

Series: Messages From the Major Prophets

A RIDDLE AND A PARABLE

EZEKIEL 16:1-14

Text: Ezekiel 17:2

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² Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel;

Introduction:

Israel had once again turned from God and was now following after idols. Because of such God once again allowed them to be judged and punished by an enemy.

This chapter revolves around a riddle and a parable about two eagles. It describes the situation of Judah and gives them a warning about trusting in Egypt.

Note:

1. THE PARABLE'S EXPLANATION (INTERPRETATION)

Ezekiel 17:12-18

¹² *Say now to the rebellious house, Know ye not what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon is come to Jerusalem, and hath taken the king thereof, and the princes thereof, and led them with him to Babylon;* ¹³ *And hath taken of the king's seed, and made a covenant with him, and hath taken an oath of him: he hath also taken the mighty of the land:* ¹⁴ *That the kingdom might be base, that it might not lift itself up, but that by keeping of his covenant it might stand.*

¹⁵ *But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered?* ¹⁶ *As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely in the place where the king dwelleth that made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he brake, even with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die.* ¹⁷ *Neither shall Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company make for him in the war, by casting up mounts, and building forts, to cut off many persons:* ¹⁸ *Seeing he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, when, lo, he had given his hand, and hath done all these things, he shall not escape.*

Though the interpretation of the parable is important I want to move on and consider:

2. THE PARABLE'S EDIFICATION (INSTRUCTION)

Why did Israel turn to Egypt? The answer is given to us.

Ezekiel 17:19

¹⁹ *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; **As I live, surely mine oath that he hath despised**, and my covenant that he hath broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head.*

They despised the oath and broke the covenant of God.

Instead of returning back to God and repenting they turn to Egypt for help.

Before we get real critical of them many today who claimed to “Christians” do the same thing.

Why did Israel and Christians today go to Egypt for their “help”?

Note:

There are various reasons why people seek help from Egypt, some of which are itemized below.

- Impatience

Whenever people cannot wait for God they tend to look for means they thought would be easier and faster to get their problem solved.

- Ignorance

So many people are either not truly born again, or they do not have a healthy relationship with God. As a result, they are ignorant of the help that can be received from God at the same time ignorant of the consequences of receiving such help outside the will of God.

- Unwillingness

Many people that are aware of the help possible from God do not seek God for help because they are not willing to live a life separated from sins, and to obey all godly instructions and commandments as given in the scriptures.

- Looking Back

The Israelites remembered the onions and cucumber they ate in Egypt and they blamed Moses for taken them out of there. Pleasures of sins might make people to look back from God and return to Egypt.

- Deceived

Many people believed the deception of false prophets because their terms seem simple and attractive and they trust in their lying wonders than the preaching of holiness and heaven where immediate miracles are not attached.

- Listening

When you are too close to unbelievers, you will take counsel from them and join them in the wickedness they do.

- Fear

Sometimes, the devil uses the weapon of fear to send people out of the will of God and make them to look for help in Egypt. By so doing, he will be able to keep the people under bondage so that they will continually be his slaves.

Close:

Help can be found in Egypt, but it is against the help from Heaven.

Egypt signifies bondage and worldliness. Seeking help from Egypt implies going outside the will of God to look for assistance.

No matter how many the afflictions of the righteous, the Lord is able and willing to give deliverance.

Psalm 34:19-22

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. ²⁰ He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. ²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. ²² The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Help from God will bring a lasting Joy in this world and the world to come but help from Egypt brings damnation.