

Redeemer C.S.I Church Kansas Bible study

Ezekiel Chapter 15 on 06/13/2024 (7 P.m. to 8 P.m.) Rev. Suresh Kumar Nelson

Main points of Ezekiel chapter 15:

Key points from the book of Ezekiel:

- 1. **Calling of Ezekiel**:** Ezekiel is called by God to be a prophet during the Babylonian exile of the Israelites (Ezekiel 1-3). He sees a vision of God's glory and receives his prophetic commission.
- 2. **Vision of the Cherubim and the Wheels**:** Ezekiel's initial vision includes the famous imagery of the four living creatures (cherubim) and the wheels intersecting with each other, symbolizing God's omnipresence and omnipotence (Ezekiel 1:4-28).
- 3. **The Scroll and the Call to Prophecy**:** God gives Ezekiel a scroll to eat, symbolizing that he must internalize God's words before proclaiming them to the people (Ezekiel 2:8-3:3).
- 4. **Symbolic Acts**:** Ezekiel performs several symbolic acts to convey God's messages, such as lying on his side for 390 days to symbolize Israel's years of sin and 40 days for Judah's sin (Ezekiel 4:1-8).
- 5. **Siege of Jerusalem**:** Ezekiel predicts the siege and fall of Jerusalem, portraying the city's impending doom through symbolic acts and vivid descriptions (Ezekiel 4-5).
- 6. **Judgment on Israel's Leaders**:** Ezekiel condemns Israel's leaders for their corruption and failure to shepherd the people properly (Ezekiel 11).
- 7. **Vision of the Temple**:** In a vision, Ezekiel sees the abominations committed in the temple, leading to God's glory departing from it (Ezekiel 8-11).
- 8. **Individual Responsibility**:** Ezekiel emphasizes that individuals are responsible for their sins and will be judged accordingly (Ezekiel 18).
- 9. **The Good Shepherd**:** God promises to be Israel's true shepherd, contrasting with the irresponsible shepherds (leaders) who have failed the people (Ezekiel 34).
- 10. **Valley of Dry Bones**:** In a vision, Ezekiel sees a valley filled with dry bones that come to life, symbolizing the restoration of Israel (Ezekiel 37:1-14).
- 11. **Prophecy Against Foreign Nations**:** Ezekiel pronounces judgments against various foreign nations, including Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, and Egypt (Ezekiel 25-32).
- 12. **New Covenant and Restoration**:** God promises a new heart and spirit for the people of Israel, signifying a renewed relationship with Him (Ezekiel 36:24-28).
- 13. **Gog and Magog**:** Ezekiel prophesies a future invasion by Gog of Magog and the subsequent divine intervention and victory (Ezekiel 38-39).
- 14. **The New Temple**:** Ezekiel envisions a detailed description of a new, ideal temple, symbolizing the restoration of proper worship and God's presence among His people (Ezekiel 40-48).

15. **The River of Life**: A vision of a river flowing from the temple, bringing life and healing to the land, symbolizing Israel's restoration and blessing (Ezekiel 47). These key points encapsulate the major themes and visions in the book of Ezekiel, highlighting God's judgment, the responsibility of individuals and leaders, and the hope of restoration and renewal for Israel.

Ezekiel 15 is a short chapter where God uses the metaphor of a useless vine to illustrate the worthlessness of Jerusalem in its current sinful state. Here are some practical application points from Ezekiel 15,

1. **Recognize the Importance of Fruitfulness** - Just as a vine's primary purpose is to bear fruit, our lives should produce positive outcomes and good works. - **Example**: A person actively involved in community service, helping those in need, and contributing positively to society reflects fruitfulness. Conversely, living a self-centered life without contributing to others can be seen as being unproductive, much like the vine in Ezekiel 15.

2. **Understand the Consequences of Sin** - Sin renders individuals and communities ineffective and subject to judgment. - **Example**: If a business leader engages in unethical practices, their actions may eventually lead to the downfall of their business, loss of trust, and legal repercussions, demonstrating how sin can lead to destruction and loss of purpose.

3. **Evaluate Personal and Spiritual Growth** - **Point**: Regularly assess whether your life is bearing the spiritual fruits of love, joy, peace, and righteousness. - **Example**: Someone might set aside time each week for self-reflection and prayer, asking themselves if they are growing in their faith and positively impacting those around them, much like a gardener assessing the health and productivity of their vines.

4. **Avoid Complacency in Spiritual Life** - Do not become complacent or assume that mere association with God's people guarantees God's favor. - **Example**: A church member who attends services regularly but does not engage in acts of kindness or spiritual growth should realize that outward appearances alone are insufficient. Active engagement and living out one's faith are crucial.

5. **Heed Warnings and Calls for Repentance** - Take warnings about spiritual complacency seriously and respond with repentance and a renewed commitment to God. - **Example**: If a friend or spiritual mentor points out an area where you have strayed from your values, instead of dismissing their concern, you should take it to heart, seek forgiveness, and make necessary changes in your life.

6. **Pursue God's Purpose** - Seek to fulfill God's purpose for your life rather than pursuing selfish ambitions. - **Example**: A person who feels called to serve others may choose a career in social work or healthcare, prioritizing their calling over potentially more lucrative but less fulfilling opportunities.

7. **Community Accountability** - As a community, hold each other accountable to ensure collective fruitfulness and faithfulness. - **Example**: In a church or small group, members might regularly check in about their spiritual journeys, encouraging and supporting one another in areas of struggle and growth.