### Ezekiel

## Chapter 14

1Well after that, elders from among the people of IsraEl came to me and they all sat down in front of me. 2Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 3‘Son of man,  
  
 ‘The thoughts in the hearts of these people are set;  
 So, lay out their badness before them,  
 Since I will now give them an answer…  
 4Speak and tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Any man from the house of IsraEl,  
 Who may start to think in his heart  
 That he’ll not be punished for his badness,  
 Should arrange his face and then come to the Prophet,  
 And I, Jehovah, will tell him his thoughts  
 5So I can change the hearts of the house of IsraEl…  
 Those whose hearts are so far from Me.  
  
 6‘So, speak to the house of IsraEl  
 And tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Turn from the things that you’re doing…  
 Turn your faces from your godless deeds!  
  
 7‘For a man – any man – from the house of IsraEl  
 Or from among foreign converts  
 Who no longer chooses to [walk in My ways]  
 And starts to think in his heart  
 That he should never be punished  
 For all the bad things that he’s doing,  
 Must arrange his face and come to the Prophet,  
 Then ask, and I will reply  
 About the things over which he’s concerned.  
  
 8‘For I’ll fix My face against such a man  
 And assign him to a place in extinction…  
 From the midst of My people, I’ll lift him away…  
 And he’ll know that I am Jehovah.  
  
 9‘And if a prophet should say that he’s been misled,  
 And he says I’m the One who misled him;  
 Against him, I’ll stretch out My hand  
 And remove him from IsraEl’s midst.  
  
 10‘So each one who [comes before Me] and asks  
 Must bear the punishment he’s due  
 For all of his unrighteous acts…  
 According to the things that he’s done.  
  
 ‘Then the sins of the prophets will come upon them,  
 11So the house of IsraEl will not stay misled  
 And remain defiled by its errors.  
 Then they’ll be My people and I’ll be their God,’ says Jehovah.  
  
  
12Well after that, the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 13[‘Jehovah says:]  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 If a land sins against Me and falls into sin;  
 Against [that land], I will stretch out My hand,  
 And break its reliance on bread…  
 Famine I’ll send [to that land]  
 And remove men and beasts from upon it.  
  
 14‘But, should such good men be found in that land  
 As Noah, DaniEl, and Job;  
 I will save such a man,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 15‘And if I must bring ferocious wild beasts  
 As a punishment upon such a land;  
 It will become an extinction…  
 None will pass through it again  
 Because of the faces of the wild beasts I’ll send.  
  
 16‘But if three such good men can be found there;  
 As I live,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘Although its sons and daughters will not be saved…  
 [Those three men] will be saved,  
 And the land will thereafter be ruined.  
  
 17‘Or if I should bring the sword to that land,  
 If I say, ‘Let the broadsword pass through it,’  
 And I cause men and beasts to be lifted from there…  
 18If three such men can be found in its midst;  
 As I live,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘Although its sons and daughters will not be saved,  
 Those [3 men] will be rescued.  
  
 19‘Or, if I should send a plague to that land  
 And pour My rage upon it in blood,  
 Destroying both men and wild beasts…  
 20And among them, three such men can be found  
 As Noah, DaniEl, and Job;  
 As I live,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘Its sons and daughters will not be saved…  
 For the only thing that can save them  
 Is becoming as righteous [as those three men]!  
  
 21‘Then Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘To JeruSalem, I’ll be sending 4 things:  
 The sword, famine, and plague,  
 As well as ferocious wild beasts…  
 They’ll destroy all the men and their cattle.  
  
 22‘{Look!} And any of those who remain  
 Those who escape all these things,  
 Will then be carried away,  
 Along with their sons and their daughters.  
  
 ‘Then {Look!} they will be brought here to you,  
 And you’ll know of the things that they thought,  
 As well as of the things they have done.  
  
 ‘And although you’ll be saddened by the harm that I’ll bring  
 – All that I’ll do to JeruSalem –  
 23[Your mind] will then be relieved,  
 Because you will see their ways and their thoughts,  
 And you’ll know all the things that I did  
 Weren’t done without a good reason,’ says Jehovah.’