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## Ezekiel 6.

(2014)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Ezekiel 6.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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### Topics.

- The LORD will destroy Israel's high places altars and their Idols.
- A remnant of Israel will survive.
- The survivors will know that God is the LORD.

**Introduction to the Book of Ezekiel:** Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem.

After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (ch. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem.

**NOTE:** Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### The LORD will destroy Israel's High Places Altars and their Idols.

Ezekiel 6:1-7 ----- <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, <sup>3</sup>and say, You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and the hills, to the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places. <sup>4</sup>Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain before your idols. <sup>5</sup>And I will lay the dead bodies of the people of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars. <sup>6</sup>Wherever you dwell, the cities shall be waste and the high places ruined, so that your altars will be waste and ruined, your idols broken and destroyed, your incense altars cut down, and your works wiped out. <sup>7</sup>And the slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel is told to prophecy against the mountains and hills of Israel and they are told to listen. Mountains and hills, ravines and valleys do not have ears to hear. In this context they refer to the king of Israel, his officials, the high priest, the Levitical priests and everyone who has authority and influences over the people and the people of Israel themselves. The LORD is telling the people of Israel He, is about to destroy the high places that Israel has set up and their Baal altars of worship, their pagan altars of incense and their idols.

At this time the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: -

- Where practising gross idolatry.

- Had built altars to Baal and Asherim, a goddess of love, fertility and increase, her worship was lewd and associated with that of Baal.
- Had sacrificed their children in the Hinnom Valley to Moloch.
- Where worshipping the sun, moon stars and planets.
- Had placed altars for worshipping the host of heaven in the temple court.
- Established altars to idols under trees that gave shade on their hills.

The LORD is saying He is going to destroy Israel's, idols and altars throughout their land and their cities.

**NOTICE:** the LORD says, "Israel will know that He is the LORD." God used Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon as His servant to achieve this. The armies of Babylon laid the land of Judah waste, brought the city of Jerusalem to ruin, pillaged the temple of God and took all the people of Israel into captivity for seventy years. While in captivity God the master potter moulded them into a united nation and cured them of their idolatry and at the end of their seventy year captivity they returned to Jerusalem worshipping only the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and never again turned to idols.

### **A Remnant of Israel will Survive.**

Ezekiel 6:8-10 ----- <sup>8</sup>"Yet I will leave some of you alive. When you have among the nations some who escape the sword, and when you are scattered through the countries, <sup>9</sup>then those of you who escape will remember me among the nations where they are carried captive, how I have been broken over their whoring heart that has departed from me and over their eyes that go whoring after their idols. And they will be loathsome in their own sight for the evils that they have committed, for all their abominations. <sup>10</sup>And they shall know that I am the LORD. I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them."

The LORD is heartbroken, because His people have forsaken Him and turned to pagan gods and idols. Many Judeans will flee to the surrounding nations to escape the terror of the Babylonian armies and others will be taken captive. When these events take place the people of God will remember all the words the LORD has spoken through Ezekiel and realise that they broke the heart of the LORD through their idolatry. When this revelation comes to their heart they will hate themselves for turning from their God and breaking His Heart by worshipping idols and the gods of the surrounding nations.

This is why the LORD says, "It is not in vain that I would do this evil to them." The entire motivation of the LORD to bring Babylon's armies upon the people of Judah was to turn them from their idols, pagan gods and all their wickedness and back into union with Him because they are on a path to eternal destruction. Through these judgments God magnificently and beautifully achieved His purposes.

Those that had been scattered and those who had been taken into captivity, forsook the gods of the surrounding nations and returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah to Jerusalem with great triumph and rejoicing, united as one nation, and with their faith restored in the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

For greater detail see the following title:-

- Cyrus the LORD'S Anointed Shepherd (Ezekiel 11:17-20).

In, Commentary Old Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

### **The Survivors will know that God is the LORD.**

Ezekiel 6:11-14 ----- <sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: "Clap your hands and stamp your foot and say, Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. <sup>12</sup>He who is far off shall die of pestilence, and he who is near shall fall

by the sword, and he who is left and is preserved shall die of famine. Thus I will spend my fury upon them. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every leafy oak, wherever they offered pleasing aroma to all their idols. <sup>14</sup>And I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land desolate and waste, in all their dwelling places, from the wilderness to Riblah. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

**Riblah:** is a site along NE boundary of Canaan.

Many will die by war and pestilence and those who survive these two plagues will die by famine, because of all their gross wickedness and rebellion. Israel had turned so far away from God that they were looking to their idols and pagan gods for protection and prosperity and trusting in the gods of the surrounding nations to give them victory over their enemies instead of looking to the LORD their God. By their own gross and extreme wickedness they forced God to judge and use whatever means He could to turn them back from their gross wickedness and blatant rebellion.

When the survivors of Israel see their idols, their altars and their high places surrounded by the slaughtered and dead bodies of their people they will not only know that the prophetic words Ezekiel spoke were the words of the LORD and that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is their God, but also very clearly know that there is no other God.

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End.