

Ezekiel 14-15 – 5 July 2015

Set the stage:

Eze 4-11 – prophecy to Israel in Babylon thru visions/symbols.

Eze 12-24 – prophecy to Israel in Babylon thru sermons.

Eze 25-32 – prophecy against other nations

Eze 33-39 – restoration of Israel

Eze 40-48 – the millennial kingdom and temple

Introduction –

Our actions are driven by our thoughts and our thoughts are driven by our _____.

Which belief is more important to make sure you have right in your head?

- a. I believe I should wear a shirt and tie to church or I believe that all Christians should be a part of a church? How do you know???
- b. I believe God created in 6 literal days or I believe smaller govt and lower taxes is best. How do you know?

Certain beliefs are crucial for salvation, certain are important for spiritual living and other beliefs can be known from the Lord as well. Right beliefs are what we strive for....Amen?!?!?!?!?

Yet when we don't believe rightly, we offer excuses to God.

Today let's look at 3 Excuses we offer to God for not repenting and believing God at His Word.

14:1-3 –

- a. These Elders wanted to hear what God had to say thru Ezekiel about the future of Jerusalem.
- b. Interesting how the religious people want to hear from the Christian during very hard times.
- c. Sometimes hard to see the idols people have set up in their hearts.
 - i. Sometimes the idol of “I want to look smart, I don't want to look stupid”.
 - ii. Sometimes the idol of “I want to look independent; I don't want to look dependant”.

iii. Sometimes the idol of physical blessing, instead of desiring spiritual blessing by sacrifice.

d. God says, they're only turning to me for one more opinion, instead of as the first, only and primary opinion that they need to hear and obey.

14:4-5 –

a. Being estranged from God is the most direct sin against God.

i. Lying, stealing, murder is directly against the person, others indirectly are affected.

ii. Adultery is indirectly against the person involved and directly against someone else.

1. **It's a shame when someone can tell you lots about their adulterous lover, but not much about their spouse!!**

2. Cuz Deb – doesn't believe the Bible from cover to cover.

iii. You want to break God's heart the most? Place other things as more important than following His ways.

- b. **This is the 1st excuse that we offer to God for not repenting & believing Him at His Word, that is to say, “I didn’t know it was sin.”**
 - i. They would say they did no wrong in diving into other things for pleasure.
 - ii. This is lusting after other things and it’s adultery.
 - iii. Read Luke 9:59 – “Let me first...”
- c. Vs 4 – God will answer this person, may not be what they expect.

14:6-8 –

- a. If they don’t except the primary message...REPENT, none of God’s other messages will matter.
 - i. Would a M.D. be any good if he didn’t tell the severely obese person to stop eating poorly?
- b. **This is the 2nd excuse that we offer to God for not repenting & believing Him at His Word, that is to say, “I haven’t been around long / I don’t have a family heritage in churchy stuff.”**
 - i. Notice this is for the stranger in Israel also.

- ii. Don't need to be around long to have accepted the fact that we need to obey God and turn from contradicting authorities or priorities.
 - iii. How long do you "have to be around" before accepting 6 day creation or that the Bible is true from cover to cover or that God desire for us to read His Word daily?
- c. Vs 8 – Public shame for these idolaters, but what was their sin or idols?
- i. The Jews wanted their ways.
 - 1. Wanted Jerusalem to remain. Their confidence, their security. **You see, We're not like that (sarcasm)**
 - 2. Wanted to continue to prosper in land. Their comfort, their happiness. **We're not like that (sarcasm)**
 - 3. Wanted Jehovah AND to serve other gods in the land. Wanted to dabble in practices of the heathens around them. **We're not like that (sarcasm)**
 - 4. Wanted to choose another direction when God was leading them to choose a

decision toward life. **We're not like that**
(sarcasm)

14:9-10

- a. How is a prophet deceived or deluded?
 - i. Think Balaam. Eventually God gave him over to go where he wanted to go.
- b. **This is the 3rd excuse that we offer to God for not repenting & believing Him at His Word, that is to say, “I have bad spiritual leaders”**
 - i. Punishment for that false prophet as well as the hearer are given. Why the hearer gets punished?
 - 1. Both have the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Soccer coach giving illegal directions analogy.
 - a. A good soccer player would know to question unlawful directions and not follow them.
 - ii. The H.S. inside you will turn you away from false teachers, but your flesh will draw you into them.

1. Read II Thes 2:10-12

14:11 – Read this verse again and again. This is what God wants.

14:12-21 –

- a. What do 3 men have in common? They were all cut off from their people and had to start life anew.
- b. “When the land sinneth against me...” (vs 13),
“How much more...” (vs 21)
 - i. Meaning – they certainly deserve this judgment.
- c. Famine, Noisome beasts, sword, pestilence.
 - i. Noisome beasts vs pestilence
 - 1. Noisome beasts – (Bacteria)
 - a. Means “evil or bad alive things”
 - b. Bubonic plague and Black Death
 - 2. Pestilence – (Virus)
 - a. Means “to arrange or destroy”
 - b. Spanish Flu or HIV/AIDS
 - 3. The largest virus is smaller than the smallest bacteria.

4. Bacteria reproduce and much of them are “good”. Viruses can only reproduce by attaching themselves to cells and reprogramming the cell.
- ii. Read Rev 6:8 – sword, hunger, death, beasts of the earth.
- iii. God knew the details of the microbial world since the beginning of time.

14:22-23 –

- a. God knows how to deliver the righteous. There is always a faithful remnant.
- b. However, God has no grandchildren.
 - i. Noah, Daniel, Job would be delivered but not their kids.
- c. “Comforted concerning the evil that I’ve brought”.
 - i. Do you focus on the dross that is melting away or the purpose of gaining the pure gold?
 - ii. Bike helmet pressing into you head.
 1. “This hurts my head!”
 2. “Can’t believe I had to pay \$10 for this helmet.”

3. BUT, when tragedy comes, you will be thankful for that little bit of pain or “evil”.

15:1-8 –

- a. The vine tree which is Israel is NO GOOD unless in is bearing fruit meet for repentance or showing repentance.
- b. It was made for no other purpose.
- c. Since Israel wasn't being fruitful, the only thing left was to destroy it.
- d. God requires, God desires fruit. (Gal 5:22)
- e. John 15
 - a. Slightly modified in Christ.
 - i. Israel is vine.
 - ii. In Christ – He's the vine, we are His branches.
We are in Him.
 - b. So, how do we reject these excuses for not believing God and showing it?
 - i. Let's read John 15:1-8
 - ii. ABIDE IN THE VINE!!!

- iii. Repent of the things we're not believing correctly and comes to know the Lord in His word.
 - 1. Need reminder of the 5 parts of what true repentance looks like? God back and read Eze 6-7.

Conclusion –

Conclusion #1 - If others are saying:

- 1) “I don’t think that is sin”, when it clearly is, help them talk thru it so they can repent and abide in Christ.
- 2) “I haven’t been saved long” or “I didn’t grew up with churchy stuff”, well, how do they respond when wrong beliefs are pointed out to them?
- 3) “I have bad spiritual leadership” (pastor or husband), explain everyone can repent of wrong beliefs and abide in Christ regardless of others actions.

Conclusion #2 – Maybe you find yourself having these excuses for not believing the scripture from cover to cover. Repent of wrong thoughts and believes and trust in the Savors eternal Word.

Where does this fruit go to that we are to bear? Who’s the husbandman? Our fruit is for God...we have an opportunity to give Him something and please Him.

May God give us a humility to change a few thoughts and beliefs and confess it before men.