs 17)?

What did God mean by this (vs 17)?

What was the main responsibility of Ezekiel (vs 17)?

What would make Ezekiel guilty before God (vs 18)?

What was Ezekiel not responsible for (vs 19)?

What type of person was addressed in verse 20?

What was Ezekiel's responsibility towards this person (vs 20)?

What scenario was presented in verse 21?

What did Ezekiel have the ability to do because of His obedience (vs 21)?

Why is it important to know God's calling on your life?

Why is it comforting that you are not responsible for the results?

Many people believe that Scripture makes it clear that God doesn't need you, but chooses to use you and gives you the privilege of being part of His kingdom. Do you think this is a true thought? Explain.

# “God’s Preparation”

**Study:** Ezekiel 3:22-4:3

**Reading:** Joshua 1:1-9, Acts 9:1-19

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:29

**W**hen I was in Bible college, I remember being amazed when some of the leaders would host question and answer times. Bible college students were full of questions and I was often amazed with the knowledge and understanding with which these leaders were able to answer these question. When this took place, I remember thinking that I would never be able to do what those guys were able to do. Though, I wouldn’t put myself in the same category with these leaders, I do find that I am able to do things that I never thought or imagined myself doing. As I looked back, I realize that God has been continually preparing me for what He has called me to do and I know He is preparing me now for whatever lies ahead.

Today, we will read how God had some very difficult tasks planned for Ezekiel, but He also helped prepare him for the tasks which lay ahead.

## What Does the Bible Say?

God told Ezekiel to go to the valley because He wanted to speak to him. We are not told what valley, but there are several broad valleys in the region near the Euphrates river. While in the valley, God revealed himself once again to Ezekiel in a vision that was very similar to what he had written down in chapter one. Though he had seen this vision before, the awe of it was no less amazing and he responded by falling down on his face to the ground. It is not fully clear why God appeared to him this way a second time, though I believe it was probably part of the process to prepare Ezekiel for the demanding time that was ahead of him (vs 22-23).

The Spirit once again lifted Ezekiel to his feet and then gave him a message telling him to shut himself into his home. While at his home, he was going to be tied up and unable to go out among the people. He wouldn’t be able to go talk to the people and if anyone came to him, he would not be able to speak and reprove them for their sins. Eventually, God would open his mouth again and Ezekiel would only be able to

declare the words of God to the people. Ezekiel was reminded once again to declare only the truths that God had given him and then let the people make their own choice whether to accept or reject these truths (vs 24-27).

The next thing God told Ezekiel to do was to take a brick and start engraving on it. This would not have been a brick as we picture them today, but would have been a larger platform type of brick. This would allow Ezekiel to carve out the image of Jerusalem where he could make it clear that camps were set up around the city. He was also to make images of battering rams and siege ramps. It must be assumed that either Ezekiel had experience in art work or that the Spirit gave him a special ability to do this. After the image was carved, Ezekiel was to take an iron griddle (think of like a flat pan used for cooking pancakes) and place it between him and the city he carved. Then he was supposed to continue to add more pieces of machinery used to attack the city. It appears the imagery of the griddle between Ezekiel and the city was meant to show the barrier between God and Israel, revealing that God would not protect the city (vs 1-3).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever seen someone act in great faith or heard about their sacrifices for God and wondered if you could ever do what they did? One of the things we see over and over again in Scripture is that when God calls someone for a difficult task He sends things their way to help prepare them for what is ahead. In this instance, Ezekiel was not only given the vision of God once, but twice. These experiences helped him take the steps of obedience to do the things that God was going to call him to do. Some people hesitate to surrender all to God, fearing that what God calls them to do may be too great for them, yet they fail to realize that God will give them everything they need to accomplish His task. This means you don’t have to live in fear of the future, but have confidence that God will prepare you and give you what you need for what He wants you to accomplish.

## Thought for the day

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What did Ezekiel state about the hand of God (vs 22)?

What do you think he meant by this?

Where did God tell Ezekiel to go (vs 22)?

What did Ezekiel see (vs 23)?

What was the response of Ezekiel (vs 23)?

Why do you think Ezekiel responded this way even though he had seen it before?

What did the Spirit do for Ezekiel (vs 24)?

What instruction was Ezekiel given next (vs 24)?

What was God going to have done to Ezekiel (vs 25)?

Why do you think He was going to make Ezekiel go through this (vs 25)?

What was going to happen to Ezekiel's mouth (vs 26)? Why?

When would Ezekiel be able to talk (vs 27)?

What did God emphasize about the message He was going to declare (vs 27)?

What was Ezekiel supposed to carve on a brick (vs 1)?

What was Ezekiel told to add to his carving (vs 2)?

What do you think the iron griddle represented (vs 3)?

Why do you think Ezekiel was told to picture the siege as continuing to take place (vs 3)?

Why do you think God told Ezekiel to do all of this?

## *“A Severe Siege”*

**Study:** Ezekiel 4:4-17

**Reading:** 2 Kings 6:24-31, Leviticus 26:21-26

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:29

### What Does the Bible Say?

After Ezekiel finished carving Jerusalem and the siege that was to take place in the city, God told him to lay on his left side. This most likely would have been facing north, indicating the judgement of God towards Israel. He was to lay there for 390 days which was to be the number of years that Israel was to be punished. Following that, he was to lay on his right side for 40 more days which represented the number of years Judah was to be punished. There is great debate among scholars as to what these years actually represented. They could refer to the years that the nations sinned or the years of punishment for their sin. There is no way to really know what exactly was being referred to here, though it is clear that this was meant to reveal that God was going to punish their sin. It should also be noted that Ezekiel did not lie on the ground the whole day since he was also instructed on how to make and eat his food during this time. We are not told how much of the day he was to spend lying down (vs 4-6).

While lying there he was to stare at the siege that was taking place on the carving. He was to have his arm uncovered similar to a soldier who was ready for action, but was also supposed to have his hands tied up which most likely symbolized that there was nothing that could be done to stop that action that was taking place. Again, it appears that he was tied up during the times of day that he was laying on the ground (vs 7-8).

Before he started this time, he was to collect the grains that were needed to make bread. It appears that the listing of all the grains was to be symbolic of the fact that food would be scarce for the people in the siege. They would have limited access to large amounts of grain and would have to use whatever they could find to make their bread. Ezekiel could only eat around 8 ounces of food each day (the weight of 20 shekels). He was also to measure out a limited amount of water and that would be his daily supply, about two-thirds of a quart of water. This all was to symbolize the scarcity of food and water during the siege of Jerusalem (vs 9-11).

This grain was to be baked in small loaves, but not to be baked like they normally would bake bread. Most fires were made with wood, though sometimes they would mix dried animal dung with straw to use for baking or heating. These cakes were to be baked over human dung, which would have produced an unpleasant smell and the process was looked at with great disgrace. This was to show to the people the great disgrace they would experience when being forced to go through the siege and when they lived in foreign lands (vs 12-14).

The thought of this repulsed Ezekiel. These actions that God had called him to do were acts that would defile him. He had done his best from a youth to avoid things that were against the law and he couldn't imagine doing such an awful thing as eating bread cooked over human waste. God understood the request of Ezekiel and told him that it would be okay if he used cow dung instead of human excrement (vs 15).

God made it clear that these things were all representative of the deplorable conditions the people would face in Jerusalem and what many would face in captivity. The main emphasis was that this punishment was not going to be pleasant. God wanted the eyes of the children of Israel to be open to the fact that He hated their sin and He wanted those in captivity to learn from this punishment (vs 16-17).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

God chose to use Ezekiel as a graphic illustration of how the sins of Israel and lack of repentance would affect them. This message was given to those in exile with Ezekiel. They were thinking about their friends and relatives back home and longed to be back in Jerusalem. Many of their false prophets were trying to convince them that they would soon be back to Jerusalem, but the graphic messages that God was displaying through Ezekiel told a different story. One of the main lessons that you can glean from this passage is that God will punish sin if you choose to reject His warnings and live in that sin. The message that had been preached for years was repentance, but when the people of God failed to repent, they had to face the consequences. The way God was going to deal with those left in Judah was meant to be a sign to those in captivity, reminding them that they still had a chance to repent and be spared. God wanted to purify the remaining Israelites and planned to use them to repopulate the land of Israel. He didn't want them going back to the land unchanged, but wanted their lives to be different as they repopulated Israel.

What was Ezekiel told he would have to do (vs 4)?

How long was he to do this (vs 5)?

What was he to do when this period of time was over (vs 6)?

What did the two time periods indicate (vs 5-6)?

What was he supposed to do while lying there (vs 7)?

Why would his arm be bare (vs 7)?

Why would he be tied up (vs 8)?

*\*\*\*This verse seems to indicate that it was God who would tie Ezekiel up daily.*

Why was he to get all types of different grains (vs 9)?

What were these grains for (vs 9)?

Could Ezekiel eat all he wanted (vs 10)? Explain.

What did this rationing symbolize (vs 10-11)?

How was he supposed to cook this bread (vs 12)?

What message was God sending with these physical illustrations that Ezekiel was to perform (vs 13)?

What did Ezekiel object to (vs 14)? Why?

What did God say Ezekiel could do (vs 15)?

What was going to happen to those in Jerusalem (vs 16-17)?

What message do you think God wanted to get across to the children of Israel?

# “One Third”

**Study:** Ezekiel 5:1-17

**Reading:** Revelation 12:1-17

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:29

## What Does the Bible Say?

The next thing that Ezekiel was to do was to take a sword and use it like a razor to shave his head and beard. He was to weigh the hair that was cut off and divide it into three equal weights. With the first third, he was to go to the middle of the city where the exiles were living and was to burn the hair. This was to indicate how a third of the city would die by famine or pestilence before Nebuchadnezzar’s army would break through into the city (see verse 12). With the second third of his hair, he was to walk around the city chopping it into smaller pieces. This represented how one third of the people in Jerusalem would die from being killed by the sword or killed in battle. The last third of his hair was to be scattered in the wind. This indicated how a third of the people would be scattered, and would live in continual fear of being killed. There would be a small number of hairs left that didn’t blow away or that clung to his clothing. These were to be gathered and bound inside his robe. From this small amount of hairs he was to take some and throw them in the middle of the fire. These appear to symbolize the remnant of Israel who would be in Babylon. Many of them would not escape the judgement of God even though they were no longer in Jerusalem, but a few would survive (vs 1-4).

This illustration was meant to center the people’s attention on Jerusalem. The city had been given a special status of privilege among all the nations, yet she chose to rebel against God’s rules and became more wicked than the pagan nations that surrounded her. God pronounced judgement on Jerusalem for three specific things. First, He was going to judge them because of their great wickedness. Second, the people had chosen not to walk in God’s statutes and chose to disobey His rules. Third, the people chose not to even follow the moral values that the nations around them held to. These things caused God to move from being for Jerusalem to being against Jerusalem. He was going to carry out judgement upon them in such a way that He had never done before

and would never do again. This judgement would be so bad that it would force family members to eat each other to survive. Those who did survive the destruction of the city would be scattered to many places where they would scarcely survive (vs 5-10).

The temple, the place where the presence of God was to live, had been continually defiled with wicked statues and acts of false worship. God was going to soon remove His presence from among them. He would not have any mercy upon them, but they would be divided into thirds, with each third facing different fates (vs 11-12).

The anger of God would be poured out in a furious manner with such force that other nations would look at the city of Jerusalem with great disgrace. The foreign nations would shake their heads at the mention of Jerusalem and the city would become synonymous with desolation and destruction. Once again, it was reiterated that they would face great starvation, terrible diseases and be killed by opposing armies. This was going to happen because God declared it would take place (vs 13-17).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

As we have read many times in prophecy, the outlook for Jerusalem was not good. It is easy to take these many references to judgement on Jerusalem and want to skip over them because they may not seem directly applicable to you today. At the same time, we are given these prophecies for a reason. One of the lessons that can be learned from today’s reading is from the three reasons for the destruction of Jerusalem. The same temptation the Israelites faced are the same temptations you can face today. They were judged for their wickedness, choosing not to obey the commands of God, and choosing not to follow the moral guidelines of the world around them. The Israelites viewed themselves as a privileged people as children of God and began to think that this privilege meant that they would be exempt from the consequences of their sin. Scripture makes it clear that God holds his children to a higher standard than those who are unbelievers. This means God’s children will also face greater chastisement when they are disobedient. Take time to let God reveal to you if there is anything in one of these three categories that has corrupted your walk as a follower of God.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Ask God to help you learn from the mistakes of Israel.*
- \* *Thank God for giving you examples to learn from.*

What was Ezekiel told to do with the sword (vs 1)?

How was he to divide his hair up (vs 1-2)?

What three things was Ezekiel to do with the hair (vs 2)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What was Ezekiel to do with the leftover hairs (vs 3-4)?

What did this symbolize?

What had God done for Jerusalem (vs 5)?

How did Jerusalem respond (vs 6)?

How did God describe the people of Jerusalem (vs 7)?

What was God going to do in response to how the people of Israel chose to live (vs 8)?

What did God say about His judgement (vs 9)?

How bad were things going to be in Jerusalem (vs 10)?

What did God say He would do because of the way they defiled the temple (vs 11)?

What did God want to reveal to the people through His judgement (vs 13)?

What was God going to do to Jerusalem (vs 14-15)?

What did God say was going to happen (vs 16)?

How bad were things going to be in Jerusalem (vs 17)?

Why was God going to do this to His own children?

## *“The Neutral Things”*

**Study:** Ezekiel 6:1-14

**Reading:** Romans 1:18-32

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:29

A few years ago, there was a series of dams that broke in the middle of Michigan which caused an incredible amount of damage and loss of property. These dams had created several lakes out of a river, but once the dams broke, the lakes were gone. Many of the houses that were lake houses, were not on a lake anymore since the whole landscape had changed with the collapse of the dams. The properties that were once highly valued as lake front properties, lost much of their value because of it.

Today, we are going to read how the whole landscape was going to be changed by the judgement of God.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Ezekiel was told to look towards the mountains of Israel and to prophesy against the mountains. Every part of Israel, from the mountains to the valleys would experience the judgement of God. This prophecy was directed towards the land in Israel since it was the mountains and valleys that were used to worship false gods. The places that were so near and dear to the hearts of the Israelites would be destroyed. The dead bodies of those who worshiped these false gods would be strewn all over the areas of false worship and would be mixed among the broken down idols. God was going to make it clear to them that He was the one true God (vs 1-7).

Not all of them would be wiped out. Some would be left alive, even though they would be scattered among the nations. These who were going to be scattered would understand that what the prophets had declared was true. They would realize the great wickedness of the nation of Israel and mourn over the great sins that they had committed. They would realize that God was telling the truth and that He was the One who was in control. They would understand the importance of fearing God (vs 8-10).

The clapping of the hands and stomping of the feet was a sign of

celebration, but also a sign of mourning. It was a physical expression of something that was going on in the inside of a person. The grief that would be experienced by Israel would create great internal anguish among those who were experiencing it and those who were hearing about it. Once again, the three killers - Ppestilence, famine, and sword, were mentioned as the main sources of death and destruction for the people of the land. The end of this chapter repeats and emphasizes what was said at the beginning of the chapter as we are reminded how the false idols and false places of worship would be destroyed. God was not only against the people who worshiped there, but against the places and objects that were used for this false worship (vs 11-14).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What are things that tend to steal your attention away from God? The mountains, valleys, stones and wood were just neutral objects, but these objects were going to experience the wrath of God because they were being used in sinful ways. These things and places which the people highly revered and honored would be taken away from them and would be destroyed along with the lives of the people who used them to rebel against God. There are many things in this world that are neutral objects, but can be used of negative ways. When you seek to find your fulfillment, joy and satisfaction in something other than God, those things are no longer neutral. Those things become a path to further sin and need to be removed from your life before God has to step in and destroy them. Take a moment to let God reveal to you any neutral things that you have allowed to become sources of evil in your life.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for the neutral things in this life.*
- \* *Ask God to help you allow the things of this world to lead you towards Him rather than away from Him.*
- \* *Praise God because He is above all gods.*

### **Thought for the day**

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What was Ezekiel told to look towards (vs 1-2)? Why?

What was this prophecy directed towards (vs 3)?

What was going to happen in these places (vs 3)?

What was God going to do with the idols (vs 4)?

What was going to happen to the people (vs 5)?

What was going to happen to the people (vs 6)?

What did God want the people to know (vs 7)?

What was God going to allow to happen (vs 8)?

What would those who were left alive realize (vs 9)?

What did God emphasize about what He wanted the people to realize (vs 10)?

How were the people told to respond (vs 11)?

What three things was God going to use to judge the people (vs 12)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why were these things so awful?

What did God emphasize about them knowing (vs 13)?

Why do you think God wanted to make this clear?

What was going to happen to the land (vs 14)?

Why was destruction to the land so devastating?

What point do you think God was making?



# “It’s Here”

**Study:** Ezekiel 7:1-27

**Reading:** Revelation 22:6-21

**Memory:** Isaiah 40:29

One of the most amazing and wonderful days of my life was the day that I married my wife. About three weeks after meeting my wife for the first time, I knew that she was the one that I was going to marry. (She didn’t know that just yet.) For the next two and a half years, I anticipated the day that we would become husband and wife, and sometimes, that time seemed to drag on. I remember how excited I was when the day finally came. I am still excited to be married to my wife these many years later.

Today, we are going to read how the day had finally come. Yet, this day was not one of celebration, but of judgement.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Once again the Word of God came to Ezekiel and God pronounced judgement on the land. This time God declared that the time for the land of Israel had come to an end. The fact that this end was going to reach the four corners of the land indicated that none of Israel would be spared from this judgment. God’s anger for the sin of the people would fill the entire land. The people were going to be judged for what they had done and they would be punished for their abominable lifestyle. Even though God was going to witness this awful destruction, He wasn’t going to allow Himself to have pity upon the people. Judgement and punishment must be carried out so everyone would know that this was truly from God (vs 1-4).

This judgement was not going to be a quick one time thing, but God would bring disaster after disaster to the people. The land of Israel and everything that God had worked to establish since the people came out of Egypt would come to an end. The day that was anticipated, not a day of joy and gladness, but a day of heartache and extreme sadness had come. God emphasized once again that He would not have pity on the people, nor would He spare them from destruction (vs 5-9).

This destruction, which had been prophesied over and over again, was

now at hand. It was time they faced the consequences for their actions. No one and no place in Israel would be exempt from this destruction. Those who loved their wealth and power would find it taken away. Their time had now come and they were going to face the wrath of God. Life as the people of Judah knew it would be completely different. The merchants would not return back to their sales, nor the residents return back to their homes. Nothing would be as it once was (vs 10-13).

Though the trumpet would blow to gather troops to fight God’s plan, they would not succeed. The promised sword, pestilence and famine was almost upon them. Anyone who managed to escape would experience great mourning and continual tears over what they had lost and what they experienced. They would all be weak, scared and powerless. Their lives would be filled with continual mourning. Their money would be useless to them since there would be no food to buy. They would find no more pleasure in things that they once sought after. These things that caused them to stumble from the ways of God would only produce a greater emptiness among them. All of their valuables would be ripped away from them and taken by their enemies. The temple and everything in it would be destroyed and only left for robbers to scrounge through what was left (vs 14-22).

The worst types of people would move into the land and take possession of the Israelite homes. Those who trusted in their wealth and strength would be brought to nothing. They would seek somewhere to find peace and relief from the agony to come, but nothing could be found. They would want a prophet to declare some type of hope for them, but there was no hope since they had rejected God. Constant terror would fill the hearts of the people. All of this was going to be a judgement from God because of their sin. God wanted to make it very clear to all of them that He was God (ca 23-27).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

You have read many times in Ezekiel that God was going to do what He did so the people would recognize and understand that He was God. They chose not to acknowledge Him as God and to reject His Words so He had to step in and reveal who He was. One of the key take aways from this is the importance of constantly remembering who your God is. It is easy to become so enamored with the world and the things around you that you forget who God is and what God can do. You can forget to follow His ways and His plans and do things on your own.

What did God say had come (vs 2)?

What was God going to send (vs 3)?

What would God not do (vs 4)?

What do you think verse 5 meant?

What did verses 6-7 emphasize to the people?

How was God going to judge the people (vs 8)?

What did God want them to realize about Himself (vs 9)?

What had budded (vs 10)?

What would not remain (vs 11)?

How complete would this judgement be (vs 12-13)?

What would not be listened to (vs 14)?

What would happen to the people (vs 15)?

What would happen to the survivors (vs 16-18)?

Why would they cast their money into the streets (vs 19)?

What was going to happen to their wealth (vs 20-22)?

What do you think the chain in verse 23 symbolized?

Who was going to fill the land (vs 24)?

What will they not find (vs 25)?

What will they experience (vs 26)?

What would the people know (vs 27)?

## Memory Verses

*Isaiah 40:15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. 18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; 23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. 25 To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.*