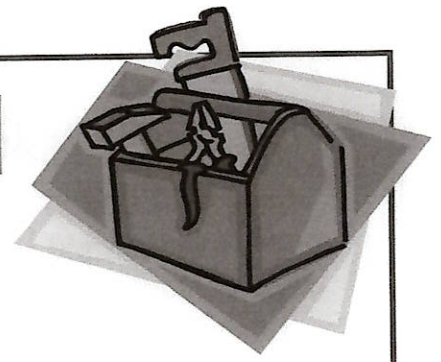


Building Your Life for God



Lesson 5

Ezekiel Warns the People

Theme: Righteous judgment—God’s punishment and forgiveness

Memory Verses

“Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house...[with] windows open toward Jerusalem...and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.”

Daniel 6:10

Daily Bible Readings

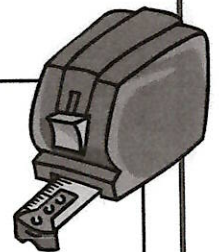
Thursday Ezekiel 4:1-3, 16-17
Friday Ezekiel 10:1-4, 18-19
Saturday Ezekiel 18:1-3, 20-21, 30-32
Monday Ezekiel 37:1-14
Tuesday Ezekiel 43:1-2, 4, 7, 10-11

God told Ezekiel to write the word “Jerusalem” on a brick. Next, Ezekiel was to “attack” the brick. He was to build ramps up to the brick and show soldiers ready to attack. This was to let the people of Israel know that God was allowing Babylon to attack Jerusalem!

Jerusalem was the most important city in Judah. The temple of God and the king’s palace were in Jerusalem. If Jerusalem fell, this meant the whole nation was defeated.

Ezekiel 4:1-3, 16-17

What was Ezekiel to write on a brick?



Through Ezekiel, God was warning Jerusalem that what was about to happen?

- an earthquake
- a tornado
- an enemy attack

Would there be much or little food and water in Jerusalem?



Ezekiel 10:1-4, 18-19

In Ezekiel's vision, what filled the temple court?

At the end of the vision, God's glory left

- the earth.
- the river.
- the temple.

God's people forgot God and started worshipping false gods. God tried many times to turn them back, but His people would not listen. The time came that God punished His people by allowing another nation to attack and defeat them. By Ezekiel's "Brick Attack," God warned His people what was about to happen because of their sin.

Eating Sour Grapes

A proverb is an observation or a lesson about life put in a few words. In Ezekiel's day, people used this proverb: "The

fathers eat the sour grapes, but the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ezekiel 18:2). The proverb means that children can suffer because of their parents' actions.

God commanded Ezekiel not to use this proverb any more. God wanted people to understand that each person is responsible for his own decisions. God said it this way, "People will die because of their own sins" (Ezekiel 18:20). Parents' actions influence their children. Also, children may suffer some of the consequences of their parents' sin. But in the end, everyone must give account for himself.

We want to blame other people for our bad decisions. We like to say, "She made me do it." But each person is responsible for his own decisions and actions.

Dry Bones Come to Life

One time, the Spirit of the Lord took Ezekiel and set him down in the middle of a valley full of bones. Everywhere he looked, the prophet saw dry and brittle bones. God told Ezekiel to say to the bones, "O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord."

When Ezekiel said what God wanted him to say, suddenly he heard a rattling sound as bones came together. Flesh grew on the bones and skin covered them. Finally, breath came into the bones, and they came alive and stood on their feet!

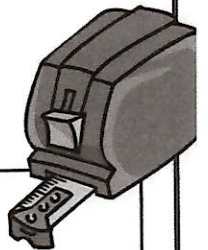
Ezekiel 18:1-3, 20-21, 30-32

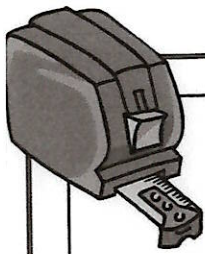
Whose fault is it when you sin?

Who will be punished for your sin?

- whoever made you do it
- your parents
- you

Instead of being punished for sin, what does God want people to do?





Ezekiel 37:1-14

When the Spirit of God came on him, what did Ezekiel see in the valley?

What happened to the bones?

What lesson was God teaching by this vision?

God said the dead, dry bones stood for the people of Israel who were in captivity, away from their homes and without hope. God would take them from captivity and bring them back to the land of Israel. God forgives and gives life!

God's Glory

When the temple was first built, the glory of the Lord filled it. One day, the prophet Ezekiel saw a vision of God's glory in the temple. As Ezekiel watched, God's glory moved out of the temple and toward the gate. God's people kept sinning and would not turn

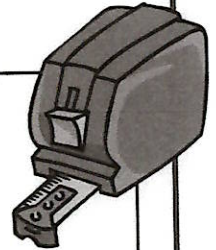
back to Him. Because of this, Ezekiel's vision showed God's glory leaving His people.

At another time, God showed His glory to Ezekiel. This time, God's glory came into the temple and filled the house! God said He would be with His people again if they would turn from their sins. God wanted His people to stop sinning so He could forgive them and be with them.

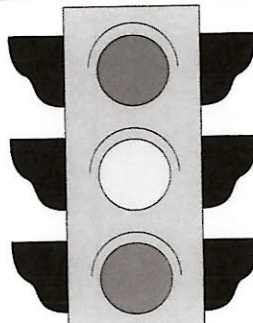
Ezekiel 43:1-2, 4, 7, 10-11

True or False? God was willing to dwell among His people if they put away their sin.

How should the people of Israel feel about their sin?



I try to blame someone else for things I do that are wrong.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — **most of the time**

Yellow — sometimes

Green — **never**

Think About It ...



Dave is your cousin. He is your age and you are best friends. Two weeks ago, Dave said some really mean things about you to another friend. When you found out, he told you he was sorry and you forgave him. Then the same thing happened again the next week. You forgave him again. This morning Dave told another friend a lie about you. You are finding it hard to trust Dave. Why?

What do you think will happen now?



Nail Down the Bible Facts

Right here, right now, write from memory John 3:16.

Which book of the Old Testament is about God raising up judges to deliver Israel?

On a map inside the back cover, circle the nations of the Divided Kingdom — Judah and Israel.