

# Cuppa Cafe

Daily devotions  
from God's Word...



cuppajcafe.org



## The Grind

*Savor the taste of our previous brew*



Since everything in the Bible leads into and prepares the way for what comes after it, refresh yesterday's Brew to let the previous passage get you ready for today's verses. Though you should have already explored the passage, personally with Jesus, here is the heart of what we saw, together.

**In the previous passage**, verses 8-10, the LORD describes the fate of the remnant that will not share the fate of those who died during the siege.

8 In chapter 5, v.3 the LORD ordered Ezekiel to take a few of the hairs representing those trying to escape the siege of Jerusalem and tuck them into the pouch created by tucking his garment into his sash. Then, he told him in v.4 to **"take some of these hairs out and throw them into the fire, burning them up,"** to symbolize sharing the same fate as those burned inside the city in v.2. **"From there,"** the LORD went on to say, **"a fire will spread to all the house of Israel,"** including every Jew born after that under the same sentence of death as those who lost their lives during the siege. Jews may escape this judgment only by trusting the Suffering Servant to reconcile, or bring them back to the LORD (Isa. 10:21).

The previous passage (verses 1-7) ended with the Promised Land littered with Jewish corpses, symbolizing national Israel's divorce from God because of idolatry, or infidelity (6:7). The extent of devastation left us with the impression that none of the Jews survived the LORD's efforts to purge the land of idol worship and worshipers – pointing to the sin-free, purified Kingdom of God. The linking word, **"but"** at the beginning of v.8 however, introduces a partial contrast. Instead of totally opposing the picture of a dead nation, **"but"** reverses only some of it. Instead of killing all the idolaters, the LORD **"will let a few of [His] people escape destruction,"** presumably the handful who turn to the Suffering Servant as their only hope of returning to God from whom they have been divorced. Thus, the LORD who spoke so sternly to the mountains in the previous passage now addresses the people of the Promised Land with a merciful message. As Isa. 1:9 put it: **"If the LORD of heaven's armies had not spared a few of us, we would have been wiped out like Sodom, annihilated like Gomorrah."** Taken from those in full flight from the doomed city, **"they will be scattered among the nations of the world,"** awaiting collection by Messiah from all the families of the earth.

**But** In spite of that

**I will let a few of my people escape destruction**, I, the Eternal One will spare a handful of the rebels from the devastation when I purge the land of idolatry.

**and** yet,

**they will be scattered among the nations of the world** the survivors will be sprinkled all over the earth.

9 The LORD warned the fugitives from Egypt they might forget Him, that is they would take Him for granted when they took over the blessings of the Promised Land at no expense to themselves (Deut. 6:12). Now, he guarantees they will **'remember'** Him, **"when they are exiled among the nations."** Separated from the Temple, evicted from their homes, and banished from returning there, the remnant will miss the LORD and

have a change of heart. People often realize what they had – after they lose it. Reflecting on the same situation, the remnant will say: **“I might as well return to my husband, for I was better off with him than I am now”** (Hos. 2:7). Only then will a few **“recognize”** what they have so callously failed to see up to that point – their responsibility for what has happened to them – not for breaking rules, but for breaking God’s heart. Instead of mistakes for which they must pay, they will see the deeper truth – that their **“unfaithful hearts and lustful eyes”** have **“hurt”** their divine husband and ended their marriage to Him. Fickle at the core, they deserted God, and looking for love in all the wrong places, they desired others in His place. In the end, they wandered from God, chased after their false-god lovers and “broke” or, shattered God’s heart (the literal meaning of the word translated, **“hurt”**). The process of recovery that began with reminding them, to whom they were married, then showed them that God rather than they, was the injured party, finally **“at last”** brings them to the point **“they will hate themselves for all their detestable sins”** and accept blame for the divorce.

**Then** After the divorce

**when they are exiled among the nations**, during their separation from me and the Promised Land

**they will remember me**. The remnant will miss Me and want Me back.

**They will recognize how hurt I am** The remnant will also realize that I, the Eternal One was the injured party in the divorce

**by their unfaithful hearts** through their fickle nature

**and lustful eyes that long for their idols**. As well as their search for love with alternatives to Me

**Then** At that point,

**at last** finally

**they will hate themselves for all their detestable sins**. They will accept all the blame for the divorce.

10 This verse reveals God’s purpose for sparing a few of the rebels who repent and return to their former husband. Through the severity of their punishments they will learn **“that I alone am the LORD,”** the only one who deserves their loyalty, desire, and love. At the same time, brought to repentance so they will acknowledge their sins and admit God was perfectly justified to divorce them, they will realize that their former covenant LORD and husband, **“was serious when I said I would bring this calamity on them.”** The covenant spelled out the terms of their marriage, listing curses for infidelity and blessings for faithfulness to the LORD. Patient and loyal to His covenant bride, the LORD repeatedly warned the rebels of the consequences for their actions. Mistaking patience for reluctance to hold them accountable, they began to disrespect and defy the LORD – even cheating on Him with worthless substitutes. But, as 2Pet. 3:9 explains: **“The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.”** As Paul made clear to the Athenian Council in Ac. 17:30: **“Although God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times [until the day He evicted national Israel from the Promised Land, the exile should make obvious that] He now commands everyone, everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to Him.** That’s why Paul told the Romans that the Gospel demands the obedient response of faith, or trust in Christ (Rom. 16:26). Jesus Himself told the disciples: **“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son”** (Jn. 3:18). Those who believe in Christ are spared from the fate awaiting those who refuse to.

**They will know** The remnant, or survivors will come to understand

**that I alone am the LORD** I, the Eternal One am unique, their husband – the only One who deserved their love and devotion

**and** plus

**that I was serious when I said I would bring this calamity on them**. I really meant it when I kept warning them they would suffer the consequences for their sins.



Now  
Serving

## The Brew

*Let us pour you a fresh cup, ground verse-by-verse from today's passage*

**In today's passage**, verses 11-14, the LORD ties together the whole chapter to show that everything in it will bring Him the recognition He deserves. So, please open your Bibles to Ezekiel Chapter 6, and let me pour you a hot CuppaJesus from today's brew, starting with v.11.



### WHAT TO LOOK FOR TODAY

Here are the main items in the text that will lead you to its understanding.

	Verse 11	Verse 12	Verse 13	Verse 14
<b>Links</b>	And 3x, because of, now	And, so, at last	When, and 4x	And, then
<b>Persons</b>	The Sovereign LORD, the people of, they (Rebs)	Those who 2x, anyone who, them (Rebs), I, my (LORD)	They 2x, their 3x (Rebs), I, the LORD	I 2x, the LORD, them, their, they (Rebs)
<b>Places</b>	In (horror), from (w, f, d)	Down, far away, in, nearby, on	Among, under, on, where, to	Their cities, from the wilderness, in the south, to Riblah, in the north
<b>Things</b>	This, what, hands, horror, feet, all the detestable sins, war, famine, disease	Disease, exile, war, famine, fury		That
<b>Words</b>	Is, says, clap. Stamp, cry out, have committed, are going to die	Will strike, are 2x, will destroy, survives, will be killed by, will spend		Will crush, make desolate, will know, am

Pay careful attention to every item as you follow today's devotional in your study Bible. We have already grouped them by colors in "Today's Text," so you can follow the writer's flow of thought for yourself. Capture and grasp what he is trying to tell you with matching color pencils to draw lines connecting items to others in the same color-family, and a black pencil to cross-link items from different color-families that still have something to do with one another. Use circles, boxes, triangles, etc. to identify topics and themes (triangles, for instance, might represent the Trinity). Also mark with asterisks, etc., the ones you need to look up later for more information or greater details.

### TODAY'S TEXT

#### NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

11 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Clap your hands in horror, and stamp your feet. Cry out because of all the detestable sins the people of Israel have committed. Now they are going to die from war and famine and disease.

12 Disease will strike down those who are far away in exile. War will destroy those who are nearby. And anyone who survives will be killed by famine. So at last I will spend my fury on them.

13 They will know that I am the LORD when their dead lie scattered among their idols and altars on every hill and mountain and under every green tree and every great shade tree—the places where they offered sacrifices to their idols.

14 **I will crush them and make their cities desolate from the wilderness in the south to Riblah in the north. Then they will know that I am the LORD.**"

#### THE EXPANDED BIBLE

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says: Clap your hands, stamp your feet, and groan [<sup>†</sup>say, "Ah!"] because of all the hateful, evil things [evil and detestable practices] the people [<sup>†</sup>house] of Israel have done. They will die by war [<sup>†</sup>fall by the sword], hunger [famine], and disease [plague; pestilence; Lev. 26:25–26].

<sup>12</sup> The person who is far away will die by disease [plague; pestilence]. The one who is nearby will die in war [fall by the sword]. The person who is still alive [<sup>†</sup>remains and is spared] and has escaped these will die from hunger [famine]. So I will carry out [spend; exhaust] my anger [wrath; fury] on them.

<sup>13</sup> Their people will lie dead among their idols around the altars, on every high hill, on all the mountain tops, and under every green tree and leafy oak—all the places where they offered sweet-smelling [fragrant; or pleasing] incense to their idols. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>14</sup> I will use my power [<sup>†</sup>stretch out my hand] against them to make the land empty [desolate] and wasted from the desert [wilderness] to Diblah,<sup>[a]</sup> wherever they live. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

#### THE SCRIPTURES 1998

"11 'Thus said the Master יהוה, "Strike with your hand and stamp your feet, and say, 'Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Yisra'el who shall fall by sword, by scarcity of food, and by pestilence!

12 'He who is far off shall die by pestilence, he who is near fall by the sword, and he who is left over and is besieged die by scarcity of food. And I shall complete My wrath upon them.

13 'And you shall know that I am יהוה, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols.

14 'And I shall stretch out My hand against them and make the land a wasteland, even more waste than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. And they shall know that I am יהוה.' " " "

#### THE NET BIBLE

11 "This is what the sovereign LORD says: Clap your hands, stamp your feet, and say, "Ah!" because of all the evil, abominable practices of the house of Israel, for they will fall by the sword, famine, and pestilence.

12 The one far away will die by pestilence, the one close by will fall by the sword, and whoever is left and has escaped these will die by famine. I will fully vent my rage against them.

13 Then you will know that I am the LORD—when their dead lie among their idols around their altars, on every high hill and all the mountaintops, under every green tree and every leafy oak, the places where they have offered fragrant incense to all their idols.

14 I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land a desolate waste from the wilderness to Riblah, in all the places where they live. Then they will know that I am the LORD!"

#### TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL

11 In the last verse in the previous passage, 6:10, the LORD summed up chapters 4-6 as, "I was serious when I said I would bring this calamity on them." Speaking through Ezekiel's actions as well as words, the LORD described both the siege of Jerusalem and the exile of His former people. Referring back to the word "said" in v.10, the word "says" in v.11 introduces this passage with a brief recap of what He said in those chapters. Now Ezekiel must add more actions to his dramatic performance that will zero in His audience on the main points of what the LORD threatened in the three chapters. The LORD instructs Ezekiel to "Clap your hands in horror,

**and stamp your feet,**” based on His promise to reduce Jerusalem to a pitiful shell of its former self in 5:14. To dramatize the world’s reaction to Jerusalem’s fall, Ezekiel must act out how the once great city will become “an object of mockery, taunting, and horror” to the surrounding nations. Blending taunting and horror into a single expression, the prophet should **“Clap your hands in horror,”** celebrating Jerusalem’s demise mixed with fear. Glad to see her go, Jerusalem’s neighbors will also feel nervous and anxious at the sight of what will happen to her, because her ruins serve as a warning to them of what God will do to any nation when it makes Him angry and He criticizes it for displeasing Him (5:15). At the same time, Ezekiel must **“stamp your feet,”** to strongly express approval of Jerusalem’s punishment. This reminds us of children stamping their feet at the mere mention of Haman’s name during the Feast of Purim that celebrates the ironic reversal of his plan to execute Esther’s relative, Mordecai. Hanging from his own gallows, he was a mockery of his former self. So, Jerusalem will be taunted for suffering the same destruction that she had threatened to her neighbors. People scorn phonies who end up ruined for the same shortcomings they condemn in others.

Representing Jerusalem at the same time, Ezekiel must also **“Cry out”**, but not for the pain of the siege or the exile. Instead, she will weep in repentance, **“because of all the detestable sins the people of Israel have committed.”** Ezekiel must howl in tears until he is exhausted and can’t make another sound – to match the way she exhausted God’s patience with her endless disrespect and disobedience. These desperate actions herald Jerusalem’s and national Israel’s end, because **“Now** [in fulfillment of the LORD’s words] **they are going to die from war and famine and disease,**” the same plagues he threatened to bring on her in 5:16, 17.

**“This is what the Sovereign LORD says:** Let me quote the Eternal One, our former Master and husband, saying:

**Clap your hands in horror,** applaud what will happen to Jerusalem, cautiously

**and stamp your feet.** At the same time you show your strong approval by stomping the ground

**Cry out** Groan

**because of** owing to

**all the detestable sins the people of Israel have committed.** The repulsive nature and lifestyle of the rebellious descendants of Jacob-turned-Israel

**Now** The time has come for

**they are going to die** the rebels to cease to exist (receiving the wages they have earned for their sins)

**from war** because of combat,

**and famine** plus starvation

**and disease.** As well as deadly cancers (that will consume, corrupt, or rot them from the inside out)

12 The LORD projected the destruction of National Israel with the symbolic ruin of Jerusalem, when He said that the fire, the fate of those who died from famine behind the city walls will also claim the lives of some who try to escape the Babylonian blockade. This fire, He said, would spread – symbolic of extending the sentence of death to all of Jacob’s rebellious descendants regardless of when or where they live if they do not repent and accept the Suffering Servant as their Substitute and Savior (Isa. 53). Here, the LORD explains and underscores how the “fire” will consume all those who have committed the detestable sins of idolatry and infidelity to Him, forcing Him to divorce them. Referring to the three means of destruction at the end of v.11, He guarantees that, **“Disease will strike down those who are far away in exile. War will destroy those who are nearby. And anyone who survives will be killed by famine.”** The reference to **“those who are far away in exile,”** puts those who seem to escape the siege in the same boat as those **“nearby,”** who died either behind or outside Jerusalem’s walls as Babylonian soldiers cut them down trying to break the blockade. The final line, **“And anyone who survives will be killed by famine,”** claims that none will escape the sentence of death for the sins that separated the rebels from God. Thus, this sentence hangs over the rest of national Israel to this day.

Disease will strike down those who are far away in exile. Fatal cancers will put an end to whoever escaped the siege and are now banished to faraway lands

War will destroy those who are nearby. Weapons of destruction will empty neighboring territories of those who fled there

And Plus

anyone who survives will be killed by famine. Whoever escapes the siege will share the same fate as those who died of starvation from it

So As a result

at last finally

I will spend my fury on them I, the Eternal One will exhaust my personal rage against the rebels

13 The LORD isn't asking Ezekiel to taunt the rebels like some egotistical tyrant who enjoys harming those who do not bend to His will. He has already stated His purpose for letting the rebels suffer the consequences of their sins in 6:7, 10. Paul said that, "the wages of sin is death," in Rom. 6:23. But here as in 6:7, 10, sin kills the rebels so "They will know that I am the LORD." (Every eye shall see Him; all the tribes of the earth will mourn; Php 2:11). Idolatry is adultery for those who are married or engaged to God through the covenant. While the rebels did not hesitate to cheat on God with false-god lovers, the LORD held them responsible for their unfaithfulness to teach that only He deserves their love and loyalty. As they expected Him to be a one-woman-man, He expected her to be a one-man-woman. The LORD will teach this lesson by bringing death and destruction at every site of their betrayal of Him. What else could they conclude when they see the corpses of idol-worshippers at their feet of their impotent lovers, unable to protect them from the wrath of their jealous husband. What other opinion could they come to when they see all their fellow idolaters laying dead at all their old cheat-spots, the "altars on every hill and mountain and under every green tree and every great shade tree—the places where they offered sacrifices to their idols." Since none of their idols could save them, the LORD alone was the only one to whom they should have given their affection and allegiance.

They will know that I am the LORD The rebels will finally realize I, the Eternal One am the only one they should have loved

when their dead lie scattered (this will dawn on them) at the time that their corpses are sprinkled

among their idols together with their false-god lovers

and altars on every hill and mountain as well as the tables on every high place

and under every green tree plus beneath all the lush groves

and every great shade tree as well as all the timber with branches stretching out in all directions

—the places where they offered sacrifices to their idols. wherever they cheated on Me bringing gifts to their false-god lovers instead of to Me

14 True to His word, the LORD will purge every trace of Idolatry from the Promised Land to remove every contaminant from it. So, he "will crush [or, pound] them [the idol-worshippers, with His fist, as well as] make their cities [or, places He gave them to live, that they turned into so-called refuges from Him] desolate." The boundaries: "from the wilderness in the south to Riblah [on the Orontes River] in the [extreme] north" includes every square inch of the land He gave to them. Riblah was in the district of Hamath, the same Hamath Amos used in the expression, "from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Arabah" in Amos 6:14, to describe one end of the country to the other. Then, the LORD punctuates the lesson He was teaching the people directly, and everyone else from their example, "they will know that I am the LORD." The severity of Israel's punishment will leave no doubt that "the LORD is our God [our one and only covenant spouse], the LORD alone" (Deut. 6:4).



