1. **Intro:**
   1.1. We’ll take both chapters – See 6:1 & 7:1.

   2.1. **SYMBOL – Face Mountain & Prophecy!** (1,2)
   2.2. Set your face – Ezekiel uses this 14 times, & it always indicates God’s hostility toward sinful people.
      2.2.1. So here the prophet assumes God’s stern stance.
      2.2.2. Toward the mountains why? - Because that’s where the idolatrous worship was going on(3).
   2.3. **SIGNIFICANCE – Prophecy Destruction!** (3-10)
   2.4. (3) High Places – Canaanites worshipped their gods on hilltops. (explain Canaanites)
      2.4.1. The chief object of their worship was the **sun-god**, who was addressed by the general name of **Baal**, “lord.”
      2.4.1.1. Each locality had its special Baal. (a god made in mans own image!)
      2.4.2. God commanded the Israelites when they got into the land to eradicate them. They didn’t.
      2.4.3. The ended up often times worshipping these Canaanite gods; Or, they **blended** using these **high places** & tried to worship God there.
      2.4.4. Q: **What direction** in your life would God have his prophet face in your life?
      2.4.5. Q: Anything **not** torn down in your life?
      2.4.6. Q: What area in your life would you see as “**mixed**”; i.e. “a little God, a little world?”
   2.5. (7) You shall know that I am the Lord – (6:10,13,14; 7:4,9,27)
      2.5.1. Illuminates the **purpose** of the judgments!
      2.5.2. It was to bring Israel to repentance & recognition of the Lord’s disciplinary action.
   2.6. (8) God promises to preserve a remnant, 1st to be scattered, then taken captive to Babylon.
      2.6.1. There they would remember their idolatrous practices, recognize they’d sinned, & realize this was God’s judgment.
   2.7. (9) **Gods Heart Crushed!**
      2.7.1. Adulterous **Hearts** that have departed from God.
      2.7.2. **Eyes** played the harlot after idols.
      2.7.3. Note: It’s our **heart & eyes** that will lead us from God!
Isn’t the greatest *God heart crush* when we as Christians…

2.8.1. Read God’s Word, w/o it reading us?
2.8.2. Go to church, w/o meeting God there.
2.8.3. Sing worship songs, w/o truly worshipping.
2.8.4. Saying prayers, w/o actually praying.

2.9. The sin that breaks the heart of God, should break our hearts as well!

2.10. The Holy Spirit is not a mindless power or force, but a person w/feelings. One who could be grieved. [4 reason not to grieve Him]
2.10.1. He is our Leader, our Helper, our Preserver, our Comforter.

2.11. **Our Leader!**
2.11.1. We know Eph.4:30 says, “not to grieve the Holy Spirit”, but Paul was probably thinking of Isaiah (63:9,10) when he said, “And He bore them and carried them All the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;”
2.11.1.1. As He bore Israel & carried them, we are told in the NT that he also leads/guides us “when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth”.

2.11.2. So guiding is a large part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry to us:
2.11.3. Q: Would you grieve your leader, & be left to travel alone?
2.11.4. Q: Can you find your way w/o Him?
2.11.5. Q: Can you learn w/o this teacher?

2.12. **Our Helper!**
2.12.1. So Helping is a part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry to us:
2.12.2. Q: Would you grieve your Helper & be left to act alone in your work?
2.12.3. Q: Can you worship w/o the preparation of the heart by Him?
2.12.4. Q: Can you know what to pray for as you ought, unless the Holy Spirit helps you?
2.12.5. Q: Do you have power to do any duty, unless you are strengthened with might by the Spirit in the inner man?
2.12.5.1. You may spread your sails, but He must fill them!

2.13. **Our Preserver!**
2.13.1. To Him who is able to Keep you…
2.13.2. So Preserving is a part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry to us:
2.13.3. Q: Would you grieve your Preserver & be left to contend by yourself against your enemies?
2.13.3.1. The 1st temptation that assaults you, as you stand alone, could be your downfall for sinning & falling.

2.14. **Our Comforter!**
2.14.1. So Comforting is a part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry to us:
2.14.2. Q: Would you grieve the One who **Comforts** you & lose your hold of His promises, be unable to discern right things, & be in bondage to fear & misery.
2.14.3. Q: Can you revive yourself in the midst of trouble?
2.14.4. Q: Can you tell yourself enough times *not to worry*, & expect that to be of help?
2.14.5. Q: When in **deep distress** emotionally, who will you cry out to?

2.15. Have you heard of someone making their heart **“Crush-proof”**?
2.15.1. It sounds like this...“I was **wounded so terribly** by him/her that I will never give my heart to another.”
2.15.1.1. They promise to never open themselves up to love again.
2.15.2. Love necessitates risk! One could never promise, you’ll never be hurt again. Love demands risk!
2.15.3. Q: What if God stopped loving, because He was tired of His heart being Crushed?
2.15.3.1. Maybe John 3:16 would sound something like... “For God so **protected His heart from getting crushed again**, that He stopped loving the world, held back giving His only Son, & left man to spiritually fend for himself.”
2.15.4. Love demands risk!

2.16. **Remember Me! - ghfh**

2.17. **SYMBOL – Clap Hands, & Stomp Feet!** (11)
2.18. As another visible display of God’s displeasure, Ezekiel *clapped his hands & stomped his feet.*
2.18.1. Sometimes this is used for **Joy** (“Let the rivers clap *their* hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the **LORD**”); other times (like here) for **scorn**.

2.19. **SIGNIFICANCE – Predict Disease & Death that Await Israel!** (12-14)
2.20. The people would die by sword & famine, because of their idolatry.
2.21. From the wilderness to Diblah, or meant the same as “*from Dan to Beersheba.*”
2.22. And all would know that God is **Lord! (not baal)**

**3. THE END HAS COME! (7:1-27)**
3.1. Judgment could no longer be adverted; it was certain.
3.2. Again, it was because of their **abominations**(3,4,6,9) a reference to their immoral idolatry. *(immoral because married to Jehovah, thus any other god is adultery)*
3.3. (12) Activity & commerce would cease; there would be no buying & selling.
3.4. (13) Their belongings would become worthless, since they would be confiscated by the Babylonians.
3.4.1. What was most important was their lives!

3.5. God speaks in the events of life.
3.5.1. Q: What effect do our circumstances have on us?
3.5.2. Q: Do they harden our attitudes or make us bitter?
3.5.3. Or, do they cause us to develop humility & a contrite/pure spirit?¹

3.6. (16) The few who escape over the mountains would be left to cry out over their sin like mourning doves.
3.6.1. Named after its mournful sounding call.

3.7. (17) Courage & morale would be gone.

3.8. Wrong Use of Money! (19)
3.8.1. They had foolishly used their God-given finances to build idols.

3.9. Temple Defiled! (20-22)
3.10. God even allows Babylonians to defile His secret place. 😞
3.10.1. But hat's the very place they had defiled.
3.10.2. That's like us selling our place here to become a…..

3.11. MAKE A CHAIN! [symbolizes captivity] (23-27)
3.12. All the things that Judah trusted in will not help them.
3.12.1. Not money(19); not idols; not even their leaders(24-27).

3.13. I’d like to end with Ps.30:5 (read 1-5)
3.14.1. Hey, give me the side effects of the Malaria pills, verses Malaria in full strength. - Give me the discomfort of a typhoid shot, rather then typhoid’s wrath.
3.14.2. Let God’s anger be a brief discomfort, that helps you repent & turn from sin. (LAB)

3.15. Moment vs. for life -
3.15.1. Q: Have we flip flopped this fact in our minds or hearts?
3.15.1.1. Whenever we fret & are impatient under affliction…doesn’t every minute seem like hours, & every day seem like weeks? – And then we think that God’s favor towards us was only for a moment last week!
3.15.2. 2 Cor.4:17,18 “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which

¹ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.15.
are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

3.15.3. Gods Goodness(favor), in His estimation, outweighs His displeasure a hundredfold.

3.16. Weeping vs. Joy –
3.16.1. Endure = to lodge, or pass the night.
3.16.2. Whatever is causing the weeping is only a night guest!
3.16.2.1. He must be gone at daybreak.
3.16.3. When morning breaks – who is this running to the door? It is JOY!
3.16.3.1. Joy comes as, not a night guest, but as the owner who has been running all through the night & now has returned home.
3.16.3.2. His key opens every room & closets lock.
3.16.3.3. His presence fills every room with himself…JOY unspeakable!
3.16.3.4. Sorrow & sighing flee!
3.16.3.4.1. They run fast out the backdoor, as Joy bursts through the front door.
3.16.4. Obviously that doesn’t mean that at sunrise (at 5:37am) you’ll never have a weeping hangover.
3.16.4.1. It means that in comparison to whatever we have to face down here, even the most debilitating disease or excruciating pain, it won’t hold a candle to even a whiff of Heavens Joy!

3.17. If things seem dark to you now, wait for the morning to dawn. He can change everything…in a hurry!
3.17.1. No matter how dark the night, DAWN WILL COME!
3.17.2. No matter how heavy your heart, 1 DAY THERE WILL BE A SONG!

3.18. Story - "Enjoying" the price.
In old age, Pierre Auguste Renoir (ren-war), the great French painter, suffered from arthritis, which twisted and cramped his hand.
His friend, Henri Matisse, watched sadly while Renoir, grasping a brush with only his fingertips, continued to paint, even though each movement caused stabbing pain. One day, Matise asked Renoir why he persisted in painting at the expense of such torture. Renoir replied, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains."