

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 61

“Now Is The Time”

Study: Ezekiel 12:17-28

Reading: Romans 13:8-14, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Memory: Isaiah 40:31

When I was a teenager, I knew I wanted to serve God, but I thought I would do it later in life. I wanted to experience the world and have fun before I chose to make myself miserable by following God. That is what I thought at least. Thankfully, God spared me from making too many mistakes with that type of thinking when the Holy Spirit deeply convicted me during my first few weeks of Bible college. I was hit with the challenge from James 4:14 reminding me of the brevity of life. I knew that I shouldn't wait any longer, but that it was time to surrender and obey God's plans for me.

Today, we will read how the Israelites thought God may judge, but didn't realize that the judgement was so close. We will be challenged to serve and obey God today.

What Does the Bible Say?

The next thing that Ezekiel was told to do was to shake while eating and drinking. He was to express the actions one would while experiencing anxiety. This was done to be an illustration to the people of how the inhabitants of Jerusalem would eat and drink. The violence that would sweep over the land and the horror that they would experience would set everyone on edge and they would not be able to eat and drink in peace. They would watch while the land and the cities which they loved were destroyed. Everything they once held dear would be gone. God would make it clear to them that He was God and that they should have listened to Him (vs 17-20).

God once again spoke to Ezekiel and described how there had been a proverb going around describing how the days passed on and the fulfillment of the predicted prophecies had not come to pass. This proverb would soon stop being used because the fulfillment would soon happen. Ezekiel was to tell the people that the day was very close and that God was not going to delay any longer. The flattering visions of the false prophets would soon end. Their false declarations would not be

able to be declared anymore because there would be no city or people to declare them to. Jerusalem would be destroyed and all the inhabitants of Israel would be scattered. God was going to stop talking and start acting. He had delayed up to this point to give the people a chance to repent and turn back, but that point was now past (vs 21-25).

Though some thought the visions of Ezekiel and the other godly prophets would not happen, others saw them as something that would take place, but not at that time. They thought the visions were to happen way down the road and they would be long gone when the prophecies were fulfilled. God wanted to make it absolutely clear that the time was at hand. God was going to act and do what He said He would do. His judgement was no longer going to be delayed (vs 26-28).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is easy to think that the things that God foretold will not take place at any moment, but will be something for the future. We are told regarding end times events that God's Word could be fulfilled at anytime. This includes a time when no one expects them to come. The importance of understanding the imminent fulfillment of God's Word is that you need to be ready today and each day. The way you are ready is by serving God and living for Him today. It is easy to put off things that God wants you to do or view obedience as a future response rather than a daily action. There are many Scripture references that implore you to act today, rather than to wait or view things as distant. When it comes to following God, you should not delay, but choose to act today.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the good and bad examples of others to learn from.*
- * *Ask God to help you live in obedience to Him today.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God who will carry out His words.*

Thought for the day

How did God tell Ezekiel to eat and drink (vs 18)?

Describe what you think this would look like.

Why was he to do this (vs 19)?

What was going to happen to Jerusalem and the land of Israel (vs 19)?

What would be the end results of God's judgement (vs 20)?

What did God want them to know (vs 20)?

How can you avoid the judgement of God in your life?

What proverb did God know the people were declaring (vs 22)?

What did this proverb mean (vs 22)?

What was God going to put an end to (vs 23)?

What days were near (vs 23)?

What would not happen anymore (vs 24)?

What was not going to be delayed (vs 25)?

What did God emphasize in verse 25?

What did many people think about the fulfillment of the prophecies (vs 27)?

How do you think people can have this same attitude today?

What did God tell them about His words (vs 28)?

What was God going to do (vs 28)?

Why is it important that you choose to obey and follow God today?

“Whitewashed Walls”

Study: Ezekiel 13:1-16

Reading: Matthew 23:25-36

Memory: Isaiah 40:31

In 1889, over 2,200 people lost their lives in what is now called the Johnstown Flood. The city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania was located below a large dam that has been purchased by a few rich investors who turned the area above the dam into a hunting and fishing club for wealthy individuals. There were modifications to the dam that removed safety features and after a period of great storms, the dam eventually failed, sending billions of gallons of water to the valley below.

Today, we will read about walls that failed when the storms of destruction were sent by God. These were defective walls made to look good by the false prophets, but the result was great ruin and destruction.

What Does the Bible Say?

The next message that Ezekiel received from God concerned the false prophets who had filled the people’s minds with wrong thinking and helped them avoid seeing their sin and turning to God. God said that these men prophesied from their own hearts. Instead of declaring what God said, they made things up that sounded good to them and declared that those were the words of God. God pictured these false prophets as “jackals” or “foxes” who lived among the ruins of a city. Instead of promoting change, these false prophets were content to live among a city that would be destroyed, not wanting anything to change (vs 1-4).

The false prophets did not help to strengthen the spiritual defenses by trying to help fix the holes in the thinking of the people, but they allowed the people to think that they would be safe if they continued to live without making any changes. These prophets fully expected God to bless the land while at the same time they misrepresented God. The core sin of these false prophets was that they stated things that God said when God never really said those things. It was not that these men had evil on their minds, it was simply that they let their own emotions, feelings and thoughts be their guide and they chose to declare those things as from the Lord (vs 5-7).

God declared that He was against these false prophets because they declared what was not true and spoke about visions from God that were completely fabricated. They would not avoid the judgement of God, but rather His judgement upon them would be more severe. God was going to eliminate them and their families from the land of Israel. It would be evident to all the people who had listened to them that these false prophets were liars and that they should have listened to the one true God (vs 8-9).

One of the great deceptions that they were involved with was declaring that all would be well and there would be peace. This did not prompt change in the people, but allowed them to think that they could continue in their evil with no consequences. Basically, they were erecting a defective wall and painting it to make it look nice, knowing that it would do nothing to hold back the enemy. These phony walls of peace and safety would not endure the great storms that came their way. These walls would fail and cause a great deal of damage. This made up wall of peace and safety would be no more and those who built it and painted it would be destroyed with it (vs 10-16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you set up any defective walls in your life? It is easy to want to believe something so bad that you choose not to listen to what God is saying and find a temporary peace and comfort in something that is not true. One of the great ways that this can be done is by adding more and more religion to your life, or talk of religion, but not living in a daily relationship with God. Many families place a focus on going to church, but the parents don’t have a daily walk with God. They view the church as a wall to help keep the world from their children, but they have built the false wall of trust in human effort and human thinking. What God desires is that you come to Him in brokenness and honesty, seeking what He truly wants and desires, rather than building up false walls that you think will provide security and safety in your life.

Thought for the day

Who did God want Ezekiel to prophesy against (vs 1)?

Where did these false prophets come up with their prophecies (vs 2)?

What did verse 3 declare about these false prophets (vs 3)?

How were these false prophets described (vs 4)? Why?

What had they not done (vs 5)?

What point was being made by the statement in verse 5?

What did the prophets expect (vs 6)?

What are ways that you can expect God to fulfill your plans even when you don't submit to His?

Why was declaring God said something when He didn't so dangerous (vs 7)?

What bold statement did God declare about the false prophets (vs 8)?

What was going to happen to the false prophets (vs 9)?

What did God want them to know (vs 9)?

What did God compare their declarations of peace to (vs 10)?

What was going to happen (vs 11)?

What was going to fail (vs 12)?

What was God going to do to their wall (vs 13-14)?

What was going to happen to the false prophets (vs 14)?

What was going to be no more (vs 15)?

Why would they declare peace when there was no peace (vs 16)?

“Charm Bracelets”

Study: Ezekiel 13:17-23

Reading: Jeremiah 6:19-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Memory: Isaiah 40:31

When I first felt the affects of Lyme's disease, I didn't know what was wrong with me and I started taking ibuprofen on a regular basis. I would take the maximum dosage I could for each day to calm the constant joint pain that I felt all over my body. After doing this for a few weeks, my wife started reading about the affects of taking ibuprofen for too many days in a row and we decided to cut back. What was giving me temporary relief and masking my symptoms was going to start to do great damage. Once we finally discovered that I had Lyme's disease and started taking antibiotics, I no longer needed the ibuprofen to mask my symptoms.

Today, we will read how women were selling charms to help mask the fear and anxiety that was being felt by many others. This may have brought temporary peace, but it wasn't a real help since it was just masking the symptoms of a greater issue.

What Does the Bible Say?

Many condemnations were directed towards men who acted as false prophets, but the end of chapter 13 is quite unique since this rebuke is directed towards women who were leading others astray. Like the men, they prophesied false teaching that was made up in their own hearts. Though this may sound strange to us, there are many people today who still do this by saying, "I feel like this is what God wants me to do." Though that phrase in and of itself is not wrong, it is very easy to mix our feelings with what God truly desires. Some of the specific things these women did was make some type of charm bracelets and make special veils to be worn by those who were upheld in positions of honor, drawing attention to themselves instead of God. These women were described as hunting for souls, basically meaning that they were wanting to turn people to their thinking rather than turning them to God. To them, it was about money and making a profit, rather than truly caring for others. By their lies, they were leading people into greater problems and destruction

rather than sparing them from it (vs 17-19).

God declared that He was against these women and their charm bracelets that they were selling. These things entrapped others, giving them false security. God stated that He was going to deliver these people from their spells by ripping the charm bracelets from their arms and tearing the veils off of their heads. These other women would no longer be preyed upon and taken advantage of. God would make it clear to all of them who the true God was (vs 20-21).

The actions of these women caused two main problems. The first was that they caused those who sought after righteousness to be discouraged, turning them from God by getting them to trust in false magic. The second was that those women who were not seeking after God were not encouraged to repent, but led further away from God and deeper into the mysticism and false worship they presented. These women who practiced this false religion filled with lies, deceit and selfish gain would not have their lives spared when destruction came. God would remove any influence they had and most likely they would be killed (vs 22-23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is not just men who have a powerful ability to influence others, but women have this power as well. Often, women have a greater influence on other women because they know how to empathize with the emotions of others better than men do. The picture given today is one where women found ways to invoke the fear of others during uncertain times and capitalize on that fear by selling special bracelets and special veils that most likely were thought to ward off evil and keep them safe. They presented themselves as caring, loving women, but this was all a guise for selfish gain. Instead of reaching out with love, nurture and help, they were actually leading those who followed them down a more destructive path. They played on the emotions of other women and led them to believe destructive lies. Both men and women are susceptible to this type of deception because they want to believe something that will give them peace and security. Sadly, many people fail to realize that this peace and security they seek is only found in God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Ask God to help you turn to Him for peace and security.*
- * *Praise God because He is the source of peace and security.*

Who was the next prophecy directed towards (vs 17)?

What do you think it meant to “prophecy out of their own hearts” (vs 17)?

What two things were these women doing (vs 18)?

- 1.
- 2.

What do you think was wrong with these two things?

Why do you think this was described as a “hunt for souls” (vs 18)?

What were they keeping alive while hurting others (vs 18)?

What do you think was meant at the end of verse 18?

What were they willing to do for more food (vs 19)?

What was the result of their actions (vs 19)?

What was God against (vs 20)?

What did He compare their hunt to (vs 20)?

What was going to happen to these charm bracelets (vs 20)?

What do you think was meant by this?

What was God going to do (vs 21)?

What had their actions done for those who sought to live righteously (vs 22)?

How would their actions encourage the wicked (vs 22)?

What would these women no longer see (vs 23)?

What did God want them to understand (vs 23)?

“The Correct Approach”

Study: Ezekiel 14:1-11

Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16, James 4:1-10

Memory: Isaiah 40:31

Over the years I have coached, I have been approached by parents in different ways. Some have approached me in great humility, giving me suggestions that might be helpful, but doing it in a way that emphasizes I don't have to do it their way. I have other parents approach me with a completely different view, telling me what I should do and almost demanding that I do it. I have even had parents text me in the middle of games telling me what I should do different.

Today, we will read how leaders from Israel approached God full of pride and selfishness. They wanted God to do things their way rather than desiring to submit to Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

A certain group of elders went to Ezekiel, and were hoping that Ezekiel would ask the Lord a question on their behalf. They didn't really want to hear from God, but wanted to tell God what He should do. God took this opportunity to speak to these men through Ezekiel and declared that these men had given their hearts to idols which had led them into abundant sin. God asked the men why He would choose to listen to their requests if they didn't want to obey His commands. God continued His message to these men by telling them they were foolish for thinking that they could go to a prophet of God asking Him for a message when they didn't want to follow God. God was going to answer them, but the answer would be a response to their idolatry. This response was meant to get the attention of the people of Israel who had given themselves over to idols (vs 1-5).

The message that God gave to the people was one of repentance. He desired that they turn away from their idols and all the sins that accompanied idol worship. God made it clear that He didn't take lightly the fact that they chose to worship idols and live their own way and still thought they could come and seek favors from God. God didn't want Ezekiel to give his opinion, but was going to deliver a message directly

from Him through Ezekiel. God told the people that He would turn His face from them and cause the people and their nation to become a byword when He finished destroying them. Prophets were not excluded from this judgement, even if they were deceived. They would face the destruction of God in a clear and evident way. These leaders, whether prophets or elders, would bear the punishment for their sin. They were leaders in the land and hurting the whole land by failing to listen to God and choosing not to follow His ways. They were not going to be permitted to go astray any longer because they were going to be destroyed. God wanted to remove the evil leaders and others who were bent on doing evil in order that the people of Israel would once again seek after and serve God as their only God (vs 6-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How do you approach God? How do you approach others when seeking wisdom or counsel? Do you desire to tell God what He should do? Do you want God's blessing while you choose to live in sin? God does not want you to live a man-centered lifestyle. He wants you to approach Him in humility and obedience. He loves you and wants to do what He can to help you, but doesn't want to be one of many gods in your life. God doesn't want to just be added to your daily life, but He wants to be the center of all that you do. When you make Him the center, you will find grace and mercy before His throne. If you approach His throne, wanting to tell Him what to do or wanting Him to do something for you without a humble and obedient heart, you will reap the consequences of your actions. This does not mean that you should be afraid to approach God, only that you need to approach Him with a humble and obedient heart.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the chance to talk to Him.*
- * *Ask God to help you approach Him with humility.*
- * *Praise God because He is greater than anything else.*

Thought for the day

Who came to Ezekiel (vs 1)?

Who do you think these men were?

What did God do in response (vs 2)?

What did these men take into their hearts (vs 3)?

What do you think that meant?

What is a stumbling block (vs 3)?

Why do you think God used that term in verse 3?

Why do you think God wanted to make clear that He was speaking to them and not Ezekiel (vs 4)?

What do you think verse 5 meant?

What did God want the people to do (vs 6)?

How could a person separate oneself from God (vs 7)?

What did God not want idol worshipers to do (vs 7)?

How was God going to respond to those who worshiped idols but asked God for things (vs 8)?

How do you think a prophet could be deceived (vs 9)?

What did God say He would do to a prophet that speaks deceiving words (vs 9)?

What did God say about the punishment of the prophet and those who inquired from the prophet (vs 10)?

What did God not want Israel to do (vs 11)?

What did God want to be for Israel (vs 12)?

“Noah, Daniel and Job”

Study: Ezekiel 14:12-23

Reading: Luke 16:19-31, John 8:39-47

Memory: Isaiah 40:31

For several years I played hockey with local and state police officers. Occasionally, if I was speeding and passed a police officer, I would start formulating in my mind how I could use the names of their fellow officers that I knew as some type of leverage point. Thankfully I never have had to try to use this name recognition to my advantage (nor do I think I would when it came down to it), but for some reason the thought of throwing out names still crosses my mind when I pass police officers today.

Today, we are going to see how God described how name recognition would not help deliver the Israelites from certain destruction. Their only hope was to submit to God in humble obedience.

What Does the Bible Say?

God continued his message to the elders who had gone to Ezekiel and asked him to talk to God on their behalf. The problem was that they did not want to obey God. God described how a nation that acted so defiantly against His commands would have to suffer the consequences. He was going to send famine to the land as a punishment that no one would be able to stop. Even if three of the most godly and revered men were to be living in the land, that would not be enough to stave off the judgement of God. Interestingly, God mentioned Noah, Daniel and Job. Many times, references to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua or David were given as examples of faith and godliness, but these three are quite unique. Noah and Job were not even Israelites. Many people believe that Job lived around the same time as Abraham and Noah lived many years before that. Including Daniel in this group has caused some question as to which Daniel Ezekiel was referring to, but most likely it was referring to the Daniel who was a contemporary with Ezekiel. This portion of Ezekiel would have been written between 593 and 586 B.C. and Daniel had been taken captive in 605 B.C. Daniel would have had a high position in the Babylonian government at this time and most of the

captives would have heard his story. The main point of these verses was that the wickedness of the people was so great that God would not spare the land even if these great, righteous men were living in the land. This is re-emphasized in verses 15-16 as God was making it absolutely clear that their sin was great (vs 12-16).

Verses 12-16 mentioned how famine would overtake the land, but we have seen many times how there were three destructive processes that were predicted. The second one of these is mentioned in verses 17-18 where it was described how the sword would pass through the land. The sword represented death and destruction by opposing armies. Again the emphasis here is that God would not spare the land because of their great sin (vs 17-18).

The third type of judgement was pestilence. This had to do with diseases which were often carried by insects and animals. Again, the main emphasis was that the righteousness of Noah, Daniel and Job could not spare the people of Jerusalem (vs 19-20).

In verse 21, God mentioned another judgement which was not often mentioned as He added destruction by wild beasts. God was going to send these things on Jerusalem and the remaining parts of Judah, but He would also choose to spare a remnant which would come to Babylon to tell the people there about what happened. Seeing these people would be a relief to the rest of the Israelites knowing not everyone was wiped out, yet at the same time would bring about great sadness because of the reports they would hear. It would be very evident to all that this was the hand of God and it would also be clear why judgement came (vs 21-23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The elders of Israel wanted to ask God to show mercy on them and spare them, yet they didn't want to have to change their ways. The whole emphasis of the passage you read today was that God desires His people to humbly submit to Him and obey His commands. They could not rely on the fact that they were Israelites to deliver them from this problem. The faith of Noah, Daniel and Job was amazing, but the sin of the people was greater than the faith of these men. You can not rely on your Christian heritage, your affiliation with great men of God, or a strong church for your relationship with God. What God desires from you is humble obedience to His Word and His way. Don't let a religion or tradition stand in your way from living in the fellowship that God wants to have with you as his child.

How did God say that Israel was acting (vs 13)?

How did they act this way?

What was God going to break (vs 13)?

Who was going to have a difficult time finding food (vs 13)?

Why do you think it may have been hard for them to imagine a great famine?

****Just like us in our society today, they had established connections with many different nations in many parts of the world. The thought of us experiencing a famine was probably similar to what they thought.*

What three men were mentioned in verse 14? What do you know about these men?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who would be spared if these men were alive in that day (vs 14)?

Why do you think that God said this?

How would wild beasts have been a big problem to the people back then (vs 15)?

What did Noah, Daniel and Job not have the ability to do (vs 16)?

What did the "sword" indicate (vs 17)?

What was pestilence (vs 19)?

What were these four judgements going to do (vs 21)?

Was everyone going to be killed (vs 21-23)? Explain.

“Rescued From Death”

Study: Ezekiel 15:1-16:14

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10, Revelation 3:1-6

Memory: Isaiah 40:31

It is always touching to see news stories where first responders are reunited with a person that they saved from certain death. Those who know they are alive because of the selfless acts of the first responders often express great and undying gratitude. The first responders are often moved to tears as they are reminded how important their jobs are and come face to face with their ability to profoundly change the lives of others.

Today, we are going to read how God spared the life of Israel and did all He could to make her a prosperous nation. We will be reminded how God did a similar thing for us through salvation.

What Does the Bible Say?

God continued to give vivid illustrations to Ezekiel by comparing the nation of Israel to a useless vine. The wood of a grape vine is not used to make anything. All types of trees were useful for making things like tables, wooden pegs, doors, and countless other objects. The only thing a grape vine was used for was fuel for a fire, and even then, it didn't burn very hot or well. Basically a grape vine that wasn't producing grapes was worthless. God compared Israel to this useless vine, and the only use for it was to be thrown in the fire and destroyed. This is what was going to happen to Jerusalem. Those who would escape the fire without being consumed would still feel its effects. They would realize who God was when the land was desolate. They would recognize that it was their faithless acts that brought about all this destruction (15:1-8).

Once again God sent a message to Ezekiel for the people for the purpose of making known the great abominations they had committed against Him. The nation was pictured as originating in the land of the Canaanites. The Amorites and Hittites ruled over the land when Abraham first sojourned to the land. These nations were stated to be the parents of Jerusalem indicating that there was nothing special about the nation of Israel, and specifically the city of Jerusalem, before God

stepped in. The birth that God pictured was one of an unwanted child. This child was not cared for as a new baby should be, but instead was thrown out in the field and left to die. No one wanted anything to do with this baby and the baby had no hope of living (vs 1-5).

This is when God passed by the baby (Israel) and saw it struggling to live. God reached down with great compassion on that child and wanted that child to live. He took it in and nourished it, causing it to grow and flourish. That child grew up to be strong and tall, a well matured adult (vs 6-7).

Once the child had grown and was old enough to be married, God was pictured as passing by again and covering her with His garment. This was a custom of the day that referred to an engagement. The next step was covenanting together in marriage. God took care of His new bride by anointing her with oil and giving her the finest clothes. She was showered with jewelry and ate the finest food and drank the finest drinks. The woman continued to flourish, becoming more and more beautiful, drawing the attention from all others around her that admired her great beauty. God had done everything He could for this outcast child and she had potential to continue to be great throughout her lifetime (vs 8-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

In our society some of the things said in these chapters may seem strange, but in the culture of that day, it would be well understood. God pictured Himself as rescuing an unwanted child and making sure that child had everything it needed. He then described how He married that child when she was old enough and helped make her beautiful. The point being made was that without God, Israel would have been nothing. They were only able to have what they had because of what God had done for them. This understanding can also be said of you when you realize that you are a child of God and the bride of Christ. Without God, you would still be lost in your sin and on your way to eternity apart from Him. You would still be trapped in your sin and live as a slave to it with no way out. Yet, if you have believed, God has saved you and rescued you from certain death. On top of this, He has given you abundant blessings in your life. Your response to this should be thankfulness and faithful obedience to Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for being your Savior and your husband.*

Ezekiel 15

What question did God ask about grape vines (vs 2)?

What do people do with many types of wood (vs 3)?

What question was asked in verse 4? Why?

What point was being made in verse 5?

What was God going to do to Israel (vs 6)?

What did God say He was going to do (vs 7-8)?

Ezekiel 16

What did God want known (vs 2)?

Who is pictured as the parents of the child (vs 3)?

What happened when the child was born (vs 4)?

How was this child viewed (vs 5)?

What did God see (vs 6)? What did He desire?

What did God do for this child (vs 7)?

What was pictured in verse 8?

How did God take care of His wife (vs 9)?

What did God provide for her (vs 10-11)?

How did God lavish His wife (vs 12-13)?

What was known about this wife (vs 14)?

What main point do you think these verses were making

How has God done a similar thing for you?

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. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.