

## Ezekiel 17-19 – 26 July 2015

### Introduction –

While Moses was up getting the Law, Aaron was leading the people. Aaron allowed them to make and worship the golden calf. Aaron's response to Moses was, (Exo 32:22) "You know this people, which are set on mischief."

Why didn't Aaron stop this sin?

**The sinful easy way out of a situation, leads to destruction. The only right way out is to consider your own sin in the matter (don't blame others), repent and do justly.**

**Chapter 17 – The sinful easy way out, leads to destruction!**

a. Vs 3-4

a. Babylon and Nebo coming in 597BC

- b. Lebanon – They made their palaces from the cedars of Lebanon.
- c. Highest branch = The king Jehoiachin was carried captive into Babylon (II King 24)

b. Vs 5-6

- a. The king's brother Zedekiah was set as vassal king by Nebo (Jer 37)
- b. Nebo left only poor & outcasts in the land that had a small likelihood of rebelling.

c. Vs 7-8

- a. Judah thru Zedekiah turned to Egypt for their security and economy.
- b. Zedekiah would get horses and armies from Egypt to help him. (see vs 15)
- c. **Why not turn to Egypt for help prospering instead of just remain under the hard rule of Babylon?**
  - i. **Only one reason: B/c this was God's chosen direction for them.**

- ii. Why not just divorce? Only one reason?
- iii. Why not homosexuality? Only one reason.
- iv. Why not abortion? Only one reason.

d. Vs 9-10

- a. **If we chose an “easy way out” that helps us prosper in the flesh, the Lord can turn that easy way into destruction in a hurry.**
- b. **A man decided to stop tithing, b/c “he needed the money”. With weeks, he lost his job. The easy way in the flesh, wasn’t so easy!**
- c. Abraham didn’t trust God’s “harder” plan and in the flesh has Ishmael.
- d. **What have you done in the flesh thinking it would be easier?**

e. Vs 11-21

- a. Vs 13,16,18 – Zedekiah made an oath w/ Nebo, this is what God wanted, but he broke this oath in favor of Egypt’s help.

- i. You ever committed to do something God's way, but then find an "easier" way and forsake the Lord?
- b. Vs 19 – Zechariah committed to God that he would serve under Babylon (Read II Chr 36:13)
- c. Seems harsh; God says, "do it the hard way or get judged".
  - i. God sent plenty of instruction for them to know how to do it the hard way (Read II Chr 36:13-16)
  - ii. Your faith has to be tried for you to become fully equipped (Jam 1:3-4)
  - iii. This is a relationship with God day to day, not just a destination in heaven.
    - 1. "Who can mind the journey, when the road leads home?"
- f. Vs 22-24
  - a. Tender One – The Messiah

- i. Isa 53:2 – A Tender Shoot out of a dry ground.
- ii. Taken from the “highest branch” or the kingly lineage of Judah.
- iii. All people can dwell under His blessing equally!
  - 1. How can you make all equal?
  - 2. Show all are unworthy.

## Chapter 18 – **Consider your own sin & not another’s.**

### a. Vs 1-4

- a. Although there are generational effects of sin, they won’t be able to blame it on anyone else. They see their own sin in the matter.
- b. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die”.
  - i. Isn’t directly saying that death is the result of sin.
  - ii. It’s directly saying that YOUR death is the result of YOUR sin.

- c. Many worldly psychologists would have us regress to blame our father or uncle, but never look at our own sin.
- b. Vs 5-9
  - a. This is a picture of a man walking perfectly after the Law. He would live.
- c. Vs 10-13
  - a. This is a picture of that man's son dying for his own sin.
  - b. We need to be careful not to assure or young kids of salvation until they're personally received Christ.
- d. Vs 14-17
  - a. This is the grandson, who is not held accountable for his wicked father's sin.
- e. Vs 18-24
  - a. Vs 21-23 - The wicked can turn to the Lord...that's grace.

b. Vs 24 – The one doing righteousness can turn away from the Lord.

f. Vs 25-29

a. We say it's not fair that a sinner like Hitler could repent at the last minute and make heaven.

b. We say it's not fair that a righteous person like Charles Templeton could fall away at the tail end and discover hell.

c. **The whole thrust of this chapter is to consider yourself! Who are you?**

i. Someone recently asked me if a believer can fall away.

ii. The answer is...who are we talking about?

1. Some mysterious someone or you!

2. Are you falling away? Can I help you with on-going sin in your life?

3. Nothing can take a believer out of the hand of God, but examine yourself to see if you're in the faith.

g. Vs 30-32

a. The answer is for each one of us to consider our own sin and repent each time it is needed.

b. Consider your own sin, repent and live!!

## Chapter 19 – **Consider the damage you're inflicting to yourself**

a. Vs 1-4 – Remembering Jehoiahaz

b. Vs 5-9 – Remembering Jehoiachin

c. Vs 10-14 – Where did this fire come from that destroyed her.

a. From the rod of her own branches.

b. She caused this judgment on herself by taking the sinfully easy way out.

c. She should stop blaming others and look in the mirror.



## Conclusion –

**The sinful easy way out of a situation, leads to destruction. The only right way out is to consider your own sin in the matter (don't blame others), repent and do justly.**

Are you taking the easy way out today regarding your commitments to God?

Are you taking the easy way out today regarding teaching your family the ways of the Lord?

Where will that lead?

How about we commit today to examine ourselves first when hearing the Word of the Lord?

May God give you an extra measure of faithfulness to Him today and love of the truth, in Jesus name.