

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 348 – Take A Sharp Knife Through I The Lord Have Spoken It (Ezekiel 5:1-17)

1. What did God want Ezekiel to do with his shaved off hair?

“(1) And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. (2) Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, and smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them. (3) Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts. (4) Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 5:1-4).

- Verse 12 explains what we are about to read.
- The word translated “knife” is general and could mean: “drought; also a cutting instrument (from its destructive effect), as a knife, sword, or other sharp implement: - axe, dagger, knife, mattock, sword, tool” (Strong’s # 2719).
- Shaving one’s hair off, in the Old Testament could have meant:
 - ✦ A person was unclean and was becoming clean (**Leviticus 14:1-9** and **Numbers 6:9**).
 - ✦ A Nazarite vow when he would shave and burn the hair (**Numbers 6:18-21**).
 - ✦ To be put to shame (**II Samuel 10:4**).
 - ✦ Mourning (**Job 1:20**).
- The weighing of the hair seems to have equal thirds with a little leftover to be bound in Ezekiel’s skirts. Just weights do mean something (**Leviticus 19:36**).
- The city would burn (**Jeremiah 38:23**).
- Death by sword (**Jeremiah 15:2**) even for those who fled (**Jeremiah 9:16**).
- Death by knife, which is as noted from verse 1, a general term. Sword, famine, pestilence was all coming (**Jeremiah 24:10**).
- Hold on to a few, just to burn them too which may represent Babylon’s coming back to finish off the city (**II Kings 25:1-11** and **Jeremiah 52:12-15**).

2. What did Jerusalem do worse than the nations and countries round about her?

“(5) Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her. (6) And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them” (Ezekiel 5:5-6).

- God expected His people to be an example of faithfulness to the nations around them (**Deuteronomy 4:6**; cf. **Proverbs 4:18**).
- When the right things occurred, other nations took notice (**I Kings 4:34**; **10:1-9**).
- Rather than showing forth righteousness, they were WORSE than the heathens round about them (**II Chronicles 33:9** and **Ezekiel 16:47**).

- They had refused to obey God (**Nehemiah 9:16-17**, **Jeremiah 5:3**, and **Zechariah 7:8-11**).
- Such behavior had long been their history (**Psalms 78:5-11** and **Jeremiah 11:10**).
- That didn't stop in their future from here either (**Acts 7:51**).

3. How was the Lord going to satisfy His anger against Jerusalem?

Pestilence, famine, the sword; His wrath against them: *"(7) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you; (8) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations. (9) And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations. (10) Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds. (11) Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity. (12) A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them. (13) Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them"* (**Ezekiel 5:7-13**).

- Multiplied (**Isaiah 59:12**).
- They were rebellious people (**Lamentations 3:42**).
- Punishment in the sight of those about them (**Jeremiah 22:8-9** and **Lamentations 2:15-17**).
- Public correction for public transgression (**I Timothy 5:20**).
- They had fair warning, long ago, that God would be their enemy if they transgressed (**Leviticus 26:17-46** and **Isaiah 63:10**).
- Things done to them that had not been done in the past (**Lamentations 4:6-9** and **Daniel 9:12**).
- Cannibalism as foretold (**Deuteronomy 28:53-57**).
- Scattered remnant (**Deuteronomy 28:64** and **I Kings 9:6-7**).
- No pity (**Lamentations 2:20-22**).
- Verse 12 is the explanation of verses 1-4 (**Jeremiah 15:2; 21:9**). See notes there.
- 70 years did it for the Lord (**Jeremiah 25:11-12**, **Jeremiah 29:10**, and **Daniel 9:1-2**).
- Think about how the Lord was comforted by taking fury on His sinful people (**Ezekiel 7:8** and **Hebrews 10:30**).

- Don't confuse this point. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (**Ezekiel 33:11**). At the same time, He cannot stand sinners (**Psalms 5:4-5**). His comfort is in that His disciplinary actions would be done.

4. What was going to be an instruction to the nations around Jerusalem?

What He did to Jerusalem was a lesson to those around them by making them a reproach to all that observed them: *“(14) Moreover I will make thee waste, and a reproach among the nations that are round about thee, in the sight of all that pass by. (15) So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the LORD have spoken it” (Ezekiel 5:14-15).*

- **Deuteronomy 28:25-37, Jeremiah 24:9-10, and Jeremiah 44:12**

5. What kind of arrows did God say He was going to send?

“(16) When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of famine, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread: (17) So will I send upon you famine and evil beasts, and they shall bereave thee; and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the LORD have spoken it” (Ezekiel 5:16-17).

- **Deuteronomy 32:16-23, Psalms 7:11-13, Ezekiel 14:13, and Ezekiel 28:23**