

Idolatrous Leaders Are Condemned; Jerusalem Will Not Be Spared

Ezekiel 14

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Idolatrous Elders Condemned	14	1-5	God refuses to help the idolatrous leaders
		6-8	“Repent and turn away from your idols”
		9-11	Prophets who answered the idolaters would be punished by God
The City Will Not Be Spared	14	12-20	If God determines judgment for a city not even Noah, Daniel, or Job, could save the inhabitants by their righteousness, only themselves
		21-23	God will save some from Jerusalem through His four judgments - sword, famine, wild beasts, and plague

Reflections

In this chapter, we find God condemning men who claim to be righteous but secretly have idols setup in their hearts and have set before them the very stumbling block which causes their downfall. For that God has determined that the prophet could not speak to them for God. In the second half of the chapter, God shows that even righteous men like Noah, Daniel, or Job couldn't save Jerusalem by their righteousness, not even their own family. They could only save themselves.

Yet, God promises to save a remnant from the four judgments that He has planned for Jerusalem. As a result, they will be a public display of how God has brought about the judgments and how it is only He who can truly spare anyone from them.

For us as Christians, we need to make sure that we don't have idols setup in our hearts, the very stumbling blocks which cause us to fall, and then presume that God would have any reason to hear and respond to our prayers. What does James say about this kind of distorted self-image.

James 1:21-25 NASB Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. **22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; **24** for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. **25** But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study²: *my LOG vs others SPECK*. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

•

P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

•

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

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¹ (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

² *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

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C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

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K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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Key Words: Old Testament, Prophecy, Ezekiel, Idolatry, Judgments



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Bibliography

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