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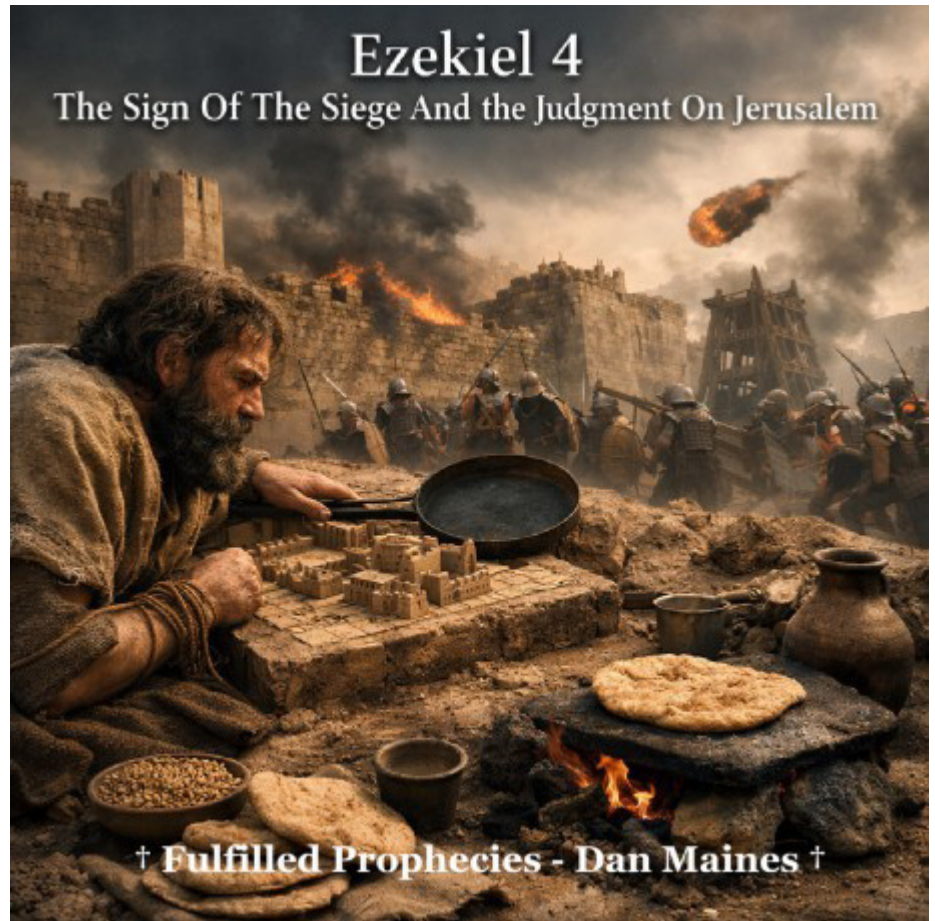
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Ezekiel 4 The Sign Of The Siege And The Judgment On Jerusalem



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 4 The Sign Of The Siege And The Judgment On Jerusalem

Introduction

† Ezekiel 4 shows God commanding the prophet to act out the coming judgment on Jerusalem, not just speak it. This wasn't symbolic for a distant future, it was a direct warning to that generation that judgment was already determined.

† God made Ezekiel become a living sign. The people weren't listening to words anymore, so God showed them judgment through action. This lines up with how Jesus later used signs and warnings to that same covenant people before AD 70 (Matthew 24:33-34).

† This chapter proves that judgment on Jerusalem was not random. It was measured, calculated, and deserved because of their rebellion against God.

Ezekiel 4:1-3

Now you, son of man, get yourself a brick, place it before you, and inscribe a city on it, Jerusalem. Then lay siege against it, build a siege wall, raise up a ramp, pitch camps, and place battering rams against it all around. Then get yourself an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between you and the city, and set your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This is a sign to the house of Israel.

† God had Ezekiel draw Jerusalem under siege because the destruction was already determined.

† The iron wall shows separation, God was no longer protecting the city, He was against it.

† This sign parallels Jesus declaring judgment and siege against Jerusalem in His generation.

Ezekiel 4:4-8

As for you, lie down on your left side and place the wrongdoing of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their wrongdoing for the number of days that you lie on it. For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their wrongdoing, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the wrongdoing of the house of Israel. When you have completed

these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the wrongdoing of the house of Judah for forty days; I have assigned you a day for each year. Then you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared, and prophesy against it. And behold, I will put ropes on you so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have completed the days of your siege.

† The 390 and 40 days represent years of accumulated sin, showing God's judgment is based on a long history of rebellion.

† Ezekiel bearing their wrongdoing shows how serious their guilt was, it had to be accounted for.

† This foreshadows Christ bearing sin, but unlike Israel, He was righteous and took it away.

Ezekiel 4:9-11

But as for you, take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and spelt, put them in one vessel, and make them into bread for yourself; you shall eat it according to the number of the days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days. Your food which you eat shall be twenty shekels a day by weight; you shall eat it from time to time. The water you drink shall be the sixth part of a hin by measure; you shall drink it from time to time.

† The rationed food shows famine conditions during the siege, exactly what happened in Jerusalem.

† Eating mixed grains shows desperation and poverty, not normal provision.

† This was fulfilled historically in the Roman siege of Jerusalem when famine became extreme.

Ezekiel 4:12-17

And you shall eat it as a barley cake, having baked it in their sight over human dung. Then the Lord said, This is how the sons of Israel will eat their bread unclean among the nations where I will scatter them. But I said, Oh, Lord God! Behold, I have never been defiled; for from my youth until now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by animals, nor has any unclean meat ever entered my mouth. Then He said to me, See, I will give you cow dung in place of human dung over which you will prepare your bread. Moreover, He said to me, Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror, because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their wrongdoing.

† Cooking with dung represents defilement, showing Israel would be unclean in exile.

† The breaking of the staff of bread means God removed provision, famine was a direct judgment.

† Fear, scarcity, and suffering were the result of their own sin, not random events.

Historical References

† Josephus records severe famine during the Roman siege, including people fighting over scraps of food.

† Eusebius confirms the destruction of Jerusalem as fulfillment of prophetic warnings.

† Tacitus describes the siege conditions and suffering within Jerusalem.

How It Applies To Us Today

† God does not ignore sin, judgment may be delayed, but it is always measured and just.

† We are called to speak truth even when people don't want to hear it, just like Ezekiel.

† Christ has taken away sin for those in Him, so we don't bear the judgment Israel faced.

† We should not take God's patience as approval of sin, judgment came exactly when He said it would.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did God make Ezekiel act out the siege?

A: Because Israel refused to listen to words, so God gave them a visible sign of judgment (Ezekiel 4:1-3).

Q: What do the 390 and 40 days represent?

A: They represent years of accumulated sin that God was holding them accountable for (Ezekiel 4:4-6).

Q: Why was the food rationed?

A: It symbolized the famine that would happen during the siege of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 4:9-11).

Q: What does cooking with dung represent?

A: It represents defilement and unclean conditions during exile and judgment (Ezekiel 4:12-13).

Q: Was this fulfilled historically?

A: Yes, it was fulfilled in the siege and destruction of Jerusalem, especially in AD 70.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 4

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3; Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13

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