

Ezekiel 4 - 6

Ezekiel employs both visual aids and sermons to describe the tragic spiritual decline among the people of Israel.

I. The First Symbol Present by Ezekiel (4-6)

A. First illustration (4:1-3)

1. The symbol (4:1-2): He draws a picture of Jerusalem upon a clay tablet and then places an iron plate next to it.
2. The significance (4:3): The Babylonian army, like an iron wall, will soon surround Jerusalem.

B. Second illustration (4:4-6)

1. The symbol (4:5-6)
 - a. He is to lie on his left side for 390 days (4:5): This is for the years of Israel's sin.
 - b. He is then to lie on his right side for 40 days (4:6): This represents the years of Judah's sin.
2. The significance (4:4): Each day represents one year of punishment for Israel and Judah.

C. Third illustration (4:7-8)

1. The symbol (4:7): He is to lie on his back with his arms tied.
2. The significance (4:8): This depicts the helplessness of Jerusalem against the Babylonian attack.

D. Fourth illustration (4:9-17)

1. The symbol (4:9-15): He is to prepare a meager meal and cook it over some dried cow dung.
2. The significance (4:16-17): This is a warning that the people of Israel will be forced to eat defiled food among the nations where God will drive them.

E. Fifth illustration (5:1-17)

1. The symbol (5:1-4): He is to shave both his head and his beard and is to place the hair into three equal parts. One part is then to be burned, the second part is to be struck with his sword, and the third part is to be scattered to the wind.
2. The significance (5:5-17): This is to predict that one third of Jerusalem's people will soon die by fire, another third will die by the sword, and the final third will go into captivity.

F. Sixth illustration (6:1-10)

1. The symbol (6:1-2): He is to set his face against the mountains of Israel and is to prophesy against them.
2. The significance (6:3-10): This means that those living in the valley below will soon be destroyed by their enemies.

G. Seventh illustration (6:11-14)

1. The symbol (6:11): He is to clap his hands and stomp his feet.
2. The significance (6:12-14): This is done in horror, predicting the disease and death that await Israel.