

A White-washed Wall

Ezekiel 13: 1-15

The book of Ezekiel is a very interesting book. It was written by the priest, Ezekiel, who was called of God as a prophet unto the Jewish exiles living in Babylon. There are two major themes revealed in Ezekiel, [judgment](#) and [restoration](#). God was judging them for their sin in Babylon, but He had not forsaken them. In time, God would deliver them from bondage and restore them to Jerusalem.

Ezekiel is a book that is often overlooked due to its prophetic nature. Much of it is difficult to discern. However, we cannot allow its prophetic nature and spiritual depth hinder us from discovering its great truth. This book was written to the Jews thousands of years ago, but there is much truth that we need to understand and apply to our lives today. I have said many times that there are many parallels to the lives that the Israelites lived and the lives that many are living today.

The main focus of this passage is the work and deception of false prophets. A key verse is [V.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?](#) These false prophets were claiming to have a word from the Lord when the Lord had not spoken at all. We too are hearing much in regard to the Lord and His church that is not founded in scripture.

As I studied this passage, I was gripped by the wall that is spoken of. As we will discover, it was a wall of disrepair and deception. There are many walls, or “fronts” if you will that are being built today, but are they pleasing unto the Lord? I want us to consider the [observations](#) of this wall as we think on: [A White-washed Wall](#).

I. The Disrepair of the Wall (5) – There are a couple of things worth mentioning about the wall. Notice first of all:

A. The Neglect – [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.](#) Now we have no way of knowing for certain which wall Ezekiel was speaking of here. It seems unlikely that the Jews would have been able to construct a wall in Babylon. If he is referring to a literal wall, then he would have to be making reference to the wall that was in disrepair in Jerusalem. It is also quite possible that Ezekiel is speaking of their lives, referring to their stand and their witness as a wall.

- Either way, the wall was being neglected. There were gaps in the wall, preventing a hedge of protection for the people. It is apparent that no one was concerned about the state of disrepair that the wall was in.
- We don't live behind fortified walls here in America, but the principle remains the same. The spiritual walls that are so important to our well being have been neglected and are in a state of disrepair.
- It isn't that we are not aware of the need; it just seems as if no one has the desire to make any repairs. We seem to have reached the place that we feel as if nothing can be done and we are content to live with things as they are.

B. The Necessity – [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.](#) The wall was there for a purpose; it served a need for them. The wall was there for their protection in the day of battle. It provided a safe haven for them against the enemies attack. It wasn't something that could be neglected without consequence.

- Spiritually many walls have been neglected in our lives, but that doesn't mean that they are not needful or necessary. I have never experienced a time like the one in which we live. The very foundations of our faith are under attack. The home, as God ordained it, has been neglected and many are seeking to reestablish the God given order of the home. Our children are facing intense pressure to abandon their faith and conform to the world's standard. Would you not agree that we need to rebuild the spiritual walls that have crumbled around us?

I. The Disrepair of the Wall (5)

II. The Daubing of the Wall (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:](#) This single verse reveals much about the condition and character of the wall. Consider:

A. The Mortar – Ezekiel reveals that the Lord has declared that [the wall has been daubed with untempered mortar.](#) Five times he makes reference to the untempered mortar or the daubing. The word [untempered](#) means “*to be unseasoned.*” It speaks of mortar that has not been properly prepared, that which should have never been used. It also carries the idea of

“*whitewashing*.” We all know that this refers to covering that which is really there. It is often used in reference to being deceptive, not admitting truth, and portraying something in a better light than is actually is.

- I fear that a lot of walls today are being constructed with untempered mortar. We are depending on our abilities and the influence of man’s devices more than we are the power of God. We tend to seek the approval of the world, and desire to “do ministry” as the world dictates rather than looking unto the Lord for guidance.
- There is a lot of “*whitewashing*” going on today as well. We tend to deny the truth and refuse to face the harsh realities of our day. This is not a game that we are playing. We are not engaged in a theatrical performance. This is real; we are engaged in a spiritual battle and souls are at stake. It is time for the church to face reality, get honest with the Lord, and seek His face for the help we so desperately need!

B. The Mockery (10a) – Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace. We have discovered that the situation was very real and yet the people literally mocked God. He had warned of judgment and they denied His truth and proclaimed a lie. The false prophets predicted peace when God would send no peace. In essence they abandoned the truth of God for the pleasures of the flesh.

- Would you not agree that we are living in such a time today? We have the complete Word of God. The Bible is very clear in regard to the end times and God’s judgment of sin. And yet, many today refuse to accept the Word of God for the truth that it is.
- Even among the church, many are denying the virgin birth, the sinless atonement, the bodily resurrection, and the literal return of Jesus. Many so called “evangelicals” are even embracing the doctrine that Jesus is simply one of many ways to inherit eternal life. Few in our day accept the truth of a literal, fiery hell for those who reject Christ and die in their sin. The holiness of God has been watered down to the point that most see no reason to fear standing before Him accountable for their sin.
- We need to come humbly before the Lord, embrace His truth, and proclaim it to all who will listen. It saddens me that our blessed nation has wandered so far from God and into doctrinal heresy! 2 Tim.4:3-4 – For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

C. The Masquerade (10b) – [and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar](#): We have already discussed the wall and the mortar used to daub it, but we cannot overlook the danger revealed. Clearly we see that the people were going about their daily lives, putting much effort into this futile wall, without even seeing the dangers.

- Keep in mind that these were already in captivity, and yet they lived in hypocrisy, pretending that all was well. Their spiritual lives were in danger and they kept doing the same things they had always done, I suppose hoping for a different result.
- Would you not agree that we are seeing much the same today? Folks continue to live their lives, in supposed self-righteousness, continuing to build a wall with untempered mortar. Many have bought into Satan's lies and are living in a complacent state of denial. It is time to remove the mask and seek the Lord to examine us and reveal where we truly are! [1 Tim.4:1 – Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Tim.3:13 – But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.](#)

I. The Disrepair of the Wall (5)

II. The Daubing of the Wall (10)

III. The Destruction of the Wall (11-14) – Ezekiel reveals that God is not blind to their sinfulness. He will judge them and destroy their wall of deception. Notice:

A. The Rending of the Wall (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.](#) God would not allow this wall of deception to stand. It would fall; God would send a storm to rend it. He would utterly destroy the works of their hands.

- We must ensure that all we build is built upon the right foundation and constructed according to the Word of God. Many have lived their lives building great walls to themselves, only to have those come to naught at the end of life. All that we do in this life will be judged and only that which is pure will remain. [2 Pet.2:1 – 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. 1 Cor.3:12-13 – Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious](#)

stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

B. The Realization of the Wall (12) – [Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?](#) When the wall was destroyed and brought to rubble, the people would then realize that all their efforts had been in vain. They had trusted the lies of false prophets, the works of their hands, and the materials of this world. In the end, these would not stand the test that God would bring.

- Have you ever worked hard on a particular project and finally realized that all your efforts had been in vain? There is nothing more frustrating than putting forth a lot of effort for nothing. That is exactly what this reveals and I fear that many will find themselves in that category.
- I am convinced that heaven will reveal that much of what we accomplished in this life was vanity. Where are our priorities today? Is everything we do focused on the Lord and His will for our lives? I don't want to stand before Him one day and realize that all I did was of no lasting value.

C. The Revelation of the Wall (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.](#) When the Lord destroyed the wall of deception, He revealed the true foundation upon which it had been carelessly constructed. The people had missed an opportunity to build something that would last because the foundation was sure. God had established His truth within Israel from the beginning, but they deviated from truth.

- That reveals a powerful truth and great conviction as well. This church and its ministry were founded upon a solid foundation, the Rock of Jesus Christ. I was saved and placed into the family of God the very moment I accepted Christ. I, as an individual, as well as this church started out right. We have the foundation of our Lord underneath us. We just need to be cautious as to how we build upon that foundation! [1 Cor.3:11 – For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.](#)

These are powerful and convicting verses. They reveal much about the lives we are living. Whether we admit it or not, we are all building a wall of some sort. Are we guilty of using untempered mortar? Are we guilty of denying truth and living a masquerade? As I said, this isn't a theatrical performance. We are living lives accountable to God.

Is there a need in your life today? Are there issues that you need to bring before the Lord and deal with? If you have never been saved, you are building upon the wrong foundation. I urge you to respond as the Lord leads.