

Ezekiel 13

“Untempered Mortar”

Intro.

- Ezekiel’s ministry came during Israel’s (Judah’s) 70 year Babylonian captivity
- Ezekiel 22:23-31 – the state of Israel
- 12:22-27 – some said nothing of God comes true & others it won’t happen for a long time, so don’t worry about it – Is. 5:19; 2 Peter 3.

I. Phony Prophets

- A. V.2 – they prophesied out of their own heart (inspiration) = they taught their own doctrine – Rom. 10:1-3; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; Jude 4.
- B. V.3 – they follow their own spirit & have seen nothing; i.e. they have no God given vision = they’re following their own agenda or someone else’s.
- C. V.4 – they were like foxes in the deserts: sneaky; destructive; scavenging; digging under walls/fences & stealing/destroying the harvest/crops/livestock.
- D. V.5 – haven’t gone into the gaps of the walls = they’re not willing to protect/fight for the flock = they’re self-centered – v.22.
- E. V.6-8 – they envisioned futility & false divination = they spoke lies concerning God’s standards; self-imagined; dreamed up/made up their own doctrine claiming it was of the Lord.
- F. V.8-9 – the result: God’s wrath incurred & His blessing removed.

II. Inadequate building supplies

- A. V.10-11, 14-15 – untempered mortar
 - 1) V.10 – they seduced (to cause to wander or lead astray) God’s people. How?
 - a) Proclaimed peace when there wasn’t any. Why??
 - i) Wanted people to think they were in a right standing with God in spite of their sinful lifestyles – Rom. 1:28-32.

ii) They were against the true message from God (impending judgment), from the true prophets of God.

aa.) *True messengers of God tell people what they need to hear, not what they want to hear – 2 Tim. 4:1-5.*

bb.) *“Popularity isn’t a test for truth.” - Wiersbe*

b) They *plastered their flimsy walls with **untempered mortar*** =

i) Or. Heb. = daubed with lime (plaster); to frivolously cover or smear with whitewash = anything as deceptive words or actions, used to cover up or gloss over faults, errors, or wrongdoings.

ii) *They had given the people a false sense of spiritual security by building a faulty foundation from things other than God’s truth. They were trying to gloss over their own dishonest teaching & the people’s sin!*

B. Why build with untempered mortar? Why not use the proper material & process (letting it harden)?

1) **Time** – when workers are in a hurry/behind schedule, they compromise the setting process to finish quickly, building on a foundation that isn’t ready.

2) **Money** – they can build something that looks solid but actually costs less by watering down the “mortar”.

3) **Dishonesty/selfishness** – those who use such tactics are only concerned with themselves, not envisioning or caring about the families in danger of their home collapsing around them!

a) *So it is with those who preach false doctrine: they don’t want to invest the time/energy it takes to build a proper spiritual foundation; they don’t want to get into the dirt and dig and build and measure and ensure a proper structure is set for the future; but want to hurry through the process appealing to man by teaching things that sound good and appeal to their sinful nature.*

- b) *They desire the applause of man rather than the glory of God – Matthew 6.*

III. Results/consequences of untempered mortar

A. V.11 – destruction & disaster: it will fall!!! (Grenading)

- 1) Untempered mortar doesn't harden properly, meaning it looks solid, but is actually weak, giving a false sense of security & putting people in danger = **what false doctrine & teaching did then & still does today!!!**
- 2) *Any structure lacking a proper foundation is doomed to collapse. It might take some time, but eventually it collapses...when the storms come! Weak foundations aren't known until the storms reveal it... and then it's too late!*
 - a) **If you want to know what kind of foundation an individual, a church, a family, a nation has, look at what kind of storms they withstand – Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49.**

B. V.12 – Revealing – “Where are the materials you used?” **Why?**

- 1) V.14 –To reveal if it was built properly: “...so that its foundation will be uncovered...”
 - a) When someone claims to build on/with Jesus Christ as their foundation, but then it collapses, God wants everyone to see and know they were lying...He is the Rock that never crumbles; the wall that is never broken; the foundation that stands forever! – Ps. 62-63.
 - b) Anything built on sinking sand God will reveal so others won't make the same mistake and so everyone will know how to build properly.

C. V.13-15 – Reckoning – “Thus I will accomplish My wrath on the wall and on those who have plastered it with untampered mortar...”

- a) God refuses to allow hypocritical & blasphemous spiritual structures to stand.

b) His wrath is coming on all those who claim to stand on His name & standards when in reality they're doing just the opposite: building on everything but God – Matt. 23; 2 Peter 2.