

Ezekiel 8-9 – 17 May 2015

Introduction –

Ezekiel spoke to the people thru play acting (Chap 4&5)

Ezekiel spoke to the people thru sermons (Chap 6&7)

Ezekiel now speaks to the people thru visions(Chap 8-11)

The 3 stages of the religious fool's life.

Chapter 8 – This is the stage of a religious fool's life in which they're fully worshiping things other than God.

Vs 1-4

- a. 14 months after his original vision in chapter 1
- b. His hair has grown out
- c. All of the worshiping and serving of false gods in this chapter is happening by religious people “at church”.
 - i. This isn't atheists
 - ii. These are the people that say they want to do right and serve God.

Vs 5

- a. We can go a whoring after and worship 4 types of things and the first one is seen here...**Material Things** or images.
 - i. Used otherwise to refer to the goddess Asheterah
 - ii. Could have been any image.
 - iii. People today worship cars and video games and porn.

Vs 6-12

- a. The second type of thing we go worshiping after is represented here with animals and that is **Attributes**.
 - i. Creeping things is a general reference to animals.
 - ii. The worship of lions as strong, leopards as fast.
 - iii. Do you know of people who worship attributes today?
- b. Vs 11 – Shaphan was faithful to King Josiah but not Shaphan's son.

- c. Vs 8 “Digging thru the wall” and Vs 12 “the Lord seeth us not”
 - i. Behind the scenes look at what is done in darkness.
 - ii. Psalm 101 – “I will walk within mine house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.”
 - iii. “The Lord seeth not.”
 - 1. Psa 14:1 – Fool hath said in his heart...
 - 2. That’s why this is called “The 3 stages of the religious fool’s life”

Vs 13-14

- a. The third type of thing we go worshipping after is represented here with Tammuz and that is **People**.
 - i. Tammuz and his wife Istar
 - 1. Babylonian vegetarian god – god of resurrection.
 - 2. Mourned in the fall, celebrated in the spring.
 - 3. Celebrated by painting eggs.

- ii. Do you know any ‘people’ that are worshiped today?

Vs 15-18

- a. The fourth type of thing we go worshiping after is **the creation or heavens.**

- i. Do you know of people who worship the creation rather than the Creator?

- 1. Horoscopes – stars or very One who made the stars.
- 2. Save the polar caps and have an abortion.

Let’s talk about the FIRST stage of a religious fool’s life! What hindered them? What took their motivation to serve God away?

#1 – Idolatry

- a. Anything that you place as more important than God.
- b. Read Luke 9:59 – “Let me first...”
- c. Give some examples class: (Job, family, recreation)
 - i. Think of where you spend your time

ii. Think of where you spend your money

#2 – **Conformity**

- a. Doing what is expected or popular or normal instead of think thru each situation.
- b. Read I Sam 17:39 – David trying Saul’s armor
- c. Give some real life examples class

#3 – **Imaginary Barriers**

- a. Being fearful or not willing to do your part.
- b. Read Prov 26:13-14
- c. Give some real life examples class

#4 – **Allurements**

- a. Things that just place distract you. They sometimes take your time or money but always your attention.
- b. Read of Lot’s wife & Read Matt 19:22 – rich, young ruler.
- c. Give some real life examples class

#5 – **Oblivious**

- a. Simply not knowing what God expects of you.

- b. Ex: In days of Josiah people didn't know God's will until they found the Law and studied it. Same in the days of Ezra & Nehemiah.
- c. Give some real life examples class

#6 – **Fear & Unbelief**

- a. Not believing that God will do His part
- b. Ex: Children of Israel wandered for 40 years.
- c. Give some real life examples class

Chapter 9 – This is the third stage of a religious fool's life. Destruction comes to them as a surprise first.

Vs 1-3

- a. The Glory of God departs and they aren't even aware of it.
 - i. Think of Samson.

Vs 4 – Look here at the mercy of God to mark and spare the faithful remnant!

- a. This mark is the last letter of the alphabet - *taw*

Vs 5-6 – Those that are given much knowledge of God are highly responsible and accountable.

Vs 7-11 – We need to be like Ezekiel out there crying for mercy, not God’s great justice.

Conclusion –

So today we’ve looked at the 3 stages of the religious fool’s life.

#1 Six things that hinder him from serving God like fear or allurements of the world or conformity.

#2 Four things that we end of worshiping in place of Christ like people, attributes or creation.

#3 Destruction comes to them first as they’re held more accountable.

I pray and may you today, #1 recognize the things that you are worshipping today, and #2 consider what is it that is hindering you from running hard after God in service and worship. May you be part of the faithful remnant that is marked with a “*taw*”.