

## Ezekiel Ch 7 • “In the Day of the Wrath of the Lord”

*Background* Ezekiel 7 continues a section of the book that consists of prophecies of the fall of Judah. This section began at Ch 3v22 and continues through this chapter

- 7v1-4 New prophecy (detail) about fall of Judah / Jerusalem  
“The end is come” (cf Gen 6:13, Jer 51:13, Lam 4:18, Amos 8:2)  
Sense of finality reinforced by “drumbeat” of Hebrew words  
Note scope and severity of judgment; also note God’s goal!  
God does not delight in the death of the wicked (Ez 33:11)  
Goal of judgment is to return people to truth / relationship
- 7v5-9 Singular disaster: unique in history. Exile? Temple? Both?!  
“Doom” – difficult to translate Could imply crown / twisting (Is 28:5)  
Sense of things coming full circle (goes around / comes around)  
Back to God’s words to Moses? Or pointing to dual fulfillment?  
“Day of trouble” (v7) is potentially suggestive of long term
- 6v3 We associate idol worship w “high places” but worship to some gods  
eg Molech also tended to happen in valleys (eg Hinnom).  
See Jer 7:31; 19:2-6.
- 6v4-7 Idol worship not a new problem — see Numbers 33. Most recent attempt to address was c. 621<sup>BC</sup> under Josiah. Significant to note that over time “high places” became not only worship of foreign gods but worship of the God of Israel co-mingled with worship of foreign gods. This pollution of Israel’s worship was especially offensive to God — see His comments re Laodicea in Revelation 3. Consider also versions of this “adulterated worship” in the church today! And note that God’s judgment here was not against the pagan idol worshippers but against God’s people who brought false worship into the house of the Lord.
- The degree of God’s wrath seen (v7) in the defilement of the land (unburied bodies; bones). God defiling the land the way people had defiled themselves and their worship.
- 6v8-10 God of judgment also a God of mercy. God will preserve a remnant who will remember His judgment and also remember the reason for His judgment (spiritual adultery). Important: notice God’s tone — HIS heart is “crushed” (broken). Consider: how do we read God’s voice in passages like this?

6v11-14 "Diblah" likely copyist error – probably should be "Riblah" (city on northern edge of Israel in Hamath region (cf Amos 6:14).  
Note: Ezekiel is not rejoicing but grieving ("alas"). Also note the point of the judgment (v14) – that God's people would know He is God.

Application Do WE look at God's judgment on Calvary and know that HE is God?  
Does knowing He is God convince us to tear down our high places?