



EZEKIEL: *Death and Resurrection*

A Bible Study with John Oswalt

EZEKIEL 14–15

Background: Ezekiel 14:1–11 continues the prophecies about true and false prophecy that began in Ezekiel 12:21. Then Ezekiel 14:12–23 expresses the inevitability of the exile, while Ezekiel 15:1–8 gives us a parable of why the exile is inevitable.

In his commentary, D. Block refers to the literary structure of Ezekiel 14:12–20 as “paneling,” i.e., repeated use of the same structure. The prophet does the same thing elsewhere in the book.

1. According to Ezekiel 14:1–3 what is the problem with “the elders of Israel”? What do you suppose their reaction was when Ezekiel informed them of their real condition?
2. What do you think is meant by “set up idols in their hearts”? How do we do that?
3. What might “wicked stumbling blocks” refer to? What are some contemporary examples?
4. How will the Lord answer such people (vv. 5, 8)? But *why* will he do that? What is God’s intended last word? What does he want (vv. 5, 6)?
5. As you consider verses 9–11, think about what the elders wanted from Ezekiel. Did they want the truth or a lie? Now look at Psalm 18:26–27. As with the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart, we have to consider who the person was and what he really wanted. Also look up 1 Kings 22:20–23. How are we going to coordinate this with James 1:13?
6. What are the common elements of each of the “panels” in Ezekiel 14:12–20? What is the point of all of them? Why do you think Ezekiel uses this structure? Wouldn’t once have been enough?

7. What is the point of verses 21–23? How does this provide a fitting conclusion to Ezekiel 14:12–20?
8. Israel considered itself a special vine (see Ps 80:8–19). But Ezekiel looks at that image from another perspective. They have only produced bitter grapes (Isa 5:1–7). That being so, what else are they good for (15:1–5)?
9. Think about Ezekiel 15:7. How else might the sentence have concluded (“...set my face against them, then...”)? What does this conclusion suggest? Who might “you” refer to?