

CHAPTER 4

THOU also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and pourtray upon it the city, *even* Jerusalem:

2 And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set *battering* rams against it round about.

3 Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it *for* a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This *shall be* a sign to the house of Israel.

4 Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: *according* to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity.

5 For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.

7 Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm *shall be* uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it.

8 And, behold, I will lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege.

9 ¶ Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentiles, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof, *according* to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon thy side, three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof.

10 And thy meat which thou shalt eat *shall be* by weight, twenty shekels a day: from time to time shalt thou eat it.

CHAPTER 5

11 Thou shalt drink also water by measure, the sixth part of an hin: from time to time shalt thou drink.

12 And thou shalt eat it *as* barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight.

13 And the LORD said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them.

14 Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

15 Then he said unto me, Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung, and thou shalt prepare thy bread therewith.

16 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment:

17 That they may want bread and water, and be astonied one with another, and consume away for their iniquity.

AND thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause *it* to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the *hair*.

2 Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, *and* smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them.

3 Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts.

4 Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; *for* thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel.

5 ¶ Thus saith the Lord GOD; This *is* Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries *that are* round about her.

6 And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that *are* round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them.

7 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that *are* round about you, *and* have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that *are* round about you;

8 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, *am* against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.

9 And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations.

10 Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds.

11 Wherefore, *as* I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish *thee*; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

12 ¶ A third part of thee shall die

with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

13 Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the LORD have spoken *it* in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them.

14 Moreover I will make thee waste, and a reproach among the nations that *are* round about thee, in the sight of all that pass by.

15 So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that *are* round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I the LORD have spoken *it*.

16 When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of famine, which shall be for *their* destruction, *and* which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:

17 So will I send upon you famine and evil beasts, and they

shall bereave thee; and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the LORD have spoken *it*.

CHAPTER 6

AND the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them,

3 And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys; Behold, I, *even* I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.

4 And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain *men* before your idols.

5 And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars.

6 In all your dwellingplaces the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

7 And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

8 ¶ Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have *some* that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.

9 And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

10 And they shall know that I *am* the LORD, *and that* I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.

11 ¶ Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.

12 He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die

by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them.

13 Then shall ye know that I *am* the LORD, when their slain *men* shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.

14 So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.

CHAPTER 7

MOREOVER the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Also, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the land of Israel; An end, the end is come upon the four corners of the land.

3 Now *is* the end *come* upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations.

4 And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall

be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

5 Thus saith the Lord GOD; An evil, an only evil, behold, is come.

6 An end is come, the end is come: it watcheth for thee; behold, it is come.

7 The morning is come unto thee, O thou that dwellest in the land: the time is come, the day of trouble *is* near, and not the sounding again of the mountains.

8 Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations.

9 And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations *that* are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD that smiteth.

10 Behold the day, behold, it is come: the morning is gone forth; the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded.

11 Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them *shall remain*, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither *shall there be* wailing for them.

12 The time is come, the day draweth near: let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath *is* upon all the multitude thereof.

13 For the seller shall not return to that which is sold, although they were yet alive: for the vision *is* touching the whole multitude thereof, *which* shall not return; neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life.

14 They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath *is* upon all the multitude thereof.

15 The sword *is* without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that *is* in the field shall die with the sword; and he that *is* in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him.

16 ¶ But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.

17 All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak *as* water.

18 They shall also gird *themselves* with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame *shall*

be upon all faces, and baldness upon all their heads.

19 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

20 ¶ As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations *and* of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.

21 And I will give it into the hands of the strangers for a prey, and to the wicked of the earth for a spoil; and they shall pollute it.

22 My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret *place*: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it.

23 ¶ Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.

24 Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled.

25 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and *there shall be none*.

26 Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

27 The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The Book of Ezekiel is divided into three obvious sections, following the prophet's call in chapters 1—3. (1) God's judgment on Jerusalem (chapters 4—24); (2) God's judgment on the surrounding nations (chapters 25—32); and (3) God's restoration of the Jews in the kingdom (chapters 33—48). Chapters 1—24 were all given before the siege of Jerusalem; chapters 25—32 during the siege; and chapters 33—48 after the siege. Though the prophet was in distant Babylon, he was able to see events in Jerusalem through the power of the Spirit of God.

Ezekiel's opening message to the exiles, who were hoping for a speedy return to Jerusalem, was a graphic warning that Jerusalem was about to be destroyed; that they would soon be joined by other captives; and that their captivity would last at least 40 years.

As a sign of famine, Ezekiel lived on loathsome bread. Throughout the siege he lay on one side, either continuously or for the greater part of each day, which, with famine diet, meant great discomfort.

When the siege is finished Ezekiel is commanded, as a further symbol of the fate of Jerusalem's inhabitants, to shave off his hair, burn part of it, and scatter the rest of it to the winds.

Chapters 6 and 7 record a sort of dirge over the destruction and desolation of the land of Israel. The main point was that the Jews would, by this terrible punishment, come to know that God is God.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both" (Proverbs 27:3).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 16

(found on page 10).

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1781

THE FRENCH FLEET ARRIVED TO HELP THE AMERICANS FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE.

1894

THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF THE CONVERSION OF DR. BOB JONES, SR.

When Bob Jones, Sr. was three years old, he went to church one day and said, "Let me preach, let me preach." As a young lad he was converted. He started preaching when he was thirteen years of age. He founded the great Bob Jones University and saw more men saved than perhaps any man in the previous generation. He was one of the kindest, sweetest men one could ever know.

1959

JACK HYLES' FIRST SUNDAY AS PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMMOND, INDIANA.

With many apprehensions, a young Texas pastor assumed the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Hammond. He was homesick, afraid, and lonesome. But now he praises God for His blessings upon the labors in Hammond. What a miracle it is that God can take so little and do so much with it! Many times in our studies of events in history, we have suggested that people pray for their pastor and thank God for his ministry. Today, I suggest that every pastor spend some time thanking God for his people. Let every pastor thank God for his people today and pray God's blessings upon them. Thank God for followers. Thank God for prayer warriors. Thank God for helpers. Let each of us praise the Lord for his own church today and thank God that Jesus saw fit to found the local church.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

1800

STORM FORCED SUSPENSION OF ATTACK ON RICHMOND, VA., by Gabriel Prosser and some one thousand slaves. Conspiracy was betrayed by two slaves. Prosser and fifteen of his followers were hanged on October 7.

1843

BLACKS PARTICIPATED IN A NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTION for the first time at Liberty party convention in Buffalo. Samuel R. Ward led the convention in prayer; Henry Highland Garnet was a member of the nominating committee; and Charles R. Ray was one of the convention secretaries.

1854

JOHN C. FREMONT ISSUED PROCLAMATION FREEING SLAVES of Missouri rebels. Lincoln revoked the proclamation.

1901

ROY WILKINS, 2ND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NAACP, BORN (death in 1981).

1956

WHITE MOB PREVENTED ENROLLMENT of students at Mansfield High School, Mansfield, Texas.

1966

CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY CONFIRMED AS U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE and became the first black woman on the federal bench.

RACE RIOT, BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN. National Guard mobilized.

1969

NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZED TO PUT DOWN RACIAL DISTURBANCES in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 73

AUTHOR: David.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

Asaph was David's choir director, or better still, his song leader. An interesting thing about Asaph's Psalms is that he uses the word "Elohim" instead of the word "Jehovah" when he refers to God. Asaph had not known the mercies and blessings and forgiveness of God as had David. Not as many tears had stained his cheeks. Perhaps God was not as personal to him. Then too it is sometimes the temptation of the musician to be a little less personal. At any rate, for some reason Asaph used the word "Elohim" whereas David usually used the word "Jehovah," which is the intimate, saving name of God.

The theme of this Psalm deals with Asaph's wondering why the wicked prosper. He simply could not understand why wicked men would prosper when righteous men did not. Verses 17-20, however, seem to find the light dawning on Asaph concerning why the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper. Each of us must remember that all the good things that happen to the wicked will happen on earth and all the bad things that will happen to the righteous will happen on earth.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

The knowledgeable Jew knew the theme of Asaph's Psalm, and he knew to turn to it and sing it when he was disturbed about the wicked prospering.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 16 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I AM AFRAID I COULD NOT HOLD OUT"

() John 10:28

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

() John 10:29

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

() Romans 14:4

Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

() 2 Timothy 1:12

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

() 1 Peter 1:5

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.