

# Judgment is Near

(6) Ezekiel 7

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**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
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## **Ezekiel 7:1-4 – Announcement of the end**

*Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> “And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel: ‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. <sup>3</sup> Now the end has come upon you, And I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.*

*<sup>4</sup> My eye will not spare you, Nor will I have pity; But I will repay your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst; Then you shall know that I am the Lord!’*

## **Why does Ezekiel remind us of the word of the Lord coming to Him?**

*The word of the Lord came to me:* The repetition of this phrase reminds us that fundamentally, Ezekiel was a *prophet*. He was a man to whom the **word of the Lord** came, and who then had to deliver that word.

## **To whom was Ezekiel speaking the Word of God?**

*To the land of Israel:* Ezekiel was in Babylon, and his most immediate hearers were fellow exiles. Yet the time he spoke this, Jerusalem had not yet been destroyed and Judah had not yet been completely conquered. This was a message *to the land of Israel*, to announce coming judgment upon them.

## **What was meant by, “the end has come upon the four corners of the land?”**

Prophetically, Ezekiel could see **the end** for the entire land of Israel. No place would be spared. There would remain no land under the control of the tribes of Israel. Their “party” of rebellion and idolatry was over – **now the end has come upon you**.

## **It has been said, if something can’t go on forever, it won’t. Why is it important to consider the end before it comes?**

You may still have time to take action so that you will be in a better position when the end comes.

## **How do we know the Church Age is close to the end?**

- Israel is back together as a nation
- Resurrection of the dead Hebrew language
- Apostasy of church (Laodicean era)

- Increasing frequency of world-shaking events... world wars, 911, COVID (birth pangs)
- Growing calls for world government, yielding national sovereignty due to climate, pandemic, terrorism, trade, looming failure of world reserve currency due to debt (dollar)

## **What actions should people be taking today knowing that the Church Age is surely coming to an end?**

- Make sure Jesus is your Savior and Lord
- Grow closer to Jesus getting to know Him
- Apply Jesus’ commands to our lives

## **v3 – How is it that God would judge Israel according to their ways?**

God promised to bring simple justice to the people of Judah and Jerusalem. As a kingdom, their **ways** would determine their judgment, and the judgment would be severe: *My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity.*

## **What is the purpose in the coming judgment on Israel?**

*Then you shall know that I am the Lord:* This great judgment had a *good* purpose. It would be the way that God’s people would return to a true relationship with and knowledge of their covenant God.

- Repayment for their abominations reveals Yahweh to His people.

## **Eze 7:5-7 – The day of disaster**

<sup>5</sup> *“Thus says the Lord God: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come!’ <sup>6</sup> An end has come, The end has come; It has dawned for you; Behold, it has come!*

<sup>7</sup> *Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; The time has come, A day of trouble is near, And not of rejoicing in the mountains.*

## **v5 – What had come?**

*A disaster, a singular disaster;* the future disaster by the Babylonian armies was revealed to Ezekiel. The short, excited phrases were spoken as if they were in the mouth of someone watching this overwhelming army do its damage.

### **v6 – What was the end?**

The end of Israel's sovereignty in the land was at an end... the people who remained would be subjects of Babylon and those Gentile nations that would replace Babylon (see Nebuchadnezzar's Dream).

### **v7 – What is the doom that had come?**

The people would face a dawn (**it has dawned for you**), but it would be a dawn of doom. The time of Israel's **rejoicing in the mountains** over their pagan altars and perverted worship would be over.

- **It has dawned for you:** In a beautiful play on words, impossible to reproduce in English, Ezekiel pictured the end as though it had been quiescent or asleep, but would be awakened and aroused to come against the people of the land of Israel.

### **What would be the rejoicing in the mountains?**

- This is probably a reference to the way things were when they had their places of idol worship on the high places.
- Or it could be their enjoying the blessings of God while being unfaithful to Him

### **What sense of the coming end do we have today?**

Life as we know it has changed.

### **Why do we know we will not be going back to the freedoms we enjoyed before COVID?**

- Governments worldwide have tasted the power of fear to control people
- Humans are now widely regarded as infectious disease carriers
- There will be mutations of COVID which is considered worse than the flu
- mRNA "vaccines" (gene therapy pharmaceuticals) have been approved for use world-wide and regular, updated boosters will be required
- The stage is set for world leaders to not repent of their murderous sins:  
*Revelation 9:21 – they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts [sorceries – Greek pharmakia]*

### **What is the good news for the church today?**

But God has promised to deliver His Bride the church before the time of His Wrath, the Tribulation. The loss of freedoms we are now seeing foreshadows the Tribulation.

### **Eze 7:8-9 – Repayment for their abominations.**

<sup>8</sup> *Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, And spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, And I will repay you for all your abominations.*

<sup>9</sup> *My eye will not spare, Nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, And your abominations will be in your midst. Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes.*

### **v8 – What would God do?**

*I will repay you for all your abominations:* As in other places, the word **abominations** mainly has the sense of terrible, even disgusting idolatry... God's fury and anger would come upon them for this idolatry.

### **v9 – What is the ultimate goal of the disaster God is bringing on Israel?**

*Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes:* Once again, ultimate restoration is in mind. The severe judgment for their idolatry would show that their idols were powerless to save them. In destroying their reliance on idols, they could come back to true relationship with Yahweh.

### **What is the goal of the disaster of the Tribulation?**

- To bring Israel back to God as His representatives on earth
- To prepare the earth and the nations for the Millennial Kingdom
- To bring many people to the end of themselves and thus spend eternity with Him.

### **Eze 7:10-13 – Judgment will come upon everyone.**

<sup>10</sup> *Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; The rod has blossomed, Pride has budded.*

<sup>11</sup> *Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; None of them shall remain, None of their multitude, None of them; Nor shall there be wailing for them.*

<sup>12</sup> *The time has come, The day draws near.*

*Let not the buyer rejoice, Nor the seller mourn, For wrath is on their whole multitude.*

<sup>13</sup> *For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, Though he may still be alive; For the vision concerns the whole multitude, And it shall not turn back; No one will strengthen himself Who lives in iniquity.*

### **v10 – How was God (and Ezekiel) trying to get the attention of Israel?**

*Behold the day! Behold, it has come!* In Ezekiel's time there were many false prophets who said God would rescue Judah and Jerusalem. These hopeful lies made it hard to believe that the **day** of great judgment would actually come, but it did. Ezekiel tried to prepare them for this.

### How are today's false prophets painting an unrealistic rosy picture?

- Science will deliver us
- The government is looking out after our best interests
- Collective humanity will prevail as we have in the past (good luck is in our DNA)

### How is it the rod had blossomed & pride had budded?

This is an interesting reference to Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17). That miraculous blossoming was a supernatural demonstration of God's favor and His approval of Moses and Aaron. The judgment to come upon Jerusalem would also be supernatural, but it would demonstrate God's anger and the **pride** of His disobedient people.

### v11 – What was the rod of wickedness and how had it caused violence?

The wickedness and violent deeds of the citizens of Judah created the need for God's rod of correction which would also be violent.

Matthew 26:52 – *all who take the sword will perish by the sword*

### Would anyone escape the coming calamity?

*None...none...none of them:* With poetic power and repetition, Ezekiel assured them that none would escape the coming calamity. And there would not be even any morning for them.

### v12 – Why shouldn't people mourn the calamity?

- Because it is the execution of the will of God.
- Both the *buyer* and the *seller* would have reasons to mourn, *for wrath is on their whole multitude.*

### Why is the buyer and seller highlighted here?

The point is, of course, that buying and selling will have lost their significance in the face of the total disaster that will come on buyer and seller alike.

- There will be on buyer or seller market... there will be no market for anyone.

### v13 – How is it, the seller shall not return to what has been sold?

In a grim parody of the ancient laws of Jubilee, the prophet declares that patrimonial property that has been lost to the family will not return; the year of Jubilee will be canceled.

### What "shall not turn back"?

Most of the time in the Scriptures, when God announces judgment it is an implied invitation for repentance, whereupon God will relent from the announced judgment.

With this prophecy of Ezekiel, this was not the case. The judgment was coming; **it shall not turn back.**

### Would there be any way to lessen the impact of the coming disaster?

*No one will strengthen himself who lives in iniquity:* Ezekiel indicated the foolishness of the man who thought he could strengthen himself in the very iniquity which called down the wrath of God. Hardening oneself in sin could not accomplish immunity from punishment but would assure it all the more.

- This was no crisis that would give anyone an advantage (never let a good crisis go to waste)

### What benefit do Christians today get from compromising with the world?

- This is the strategy of the seeker-sensitive mind-set, they can draw a crowd.
- They avoid the censure of those who do not know Jesus as their Savior.
- But any who will attempt to do the work of God through their own efforts will suffer failure and loss of rewards in eternity.

### Eze 7:14-18 – Shame and horror will be upon all.

<sup>14</sup> *They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, but no one goes to battle; For My wrath is on all their multitude.* <sup>15</sup> *The sword is outside, And the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field Will die by the sword; And whoever is in the city, Famine and pestilence will devour him.* <sup>16</sup> *Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains Like doves of the valleys, All of them mourning, Each for his iniquity.* <sup>17</sup> *Every hand will be feeble, And every knee will be as weak as water.* <sup>18</sup> *They will also be girded with sackcloth; Horror will cover them; Shame will be on every face, Baldness on all their heads.*

### v14 – What kind of resistance will Israel have against the Babylonians?

*No one goes to battle:* There would be very little resistance to the coming Babylonian conquest. Ezekiel told them they would not fight at all, much less bravely.

- This too is part of God's wrath

### v15-16 – Will it make any difference where the Jews are when the Babylonians come?

No. *Whoever is in the field will die by the sword:* Ezekiel methodically described the fate of those **in the field**, those **in the city**, and those **who survive**. Each would experience the coming calamity in their own way, but none would escape it.

**What will be the fate of those who survive the sword of the field or the famine and pestilence of the city?**

*Like doves of the valleys:* What the prophet seems to be envisaging is the total destruction of the towns and cities of Judah, forcing those who survive to seek refuge in the mountains. The sound of their mourning would resemble the plaintive cooing of ordinary pigeons.

**v17 – What else would characterize the survivors?**

*Every knee will be as weak as water:* This is a vivid account of the panic that will follow. Another translation is ‘all knees will run water’: a euphemism for the loss of bladder control in moments of terror.

**v18 – What will the survivors share?**

*girded with sackcloth;* They will be in mourning  
*Horror will cover them;* They will be in shock  
*Shame will be on every face,* They will be ashamed  
*Baldness on all their heads;* Their pride would be gone

**Eze 7:19-22 – Material things will be of no help.**

<sup>19</sup> *‘They will throw their silver into the streets, And their gold will be like refuse; Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them In the day of the wrath of the Lord; They will not satisfy their souls, Nor fill their stomachs, Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.*

<sup>20</sup> *‘As for the beauty of his ornaments, He set it in majesty; But they made from it The images of their abominations— Their detestable things; Therefore I have made it Like refuse to them. <sup>21</sup> I will give it as plunder Into the hands of strangers, And to the wicked of the earth as spoil; And they shall defile it. <sup>22</sup> I will turn My face from them, And they will defile My secret place; For robbers shall enter it and defile it.*

**v19 – Why would silver or gold be no use to the Israelites?**

The completeness of the coming judgment meant that it would also effect both rich and poor. The wealth of the rich would give them no advantage.

**How would the gold be like refuse?**

The word here translated **refuse** refers to sexual impurity, such as the ritual uncleanness associated with menstruation.

**Why would the Jews throw their silver into the streets?**

It would be so bad that their silver would be considered as burdensome, and not beneficial to them. Thus Judas threw away his wages of wickedness; and many, on their

deathbeds, detest their cursed ill-gotten goods realizing you can’t take it with you when you go.

**How will the wealthy fare during the Tribulation?**

James 5:1-3 – *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire.*

*You have heaped up treasure in the last days.*

It will serve them as will as gold and silver served the Israelites during the Babylonian invasion. God will bring everyone to the end of themselves, even the wealthy and those who have made their wealth an idol will realize their folly.

**How would their wealth become a stumbling block?**

Their riches *got* them into trouble by causing them to think they didn’t need God; and these riches could not *rescue* them from trouble.

**v20 – What are the ornaments referring to here?**

Their expensively decked idols... it is connected with the images of their abominations.

**Why is the word “refuse” used here in connection with their idols?**

Like their gold would be unclean and useless, so too would their idols (obviously).

**v21 – What would become plunder and spoil to the Babylonians?**

Their expensively decked idols... and in context, the gold and silver they throw into the streets.

**How would the Babylonians defile the plunder they take from the Israelites?**

They would melt down the valuable metals and repurpose them to adorn their own idols.

**v22 – How would God’s secret place be defiled?**

God here announced that **robbers** would sack His temple, including the **secret place** (the holy of holies). This coming judgment would be complete, not sparing even the temple.

**Eze 7:23-27 – All human help will fail.**

<sup>23</sup> *‘Make a chain, For the land is filled with crimes of blood, And the city is full of violence. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I will bring the worst of the Gentiles, And they will possess their houses; I will cause the pomp of the strong to cease, And their holy places shall be defiled. <sup>25</sup> Destruction comes; They will seek peace, but there shall be none.*

<sup>26</sup> *Disaster will come upon disaster, And rumor will be upon rumor. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; But the law will perish from the priest, And counsel from the elders.* <sup>27</sup> *'The king will mourn, The prince will be clothed with desolation, And the hands of the common people will tremble. I will do to them according to their way, And according to what they deserve I will judge them; Then they shall know that I am the Lord!'* ”

### **v23 – What kind of chain does this reference?**

This was likely a **chain** to restrain violent criminals, those guilty of **crimes of blood**. God would allow great judgment to be a punishment and restraint to His violent, wicked people.

- Ezekiel was commanded to perform a symbolic act by making a chain which was emblematic of the captivity awaiting them (see Jer. 27:2; Nahum 3:10).
- This is how the Babylonians would treat their prisoners of war. The ‘chain’ would have been used to tie the captives together to form a long train headed for exile  
Nahum 3:10 – *Yet she was carried away, She went into captivity; Her young children also were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound in chains.*

### **What do you think the “crimes of blood” refer to?**

The phrase is best understood as ‘murderous judicial decisions,’ rather than ‘crimes of violence.’

### **v24 – Why would God use the worst of the Gentiles to discipline Israel?**

God made no claim that the invaders would be good or righteous. They were instruments of His severe correction against His people, but they were not good – they were **the worst of the Gentiles**.

- The Jews were bad enough, but the Chaldees were worse.

### **Why would God use a more wicked population to punish a less wicked one?**

This may create theological problems for mortal minds, but it is consistent with his sovereignty over all.

Isaiah 55:8-9 – *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,* ” says the Lord. *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

### **v25 – Will there be any way to mitigate the coming disaster?**

*They will seek peace, but there shall be none:* There would be no quickly made peace treaty or tribute paid to prevent the disaster. It would surely come.

### **v26 – Why would rumors come with destruction?**

Good information about what is going on would break down. Rumors about what is going on would run rampant further causing chaos and confusion. Fake news comes with disaster.

### **What would happen when the people seek a vision from a prophet?**

Some would finally seek God’s word but in that day of judgment, there would be none. *The law will perish from the priest, and counsel from the elders.*

This seems to be an answer to what was said in Jerusalem at the time...

Jeremiah 18:18 – *Then they said, “Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come and let us attack him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.”*

### **v27 – What would become of the leadership of Judah?**

*The king will mourn:* “In the eyes of Ezekiel, the king was Jehoiachin (Eze 1:2) and the prince was Zedekiah. Though Zedekiah was the last king of Judah, the prophet didn’t recognize his reign but considered him only a prince (Eze 12:10, 12).

### **How would God treat the leadership of Judah?**

*According to what they deserve I will judge them:* This was a terrible promise. Israel had sinned greatly, so a great judgment was coming upon them.

### **What is the significance of the triple repetition of, then they shall know that I am the Lord?**

The triple repetition in this chapter makes the point strongly. God’s purpose was not Israel’s pain, but their restoration to true relationship with Him.

### **What applications do we see in this to our situation today?**

- We can hope for revival which God may send in some places... but this is unlikely world-wide
- God’s judgment will surely come and indications are that it is not far off (today’s trends are not sustainable)
- It is good to know Jesus as Lord making us part of the Bride who will escape the worst of God’s judgment.