

Ezekiel 14:12-15:8 – 12 July 2015

Introduction –

The elders have come to Ezekiel for counsel. They serve the passions and idols in their hearts but wanted Jehovah's opinion also. God's 1st message to them was, "Repent", without which, no other instructions would matter.

3 Things we need to believe about living in a sin-cursed world.

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.

1st thing we need to believe about living in this sin-cursed world is that there are 4 macro or major effects world-wide.

- c. Famine, Noisome beasts, sword, pestilence.

- i. Can't play a historic video game without seeing these things come out. (Famine, War and disease)
- ii. Famine – think economy
- iii. Sword – think war
- iv. But it's interesting that God breaks disease into 2 things
- v. 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.
- vi. Read Rev 6:8 – sword, hunger, death, beasts of the earth.

vii. God knew the details of the microbial world since the beginning of time.

d. So the world we're in has this 4 major curses abiding on it.

14:22-23 –

2nd thing we need to believe about living in this sin-cursed world is that we should portray a hope thru in all.

- 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 it 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)

3rd thing we need to believe about living in this sin-cursed world is that we have the world-wide cure for it all.

- 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 do not believe correctly and come 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 you going to be effective for the Lord in this sin cursed world we must believe...

- 1) That famine, war and disease are effects of our sin, brought upon by us.
- 2) We should portray hope thru this life.
- 3) We have the eternal cure

Conclusion #2 - If others are using the excuses to sin that we talked about last week.....:

- 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 #3 – Maybe you find yourself having these excuses for not believing the scripture from cover to cover. Repent of wrong thoughts and believes and abide in the Savior’s 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 daily humility to change a few thoughts and beliefs and confess it before men.