

Ezekiel 14:1-23 **Sin prevents Yahweh from receiving inquiry from sinners**

Idolatry of the heart Will Be Punished

1 Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

2 And the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying, 3 "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"

4 "Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God):
'Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I Yahweh (the Lord) will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, 5 that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.'"

Call to repentance – Warning of pending Judgment against Prophet and Suppliant

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

7 For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I Yahweh (the Lord) will answer him by Myself.

8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am Yahweh (the Lord).

9 "And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I Yahweh (the Lord) have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel.

10 And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, 11 that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their Elohiym (God)," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God)."

Three Righteous Men – Noah, Daniel, Job Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness

12 The word of Yahweh (the Lord) came again to me, saying:

13 "Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will **cut off its supply of bread, send famine** on it, and **cut off man and beast from it**.

14 Even if these three men, **Noah, Daniel, and Job**, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God).

15 "If I cause **wild beasts** to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, 16 even though **these three men** were in it, as I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate.

17 "Or if I bring a **sword** on that land, and say, 'Sword, go through the land,' and I cut off man and beast from it, 18 even though **these three men** were in it, as I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.

19 "Or if I send a **pestilence** into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, 20 even though **Noah, Daniel, and Job** were in it, as I live," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God), "they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness."

21 For thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem — the **sword** and **famine** and **wild beasts** and **pestilence** — to cut off man and beast from it?"

Remnant promised – Comfort in knowing Yahweh had good cause for bring on judgment

22 Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it.

23 And they will comfort you, **when you see their ways and their doings; and you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it,**" says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God).

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Facts Revealed:

Idolatry of the Heart Will Be Punished

✧ Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

And the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to me, saying, "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"

"Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God):

"Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I Yahweh (the Lord) will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.'" [Ezekiel 14:1-5]

✧ Yahweh knows the heart of everyone and will judge those who come to a prophet to inquire of Yahweh, those who carry their idolatry in their heart and deliberately set before their eyes the things that cause them to stumble into sin and then come to the prophet to inquire of Yahweh.

✧ Yahweh will judge according to the idolatry in their heart.

✧ This message is intended to catch the heart of the people of Israel.

✧ It is a warning to us today that Yahweh wants His worshipers to come to Him pure of heart, in the Spirit of Truth. [John 4:23-24]

✧ Hypocrites will be judged by Yahweh.

Yeshua taught us how to bring our prayer to God:

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. [Matthew 6:5-8]

✧ He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

[Mark 7:6-7]

Call to repentance – Warning of pending Judgment against Prophet and Suppliant

✧ "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God): "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I Yahweh (the Lord) will answer him by Myself.

I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am Yahweh (the Lord).

"And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I Yahweh (the Lord) have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel.

And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their Elohiym (God)," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God)." [Ezekiel 14:6-11]

✧ Yahweh knows the heart of those who come to the prophet to enquire of God.

✧ If the person is a hypocrite and only looking for affirmation of their sinful life style, Yahweh will Judge him in righteousness according to his folly so that all will know He is Adoney Yahweh a God to be feared, obeyed, and honored.

✧ This is a call to repentance and a warning against hypocrisy.

✧ If the prophet is moved to speak anything it is a test of his discernment, and Yahweh will judge him the same as He judges the hypocrite who brought the inquiry.

✧ A prophet must not encourage the sinner in his sin, but must call him to repentance.

✧ Yahweh will stretch out His hand to destroy the hypocrite and the prophet who encouraged him in his sin from among His people.

✧ The desired outcome will be that the people accept Yahweh as their God, turn back to Him, and truly be His obedient People.

Three Righteous Men – Noah, Daniel, Job

Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness [Ezekiel 14:12-21]

✧ The word of Yahweh (the Lord) came again to me, saying:

"Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will **cut off its supply of bread, send famine** on it, and **cut off man and beast from it**.

Even if these three men, **Noah, Daniel, and Job**, were in it, they would deliver only

themselves by their righteousness," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God). [Ezekiel 14:12-14]

- ✧ When the time of Judgment from Yahweh comes because of persistent unfaithfulness of its people, Yahweh will cut off its supply of food, send a famine, and cut off man and beast from it.
- ✧ Yahweh has four plagues He sends against that land, **sword** and **famine** and **wild beasts** and **pestilence**.
- ✧ Yahweh has three men who could save themselves by their own righteousness, **Noah**, **Daniel**, and **Job**, whom Yahweh called perfect in their generation. Noah [Genesis 6:9], Daniel [Daniel 9:23], Job [Job 1:1].
- ✧ When the time for judgment comes on a land, these three men if present in the land could save no-one but themselves by their righteousness, they could not save even those closest to them like their children and wives. [Ezekiel 14:14, 16, 18, 20]
- ✧ Noah found favor in the sight of Yahweh demonstrating his righteousness, his family was saved with him in the ark out of grace and to preserve seed for a future population of the earth.
- ✧ Job was rewarded on earth by a great blessing from the Almighty as a sign to Satan.
- ✧ Daniel (it seems) was a eunuch in captivity and had no family. [Daniel 1:3-7]

Remnant promised – Comfort in knowing Yahweh had good cause for bring on judgment

- ✧ Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, both sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and **you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it.**
And they will **comfort** you, **when you see their ways and their doings; and you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it,**" says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God). [Ezekiel 14:22-23]
- ✧ Yahweh always keeps a remnant.
- ✧ On Judgment Day when all is revealed and we all see the behavior of those who were lost through the Wrath of Yahweh.
- ✧ We will be **comforted** knowing the fact that **Yahweh had very good cause for their judgment and that His verdict is totally just and right.**