

“Crushing The Heart of God!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. We'll take both chapters – See 6:1 & 7:1.

2. CRUSHING THE HEART OF GOD! (6:1-14)

- 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. They 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!

- 2.8. 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 Spirits 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 Spirits 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 Spirits 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 Spirits ministry to us:

- 2.14.2. **Q:** Would you grieve the One who **Comforts** you & loose 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. (5) **Anger** vs. **Favor** –
- 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 than **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 B 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, Matisse asked Renoir why he persisted in painting at the expense of such torture. Renoir replied, "**The pain passes, but the beauty remains.**"