Explore the Bible Lesson Preview
June 29, 2014
“When Pride Turns to Greed”
Background: Ezekiel 25:1 – 32:32
Lesson: Ezekiel 28:1-5, 11-13a, 14-19

Motivation: Surely by now the Jewish exiles in Babylon had grown weary of Ezekiel’s prophecies against Jerusalem. As often happens when sin and judgment are disclosed, thoughts immediately turn to the other guy and ask “what about him?” In this lesson, Ezekiel answers that question about Israel’s neighbors.

HCSB, p. 1390: 25:1-32:32 “This section of Ezekiel bridges the book’s message of doom and its message of hope. Doom for Israel’s antagonists spells hope for Israel itself. The placement of these oracles at this point disrupts the flow of the book and heightens the tension as the destruction of the temple is imminent. God’s judgment on these nations is based on the Abrahamic covenant, which said that those who cursed Israel would be cursed by God (Gn 12:1-3). All the nations named in the oracle had either taken part in Jerusalem’s destruction or had rejoiced over it. The audience for these oracles was Judean, and so they had cause for future hope.”

Examination:

I. Condemnation of Bitter Revenge (25:1-17)

“Say to the Ammonites: Hear the word of the Lord God: This is what the Lord God says: Because you said, ‘Good!’ about My sanctuary when it was desecrated, about the land of Israel when it was laid waste, and about the house of Judah when they went into exile, therefore I am about to give you to the people of the east as a possession.” (25:2-4)
Nation

Relationship with Judah

Sin

Ammon

Founded by Lot’s illegitimate son.

Rejoicing over the defeat of God’s people. (25:6)

Moab

Founded by Lot’s other illegitimate son.

Rejoicing over the defeat of God’s people. (25:8)

Edom

Founded by Esau
Probably aided the Babylonians in attacking Jerusalem. (25:12)

Philistia

Founded by immigrants from Macedonia & Greece

Vengeance against God’s people. (25:15)

II. Condemnation of Selfish Pride (26:1 – 28:19)

A. Judgment of the Cities “Son of man, because Tyre said about Jerusalem, ‘Good! The gateway to the peoples is shattered. She has been turned over to me. I will be filled now that she lies in ruins,’ therefore this is what the Lord God says: See, I am against you, Tyre! I will raise up many nations against you, just as the sea raises it waves.” (26:2-3)

HCSB, p. 1391; 26:2 “The Phoenicians represented the remnants of the original population that occupied Canaan before the Israelites arrived. As the most powerful city on the Phoenician coast, Tyre dominated not only other coastal cities but much of the Phoenician inland areas as well. Tyre’s Hebrew name is tsur, which means “rock.” Built atop an island off the Phoenician coast, Tyre was virtually impregnable by sea or land. The Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel (722 B.C.) but were forced to withdraw from their siege of Tyre after five years of effort. Relations between

Israel and Tyre were often cordial (1 Kg 5; 7). Tyre, the preeminent maritime power of the ancient world, joined Judah in revolt against the Babylonian Empire (Jr 27:3). After Nebuchadnezzar defeated Jerusalem he besieged Tyre for 13 years (585-572 B.C.) but was unsuccessful in his campaign to conquer the offshore rock fortress. In the fourth century B.C., Alexander built a causeway of stone, timber, and rubble a half mile long and 200 feet wide from the mainland to the island. By this means Tyre was finally conquered, thus fulfilling Ezekiel’s
The ancient Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon were renowned for their adventurous seamen and multiplied trade. In David and Solomon’s day, they cooperated in building the temple (2 Sam. 5:11 ff). Judgment is now forthcoming because they rejoiced in the defeat of God’s people; they thought that the destruction of Jerusalem would increase their share of trade. Their pride was so great that in 28:6, God’s Word states, “...you regard your heart as that of a god.” Ultimately, all sin results from an attitude which supposes man knows more than God.

B. Judgment of Satan (28:1-19)

Chapter 28 has a double application: First to the historical ruler of Tyre, probably Ittobaal II and next to Satan “you were an anointed guardian cherub” (14)

1. Sin of Pride “Your heart is proud, and you have said, ‘I am a god; I sit in the seat of gods in the heart of the sea.’ Yet you are a man and not a god, though you have regarded your heart as that of a god. You are wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you! By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired wealth for yourself. You have acquired gold and silver for your treasuries. By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, but your heart has become proud because of your wealth.” (28:2-5) Pride centers around the pronouns; “I, Me, My and Mine.” Our minds attention and hearts affection is diverted from God to us.

2. Sin of Ingratitude “The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, lament for the king of Tyre and say to him: This is what the Lord God says: You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every kind of precious stone covered you: carnelian, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and emerald. Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold; they were prepared on the day you were created.” (28:10-13) Both the King of Tyre and Satan had perfect settings “in Eden, in the garden of God” (12). Their rebellion and utter lack of gratitude reminds one of Paul’s condemnation, “For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude.” (Romans 1:21)
3. **Sin of Rebellion** “You were an anointed guardian cherub, for I had appointed you. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked among the fiery stones. From the day you were created you were blameless in your ways until wickedness was found in you. Through the abundance of your trade, you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I expelled you in disgrace from the mountain of God, and banished you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud because of your beauty; For the sake of your splendor you corrupted your wisdom. So I threw you down to the earth; I made you a spectacle before kings. You profaned sanctuaries by the magnitude of your iniquities in your dishonest trade. So I made fire come from within you, and it consumed you. I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of everyone watching you. All those who know you among the nations are appalled at you. You have become an object of horror and will never exist again.” (28:14-19)

**III. Condemnation of Contempt for God’s People** (28:20-26)

Following the long exposition on judgment of Judah’s neighbors, Ezekiel gives a reassuring prophecy of future hope. Having used Judah’s neighbors to punish her, God promises a future featuring:

A. **Safety** – God’s people will not be threatened by so much as a thorn. (24)

B. **Security** – Having been scattered, they will now be gathered under the protection of God Himself. (25)

C. **Significance** – Not only will they be safe and secure, they will prosper in the land. This prophecy will obviously have only partial fulfillment until Christ returns to set up His kingdom. (26)

**IV. Condemnation of Empty Boasting** (29:1 – 32:32)
A. Four figures to describe Egypt.

1. Monster (29:3) – crocodile clumsy – powerful

2. Broken reed (29:6-9a) – unreliability

3. Broken arms (30:20-26) – helplessness

4. Great cedar tree chopped down (31:1-18) – pride brought down

B. Egypt’s False Sense of Greatness - All through the Old Testament, Egypt is presented as having a false sense of greatness, living in past grandeur.

History:

3000 BC - Union of Kingdom

2450 - Great Pyramid

1720 - 1550 - Rule by Hyksos (foreigners; period of Joseph)

1520 - 1320 - Military Achievements

1320 - 1200 - Great building activity, Ramses II – end of greatness
1200 - 745 - Long period of decay

745 - 663 - Ethiopian Pharaohs

663 - 525 - Saitic Dynasty, period of Ezekiel – Pharaoh Necho attempted to recapture grandeur of past.

332 - - Alexander ended dynasties of Egypt (30 dynasties)

C. False sense of greatness precedes downfall (Rome, England, France)

Warning signals of downfall (losing power of God)

1. Attitude of self-centeredness

2. Rebellious attitude toward the will of God

3. Pride in achievement (past or present)

4. Loss of interest in Bible Study or prayer

5. Serious doubts about authenticity of the Bible
6. Appeal of secular (worldliness)

7. No remorse over sin

8. A critical, unforgiving, bitter spirit

D. Three major lessons from all oracles

1. Final impotence of world power before God.

2. Universal sovereignty of God.

3. Fate of a nation that resists God.

Application:

1. Those opposed to God’s people will be judged.

2. Satan leads forces opposed to God’s purpose and God’s people.

3. Pride precedes destruction.

Leader Pack Item 9: “Two Kinds of Pride”
Illustrator: No Illustrator Article

**You may access David’s Lesson Preview in MP3 format at: www.hfbcbiblestudy.org**

Dates: 6/4-7/30 – SPF Summer Nights on Wednesdays; 6/5 – 8/7 MetroLIVE Thursdays; 6/2

2

Houston 1:8 Site mtg. #1;

6/23-27

– VBS;

6/26-28

– GACHP Conference (Paul);

6/29

– Houston 1:8 Site Mtg. #2;

7/4

– Independence Day Holiday, Offices closed;

7/6-10

– Houston 1:8;

7/12-18

– Rushmore;

7/13

– Lord’s Supper/Deacon Mtg./Church Conf.;

7/14

– Pastor begins Sabbatical, returns 8/11;

7/19-26

– Rushweek;

7/20

– David Self preaching;

7/22–8/2

– Choir Mission Trip to Africa;

7/25-26

– FP4Health Summit;

7/27

– John Sorenson preaching;

7/30

– RUSH Summer Celebration;

8/3

– Justin Holcombe preaching;

8/10

– Afshin Ziafat preaching;

8/15
Ezekiel Lesson 5: “When Pride Turns to Greed”

Written by David Self
Monday, 23 June 2014 00:00 - Last Updated Sunday, 22 June 2014 04:05

- Daycation ends;
  8/24
  – Next Gen Back to School Sunday;
  8/22
  – ReCreate Date Night;
  8/24
- Back to School Sunday;
  8/24
  – Deacon’s mtg./ Church conference;
  8/27
  – Midlink Kickoff;
  8/29
  – HFBC Night @ Minute Maid Park;
  9/1
  - Labor Day – Offices closed;
  9/3
  – Milestone Classes start;
  9/7
  – Adult 2 Rally;
  9/12
  – Pastor’s Anniversary Event;
  9/14
  – LBS Leadership Luncheon;
  9/17-19
  – Ed Staff @ D6 Conf;
  9/21
  – MIYCO;
  9/25
  – Summit Celebrates;
  10/3-4
  – Women’s Retreat.