

Ezekiel - Eight Aspects of Israel's National Failure (Chapters 13-19)

Introduction

A nation fails when vision and prophecy fail (Proverbs 29: 18). Here are aspects of this:

Against the Prophets (Ch. 13: 1-16) - These "see vanity, and divine lies.....saying 'Peace'" (vv. 9-10). Here is the failure of church leadership in Australia today.

Against the Women (Ch. 13: 17-23) - These used divination "out of their own heart" (vv.17-18). Here is "new age" thinking as is growing amongst us.

Against the Leaders (Ch. 14: 1-11) - These older men "set up their idols in their heart" and prophesied falsely. Their descendants are would-be Bible teachers who substitute their own thoughts for the teachings of God's Word (vv.3, 9).

Against the Land (Ch. 14: 12 to 15: 8) - Noah, Daniel and Job would be insufficient to recover the falling away (Ch. 14: 14, 20). The vine, a common symbol of God's people (Ch. 15: 2, 6; Isaiah 5: 1-7; John 15: 1-7), being unfruitful, is burned up.

Against Jerusalem (Ch. 16) - Israel was our Lord's wife (vv.8, 13; Ruth 3: 3-4; Revelation 21: 2), but became unfaithful by doing the abominable things which adjoining nations did (vv.26-28). The penalty was that those nations would destroy her (vv.40-43). Nonetheless, our Lord would remember his relationship in the last days (vv.60-62; Hosea 3: 1-5; Romans 11: 27; Hebrews 10: 15-16).

Against Zedekiah (Ch. 17) - The first vulture is Babylon, which established him; the second is Egypt, to which he turned; for that, he would die in Babylon (vv.3, 6, 7, 9, 18-19, II Chronicles 36: 13). The nation will, however, be restored (vv. 22-24; Zechariah 6: 12-13).

Against Individual Sinners (Ch. 18) - Each is responsible for his own sin (vv.4, 30-32; Ezekiel 9: 4-6) - no argument (v.25, Malachi 1: 2; 2: 14). All need the Gospel.

The Lament for Israel's Princes (Ch. 19) - Jehoahaz in Egypt (v.4) and Jehoiachin in Babylon (v.9) were the "young lions" (v.1) who became prey for the nation's sin, leaving her "no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule" (v.14). Defeat is the penalty for failure of leadership in any nation (Ecclesiastes 10: 16).