

Messianic Prophecies: **Ezekiel**

Five Portraits of Jesus:

I. THE MAJESTIC REFUGE

Ezekiel 17:22-24

I. The Context

A. Intro to Ezekiel

His book is simple to outline:

- I. Jerusalem will soon fall under God's judgment: ch 1-24
- II. Judgments against seven nations: ch 25-32
- III. Words of Hope & Consolation to the exiles: ch 33-48

Basic themes: God is sovereign –
He *will* be acknowledged – He is Lord of the nations –
and the God of Hope

Like Jeremiah, he never appeared successful. People looked at him as an entertainer (33:32), but they did not like his message. They wanted their old life back, not the new one God promised.

Ezekiel promised an End to their world, but a far better New World God would bring:

- A wonderful Shepherd-King Who would rule forever
- And would change their hearts to love God & His ways
- Who would further change the whole world to a New Eden!

B. Chapter 17

Preached in 590bc, after Jehoiachin deported (597/6bc) and 2 years before the Final Siege of Jerusalem began (588bc)

17:1-21 presents the House of David as a mighty **cedar** that is doomed because of its foolish choices. Judgment Day is coming. It came on 14 Aug 586BC, prefigured by the sudden death of his beloved wife.

→ Q: what will become of God's promises to this House (II Samuel cf. Psalm 89)??

II. God's Answer: v22-24

The tender shoot God will pluck and plant (cf, 17:4; this shoot is a Person, the Messiah):

- On the highest mountain: exalted
- Where it will grow and flourish
- And become a splendid, majestic cedar
- Where all kinds of birds will find refuge
- And all trees will acknowledge God's sovereignty
- Particularly that He humbles and exalts
- And brings Life from death (and kills the self-sufficient)

This is the story that began in Bethlehem, when the King of kings was born in a manger.

So what

- Marvel at the **accuracy** of this prophecy!
So you can trust His promises for the future. Judgment Day is coming, as well as the Day of Jesus' triumphant Coming
- Jesus is the King Who will triumph over all other powers when He returns. That is your certain **Hope**. Give **Thanks** for it this week
- Have you found your **refuge** in Him? The sovereign One is also so tender and compassionate. But not to the self-sufficient. **Humble** yourself so HE will lift you up.
Grace flows downhill.