

Ezekiel 24

In the 9th year, in the 10th month, on the 10th day of the month, (i.e. 15 Jan 587 B.C.)

ALLEGORY OF THE BOILING POT = SEIGE OF JERUSALEM (24:1-14)

The word of YHWH came to me: 'Son of man...'

Write down the name of this day, this very day.

The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day.

Utter a "parable" to the rebellious house and say to them, Thus says the Lord YHWH:

[Text of Parable]

Therefore thus says the Lord YHWH:

[Allegory Continued and Identified – Woe on Jerusalem]

Therefore thus says the Lord YHWH:

[Allegory Interpreted – Woe on Jerusalem]

I am YHWH. I have spoken...I will do it...declares the Lord YHWH.

A. PROPHETIC SIGN OF THE DEATH OF EZEKIEL'S WIFE = DESTROYED TEMPLE

The word of YHWH came to me: 'Son of man...' (24:15-24)

SIGN: I am about to take away the delight of your eyes away from you at a stroke, yet you shall not mourn or weep...(1) Sigh, but not aloud, (2) make no mourning for the dead. (3) Bind on your turban, and put your shoes on your feet, (4) do not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.

INTERPRETATION: (A) I will profane my sanctuary, (B) the pride of your power, (C.) the delight of your eyes, and (D) the yearning of your soul and (E) your sons and daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword...you shall not mourn or weep... And you shall do as I have done; (4) you shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men. (3) Your turbans shall be on your heads and your shoes on your feet; (2) you shall not mourn or weep, (1) but you shall rot away in your iniquities and groan to one another.

Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign...

And they will know that I am YHWH.

A' PROPHETIC SIGN OF EZEKIEL'S MUTENESS ENDED = DESTROYED TEMPLE

As for you, son of man... (24:25-26)

On the day when I (A') take from them their stronghold, (B') their joy and glory, (C') the delight of their eyes and (D') their soul's desire, and also (E') their sons and daughters on that day a fugitive will come to you and report to you the news...and you shall speak and no longer be mute.

So you will be a sign to them,

And they will know that I am YHWH.

The parallel chapter in the chiasm (Ezekiel 33) shows the fugitive from Jerusalem coming and telling Ezekiel that the city had been struck down and YHWH opened Ezekiel's mouth so that he was no longer mute.

Oracles Against Seven Nations

The First Four:

ORACLE AGAINST AMMON (25:1-7)

The word of YHWH came to me: 'Son of man...' Because you said, 'Aha'...therefore behold, I am handing you over to the people of the east for a possession...

Then you will know that I am YHWH.

For thus says the Lord YHWH: Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced with all the malice within your soul against the land of Israel, therefore behold, I have stretched out my hand against you...I will cut you off from among the peoples...I will destroy you.

Then you will know that I am YHWH.

ORACLE AGAINST MOAB & SEIR (25:8-11)

Thus says the Lord YHWH: Because Moab and Seir said...therefore...

And I will give it along with the Ammonites to the people of the east as a possession...

And I will execute judgments upon Moab. Then they will know that I am YHWH.

ORACLE AGAINST EDOM (25:12-14)

Thus says the Lord YHWH: Because Edom acted revengefully...therefore thus says the Lord YHWH: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and cut off from it man and beast, and I will make it desolate...(A) And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom...(B) according to my anger & wrath...

(C.) they shall know my vengeance, declares the Lord YHWH.

ORACLE AGAINST PHILISTIA (25:15-17)

Thus says the Lord YHWH: Because the Philistines acted revengefully...therefore thus says the Lord YHWH: Behold: I will stretch out my hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites, and destroy the rest of the seacoast. (C') I will execute great vengeance on them (B') with wrathful rebukes.

Then they will know that I am YHWH, (A') when I lay my vengeance upon them.

Grouping four together reminds us of the wisdom pattern of 3+1, though this appears to be a 2+2 pattern instead. There are another three targets for these oracles against foreign nations – Tyre and Sidon are often a pair in Scripture, and the seventh is Egypt. Thus the pattern as a whole is 2+2+2+1 where Egypt is the +1.

Interestingly there was no heading for the first four, but they are clearly a separate unit from the previous chapter, which was set "In the 9th year, in the 10th month, on the 10th day of the month."

There is a new heading for Tyre (and Sidon):

In the 11th year, on the 1st day of the month,

And a new heading for Egypt:

In the 10th year, in the 10th month, on the 12th day of the month,

These headings reveal that the text is not in chronological order but arranged for some other purpose (i.e., to fit the text's structure).