

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 73

“Predicting the Future”

Study: Ezekiel 32:1-16

Reading: Isaiah 46:1-13

Memory: Psalm 119:9

Though I love sports, I am not often a big fan of talk shows that deal with sports. The reason I don't care for these is that much of these shows are dedicated to predictions and opinions about upcoming games. Sometimes the people are right and sometimes these “experts” are completely wrong. Though many of these predictions are educated guesses based on the facts that are available, the simple reality is that no one knows what will happen in the future.

Today, we are going to be reminded once again that people think they have control over their lives and over this world, but the only person who has true control is God. Over and over again, He predicted what He would do and what He said came true just as He predicted it.

What Does the Bible Say?

Two months after the news of the fall of Jerusalem reached Ezekiel and the other captives, God sent a message to Ezekiel which was a lament over the destruction of Egypt. The Pharaoh was rebuked for considering himself like a lion of all nations. God compared him to a monster of the sea. It is a good chance that this sea monster was a reference to the dangerous crocodile which dwelt in the Nile River, though it could be a reference to a mythological sea monster. Instead of being a bold ferocious leader like a lion, he was like a sneaky sea creature which caused trouble.

Just as a crocodile would be captured, taken from the river and killed, God was going to drag the people of Egypt to a spot away from their home where they would be killed and left for the wild animals to feast on. The great army of Egypt would be left with soldiers dead, bleeding and scattered all over (vs 1-6).

Verses 7 & 8 described how great lights would grow dark for Egypt. This is probably not a reference to the actual sun, moon and stars disappearing, but a poetic way to describe how the land which worshiped the sun and felt that they were the enlightened ones of the world would soon be a dark and desolate place.

One of the things that the defeat of Egypt would do is scare the kings and leaders of other nations. They viewed Egypt as unbeatable and never imagined a nation so great would be defeated. When the Babylonian victory over Egypt was completed, all other nations would tremble because they would realize that no one would be safe if the mighty nation of Egypt fell (vs 9-10).

God described how it would be the Babylonians who Egypt would fall to and their fall would be great. The pride of Egypt would be wiped away with its abundant livestock and valuable treasures. The water of the Nile would become clear and would flow smoothly since there would be no people or animals to stir it up or redirect its natural flow. God was going to make this happen just as He said so that the nation of Egypt would recognize that God was the Lord of the world. Their demise will be great and the lament about their destruction would be repeated for years (vs 11-16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is easy to read passages like this from just a historical viewpoint since passages like this record historically accurate events, but what must be remembered is that these events were written before they happened. God described exactly what He was going to cause to happen before it happened so that it would be clear to all that He was the God who was in control of the world. This is something that you need to constantly remind yourself of. God is in control of the events of this world and He knows exactly what will take place in the future. No earthly power is a match for His great plan and He will accomplish what He says He will accomplish. As a believer, you can live a life of peace and security trusting that God will take care of you and walk with you each step of the way.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Praise God because He knows the future.
- * Ask God to help you daily trust His plan.
- * Thank God for helping you live in peace and security.

Thought for the day

When did this message come to Ezekiel (vs 1)?

Who was this message directed towards (vs 2)?

How did Egypt view itself (vs 2)?

What do you think that meant?

How did God describe Egypt?

What was God going to cause to happen (vs 3)?

How did God illustrate the demise of the Egyptian army (vs 4)?

Why do you think such descriptive language is used in verse 5-6?

What did God say would happen to the lights of the world (vs 7)?

Why was darkness going to come over their land (vs 8)?

How will other nations respond at the destruction of Egypt (vs 9)?

Why will other kings bristle at the news of Egypt's defeat (vs 10)?

Who was going to defeat Egypt (vs 11)?

Why is the pride of Egypt mentioned (vs 12)?

What would be taken from Egypt (vs 13)?

Why would the rivers clear up (vs 14)?

What was God going to do to the land (vs 15)?

Why would the people have thought that this was impossible?

What did God want them to know (vs 15)?

Why is it important that you realize this?

“Not Any Better”

Study: Ezekiel 32:17-32

Reading: Hebrews 9:23-28, Luke 13:1-9

Memory: Psalm 119:9

A quick internet search will find thousands of people promoting all types of ways of living to help them live longer and avoid death. Though there are clearly some choices that do help prolong life and give a more full life, the simple fact is that all people have an appointed day of death no matter what method they use to try to prolong their lives. There are thousands of people out there that describe how their plan is unique and better than that of others, but the reality is that one day all men will experience death.

Today, we are going to read how the Egyptians were not any different than the many powerful nations of history who had been conquered.

What Does the Bible Say?

About two weeks after the prophecy found in the first part of chapter 32 was given, God spoke once again to Ezekiel and told him to wail over the great destruction that was about to happen to the people of Egypt. Though they were a majestic nation, they were about to be sent to their death. Though the nation was renowned for its beauty, that beauty would cease to exist and they would meet the same fate of others that never obtained a position of prominence. This fall would clearly be the result of an invading army who would overpower their mighty chiefs and kill multitudes of Egyptians (vs 17-21).

Egypt was not any better than Assyria who had once been a great nation. All that was left of that nation were graves. Soon, Egypt would experience the same fate and join the Assyrians in death. Though they had once been feared in the land of the living, they would all experience the same fate and be no more (vs 22-23).

The nation of Elam was also mentioned in this passage. Elam was east of Babylon and known for being mighty warriors, yet they had been conquered by the Babylonians and were already in the grave awaiting the Egyptians. They too, like the Assyrians and Egyptians, thought that their power would make them invincible. They at one time had spread terror

in the land. Though they were once prominent on earth, in the grave they were all the same (vs 24-25).

Mechesh and Tubal were also prominent nations in their region, most likely in what is now eastern and central Turkey. They were a great people who were conquered and left to die. Though they were a mighty and fierce people, they were no match for the Assyrian army who had conquered them many years before (vs 26-28).

Egypt will also experience the same fate as Edom and the people of the region of Tyre and Sidon. These nations caused great terror while they were alive and powerful, but their kingdoms did not last. The point that was being emphasized here was that Egypt, as great and powerful as they were, would not escape death and destruction (vs 29-30).

It appears that verse 31 is given in a way that is somewhat mocking the Pharaoh as he is told that he will be comforted because he will be in the same category as all the other once great nations who had been destroyed. Many of the people of Egypt will be removed from the land of the living and the nation will be decimated (vs 31-32).

How Does this Apply to Me?

One of the great fallacies that exists in the minds of many people is the thought that “This won’t happen to me.” It is easy to think that you are better than others or that your situation is somehow different than everyone else around you. Though every person is unique, the reality is that you are a human and are subject to the same things that humans have experienced for thousands of years. When you choose to go against God, you will face the same fate that thousands of others have experienced by making the same choice. When you choose to follow God, you can experience the same victories that many others have experienced over the centuries. Your power is not greater than God and by recognizing this and submitting to His plan, you will put yourself on the path to great victory rather than disappointing destruction.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for reminding you of your place in this world.*
- * *Ask God to help you daily realize your need to humble yourself.*

Thought for the day

When did this prophecy take place (vs 17)?

Why was Ezekiel told to cry over Egypt (vs 18)?

How did God describe Egypt (vs 18)?

What question was asked in verse 19?

What statement was made about Egypt in verse 19?

What was going to happen to the people of Egypt (vs 20)?

Who was going to talk about Egypt (vs 21)?

What do you think the point of verse 21 was?

Who was in the grave waiting for Egypt (vs 22)?

Why do you think God says that their graves were in the deepest part of the pit (vs 23)?

****Out of all the nations that God was going to mention in this passage, it appears that Assyria was the greatest and most fierce. Their actions in life had reserved for them a greater agony in death.*

What nation would Egypt be joining (vs 24)?

How had they lived while they were alive (vs 24)?

How did they “make their bed” (vs 25)?

What was going to happen to Egypt (vs 28)?

What nations are mentioned in verses 29 and 30?

Do you think Pharaoh will be comforted in the afterlife (vs 31)? Explain.

What had these armies done while they were alive (vs 32)?

“Helping the Right People”

Study: Obadiah 1-21

Reading: Matthew 25:31-40, 26:6-13

Memory: Psalm 119:9

What Does the Bible Say?

There is great question as to exactly when the Book of Obadiah was written. Historians and commentators list a few dates when it could have been written and issue different supporting facts, but the conclusion that everyone seems to reach is that it is very difficult to date. The fact that Obadiah is only twenty-one verses long and that there is no knowledge outside the book about who he was makes it extremely difficult to place. As you read the book of Obadiah, you will see why the Reese Chronological Bible placed the events here because they could easily correlate with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

One thing that is clear is that the Book of Obadiah was written as a prophecy against the nation of Edom. Edom had heard the report of Jerusalem being invaded and decided to help the enemy attackers. Instead of coming to the aid of Israel, in pride, they thought they were better than the Israelites. They built their cities in very rocky places which caused them to think they were safe from destruction. Though the city of Petra most likely didn't exist at the time, it is a prime example of what could be done in the mountains of Edom (vs 1-4).

As a result of their pride and the harm they caused to Israel, Edom would be completely pillaged as a nation. Most of the time, when a nation was attacked, the attackers wouldn't take everything, but it appears in this instance the attackers would completely wipe them out (vs 5-6).

Those nations that Edom had once counted on as allies would turn against them. Though they would make pacts of peace, their allies would not intend to keep their promises. Their supposed friends would deceive Edom and cause great harm. The wise leaders of the land would be destroyed and their warriors would be killed. The attack on Edom would be a great slaughter by their foes (vs 7-9).

The reason for this destruction is very clear. They failed to do anything to help Israel when they were under attack. Edom and Israel were related (Edomites were the descendants of Esau and Israelites were the descendants of Jacob). Yet, Edom acted just like the rest of the

enemies of Israel when the foreign invaders attacked Jerusalem and carried off its treasures. Edom rejoiced when the Israelites were exiled to far away lands and spoke arrogantly about themselves. The people of Edom even sought to kill the fugitives who were escaping from Israel rather than helping them escape. Some of the Edomites also went to the land of Israel to take advantage of them by taking the things the destroyers of Israel left (vs 10-14).

Edom would not escape judgement because of their actions. Just as God brought destruction to Israel, He would also bring it to Edom. They would be swallowed up by an opposing army, and unlike Israel, they would disappear from existence as a nation (vs 15-16).

Verse 18 appears to be a prediction of a future destruction that has not taken place yet as we are told that the Israelites will be the ones who attack Edom and cause it to be no more. As with many prophecies, it appears that there was a short term fulfillment with the destruction of Edom and there will be more fulfilled in the day the Messiah returns and wipes out the nations surrounding Israel. The people of Israel will occupy the land of Edom and the land on the east side of the Jordan river. The exiles will return and expand the territory of Israel to places that it was never able to conquer as a nation. This territory will expand to the northwest and exist in the region of Tyre and Sidon and will extend to the south east in the land of Edom. During this time, the Lord himself will be king of the land and will rule over His people (vs 17-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you helping the right people? This may sound like a strange question, but one that is worth asking yourself. The people of Edom should have been helping the Israelites, but instead they chose to help the enemy of Israel. One of the areas that I see this happen today is when Christians support one political party. It is easy to find yourself on one side or the other and forget about the people you have been called to help. In most cases, political parties will do things that are in line with the Bible and will also do things that are not according to the Bible. By being so focused on the stances of one party, it is easy to forget about loving the people their policies may harm. Though I do believe believers should be involved in politics, you must make sure that your political views don't harden your heart and keep you from loving others. Choose today to make it your desire to be more concerned about helping others than upholding the views of the political party you prefer.

Who was this prophecy given about (vs 1)? Where was this nation located?

What was God going to do to Edom (vs 2)?

What has deceived the people (vs 3)?

Where did these people live (vs 3)?

What do you think verse 4 is referring to?

What illustrations did God use in verse 5?

What was the point (vs 5-6)?

What did verse 7 declare about their understanding?

What was God going to do to the leaders of Edom (vs 8-9)?

Why were the people of Edom going to be destroyed (vs 10)?

What had been taking place in Israel (vs 11)?

What are some of the things they were told not to do (vs 12-14)?

What does verse 15 make reference to?

What is going to happen to all the nations of the world (vs 16)?

What would happen to the children of Israel (vs 17)?

Why do you think Israel was compared to a house of fire (vs 18)?

What do verses 19-20 picture about the restoration of the land?

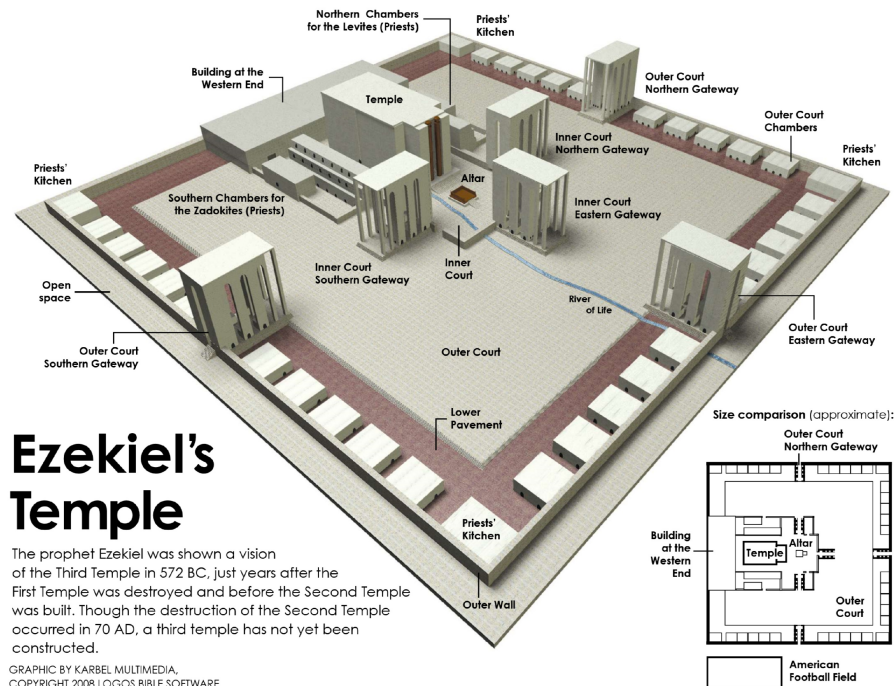
Who will be in control of this kingdom (vs 21)?

“The New Temple”

Study: Ezekiel 40:1-43:9

Reading: –

Memory: Psalm 119:9



Ezekiel's Temple

The prophet Ezekiel was shown a vision of the Third Temple in 572 BC, just years after the First Temple was destroyed and before the Second Temple was built. Though the destruction of the Second Temple occurred in 70 AD, a third temple has not yet been constructed.

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What Does the Bible Say?

There appears to be about a 10 year gap where nothing is recorded in Scripture. The last prophecy found in Ezekiel 32 took place at the end of the 12th year since the 597 B.C. exile, putting it around 585 B.C. Jeremiah 52:30 mentions that in the 23rd year more captives were taken from Judah to Babylon and then chapter 40 starts out with Ezekiel describing a vision that he received in the 25th year since the captivity, 14 years after Jerusalem was destroyed. It appears from what Ezekiel described that this vision took place on the 14th anniversary of the destruction of Jerusalem.

In this vision, God took Ezekiel to the land of Israel and set him down on a high mountain. When he looked south, he saw a structure that appeared to be a city. From there, the vision took him closer to the city

and he was able to see the entrance of the city blocked by a man with a shining face. This man had a string which was used for measuring and a measuring stick in his hand. This man told Ezekiel to pay careful attention and to write down everything he was about to be shown so he could accurately convey the message to the children of Israel who were in captivity (vs 1-4).

The main feature of this city was a temple with a wall surrounding it. The man began to measure the temple and these specific measurements were given over the next few chapters. A cubit was around 18 inches and the man used a measuring rod that was 6 cubits long, about 10.5 feet. For devotional purposes, I will not repeat all the measurements. It seems best for you to read through the descriptions given in chapters 40-42 and compare it with the graphic.

Once the man finished showing Ezekiel around the new temple, the glory of the Lord suddenly appeared, coming from the east. The sound that it created was like that of a large rush of water. Ezekiel compared this to the glory that he had seen of the presence of God many years before and also paralleled what happened when the glory had departed from the temple. Only this time it was returning (43:1-4).

Ezekiel was on the outside of the temple courtyard when he saw the presence coming. God then took him to the inner courtyard where he witnessed the glory of God filling the temple. God described how this is where His throne would be and how He would live forever among His people, ruling and reigning from the temple. The people will no longer place their own idols in this area as they had once done. Though this was a future event, God desired for His people to start worshipping Him in the present by putting away their idols. He would once again send His presence to be among them if they would choose to worship Him and Him alone (vs 5-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Just as God had future plans for the Israelites, He has future plans for His New Testament believers. Just as He had present plans to be with Israel, He has present plans to be with you. God has a home in heaven prepared for those who believe in Him, but He also has a plan to be with you each and every day. He has placed His Holy Spirit inside of you to direct and lead you in your daily tasks and functions. If you choose to put aside the earthly idols which draw your heart away and live in holiness, He will make His presence greatly known in you today.

When did this message come to Ezekiel (40:1)?

Where did God take Ezekiel in a vision (vs 2)?

What did he see once he had a closer view of the city (vs 3)?

How is the man described (vs 3)?

What did the man tell Ezekiel to do (vs 4)?

Why was it important that Ezekiel related these things to the Israelites who were in captivity?

What did Ezekiel see in the east (43:2)?

How did Ezekiel describe the coming of the glory of God (vs 2)?

What did Ezekiel say about this vision (vs 3)?

What was he referring to?

How did Ezekiel respond (vs 3)?

Where did the glory of the Lord go (vs 4)?

Where did the Spirit take Ezekiel (vs 5)?

What did Ezekiel hear (vs 6)?

What did God say about the temple (vs 7)?

What did God no longer want Israel to do (vs 7)?

What had forced the presence of God out of the temple in the first place (vs 8)?

What did God want the people to stop doing (vs 8)?

What do you think God wants you to learn from this?

“Future Sacrifices”

Study: Ezekiel 43:10-27

Reading: Hebrews 9:11-10:18

Memory: Psalm 119:9

Over the years, my wife and I have gone through periods where we exercise together by watching a workout video. One of the things that I often found myself doing during these videos was looking at the time remaining. I have often said that the best part of exercising is being done and that clock counting down the time would give me hope that I would be done soon. Some days it seemed to count down faster than others, but everyday when I saw that time count down it gave me hope that it would soon be over. That hope enabled me to press on and finish the workout.

Today, we are going to see that God gave Israel a picture of future hope and those who choose to buy into that hope, would choose to live differently in the present.

What Does the Bible Say?

After showing Ezekiel the vision of the new temple and the glory of God filling the temple, God told Ezekiel to describe these things to the people so that they would be ashamed of the sins they committed. Ezekiel was to carefully describe all the details of the temple including the entrances and the exits. He was to write down all the specifications while they were watching him so that it would be clear they heard and understood the specifics. They were to also take note of the rules that God gave surrounding the temple and the main key rule was that there was to be absolute holiness on the mountain where the temple was built. It seems that God was doing this to help the Israelites see what they were missing out on as they lived as exiles in a foreign country with no place to worship. This vision was to remind them of great things God had waiting for them if they chose to follow Him (vs 10-12).

Verses 13-17 describe the altar that will be built and verses 18-27 describe the sacrifices that will be offered on this altar. When the altar is first put into service the priests who are descendants of Zadok will be the ones who perform the offerings. (Zadok was priest at the time of

David.) That altar was to be cleansed with the blood of a young bull and the bull was to be offered as a sin offering (vs 18-21).

On the second day, a young male goat was to be offered like the bull had been on the first day. Then for the next seven days a male goat, a bull and a ram were to be sacrificed as a sin offering. Once this was finished, the altar will be able to be used for burnt offerings and peace offerings. Many scholars believe that this will all take place in the millennial kingdom. Though we are not given an exact reason why, it appears that it will be like a memorial to remember what Israel had gone through and the sacrifice that Christ made for sins. Since this vision was also directed towards the Israelites in captivity, it was most likely a picture of the future hope they would have as the way God intended for them to live would be restored (vs 22-27).

How Does this Apply to Me?

The book of Hebrews makes it very clear that the only sacrifice that could be fully accepted for the forgiveness of sins was the sacrifice that was made by Jesus Christ. The fact that the curtain in the temple was torn when Jesus died and that He was the ultimate sacrifice for sin makes it very clear that regular sacrifices are no longer needed. This makes the emphasis on the future temple and future sacrifices found in Ezekiel quite puzzling. It is one of those things in Scripture that many people guess about, but there is no clear answer to. One day, it will all be made clear, but for now, we just have to trust that God knew what He was doing when He gave this vision to Ezekiel. What is also clear is that God has a special place for Israel in the future millennial kingdom that we can't fully understand. As with many of the prophecies, one of the main purposes was to bring future hope and to encourage them to live the right way in that current day. This is a lesson that is throughout Scripture. When you understand the future hope you have, it will encourage you to live the right way today. It is easy to want to give up at times, but when you are reminded of the prize waiting for you, it gives you the encouragement you need to press on.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for providing future hope.*
- * *Ask God to help you live each day with great future anticipation.*
- * *Praise God because He knows what will happen in the future.*

What was Ezekiel to do with the vision he had been shown (vs 10)?

What did God want the response of the people to be (vs 10)?

Why do you think He wanted this?

What was Ezekiel to describe (vs 11)?

Why was he to write down all the decrees and specifications (vs 11)?

Why was it important to God that the people know His desires and choose to follow them (vs 11)?

How does God still desire this today?

What was the basic law of the temple (vs 12)?

What do you think that meant?

What were found in the four corners of the altar (vs 15)? Why?

Who did God designate to offer the offerings (vs 19)?

What will be the first sacrifice on this altar (vs 20)?

Where would the bull be burned (vs 21)?

What was the second offering to be made (vs 22)?

What was to be offered for the next seven days (vs 23)?

Why would these be offered for seven days (vs 26)?

What would happen when the time of cleansing was finished (vs 27)?

What will God accept (vs 27)?

Why do you think God will re-establish animal sacrifices in the millennial kingdom?

“Circumcision of the Heart”

Study: Ezekiel 44:1-14

Reading: Romans 2:12-29

Memory: Psalm 119:9

One of the most embarrassing times in my life was when I was in sixth grade and we were talking about circumcision in Bible class. I seldom ever asked questions in class, but I was so confused because I didn't know what circumcision was. I finally raised my hand and asked the teacher about it. The teacher thought it was being a goofy sixth grade boy and somewhat reprimanded me after many of my other classmates laughed. I was definitely more confused than embarrassed. It wasn't until I looked up the meaning of the word in the dictionary that I became very embarrassed that I asked that question.

Today, we are going to read how God placed an emphasis on who will and who won't be able to enter the future temple. Not all Jews will be able to enter and not all foreigners will be forbidden. God described how those physically and spiritually circumcised will be able to enter and worship in His presence.

What Does the Bible Say?

One of the very unique parts of this new temple is that the outer gates to the temple courtyard which face east will be closed. The only one who will be allowed to enter in that gate will be the Lord Himself. Verse 3 introduces someone described as “the prince.” The prince is the only one who will be allowed to sit near the gate, but he will not be allowed to enter and exit through the gate. It is not clear exactly who this prince will be, but he appears to be somewhat like an administrator who will be a representative for Jesus Christ, but also a representative of the people. More will be said about the prince later on (vs 1-3).

Ezekiel was then taken back to the north gate where he once again saw the glory of the Lord filling the temple. This caused him to fall on his face, a symbol of humility and worship. Once again, Ezekiel was told to pay careful attention to all that he had seen so he could give an accurate description to the people. One thing that was emphasized was that he took special note of the entrances and exits of the temple. The

entrances were not as important as what they represented. These entrances revealed who would be able to enter and exit the temple area. Ezekiel was to emphasize to the people how they had allowed all types of foreigners and their abominations to enter into the previous temple to offer offerings to their false gods. This profaned the temple because the people did not set the temple apart as holy unto the Lord (vs 4-8).

Foreigners were forbidden to enter through the gates of the temple unless they had been physically and spiritually circumcised. The New Testament often makes reference to being circumcised in the Spirit which emphasized that salvation wasn't only for the Jews. Outward acts like circumcision were important for Jews, but the choice to believe and follow God from the heart was much more important (vs 9).

The Levites will play a prominent role in the millennial temple worship, but they would not have the same position of prominence that they were originally given. They had been entrusted with helping to keep the temple pure and righteous, but they failed to do their duty. They will be punished for this by not being allowed go near the holy things of God. They will still be administrators of the temple and the sacrifices, but will be prohibited from doing any priestly work or touching the holy instruments used in the temple worship. God was going to keep His promise to allow them to serve in the temple, but was also going to punish them for the evil they allowed to take place (vs 10-14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Would you say that you have a circumcised heart? The idea of circumcision today is much more of a medical procedure and has lost the meaning that it had for the Israelites. One of the reasons I believe that God ordered that all the Israelite males be circumcised is because it was meant to be a daily reminder to them that they were set apart for God. It was also not meant to be an outward symbol for all to see, but something that was much more private and personal. The idea of having a circumcised heart was one that emphasized a personal decision to be set apart for God. It is easy to become an outward Christian and carry through the motions as many Israelites did with circumcision, but it is much different to live out a life of worship from your heart. Your acts should not only be pleasing to God, but your heart's desire should be to worship Him with your whole life. Examine your life today to see if there is any area where you are going through the motions, but not fully set apart for Him.

What is closed (vs 1)?

Who is the only one allowed to enter the gate (vs 2)?

Who is the only one allowed to be by the gate (vs 3)?

What did Ezekiel see from the north gate (vs 4)?

How did He respond (vs 4)?

What can you learn from this?

What did God tell Ezekiel to take special note of (vs 5)?

Why did God emphasize the instructions about the entrances (vs 5)?

How did God describe Israel (vs 6)?

What did God say He had enough of (vs 6)?

What was one of the great sins the people had committed (vs 7)?

What did the people fail to do (vs 8)?

Who would not be allowed to enter into the temple area (vs 9)?

Why do you think God said this?

What did God say the Levites had done (vs 10)?

What role will the Levites play in the future temple (vs 11)?

Why would they be allowed to do this (vs 12)?

What will they not be able to do (vs 13)?

What will God appoint them to do (vs 14)?

What can you learn about God from this?

Memory Verse:

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, 3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! 4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! 6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.