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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: October 01, 2017**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 21:1-32**

**Text: Ezekiel 21:1-32**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Parable of the sighing prophet**

Let us remember that the prophet Ezekiel was among those who were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar and his army. He was among the princes, and the might men of valor taken to Babylon by the King of Babylon. Now he is in the land where he was given the words of this book by the LORD GOD. You will recall that he was rightly named as one sent to prophesy to the WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. The northern kingdom of Israel, whose capital was Samaria, was taken captive and carried away by the king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, in about the year 721 BC. This was more than 120 years before Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came and besieged Judah and Jerusalem.

Having studied chapter 20 last time, we now move into the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of this great prophecy.

- **Parable of the sighing prophet (Verses 1-7)**

**1 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel, 3 And say to the land of Israel, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I am against thee, and will draw forth my sword out of his sheath,**

**and will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked. 4 Seeing then that I will cut off from thee the righteous and the wicked, therefore shall my sword go forth out of his sheath against all flesh from the south to the north: 5 That all flesh may know that I the LORD have drawn forth my sword out of his sheath: it shall not return any more.**

***Therefore shall my sword go forth...*** -- the Chaldean army under captains that are skilful to destroy,

***out of his sheath;*** -- I will bring the Babylonians out of their land, where they are now quiet and at rest. This army is not going away elsewhere, but it shall effect what it is raised for, it shall make a general havoc in Jerusalem.

**6 Sigh therefore, thou son of man, with the breaking of thy loins; and with bitterness sigh before their eyes.**

**Sigh therefore;** -- thereby express to them deepest sorrows for what is present, and most piercing fears of what is to come.

**With the breaking of thy loins;** -- like a woman in travail, or as one whose griefs are ready to break his heart.

**With bitterness sigh;** -- with all sorts of the most bitter cries and tears.

**Before their eyes** -- who were now with him in Babylon, and who, as they easily could, so surely would, send word back to them who remain in Jerusalem and Judea.

**7 And it shall be, when they say unto thee, Wherefore sighest thou? that thou shalt answer, For the tidings; because it cometh: and every heart shall melt, and all hands shall be feeble, and every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water: behold, it cometh, and shall be brought to pass, saith the Lord GOD.**

Ezekiel, you shall be a strong sign to them again! When they ask why you are sighing and crying with such anguish and bitterness, it is because it has and shall continue to come on you!

- **The Parable of the Sword of the LORD (Verses 8-17)**

**8 ¶ Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 9 Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD; Say, A sword, a sword is sharpened, and also furbished: 10 It is sharpened to make a sore slaughter; it is furbished that it may glitter: should we then make mirth? it contemneth the rod of my son, as every tree. 11 And he hath given it to be furbished, that it may be handled: this sword is sharpened, and it is furbished, to give it into the hand of the slayer. 12 Cry and howl, son of man: for it shall be upon my people, it shall be upon all the princes of Israel: terrors by reason of the sword shall be upon my people: smite therefore upon thy thigh. 13 Because it is a trial, and what if the sword contemn even the rod? it shall be no more, saith the Lord GOD.**

**Because it is a trial,** -- As all afflictions and calamities are, especially to the people of God they try their faith and patience, and every other grace; and also to wicked men, they try them, whether they will repent or not.

**and what if the sword contemn even the rod?** – (Contemn – to treat with small value; treat with contempt; despise – OED) the sceptre: the king of Judah, and his family; not only come upon and cut off the people and the princes, but the royal family also; and overturn the entire tribe of Judah and subvert the government of it. The rod or sceptre is a symbol of the government of Judah. This would be a sore trial indeed, and yet our Lord determined it to be so.

**if also the sceptre despises;** -- if the king despises the trial, the affliction, the calamity, and is not brought to repentance by it. And we know the king(s) did not repent.

**it shall be no more,** -- or "it shall not be", saith the Lord God; it, the sceptre, shall be taken away, and not restored to the house of David, until the Messiah comes.

**14 Thou therefore, son of man, prophesy, and smite thine hands together, and let the sword be doubled the third time, the sword of the slain: it is the sword of the great men that are slain, which entereth into their privy chambers.**

"Smite your hands together, Ezekiel" – as Balak did to Balaam after Balaam had blessed the people – as a sign of his displeasure! (Numbers 24:10). The LORD says he will do the same in verse 17.

**15 I have set the point of the sword against all their gates, that their heart may faint, and their ruins be multiplied: ah! it is made bright, it is wrapped up for the slaughter. 16 Go thee one**

**way or other, either on the right hand, or on the left, whithersoever thy face is set. 17 I will also smite mine hands together, and I will cause my fury to rest: I the LORD have said it.**

- **No king in Israel until Messiah Comes (Verses 18-27)**

**18 ¶ The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying, 19 Also, thou son of man, appoint thee two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come: both twain shall come forth out of one land: and choose thou a place, choose it at the head of the way to the city. 20 Appoint a way, that the sword may come to Rabbath of the Ammonites, and to Judah in Jerusalem the defenced. 21 For the king of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination: he made his arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver. 22 At his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, to appoint captains, to open the mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to appoint battering rams against the gates, to cast a mount, and to build a fort. 23 And it shall be unto them as a false divination in their sight, to them that have sworn oaths: but he will call to remembrance the iniquity, that they may be taken.**

It is true that the heathen used profane things such as a beast's liver and arrows to determine their course of action, but the decision was not the King's, but the LORD's! King Nebuchadnezzar was totally unaware that he would be called "my servant" of the LORD. God used this heathen king to chastise his own people, therefore, Nebuchadnezzar having

consulted his arrows and looked into the liver, “decided” to go to Jerusalem. Later the LORD brought him against both Egypt and Tyre to judge them. He was an instrument of God’s judgment.

**Jeremiah 27:5-8** *I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. **6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.** 7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. 8 And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.*

**24 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are discovered, so that in all your doings your sins do appear; because, I say, that ye are come to remembrance, ye shall be taken with the hand.**

**25 And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, 26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.**

***And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end,*** -- This verse and the one following seems to look forward to the wicked prince who shall rise in Israel. This man shall have great power, but only for a time.

**Daniel 9:24-27** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. **25** Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. **26** And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the ***people of the prince*** that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. **27** And ***he*** (the prince) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

***Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown:*** -- This man of sin – the wicked prince – the

abomination which makes desolate – the anti-Christ - the incarnate devil, shall be deposed when Jesus Christ returns from heaven to destroy the man of sin, the false prophet, and their armies which shall be gathered against Jerusalem.

**Revelation 19:19-21** *And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

**27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.**

***I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it:*** -- This triplication of the threat speaks the certainty of the event, and also speaks of the gradual, successive troubles and overthrows that this kingdom of Israel should ever after be afflicted with.

***It shall be no more;*** -- It shall never recover its former glory and strength, but consume, till the sceptre be quite taken away from Judah, and way be made for the Messiah, who is he that is to come, whose is the dominion, and to whom the Father will give it. So, the final desolation of the temporal kingdom of the seed of David, which was most heavy tidings to the **carnal Jews**, is threatened.

However, the eternal kingdom of the Messiah which is most joyful tidings to the **believing Jews**, is promised.

***Until he come whose right it is:*** -- Jesus Christ answered Pilate just before his crucifixion, when Pilate asked, "Art thou a king then?" Jesus answered: "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." (John 18:37). Thus, our Lord is THE KING, having been born thereunto. It is His right to take the kingdom – and take it He shall. Israel shall abide many days with a king – but when he comes, he shall be king over all the earth.

***And I will give it to him.*** -- **Psalm 2:7-9** I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. **8** Ask of me, **and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.** **9** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

O, thanks be to God, for he who now stands as a savior – the Lord Jesus Christ, shall come as King of kings and Lord of lords! O, you who hear, do you know him as your personal savior and Lord? Will you be glad with great joy when he comes! Or will you be one who feels the horror of his wrath and flaming fire? Come to him today, if you hear his voice? Behold, today is the day of salvation!

Jehovah uses the Prophet Hosea, also a prophet to the house of Israel, to demonstrate and speak of the LORD's undying love for Israel and the future Davidic Kingdom.

**CF: Hosea 3:1-5** Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of *her* friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine. 2 So I bought her to me for fifteen *pieces* of silver, and *for* an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: 3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for *another* man: so *will* I also *be* for thee. 4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and *without* teraphim: 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

- **Judgment of the Ammonites (Verses 28-32)**
- The Ammonites are the descendants of Lot by his incestuous relationship with his youngest daughter. In Genesis 19:33-38, we read of the beginning of the Ammonites:
  - **Genesis 19:38** And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Ben-ammi: the same *is* the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.
  - In Chapter 25, verses 1-7, we shall study further the prophecy against the Ammonites. Today, the country of Jordan encompasses both the descendants of the ancient Ammonites and Moabites. You will recall that the land was called Moab during the days when Israel stood on the plains of Moab just before crossing the Jordan River into

the promised land.

**28 ¶ And thou, son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning the Ammonites, and concerning their reproach; even say thou, The sword, the sword is drawn: for the slaughter it is furbished, to consume because of the glittering: 29 Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of them that are slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity shall have an end.**

**Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee -- Ezekiel 25:2-3** Son of man, set thy face against the Ammonites, and prophesy against them; **3** And say unto the Ammonites, Hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou saidst, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned; and against the land of Israel, when it was desolate; and against the house of Judah, when they went into captivity;

**30 Shall I cause it to return into his sheath? I will judge thee in the place where thou wast created, in the land of thy nativity. 31 And I will pour out mine indignation upon thee, I will blow against thee in the fire of my wrath, and deliver thee into the hand of brutish men, and skilful to destroy. 32 Thou shalt be for fuel to the fire; thy blood shall be in the midst of the land; thou shalt be no more remembered: for I the LORD have spoken it.**

**Ecclesiastes 8:11** *Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully*

*set in them to do evil.*

**Deuteronomy 32:35** *To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.*