

Message #10**Ezekiel 7:1-27**

There are many people who don't seem to mind being challenged to repent of sin in view of future judgment. Some people are okay with that. They regularly go to some place of worship and hear that they need to deal with sin in view of a coming judgment day. They don't mind hearing that now and then. People used to flock to Billy Graham crusades and they knew they would hear that they needed to repent of sin.

But what if those people went to a church or service and heard this: It is too late for you to repent. Your opportunity for grace has passed you by. You can't repent anymore. God is fed up with you and your opportunity to deal with sin has been shut down. God won't let you repent and if you try to repent He won't accept it if you do. In fact, your judgment is on the way. Your fate is sealed. **That message would not be too popular to present to a crowd, but that is exactly the message God gave Ezekiel to preach to Israel.**

The people of God saw themselves as invincible. They thought God is our God. Jerusalem is the city of God and the temple is the Temple of God and it will always stand. Doesn't matter how we live or respond to God's Word, we have nothing to worry about.

See, we tend to think that God always owes us grace, mercy and forgiveness. After all, we have never received the full consequences of any of our sins at any time. But this text warns God's own people that He will not put up with stubborn, arrogant, unrepentant sin. If one breaks the heart of God and persists in loving sin and not loathing sin (6:7), God will do something about it.

There is a scary prediction in Scripture that shows up time and time again of a ferocious judgment of God that will bring total disaster and fearful judgments on this earth because it refuses to turn from evil abominations and turn to Him. There are predictions that God will send a horrible judgment on Israel, which is worse than any judgment she has ever seen. The reason is because she will not turn from her sin and turn to Him.

GOD REVEALS TO EZEKIEL AND TO HIS PEOPLE THAT HE IS AUTHORIZING THE DOOM OF THE END AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE BECAUSE OF HER ARROGANT, UNREPENTANT REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH ABOMINABLE SIN.

Biblical prophecy has both near and far application. **What all people need to realize is that God's judgments coming in the future are as certain as those that have been carried out in the past.** People would be very wise to take notice of what God has done literally in the past because there is a major prediction of a horrific judgment coming in the future.

At the time Ezekiel made this prophecy, Babylon was on the verge of invading the land of Israel. This invasion was fully authorized by God. But there are things in this prophecy that have not yet been fulfilled, which would indicate that there is another day of judgment coming that will fulfill every bit of what is predicted here.

Now there is no question that this chapter clearly reveals that all of this comes directly by the Word of God. In other words, it is God's Word that authorizes this judgment. That point is specifically stressed in **verse 1** and **verse 5**.

Furthermore, you will notice the use of the Personal pronoun "I" that is used pertaining to God (7:3, 4, 8, 9, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27). **What all of this means is that this horrific judgment is coming directly from God Personally.**

God's people need to realize that God does not let His people persist in evil things forever. He gives time for His people to get things resolved, but if they do not face it He will permit horrible things to happen against His own people, including things that bring about doom and disaster.

Now we may notice from **verses 1-2** that Ezekiel was told by God to take a message from God to **the land of Israel**. This is a very specific message, given to a very specific people who live in a very specific land. This judgment will come on the "four corners of the land" (v. 2). There is application for Israel and there is also an application to the world.

The message is seen in **verses 2-3**, and it is this: **God is so angry with His people because of their abominable sins that He will put an end to them by sending an ending ferocious judgment against them and against the land.**

The Hebrew word "end" is qets, which is the same word God uses concerning the flood which put an end to all flesh because of His judgment (Gen. 6:13). So this is a reference to an end type of judgment specifically in regard to Israel.

Now the judgment is specifically said to be against "the land of Israel" (7:2). So this is a specific geographical end judgment aimed at the entirety of the Promised Land. However, what Revelation tells us and what Ezekiel later in this book will tell us is the nations of the world will be the recipient of the wrath of God because of their Christ-rejecting, Bible-mocking, arrogant pursuit of abominable sin (i.e. Rev. 6:16-17). So these threats are more than just for Israel.

Now the conjunction "for" which begins **verse 4** starts describing the end judgment. There are primarily two themes that are developed here:

THEME #1 – What God's end judgment will cause to happen to His own people. **7:4-19**

There are twelve descriptions of things that God will permit to happen to His own people that do not in any way display any blessing or grace.

Description #1 - God's end judgment will not show any pity on His people. **7:4a**

Just think of this. This is a sober and scary thought.

Description #2 - God's end judgment will not spare His people. **7:4b**

When God sends judgment men, women, children are the recipients of it.

Description #3 - God's end judgment will punish His people for their abominations. **7:4c**

When God's people are being judged by God, they know it. They know they have refused to deal with their sin. This is important because what is revealed here is that this judgment is perfectly just and right.

Description #4 - God's end judgment will be a unique disaster against His own people. **7:5**

The noun disaster is singular, which means this will be a major disaster aimed at His own people that is unlike any they have ever experienced.

Description #5 - God's end judgment will be an end judgment against His own people. **7:6**

There is one final end judgment that is coming against His people. It is the judgment of all judgments.

Description #6 - God's end judgment is a doom judgment that ends all joy. **7:7**

Now in Ezekiel's mind the doom judgment had come. There is no joyous light at the end of this tunnel. For Israel, at this point, it is too late. Moshe Greenberg said a doom judgment is "a fatal sentence" judgment (*Ezekiel, 1-20*, p. 48).

Description #7 - God's end judgment is an anger wrath judgment against His own people. **7:8**

What has prompted God to do this is all of her abominations that has pushed the limits and turned grace to anger.

Description #8 - God's end judgment shows no pity for His own people. **7:9**

His people will know that He is the One doing this and they will admit that the reason He is doing this is because they deserve this because of their abominations. God says in this verse "I am smiting My own people." There is a new name for God given in this verse: "YHWH Makkeh" which means I am the LORD who strikes and smites. Now when God's anger reaches a point that He no longer will pity His people, the way He treats His people changes from that which sympathizes to that which strikes.

Description #9 - God's end judgment is a doom judgment because of arrogance. **7:10**

The sin started like most sins do, as a small shoot. But it had budded into a full-grown arrogant pursuit of evil. Sin was no longer shamefully locked up in a closet, but was arrogantly out in the open.

The word “arrogance” (zadon) describes a person who will not humble himself to listen to God and His Word. He will not listen to God-honoring counsel, but arrogantly and defiantly lives his own way. These kinds of people deserve God’s judgment.

Description #10 - God’s end judgment will be a violent inescapable judgment. **7:11**

One commentator said if any believer hardens himself in his sin, he/she will not escape the judgment of God. It will hit and it will hit hard. The wickedness of His own people has prompted this judgment. When God sends it, no one will escape or remain, including wealthy, eminent people. This will be a violent and bloody judgment.

Description #11 - God’s end judgment will destroy the buyer and the seller. **7:12-13**

Does not matter if one is rich or poor, those persisting in iniquity will not escape. They will all experience the judgmental wrath of God and money won’t buy one out of it.

Description #12 - God’s end judgment will not be stopped by a military defense. **7:14-19**

One may think I’ll escape God’s judgment. I’ll build some bunker and hide in it. God says I will track you down.

The blowing of the trumpet (**verse 14**) had specific significance for Israel. It often meant that it signaled the fact that God would fight for Israel. **Here it signifies that God is against Israel.**

Now we suspect that this moment coincides with the seventh trumpet judgment in Revelation 11:15ff, which is clearly connected to Israel and the Antichrist. This seventh trumpet judgment contains the 7 bowl of wrath judgments which features horrible things that lead to the battle of Armageddon. As **Ezekiel 7:16** reveals, there will be very few survivors. Those who are survivors will have fled to the mountains.

God’s people will call upon God for help, but it won’t work. What people are up against is the wrath of God. God will use the “sword” and “famine” and “plagues” to kill people (**7:15**). Even if someone escapes and makes it to some mountain spot, they will be like a defenseless dove and “all” will be mourning over their sin (**7:16**). **This is so sad. Had they mourned over their sin before this judgment hit, God would have been gracious.**

Verse 17 says their hands will hang limp and their knees will be like water. Many commentators suggest that things will be so fearful that this literally is a reference to people losing bladder and urinary control. They will be so scared they will lose their ability to control bodily functions. These were once people so proud and so upstanding; but not when this judgment hits. God will bring them down and break them down.

They will be wearing sackcloth as a sign of mourning and they will be shaking because they will be overwhelmed with what is happening (v. 18). Their heads will be shaved and they will be totally humiliated. The people will be ashamed and their money won't mean a thing because it cannot buy them out of this judgment (v. 19).

THEME #2 – What God's end judgment will cause to happen because of His Temple. **7:20-27**

God's people have made a mockery of Temple worship. Many churches today are making a mockery of Church worship. They are turning it into something detestable in the sight of God.

According to **verse 20**, God's temple was transformed by the people into an idolatrous place. The people were so proud that they actually changed sacred things into detestable idolatrous things.

So in **verses 21-27**, God says what He will. He describes nine actions He will take:

Action #1 - God will authorize wicked foreigners to plunder and profane His Temple. **7:21**

Action #2 - God will turn His face from favoring Israel. **7:22a**

Action #3 - God will permit robbers to enter and profane His most holy place. **7:22b**

Action #4 - God will cause violent bloody crimes to link together like a chain from the Temple to the Land. **7:23**

Action #5 - God will bring the worst of nations to possess their houses and places of worship. **7:24**

God will allow proud, arrogant people to dominate His own people. Wicked, evil, God-mocking, Christ-rejecting people will dominate His own people.

Action #6 - God will not permit any peace to exist with His people. **7:25**

They will seek to have a peaceful relationship with God, but will not find it.

Action #7 - God will send disaster after disaster against His own people. **7:26a**

Horrible rumors will be added to horrible rumors and they all come true.

Action #8 - God will remove anyone who can communicate God's truth. **7:26b**

There will be priests and elders, but no one who actually knows the Word of God. God will remove any who can actually communicate truth. They will seek some priest or elder who can give them counsel as to what they need to do, but they will not find one who knows the Word.

This is what is happening today in many churches. They are run by leaders who don't know God's Word.

Action #9 - God will cause political leaders to mourn and be horrified. **7:27**

Political leaders have always been responsible for honoring the God of the Bible or mocking the God of the Bible. Those leaders who did not honor God will be "clothed in horror" as a direct judgment of God. A political leader who promotes false religion is heading to very serious judgment.

Notice what we read at the end of **verse 27**. All of these horrible judgments are coming from the hand of God as a judgment for their abominable and evil conduct. This is fair judgment based in their conduct.

There are many churches today that are making a mockery of what church is to be. It is not a place of reverent worship where people come to do serious business with God. It is not a place where people go to hear the Word of God so they may make honest adjustments in life. Be warned. God will not put up with this forever. He will target people and send judgment disaster against His own people.

Sin is a terrible thing in the mind of God and arrogance that refuses to acknowledge the sin and repent of the sin is something that angers God.

God will not be mocked forever. He is patient. He is gracious. He is kind. His grace can save the worst of sinners. But if one proudly and defiantly refuses to respond to the grace of God, he will face the judgment of God.

People who persist in unconfessed sin need to be warned. God will not let you get away with it forever.

Now some believers may write this off and think this is O.T. stuff. Well the writer of Hebrews didn't think so. In fact, in Hebrews 9:27, he said, "it is appointed for men to die once and **after this comes judgment.**" **Do not kid yourself; after we die we will face judgment.**

Do you really believe that when it comes time for this that God will be impressed with our nice house or car or savings account? Do you really believe God will just forever let His people persist in sin? Ezekiel 7 says no way.

Look, what God is looking for are people who loathe their sin and not love their sin. God will work with His people and pity His people who are honest with things. But harden your heart against Him and His Word and He will track you down. That is the message of Ezekiel 7.