

## Ezekiel 14-15, James 2(New King James Version)

### Ezekiel 14

#### Idolatry Will Be Punished

<sup>1</sup> Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. <sup>2</sup> And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?

<sup>4</sup> “Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, <sup>5</sup> that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.”’”

<sup>6</sup> “Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. <sup>7</sup> For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the LORD will answer him by Myself. <sup>8</sup> I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> “And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the LORD have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel. <sup>10</sup> And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, <sup>11</sup> that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their God,” says the Lord GOD.”

#### Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness

<sup>12</sup> The word of the LORD came again to me, saying: <sup>13</sup> “Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. <sup>14</sup> Even *if* these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord GOD.

<sup>15</sup> “If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through because of the beasts, <sup>16</sup> *even though* these three men *were* in it, *as* I live,” says the Lord GOD, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters; only they would be delivered, and the land would be desolate.

<sup>17</sup> “Or *if* I bring a sword on that land, and say, ‘Sword, go through the land,’ and I cut off man and beast from it, <sup>18</sup> even *though* these three men *were* in it, *as* I live,” says the Lord GOD, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters, but only they themselves would be delivered.

<sup>19</sup> “Or *if* I send a pestilence into that land and pour out My fury on it in blood, and cut off from it man and beast, <sup>20</sup> even *though* Noah, Daniel, and Job *were* in it, *as* I live,” says the Lord GOD, “they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver *only* themselves by their righteousness.”

<sup>21</sup> For thus says the Lord GOD: “How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments on Jerusalem—the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it? <sup>22</sup> Yet behold, there shall be left in it a remnant who will be brought out, *both* sons and daughters; surely they will come out to you, and you will see their ways and their doings. Then you will be comforted concerning the disaster that I have brought upon Jerusalem, all that I have brought upon it. <sup>23</sup> And they will comfort you, when you see their ways and their doings; and you shall know that I have done nothing without cause that I have done in it,” says the Lord GOD.

## Ezekiel 15

### The Outcast Vine

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, how is the wood of the vine *better* than any other wood, the vine branch which is among the trees of the forest? <sup>3</sup> Is wood taken from it to make any object? Or can *men* make a peg from it to hang any vessel on? <sup>4</sup> Instead, it is thrown into the fire for fuel; the fire devours both ends of it, and its middle is burned. Is it useful for *any* work? <sup>5</sup> Indeed, when it was whole, no object could be made from it. How much less will it be useful for *any* work when the fire has devoured it, and it is burned?

<sup>6</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem; <sup>7</sup> and I will set My face against them. They will go out from *one* fire, but *another* fire shall devour them. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I set My face against them. <sup>8</sup> Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have persisted in unfaithfulness,’ says the Lord GOD.”

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## James 2

### Beware of Personal Favoritism

<sup>1</sup> My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, <sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” <sup>4</sup> have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,”<sup>[a]</sup> you do well; <sup>9</sup> but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. <sup>11</sup> For He who said, “Do not commit adultery,”<sup>[b]</sup> also said, “Do not murder.”<sup>[c]</sup> Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### **Faith Without Works Is Dead**

<sup>14</sup> What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your<sup>[d]</sup> works, and I will show you my faith by my<sup>[e]</sup> works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? <sup>23</sup> And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.”<sup>[g]</sup> And he was called the friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

<sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?

<sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.