

Wednesday, November 6

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Ezekiel 14:12 - 16:41

14 12 Then this message came to me from the LORD : **13** “Son of man, suppose the people of a country were to sin against me, and I lifted my fist to crush them, cutting off their food supply and sending a famine to destroy both people and animals. **14** Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, their righteousness would save no one but themselves, says the Sovereign LORD . **15** “Or suppose I were to send wild animals to invade the country, kill the people, and make the land too desolate and dangerous to pass through. **16** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, even if those three men were there, they wouldn’t be able to save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved, but the land would be made desolate. **17** “Or suppose I were to bring war against the land, and I sent enemy armies to destroy both people and animals. **18** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, even if those three men were there, they wouldn’t be able to save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved. **19** “Or suppose I were to pour out my fury by sending an epidemic into the land, and the disease killed people and animals alike. **20** As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, they wouldn’t be able to save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved by their righteousness. **21** “Now this is what the Sovereign LORD says: How terrible it will be when all four of these dreadful punishments fall upon Jerusalem—war, famine, wild animals, and disease—destroying all her people and animals. **22** Yet there will be survivors, and they will come here to join you as exiles in Babylon. You will see with your own eyes how wicked they are, and then you will feel better about what I have done to Jerusalem. **23** When you meet them and see their behavior, you will understand that these things are not being done to Israel without cause. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!”

15 1 Then this message came to me from the LORD : **2** “Son of man, how does a grapevine compare to a tree? Is a vine’s wood as useful as the wood of a tree? **3** Can its wood be used for making things, like pegs to hang up pots and pans? **4** No, it can only be used for fuel, and even as fuel, it burns too quickly. **5** Vines are useless both before and after being put into the fire! **6** “And this is what the Sovereign LORD says: The people of Jerusalem are like grapevines growing among the trees of the forest. Since they are useless, I have thrown them on the fire to be burned. **7** And I will see to it that if they escape from one fire, they will fall into another. When

I turn against them, you will know that I am the LORD . **8** And I will make the land desolate because my people have been unfaithful to me. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!”

16 **1** Then another message came to me from the LORD : **2** “Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable sins. **3** Give her this message from the Sovereign LORD : You are nothing but a Canaanite! Your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. **4** On the day you were born, no one cared about you. Your umbilical cord was not cut, and you were never washed, rubbed with salt, and wrapped in cloth. **5** No one had the slightest interest in you; no one pitied you or cared for you. On the day you were born, you were unwanted, dumped in a field and left to die. **6** “But I came by and saw you there, helplessly kicking about in your own blood. As you lay there, I said, ‘Live!’ **7** And I helped you to thrive like a plant in the field. You grew up and became a beautiful jewel. Your breasts became full, and your body hair grew, but you were still naked. **8** And when I passed by again, I saw that you were old enough for love. So I wrapped my cloak around you to cover your nakedness and declared my marriage vows. I made a covenant with you, says the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine. **9** “Then I bathed you and washed off your blood, and I rubbed fragrant oils into your skin. **10** I gave you expensive clothing of fine linen and silk, beautifully embroidered, and sandals made of fine goatskin leather. **11** I gave you lovely jewelry, bracelets, beautiful necklaces, **12** a ring for your nose, earrings for your ears, and a lovely crown for your head. **13** And so you were adorned with gold and silver. Your clothes were made of fine linen and costly fabric and were beautifully embroidered. You ate the finest foods—choice flour, honey, and olive oil—and became more beautiful than ever. You looked like a queen, and so you were! **14** Your fame soon spread throughout the world because of your beauty. I dressed you in my splendor and perfected your beauty, says the Sovereign LORD . **15** “But you thought your fame and beauty were your own. So you gave yourself as a prostitute to every man who came along. Your beauty was theirs for the asking. **16** You used the lovely things I gave you to make shrines for idols, where you played the prostitute. Unbelievable! How could such a thing ever happen? **17** You took the very jewels and gold and silver ornaments I had given you and made statues of men and worshiped them. This is adultery against me! **18** You used the beautifully embroidered clothes I gave you to dress your idols. Then you used my special oil and my incense to worship them. **19** Imagine it! You set before them as a sacrifice the choice flour, olive oil, and honey I had given you, says the Sovereign LORD . **20** “Then you took your sons and daughters—the children you had borne to me—and sacrificed them to your gods. Was your prostitution not enough? **21** Must you also slaughter my children by sacrificing them to idols? **22** In all your years of adultery and detestable sin, you have not once remembered the days long ago when you lay naked in a field, kicking about in your own blood. **23** “What sorrow awaits you, says the Sovereign LORD . In

addition to all your other wickedness, **24** you built a pagan shrine and put altars to idols in every town square. **25** On every street corner you defiled your beauty, offering your body to every passerby in an endless stream of prostitution. **26** Then you added lustful Egypt to your lovers, provoking my anger with your increasing promiscuity. **27** That is why I struck you with my fist and reduced your boundaries. I handed you over to your enemies, the Philistines, and even they were shocked by your lewd conduct. **28** You have prostituted yourself with the Assyrians, too. It seems you can never find enough new lovers! And after your prostitution there, you still were not satisfied. **29** You added to your lovers by embracing Babylonia, the land of merchants, but you still weren't satisfied. **30** "What a sick heart you have, says the Sovereign LORD, to do such things as these, acting like a shameless prostitute. **31** You build your pagan shrines on every street corner and your altars to idols in every square. In fact, you have been worse than a prostitute, so eager for sin that you have not even demanded payment. **32** Yes, you are an adulterous wife who takes in strangers instead of her own husband. **33** Prostitutes charge for their services—but not you! You give gifts to your lovers, bribing them to come and have sex with you. **34** So you are the opposite of other prostitutes. You pay your lovers instead of their paying you! **35** "Therefore, you prostitute, listen to this message from the LORD ! **36** This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you have poured out your lust and exposed yourself in prostitution to all your lovers, and because you have worshiped detestable idols, and because you have slaughtered your children as sacrifices to your gods, **37** this is what I am going to do. I will gather together all your allies—the lovers with whom you have sinned, both those you loved and those you hated—and I will strip you naked in front of them so they can stare at you. **38** I will punish you for your murder and adultery. I will cover you with blood in my jealous fury. **39** Then I will give you to these many nations who are your lovers, and they will destroy you. They will knock down your pagan shrines and the altars to your idols. They will strip you and take your beautiful jewels, leaving you stark naked. **40** They will band together in a mob to stone you and cut you up with swords. **41** They will burn your homes and punish you in front of many women. I will stop your prostitution and end your payments to your many lovers.

Hebrews 7:18 - 28

7 18 Yes, the old requirement about the priesthood was set aside because it was weak and useless. **19** For the law never made anything perfect. But now we have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God. **20** This new system was established with a solemn oath. Aaron's descendants became priests without such an oath, **21** but there was an oath regarding Jesus. For God said to him, "The LORD has taken an oath and will not break his vow:

‘You are a priest forever.’” **22** Because of this oath, Jesus is the one who guarantees this better covenant with God. **23** There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. **24** But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. **25** Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. **26** He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven. **27** Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people’s sins. **28** The law appointed high priests who were limited by human weakness. But after the law was given, God appointed his Son with an oath, and his Son has been made the perfect High Priest forever.

Psalm 106:1 - 12

106 **1** Praise the LORD ! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. **2** Who can list the glorious miracles of the LORD ? Who can ever praise him enough? **3** There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right. **4** Remember me, LORD, when you show favor to your people; come near and rescue me. **5** Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones. Let me rejoice in the joy of your people; let me praise you with those who are your heritage. **6** Like our ancestors, we have sinned. We have done wrong! We have acted wickedly! **7** Our ancestors in Egypt were not impressed by the LORD ’s miraculous deeds. They soon forgot his many acts of kindness to them. Instead, they rebelled against him at the Red Sea. **8** Even so, he saved them— to defend the honor of his name and to demonstrate his mighty power. **9** He commanded the Red Sea to dry up. He led Israel across the sea as if it were a desert. **10** So he rescued them from their enemies and redeemed them from their foes. **11** Then the water returned and covered their enemies; not one of them survived. **12** Then his people believed his promises. Then they sang his praise.

Proverbs 27:4 - 6

27 4 Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous. **5** An open rebuke is better than hidden love! **6** Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.