EZEKIEL 13

Whitewashed Walls: Peace When There Is No Peace

> *“It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace.”*
> EZEKIEL 13:10

Where Ezekiel has brought us

1. Ezekiel is a priest among the exiles in Babylon, carried there with King Jehoiachin in 597 BC.

2. Chapter 12 ended with the people shrugging that the vision was delayed and far off.



Prophets God Did Not Send

Their message came from their own hearts, and they stood back from the breach.

EZEKIEL 13:2

"Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy from their own inspiration, 'Listen to the word of the LORD!

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik notes that most of these prophets were promising a quick deliverance from Babylon and an early return from exile — the same message Hananiah and the exile prophets preached.

WHAT IT MEANS

These prophets used the right words — "The LORD declares" — but God says, "it is not I who have spoken" (v7). Their message came "from their own inspiration" (v2), from the heart (leb) rather than from heaven.

Breaches (פֶּרֶץ)
PERETS · "BREAK, GAP"

Perets is a break or gap in a wall — the place an enemy pours through. God says, "You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel" (v5).

“I Am Against You”

Three exclusions strike at the heart of belonging to Israel.

EZEKIEL 13:8

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, “Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you,” declares the Lord GOD.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik points out that God is not merely displeased with these prophets; He declares Himself their opponent: “I am against you” (v8).

WHAT IT MEANS

Two short verses, and the tone changes. Up to now Ezekiel has described the false prophets; now God speaks to them directly: “Because you have spoken falsehood and seen a lie, therefore behold, I am against you” (v8).

Council (סוֹד)

SOD · “CLOSE COUNSEL”

Sod is a circle of close counsel — intimate fellowship, the inner room where friends talk freely. God says these prophets “will have no place in the council of My people” (v9).

The Whitewashed Wall

“Peace!” when there is no peace — and a storm that lays the foundation bare.

EZEKIEL 13:10

“It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, ‘Peace!’ when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash;

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik, quoting Wright, notes that these prophets ‘never spoke of repentance.’ Their whole message was “Peace!”

WHAT IT MEANS

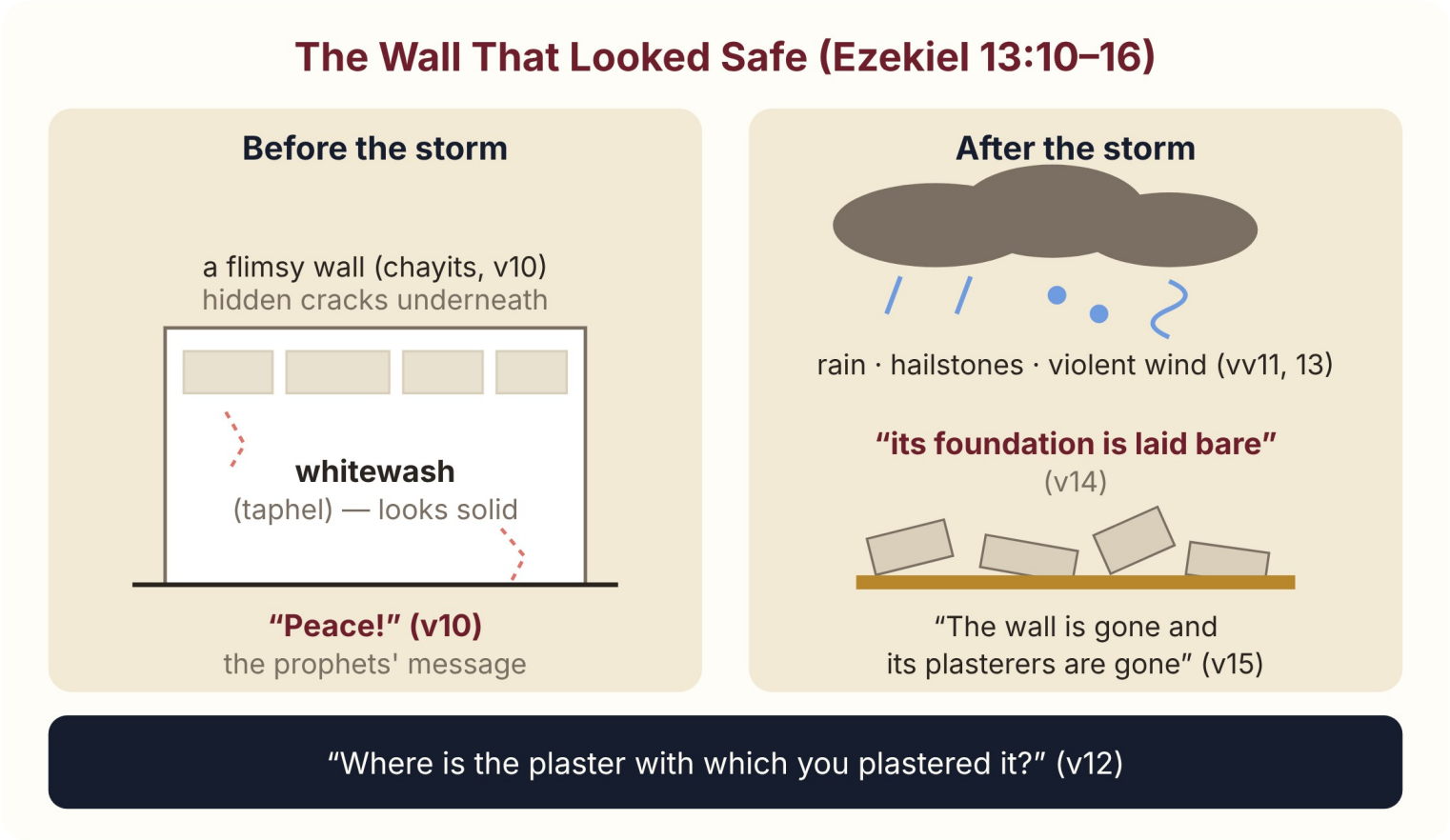
Here is the heart of the lie: “Peace!” when there is no peace (v10; compare Jer 6:14; 8:11).

Whitewash (תָּפֵל)

TAPHEL · “PLASTER; TASTELESS”

Taphel is plaster or whitewash; as an adjective it means tasteless, worthless. The people throw up a flimsy partition wall (chayits, used only in v10), and the prophets “plaster it over with whitewash” so it looks solid.

The Whitewashed Wall



Whitewash changes how a weak wall looks, not what it is; God's storm lays the foundation bare (vv10–16).

The Women Who Hunt Souls

Charms, veils and a price of barley and bread.

EZEKIEL 13:17

"Now you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration. Prophesy against them

DAVID GUZIK

Israel had true prophetesses — Miriam, Deborah, Huldah — but Guzik, quoting Block, notes that Ezekiel will not even give these women the title.

WHAT IT MEANS

Ezekiel must now "set your face against the daughters of your people who are prophesying from their own inspiration" (v17). Same source as the men — their own hearts — but a different trade.

Hunt (צוּד)

TSUD · "HUNT, ENSNARE"

Tsud means to hunt, to lie in wait, to ensnare. These women make magic bands (keseth) and veils (mispachah) — words found only here — "to hunt down lives" (v18).

God Tears Off the Charms

He sets the hunted free like birds from a snare.

EZEKIEL 13:20

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against your magic bands by which you hunt lives there as birds and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let them go, even those lives whom you hunt as birds.

WHAT IT MEANS

God does what the hunted cannot do for themselves. "Behold, I am against your magic bands" (v20).

Disheartened (כָּאָה)
KAAH · "MAKE DEJECTED"

Kaah means to make someone dejected, to break his spirit.

What to carry from this chapter

1

The wish fathered the word.

Guzik, quoting Feinberg, says these prophets spoke what they hoped for: ‘The wish was father to the thought.’

2

Right words, wrong source.

They said “The LORD declares,” but God answers that “it is not I who have spoken” (v7).

3

Foolish is a moral word.

Nabal means spiritually dull, not merely unintelligent — a man following his own spirit (v3).

4

The breach needs a man.

A true prophet goes up into the gap in the wall; these men stood back like foxes among ruins (vv4–5).

More to carry

5

Whitewash is a cover, not a cure.

Taphel is plaster that also means tasteless and worthless — it hides cracks but holds nothing up.

6

No repentance in the message.

Guzik, quoting Wright, notes these prophets ‘never spoke of repentance’ — only “Peace!”

7

A lie needs a listener.

The women profaned God “to My people who listen to lies” (v19), and Guzik says fewer would listen if fewer false prophets were heard.

8

Judgment that rescues.

Four times the chapter says “you will know that I am the LORD” (vv9, 14, 21, 23), and God delivers His people from the snare.

Talk it through

1. What does it mean to prophesy “from their own inspiration,” and how can I tell that voice from God's word today?

2. Where in my life have I put whitewash on a cracked wall instead of dealing with the crack?

3. Who in my life has gone up into the breach for me — and for whom should I do that now?

4. Why does God care so much that the righteous were disheartened and the wicked encouraged?

5. What snare has God already torn off my wrists, and how can I thank Him for it?

CLOSING

The storm exposes every wall, so the wise man asks God to inspect his before it comes. Let God strip the whitewash, build on the foundation that holds, and listen to the word of the LORD — the only voice that does not lie.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides and reflection journal: see the Ezekiel study page.