

Redeemer C.S.I Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel Chapter 14 on 06/06/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. Suresh Kumar Nelson

Main points of Ezekiel chapter 14:

Ezekiel Chapter 14 Context: Ezekiel 14 addresses the elders of Israel who come to consult the prophet, Ezekiel. Through this chapter, God speaks to Ezekiel about their hypocrisy and idolatry and the consequences of their actions.

1. Idolatry in the Heart (Verses 1-5): - Elders of Israel come to consult Ezekiel. - God reveals that these elders have set up idols in their hearts, putting stumbling blocks before themselves. - God declares that He will respond to them not according to their outward appearance but according to the idolatry in their hearts. - The message emphasizes that God sees beyond external actions to the true condition of the heart.

2. Call to Repentance (Verses 6-11): - God commands Ezekiel to tell the people to repent and turn away from their idols. - Warning against consulting false prophets and the consequences of idolatry. - The prophet who deceives the people will also face judgment. - God's judgment aims to prevent the people from straying from Him and restore the relationship between God and Israel.

3. Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness (Verses 12-20): - God declares that persistent unfaithfulness and sin will bring severe judgment upon the land. - Examples of severe judgments: famine, wild beasts, sword, and plague. - Even the righteousness of individuals like Noah, Daniel, and Job would not save others but only themselves. - This highlights the inevitability of personal responsibility and judgment.

4. The Inescapability of Judgment (Verses 21-23): - Fourfold judgment is reiterated: sword, famine, wild beasts, and plague. - God's determination to bring judgment upon Jerusalem for its unfaithfulness. - The presence of a remnant is promised, those who will survive and be brought out of the city. - The remnant will serve as a sign and reassurance to those who witness the judgment, affirming that God's actions are just and warranted.

Key Themes: - Idolatry and Its Consequences: The central issue addressed is the internal idolatry of the heart, which leads to external actions that are abominable to God. –

Divine Judgment and Mercy: While God's judgment is severe and inescapable for persistent sin, there is also a call to repentance and the promise of a remnant that signifies hope and restoration. –

Personal Responsibility: Emphasizes that each person is accountable to God for their own actions and cannot rely on the righteousness of others to save them.

Ezekiel 14 challenges us to examine our hearts for hidden idols or unfaithfulness. It calls us to sincere repentance and a genuine relationship with God, understanding the seriousness of sin, and the importance of personal accountability. The chapter also reminds us of God's justice and mercy, encouraging us to trust in His righteous judgments and His desire for our restoration.

Practical Application Points from Ezekiel Chapter 14

- 1. Examine and Remove Idols from the Heart: Key Verse: Ezekiel 14:3** - "Mortal, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and placed their iniquity as a stumbling block before them." Application: - Self-Reflection: Regularly examine your heart and life for anything that has taken the place of God. This could be money, career, relationships, or even hobbies that consume your thoughts and priorities.
Example: If you find that you are more devoted to your job than to your relationship with God, consider setting boundaries to ensure you have time for prayer, worship, and Bible study.
- 2. Genuine Repentance: Key Verse: Ezekiel 14:6** - "Thus says the Lord GOD: Repent and turn away from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations." Application: - Turn Away from Sin: Repentance involves a conscious decision to avoid sin and not just feel remorseful. It means making practical changes to align with God's will.
Example: If you struggle with gossip, commit to speaking positively about others and avoid conversations that encourage negative talk.
- 3. Personal Accountability: Key Verse: Ezekiel 14:14** - "Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would save only their own lives by their righteousness, says the Lord GOD." Application: - Responsibility for Actions: Understand that each person is responsible for their relationship with God and their actions. You cannot rely on the faith or righteousness of others to secure your standing with God.

Example: If you've been relying on attending church with your family without developing a personal relationship with God, take steps to deepen your own faith through personal Bible study and prayer.

4. Acknowledge God's Justice and Mercy: Key Verse: Ezekiel 14:22-23 - "Yet there will be some survivors...and you shall know that it was not without cause that I did all that I have done in it, says the Lord GOD." Application: - Trust in God's Plan: Trust that God's actions are just and purposeful, even when they involve discipline or hardship. His judgments are always balanced with mercy and aimed at leading us back to Him. Example: If you are experiencing a difficult season, rather than becoming bitter, seek to understand what God might be teaching you through this time. Trust that His plan is ultimately for your good.

5. Avoid False Prophets and Deceptive Teachings: Key Verse: Ezekiel 14:9-10 - "If a prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I, the LORD, have deceived that prophet...and they shall bear their punishment—the punishment of the inquirer and the punishment of the prophet shall be the same." Application: - Discernment in Teachings: Be cautious of teachings and prophecies that do not align with Scripture. Seek the truth in God's Word and be wary of messages that cater to what you want to hear rather than what you need to hear.

Example: If you encounter a teaching that promises health and wealth without mentioning repentance or the cost of discipleship, compare it with the Bible's teachings on suffering and self-denial to discern its validity.