

Consequences of Failure

Exploring Ezekiel, Amir Tsarfati

Chapter 2

CAPTURE THE SCENE (What do I see?)

Using your Bible, answer the following questions.

1. What title does God use when addressing his prophet, Ezekiel? What job description does God give to him in Ezekiel 3:17?
2. How does the author describe success for Ezekiel as God instructs the prophet in Ezekiel 3:18-19?

3. Does Ezekiel have an option with these instructions? What consequence would the prophet escape for following his orders, given at the end of vs. 19?
4. What did the Spirit do to the prophet in Ezekiel 3:24?
5. What two signs would Ezekiel experience according to verses 25-26?
6. What was the purpose of the second sign (verse 26)?
7. What reversal was Ezekiel to expect, and what was he to say (verse 27)?

8. What was Ezekiel to portray on a clay tablet (Ezekiel 4:1)?

9. What was Ezekiel commanded to do in verses 2-3?

10. What visual display was next, according to verses 4-6, and for how many days was the prophet to carry out the two parts of this display?

11. In the next object lesson, what was Ezekiel to prepare, and in what way would this concoction be defiled (verses 9-13)?

12. What warning did God give in verses 16-17?

13. Next, Ezekiel was commanded to shave his head and beard (Ezekiel 5:1-4). What warning did God then give through Ezekiel (verses 7-12)?
14. What would God do to the people of Israel in response to their idolatry (verses 3-7)?

ANALYZE THE MESSAGE (What does it say and mean?)

Using both your Bible and your copy of *Exploring Ezekiel*, answer the following questions.

1. We are not given much detail about God's command for Ezekiel to lie on his left side, then his right. But we do know the reason. God told

the prophet to do this to "bear the iniquity of the house of Israel" (Ezekiel 4:5). According to Ezekiel 22:2-12, what types of sin had God's people committed?

2. One truth that is prominently proclaimed throughout the book of Ezekiel is that sin has consequences. What consequences do we find listed in the following passages?
 - a. Isaiah 59:2—
 - b. Romans 6:23—
 - c. Galatians 6:7-8—
 - d. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10—

3. In light of those consequences, how seriously do you think God takes sin?
4. According to Ezekiel 6:10, 13-14, what is one of the key purposes of God's judgment?
5. To whom does Romans 1:18 say the wrath of God is revealed against?
6. Read Revelation 20:11-15.
 - a. What clues in verses 11-13 indicate that it won't be possible for any unbeliever to avoid the consequences of sin?
 - b. What will happen to anyone not found written in

the book of life”
(verse 15)?

7. Bible commentator Charles Lee Feinberg observed that "in Scripture, God repeatedly extends words of warning and admonition in grace before He unleashes forces of destruction in judgment."*

Why do you think we can rightly say that God's announcements of impending judgment are expressions of His grace?

COMPARE THIS PASSAGE WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

(How is it supported elsewhere in the Bible?)

1. When Ezekiel spoke about the sins the people of Israel

committed on the mountains, he was referring to their worship of idols in high places.

- a. In Ezekiel 6:1-7, what does Ezekiel say God will do to the high places of Israel?
 - b. Now contrast this with Ezekiel 36:1-15. What future promise does God make about Israel's mountains and hills in verses 8-10?
2. In Ezekiel 6, God condemned His people for their incense altars and idols. What do the following passages tell us about idols and idolatry?
- a. Exodus 20:3-6—

b. Deuteronomy 27:15—

c. Psalm 135:15-18—

d. Jeremiah 11:12—

3. In Ezekiel 7:3, 4, 8, 9, and 27, we read that God's destruction of Israel was because of the choices the people had made. He repeatedly told them, "I will repay you according to your ways."

a. Read Romans 2:6-10. What will God render to each person (verse 6), and what are the two possible outcomes (verses 7-10)?

b. What promises are made to believers in Psalm 103:10 and Romans 8:1?

EXECUTE

(How does this affect my life?)

1. For the ancient Israelites, idolatry was a huge stumbling block. Instead of seeking the one true God, they would seek other gods. We may think we wouldn't be so foolish as to do that, but idolatry comes in many forms. Loving or wanting someone or something more than God is idolatry. What are some ways it is possible for us to commit idolatry today?

2. What does it look like for us to love God above all else?

3. No Christian is able to attain perfection—that won't happen until we are in heaven. We all stumble at one time or another. When that happens, what should we do as quickly as possible, according to 1 John 1:9? And what does God promise to do?

4. Why do you think God hates sin so much? As you answer, think in terms of the damage sin does to God's creation.

5. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all

things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

What are some ways that sin within our heart can deceive or delude us?

6. We may sometimes think that a hidden sin in our lives won't affect others. But why is it that all sin—no matter how well we hide it—ultimately affects our relationship with God and with those around us?
7. Ephesians 4:26 says, "Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath." Why is there wisdom in making sure we don't allow negative emotions or sins to persist within our hearts?