

Do Not Grieve

Ezekiel 13 – 24

by Don Falkos

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The Lord spoke to Ezekiel, "There are many pronouncing prophecies of peace for Jerusalem. No peace will come. These 'prophets' will receive their just reward; as will those who practice divination, witchcraft, sorcery; as will those who have given themselves over to passionate, complete devotion to idols. Yet no matter what calamities befall my people, there will always be a remnant to love and serve me faithfully."

Ezekiel said to the people, "Israel is like a useless piece of vine made even more useless by being scorched in the fire. Israel is like a faithless wife who gives herself to every passerby. Samaria and Jerusalem have behaved like prostitutes. Israel has replaced Sodom as the quintessence of human wickedness. Judah's so-called king is duplicitous and will be brought here to die in Babylon.

"The Lord does not take pleasure in anyone's death. Each of you is responsible for your own behavior. Continue to sin, and you will die. Turn to the Lord, and you will live!"

On the very day Nebuchadnezzar began attacking Jerusalem, the Lord informed Ezekiel. "Jerusalem is like the scum in a pot of boiling meat – scum that cannot be purified by fire."

Ezekiel's wife died. But the Lord told him not to grieve. "Just as your wife, your dearest treasure, has been taken from you, so my Temple, the people's dearest treasure, will be taken from them. Your reaction now will be an example to them. And they will know I am the Lord."