

Week 2 Student Study Guide

Title: Signs, Silence, and the Cost of Prophetic Obedience

Primary Text: Ezekiel 4–7 (KJV)

Historical & Literary Context

Ezekiel 4–7 continues God’s confrontation with a people in denial. While Jerusalem still stands, its destruction is already certain. God commands Ezekiel to perform symbolic acts—sign-acts—that visually communicate judgment. These actions are not dramatic performances; they are lived sermons. Ezekiel’s body becomes the message, illustrating that prophetic ministry often demands personal cost.

Theological Exposition

The sign-acts (lying on his side, rationed food, defiled bread, shaved hair) reveal the seriousness of covenant violation. Judgment is not arbitrary—it is the inevitable result of sustained rebellion. God’s holiness requires response. Yet even in judgment, God preserves a remnant, showing restraint within severity.

Ezekiel’s silence during portions of his ministry underscores a critical theological truth: God does not always speak continuously. Silence itself becomes a form of judgment. When words cease, consequences advance. This challenges the assumption that constant communication equals divine favor.

Key Verses for the Week (KJV)

- 1 Ezekiel 4:1
- 2 Ezekiel 4:4
- 3 Ezekiel 4:6
- 4 Ezekiel 4:9
- 5 Ezekiel 5:1
- 6 Ezekiel 5:5
- 7 Ezekiel 5:8
- 8 Ezekiel 5:11
- 9 Ezekiel 6:3
- 10 Ezekiel 6:8
- 11 Ezekiel 6:9
- 12 Ezekiel 7:2
- 13 Ezekiel 7:5
- 14 Ezekiel 7:19
- 15 Ezekiel 7:27

Memory Verse

Ezekiel 6:8 (KJV): “Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword...”

New Testament Cross-Text Mapping

• Matthew 24:15–22 – Jesus echoes Ezekiel's warning of unavoidable judgment. • Luke 19:41–44 – Jesus weeps over Jerusalem's refusal to recognize the time of visitation. • Hebrews 12:25–29 – God's consuming holiness applied to New Covenant believers. • James 1:22 – Obedience required, not mere hearing. • Revelation 8:1 – Silence in heaven as a sign of impending judgment.

Contemporary & Spiritual Application

Ezekiel 4–7 confronts modern believers with the cost of obedience. Faithfulness is not always rewarded with comfort or affirmation. God may require believers to live counterculturally, embodying truth in ways that disrupt complacency. Silence from God should prompt repentance, not indifference.

Discussion Questions

- 1 Why does God use embodied actions instead of words alone in Ezekiel 4–5?
- 2 How does divine silence function as a form of judgment?
- 3 What does Ezekiel's obedience teach us about the cost of ministry?
- 4 How should believers interpret warning signs in their own spiritual lives?