
SUNDAY SERMON

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Willow, Alaska

Date: October 02, 2016

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 13.01-23

Text: Ezekiel 13.01-23

Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – The message against the lying prophets

Thus far in these first twelve chapters of Ezekiel's prophecy, we have seen:

- Ezekiel's vision of God in chapter 1.
- The filling of the Spirit, the Prophet's commission, and a second filling of the spirit in chapters 2 and 3.
- Sign of the tile against Jerusalem and suffering of the prophet for 390 days and 40 days in chapter 4.
- Sign of the sharp knife: famine, pestilence, and the sword in chapter 5.
- Message against the mountains, hills, rivers, and valleys of Israel in chapters 6 & 7.
- Third vision of God and profaning of the temple in chapter 8.
- Vision of the slaying in Jerusalem by the six men and the man with the writer's inkhorn, chapter 9.
- Vision of the altar fire scattered over Jerusalem and a description of the Cherubim in chapter 10.
- Vision of wrath against the lying princes, promise to spare the remnant, and restoration to the land; vision of the departure of the glory of the LORD from Jerusalem in chapter 11.
- Vision of the Prophet Ezekiel as a sign for removing to the nation – full captivity near at hand in chapter 12.

1 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; 3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

Here, the LORD commands Ezekiel to prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesied out of their own hearts. Their message was of their own thinking and design for they had no message from the LORD. This reminds us of the false teachers all about us today who prophesy out of their own hearts – and not from scripture.

The LORD pronounced woe on the foolish prophets that followed their own human spirit and had seen nothing. These prophets were both foolish and wicked because of this. These may have been very intelligent and personable men, but they were false. Their message was false and they were fools who had seen nothing from the LORD!

4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.

The LORD speaks to the nation – O, Israel. This is a pathetic exclamation to awake Israel. Prophets like foxes in the deserts. What does that mean? They were said to be like foxes for their craftiness and cunning, and lying in wait to deceive. They seduced the Lord's people as we read in 13.10. They are like foxes in the deserts, which are hungry and ravenous, and make a prey of whatsoever comes within their reach, as these

prophets did of the people. These are like the false teachers, who walk in craftiness, and handle the word of God deceitfully, and are deceitful workers; who are amongst the churches to make merchandise of God's people.

2 Peter 2:1-3 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

5 *Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.*

Ye have not gone up into the gaps (breaches), -- As in a besieged city whose wall is broken down and the enemy ready to enter, a valiant, faithful, and vigilant soldier would run up into the breach to repel the enemy. This does true prophets do partly by prayer, and partly by doctrine, and partly by personal reformation, laboring to preserve God's people. But, fox-like prophets will cower away and shift themselves out of harm's way. God's men are valiant for the truth and will speak it in spite of the opposition from wicked men.

Neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel –

Hedges or fences were prepared against an enemy. The house of Israel is the Lord's vineyard. The invading beasts – armies of the Chaldeans from the north had pushed through the hedge whereof many breaches are made. The enemy rushed through to “devour the grapes, and spoil the vines.” But, these false prophets had not stopped those breaches. No, they were fox-like, which came in and pulled off the tender grapes, and done hurt to the vines.

to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. – The day of the LORD is an expression that always points to God's judgment on a people as it was with Israel. The lying prophets had increased sin and danger by their lies. And when the Lord's wrath gave up the city to the invaders, these would not stand in the battle, but were useless.

6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: -- They said they were speaking from the LORD, but it was all empty and lies in all which they told the people! They cared not for the people, but cared for themselves only. Their God was their belly.

And the LORD hath not sent them: -- No, not a one of them, for God's men speak the truth which the LORD has put in their hearts by His word to speak! They have seen something from the LORD, whereas, these lying prophets had seen nothing except their own human spirit.

And they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. -- They have given others false hope, but it was deception. The hearers thought it was good, for they had no spiritual discernment. By their pretenses and arguments they have finagled some into a belief of their word, and into a hope of that they promise. The gullible and naive Jew is undone by these false prophets, who tell him all is well, and needs to make no changes. They say "all will be well, and they need fear no desolation." These prophets actually seduce their hearers into believing their message -

By their seeming solemn appearance and sincere way of speaking;

- by their claim that they spoke in the name of the Lord;
- by the strong assurances they gave,
- because they repeated their message again and again,

the people were brought to hope and believe that the prophesied things and events would verify what they had said, Because of these terrible lies and deception, instead of bringing Israel to a sense of their sins, and repentance, so that the judgments of God would have been prevented, they hardened them in their sins and abominations. This quickly worked their ruin.

7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

Have ye not seen a vain vision, -- In other words, this was a vision only in pretense, and not in reality. This was the effect of their own thoughts, and not anything shown them by the Lord.

and have ye not spoken a lying divination; -- They had spoken out a known lie, saying they had it from the Lord, when they knew in themselves that it had not. They knew it was a prophecy that would deceive, and be without effect, and when all had come to pass, it would prove a lie.

whereas ye say, the Lord saith it; albeit I have not spoken? -- this is a proof that what they had said was a vision and prophecy from the LORD was a vain and false one. They pretended it had come from the Lord, when he never spoke a word to them, or by them.

8 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

Such an horrible thing that the Lord GOD should be against a man – yet these who had spoken emptiness and vanity – who had seen lies found themselves with the Lord God against them! Such lying men are but stubble, or as thorns and briers to a consuming fire and our God is a consuming fire!

9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies; -- my power shall strike them! It shall be

very evident they have fallen under divine justice!

they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; -- These who speak lies do not belong in the assembly of my people – nor will their names appear in the writing of the house of Israel. They will have no part in the land of Israel – my gift to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob which I have commanded to a thousand generations. These liars shall not survive the current captivity in the land of the Chaldeans!

and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD. – They shall know that the Lord GOD is omniscient, omnipotent, true and faithful, holy, just, and good – and that he repays his enemies to their face. He will act with them in justice and righteousness, giving them their full due.

10 ¶ Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar:

Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; -- What a horrible statement! “They have seduced my people!” And these false prophets did exactly that! Appearing as angels of light, they were transformed into false prophets sent to seduce the simple! Their message was peace, but there was no peace, for the LORD GOD had already pronounced sentence against the nation because of their wickedness.

And one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untampered mortar: -- One of the false prophets, undoubtedly the chief of them, said that Jerusalem would continue a walled city, and abide firm and impregnable against the Chaldean army, and would never be taken. Thus, he had built up a wall, albeit, an imaginary one, for the LORD had made no such promise.

And one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untampered mortar: -- The other false prophets continued the lie promising peace and safety which is all the same as daubing untempered mortar into a standing wall. To daub, is to smear and fill up the holes of the wall. Untempered mortar is like adding dirt or slush to the wall instead of mortar that would be steadfast and harden into a protective coating. Untempered mortar is false doctrine – words which men speak with no substantiation in the word of God. Such are the words of men like Robert Schuller and his “pastor” daughter; Joel Osteen with his promises of a great life apart from Christ; and a multitude more who promise untold wealth for today and more for tomorrow with their prosperity false doctrine.

11 Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

Say unto them which daub with untampered mortar; -- the less renowned, lesser known, and less noted, who follow the chief false prophets. These are as under-workers in this wall.

That it shall fall; -- most certainly its fall shall be the shame and loss of the builders, and those that hoped its duration. What

shame would fall on these who lied about peace and safety!

there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it. --

There shall be abundant, violent, and continued showers which shall soak into your wall and dissolve the untampered mortar! And what is this shower? It is the Babylonish invasion, which all your lying promises and false provisions shall be no more able to withstand, than the mire in a wall can keep the stones together when drenched with showers. I will summon in the storms of hail, which with mighty stones shall beat upon the ruinous wall.

A stormy wind shall rend it; a whirlwind – a tornado shall shake the tumbling stones, which without much shaking would ere long drop down; so shall your unsure state, O deceived Jews, come down to ruin.

12 Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?

Can you imagine when the wall shall be fallen what the people shall say to you? Where are the lying promises you made before the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar and his hordes which laid us waste? How now does the untampered mortar fare? Was it not all lies upon lies?

13 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.

The LORD here reiterates his method of destroying the

imaginary wall laid by these liars around Jerusalem. When the LORD's fury arises, who can stand? Who can stand before his flood? His store of hail laid up against the day of battle? These – my overflowing shower and great hailstones shall consume it!

14 So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

The LORD GOD would throw down the wall – the “daubing of false doctrine” and bring it to the ground. The foundation would be discovered – that is, the basis upon which all this wall was builded. It was builded on lies, greed, and deceit and that would be made manifest! Too, when it falls, all you false prophets shall be consumed in the very midst of it!

And ye shall know that I am the LORD. – You will know that I, alone am God that there is none else! You will know that I create both good and evil! Shall there be evil in the city of Jerusalem and the LORD hath not done it? No, not one! And you will know it! So shall it be in the day when all the modern false prophets shall fall and their very thoughts and purposes discovered! Shame shall be upon shame and they will KNOW AS THEY HAVE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE, that Jehovah is the LORD! It scares this preacher to think of the horror that awaits those who prophesy out of their own heart. Remember the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it?

15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon

them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it;

In this manner will the Lord finish his wrath upon the imaginary wall built by these false and lying prophets. It shall come to an abrupt end! And they who have daubed it shall fall with it! Surely this is the end of all liars – for they shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire!

16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.

To wit, TO BE CLEAR AND DISTINCT, noted and ascertained! This judgment is on the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem saying peace, when there is no peace! Woe to them that prophesy lies or prophesy out of their own heart!

17 ¶ Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people -- Now turn thyself and speak against the prophetesses, fear them not.

Of thy people which prophesy out of their own heart; --

These women were Jews, they are called daughters of his people. These were the false prophetesses; for as there were women in some ages like Miriam, Deborah, and Huldah, who had

the true spirit of prophecy. But these women against whom Ezekiel was to speak were those who made pretense of being prophetesses. It was against these false prophetesses that Ezekiel is bidden to set his face and make them ashamed. And why?

Which prophesy out of their own heart; -- These, like the lying prophets, spoke out of their own heart – and had no word from the LORD. Liars they were and Ezekiel would face them with it!

18 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! – This was Ezekiel's message to these false prophetesses. Pillows to armholes? Or, "put pillows to all elbows"; this was a sign that they might be at ease, and rest secure, and look upon themselves as in the utmost safety, and not fear any enemy, the invasion of the Chaldeans; or that their city would be destroyed, and that they should be carried captive, as the prophets of the Lord had foretold:

Kerchiefs upon the head of every stature? What does this mean? Kerchiefs upon their heads was a token their taking rest. A kerchief is a cloth used to cover the head, formerly a woman's head dress. It was another way of presenting a false hope. Why

did they do that? To hunt souls! To what end? That the souls might be deceived by them. Is not this the end of all false teachers? To both malign and turn them away from God and grace?

Romans 16:18 *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you? -- Dare you promise my people that shall live when I promise no such thing? Or can you preserve them alive whom you deceive by your promises? Are you not the least bit afraid thus to profane my name, and to ensnare my people?

19 And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, -- Will you profanely contradict what is truly spoken in my name, and claim to speak in my name for that I never spake, nor will do. And all that for something to satiate your belly only? For base gain?

To slay the souls that should not die, -- Woe unto those who call good evil or call evil good! You have done this by threatening the captives in Babylon, who had surrendered themselves in Jehoiachim's time, with destruction and death;

who ought to have been comforted in their exile, and whom the Lord in his own time would deliver. You have killed them by your words of peace and safety!

And to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies? -- By promising the inhabitants of Jerusalem long life, safety, and prosperity; when they should either die by the sword, famine, and pestilence; or be carried captive, which was as death. There is no real substitute for living in freedom instead of being a captive of the enemy.

by your lying to my people that hear your lies? -- The false prophecies of these lying prophetesses, which some paid attention to, and believed; and others were intimidated by, and feared that it would come to pass. This was their murdering method – lying words!

20 Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.

Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; -- The prophets had lied – and the prophetesses had copied them. Now the LORD pronounces his judgment on these liars. ***Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms,*** -- The LORD is against the pillows (alluding to comfort and ease as opposed to pain and suffering). It was by these pillows that the Prophetesses hunted the souls to MAKE THEM FLY. What does this mean? The word fly is the Hebrew parach

paw-rakh' which is translated otherwise as: flourish 10, bud 5, blossom 4, grow 3, break 3, fly 2, spring 2, break forth 2, abroad 1, abundantly 1, break out 1, spreading 1, spring up 1. Thus we can see the meaning of the phrase "make them fly." It means to make them flourish, bud, blossom, grow, break forth. Who can doubt that these were false words of peace when there was no peace? The LORD promised to tear these from their arms! Their lies would come to full view!

21 Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

As the pillows, so the kerchiefs! The LORD would rend his people out of the hand of the deceivers so they would no longer be hunted (sought after) by these liars! This judgment would show them that Jehovah is the LORD – they would know as they had not known before!

22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

What is the purpose that the LORD tore away the pillows and kerchiefs? Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad. You have strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return (or turn away) from his wicked way. How so? You promised him life knowing it was a lie!

O this preacher is vexed with the present flood of evil men in this land who promise the wicked peace and prosperity and who disdain the righteous and godly!

23 Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

The LORD would surely deliver his people out of the hand of the lying prophets – as he shall out of the hand of the false teachers in our time. He will put an end to their lies and empty promises out of their own hearts and the hearts of vain philosophers!

How true it is for those who love the wages of unrighteousness! Who have eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercise with covetous practices; cursed children!

These are filthy dreamers who defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities! They are naturally brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed; who speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption!

They are clouds without water carried about of winds (public opinion); trees whose fruit withers; without fruit; twice dead, plucked up by the roots. These are waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever! These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaking great swelling words, having men's persons in

admiration because of advantage! These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit – but they shall proceed no further; for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

And they all shall know that Jehovah is the LORD in that day when he judges them and assigns them to the lake of fire that burns with brimstone where they shall be tormented night and day forever!

Our earnest hope and prayer is that none of you will be led astray and seduced by such false teachers as these who are very many in our day! Beware of the many “good books” from the “Christian Book Store,” and those who speak great swelling words of vanity on television and in “Christian Movies!” Your great and wondrous promises are found in the Holy Scriptures – in the King James Bible!