

How does God deal with rebellion? That will be our focus this week. We can learn the importance of obedience in our own lives, but also catch a glimpse of the judgment that is yet to come to this earth as God deals with a rebellious nation, a rebellious people.

Study well. Hear. Heed. Apply!

DAY 1

1. As we head into Ezekiel 12-14, we need to understand the timing of the message. We need to go back to the last time reference which is found in Ezekiel 8:1 (you can also look at 1:2 to answer the 6th year of what). Record what you learn.

2. Observe Ezekiel 12. Make sure to mark the key words and phrases from your book mark. There is a word/phrase that you want to mark in this chapter, but you don't need to add it to your book mark. That is *baggage* or *baggage for exile*. Watch for *sign*, *rebellious*, and *will know that I am the Lord*.

3. Let's go through the chapter and record paragraph titles that would reference a teaching, event, or theme. Make sure to record them here and on your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. 12:1-6
 - b. 12:7
 - c. 12:8-16
 - d. 12:17-20
 - e. 12:21-25
 - f. 12:26-28

4. Record a theme for chapter 12 on the Observation Worksheets and your "At a Glance Chart."

DAY TWO

1. Let's move through Ezekiel 12 one more time, taking a close look at each paragraph. What sign was acted out in verses 1-7?
 - a. Look at your timeline and record when in the three sieges this takes place.
 - b. Where was Ezekiel when this was happening?
 - c. What was this supposed to communicate to the people?

2. Moving on to Ezekiel 12:8-16, we find out who this sign is pointing to. Look specifically at verse 10 and record who will be involved in this.
 - a. What will happen to most of them?

 - b. God will spare a few of them (mark those as remnant). Why will they be spared?

 - c. We have discussed that Daniel is also in Babylon at this time. Jeremiah, another prophet speaking to the people has remained in Jerusalem. Let's take a look at what Jeremiah is telling the people who are still in Jerusalem. Read Jeremiah 52:1-16 (you can cross reference that with II Kings 25:1-7). What happens? When does it happen? Who is the "prince?"

3. Now Read Ezekiel 12:17-20.
 - a. What is Ezekiel to do?
 - b. What is he supposed to tell the people?
 - c. Why is all this going to happen?

4. Let's take a look at Ezekiel 12:21-28. Read through these verses and make sure that you have marked any time references. Read through this passage several times. They can be a little difficult to understand, so keep with it.
 - a. What was the proverb that was going around? What did the people think?

 - b. What was God's response to their attitude?

5. If you didn't catch it, the people had become complacent. I am going to take the liberty of paraphrasing what the people were saying. "Oh, come on. The prophets have been telling us for a long time that destruction is coming. We are tired of hearing about the same old tired visions. The prophets talk about what will happen many years from now. We don't have to worry about them. Why don't they find someone else to annoy?" God's response to the people was this, "I have spoken, and I will perform. None of My words will be delayed any longer." So here's a question. What happens when judgment doesn't happen right away or when someone comes along and casts doubt on the Word of God. How many times have people set times of the Lord's return and it doesn't come to be? This is not a new phenomenon, it has been going on since the beginning. Let's examine some passages and evaluate them alongside of Ezekiel 12.
 - a. Read Jeremiah 29 and answer these questions.
 - 1) Who wrote the letter, to whom was it sent, and when?

- 2) How long are the people going to be exiles in the land of Babylon?
- 3) What are they to do in Babylon?
- 4) What warnings are given in these verses?
- 5) Why is this happening to the people?
- 6) Did God's Word come to pass or did God just sit back and let the people get away with their sin and rebellion? If prophecy was fulfilled already, would it not be wise to heed what is being said, knowing that God does what He says He will do?
- 7) Did you catch the little glimmer of a promise in this passage? Record the words of encouragement contained in this message. If you need help finding it, look in verses 10-14 and record what God promised.

b. Now read Jeremiah 28:1-11. We have a dueling prophets scenario played out here. We know what Jeremiah says will happen in Jeremiah 29. What about Hananiah?

- 1) What was Hananiah's message in Jeremiah 28:1-11?
- 2) Look at Jeremiah 25:1-2, 11-12. This is what Jeremiah received from the Lord and delivered to the exiles in Babylon but also to the people of the land. How do the two messages differ?
- 3) If you were part of Jewish people, which message would you prefer to hear?

- 4) Just because something sounds better, easier, or more to our liking doesn't mean it is the truth. In fact, most times following God's ways are harder and run contrary to our wants and desires because they are not of the flesh. What personal application can you take away from this in your own life and in helping others deal with their own struggles?

c. Now let's look at a couple of New Testament passages from Peter.

- 1) Read II Peter 2:1-3. How does this relate to Jeremiah and Ezekiel?

- 2) Read II Peter 3:1-9. What do the mockers mock and what do they reject or refuse to acknowledge? How does this tie in with Ezekiel 12:21-28?

- 3) According to II Peter 3:2, how do we protect ourselves from false teaching?

d. Let's apply what you have learned.

- 1) How does Peter apply to your life and walking a Godly walk?

- 2) Is there a benefit to studying the Word of God inductively (allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture)?

3) Is there a benefit to studying the Word of God book by book?

4) Many today take the stand that we're are living in the age of grace and there is no need to study the Old Testament. Is there a benefit to studying the Old Testament? What is it?

DAY THREE

1. Today your focus will be on completing your observations on Ezekiel 13. There are a couple of new words to add to your Key Words card.
 - a. *Foolish prophets* (any other synonyms or pronouns - ones that are plastering)
 - b. *plaster*
 - c. *the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration*
2. Go through and record paragraph titles in Ezekiel 13
 - a. 13:1-7
 - b. 13:8-16
 - c. 13:17-19
 - d. 13:20-23

2. Record paragraph themes.
 - a. 14:1-5
 - b. 14:6-8
 - c. 14:9-11
 - d. 14:12-20
 - e. 14:21-23
3. Record a chapter theme in the appropriate places.
4. Idols is definitely key in this chapter. List what you learn about idols and idol worship from this chapter.

DAY FIVE

1. Ezekiel 14 gives you examples of the character of three different men - Noah, Daniel, and Job. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about these men and why they might be held up as an example in light of the Ezekiel 4 passage.
 - a. Noah - Gen 6:9; 7:1; Hebrews 11:7

b. Job - Job 1:1-8

c. Daniel - Daniel 1:1-8; 10:11, 19

2. Look at Ezekiel 14:12-20. What is the word that God uses in Ezekiel 14 to describe the lifestyles of these three men? What is God's point in using them as examples? What does He want you to understand?

3. Read Ezekiel 14:21-23 again and then answer the following questions.
 - a. Where is the judgment coming from?

 - b. What will the people know from these judgments?

 - c. What will happen to the survivors?

 - d. In verse 22 the pronouns "*they*" and "*you*" are used. Who are the "*they*" and who are the "*you*?" What will happen to the "*you*" and why?

4. Here are a couple of thought provoking questions to end this week's study.
 - a. According to this chapter, what can you know for sure about God?

 - b. Does this make you question any of your beliefs of who God is and how God interacts with His creation?

 - c. How do you think others would respond to these facts about God?

 - d. How would you handle their response? Would it shake your faith? Would it cause you to question God's goodness?

5. You can check your commentaries on these chapters if you have time.