



EZEKIEL: *Death and Resurrection*

A Bible Study with John Oswalt

EZEKIEL 12–13

Background: After the introduction in chapters 1–11, the next major division is chapters 12–24: The Certainty of the Destruction of Judah and Jerusalem. These messages were all delivered between August 594 (Ezek. 8:1) and January 587 (Ezek. 24:1). But the only one of them that can be precisely dated is Ezekiel 20:1–44, which was delivered on July 10, 590. The individual messages are marked by the phrase “The Word of the LORD came to me” (Ezek. 12:1, etc.). However, the phrase can appear several times within a single incident or message (so Ezek. 12:8, 16, 21, 26).

- The collection is quite miscellaneous, beginning with a sign-act and ending with the death of Ezekiel’s wife. In between there are allegories, parables, poems, judgment oracles, and logical discourses.
 - Chapters 12 and 13 may be read together as a comment on prophecy. In chapter 12 the true prophet is seen in action, while in chapter 13 false prophets are described and judged. In this sense, the two chapters are introductory to what follows: the true prophet tells of destruction to come, while the false prophets predict that all will be well.
 - Divination (Ezek. 12:24; etc.) was forbidden in the Old Testament. This was an attempt to predict the future based on the position of the stars at a certain time, the action of certain birds, or the shape or action of some other facet of creation. It grows out of the belief that there are magical connections between all the parts of the cosmos.
1. Look up 2 Kings 25:4–8 and compare it to Ezekiel 12:11–14. What are the similarities?
 2. Notice the refrain in verses 15 and 16. What is the relationship of this sign-act (this prediction) to that statement? What is one of the purposes of predictive prophecy? (Note the repetition in verse 20 as well.)
 3. What can we say about a true prophet thus far?
 4. What is the point of the proverb and the rejoinder in verses 21–23. Compare Isaiah 5:19 and 2 Peter 3:4. What is the problem in all these places?

5. On verse 24 compare Ezekiel 13:23, Jeremiah 14:14, and Zechariah 13:2–4. See the Background above.
6. According to Ezekiel 13:2 and 3, how were the false prophets like the true one?
7. What is the problem with the false prophets according to verse 5, and then verses 10 and following?
8. What is the point of the whitewashed wall imagery? Should a prophet do more than predict the future? Are they only wrong because they are predicting peace? If one says destruction and the other says peace, what makes one right and the other wrong?
9. What is the sin of the women condemned in verses 17–23? Why are they doing it (v. 19)? What's the problem with that?
10. What does verse 22 say about the moral state of these women and their relationship to God?