

Ezekiel - The Prophet as a Sign (Chapters 4-7, 12, 24, 37)

Introduction

Our Lord restricted Ezekiel's speech until Jerusalem fell, and caused him instead to carry out symbolic acts, "Ezekiel is unto you a sign" (Ch. 12: 6, 11; 24: 24, 27). The greatest Old Testament signs were the Sabbath (Exodus 31: 13, 17), circumcision (Romans 4: 11), and our Lord Jesus Christ (Isaiah 7: 14).

The Seven Signs

The Tile (Ch. 4: 1-8) - For 442 days, representing the length of the coming siege of Jerusalem (II Kings 25: 1-3; Jeremiah 39: 1-2), Ezekiel publicly enacted the siege using a model.

The Defiled Bread (Chap. 4: 9-17) - During this time Ezekiel cooked his food over a fire of dung, illustrating the defilement of Judah in the coming siege.

The Haircut (Ch. 5: 1-17) - Ezekiel cut off his hair, and burned a third, chopped up a third and scattered a third, illustrating what would happen to Judah (disease, the sword, scattering). He kept a small remainder safely, illustrating the preservation of the faithful remnant.

The Flight (Ch. 12: 1-16) - Ezekiel packed his few possessions and crawled through a hole in the wall of Babylon, illustrating the flight of Zedekiah.

The Scum from the Stew (Ch. 24: 1-14) - On the day the final siege of Jerusalem began, Ezekiel showed how our Lord would purge the dross from Judah like fat skimmed off boiling stew.

Ezekiel's Fortitude (Ch. 24: 15-27) - He showed no emotion when his beloved wife died, showing how the Jews would be too stunned by events to mourn.

The Two Sticks (Ch. 37: 15-25) - When Ezekiel in the year Jerusalem fell (Ch. 33: 21-22) publicly brought together a stick "for Judah" and one "for Joseph", our Lord miraculously joined them, prophesying the reunion of Israel in her own hand under her own King.