

## The High Price of Treachery (14:12–15:8)

### A Lecture on Divine Justice

(14:12–23)

Veritas Adult Community

May 26, 2019

#### The Text

#### The Four Strikes of YHWH’s Hand: The Theoretical Basis for Divine Judgment

Table 1: A Synopsis of the Four Panels of Ezekiel 14:13–20				
Strike 1 vv. 13–14	Strike 2 vv. 15–16	Strike 3 vv. 17–18	Strike 4 vv. 19–20	
<sup>13</sup> Human, if a land were to sin against me by acting treacherously, and if I were to stretched out <b>my hand</b> against it and broke its staff of bread, and sent famine upon it, <i>cutting off</i> <i>both human and beast</i> <i>from it,</i> <sup>14</sup> even if these three men  were in its midst— Noah, Daniel and Job— by their righteousness <i>they would save</i> <i>only their own lives.</i>	<sup>15</sup> If I were to turn <b>wild animals</b> loose in the land to wipe out its population, leaving it desolate, and unsafe to cross for fear of the animals,  <sup>16</sup> even if these three men  were in its midst— as I live, the declaration of the Lord YHWH— they would not even save their sons or daughters! <i>They alone would be saved,</i> while the land became a desolation.	<sup>17</sup> If I were to bring <b>a sword</b> upon that land, and I declared, “Let a sword pass through the land, <i>and cut off</i> <i>both human and beast</i> <i>from it,”</i> <sup>18</sup> even if these three men  were in its midst, as I live— the declaration of the Lord YHWH— they would not even save their sons or daughters; <i>they alone would be saved.</i>	<sup>19</sup> If I were to send <b>a plague</b> on that land, and poured out my fury on it with bloodshed,  <i>cutting off</i> <i>both human and beast</i> <i>from it,</i> <sup>20</sup> even if Noah, Daniel or Job were in its midst, as I live— the declaration of the Lord YHWH— they would not even save their sons or daughters; by their righteousness <i>they would save</i> <i>only their own lives.</i>	
				The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

#### The Application of Divine Judgment

<sup>21</sup>Now then, thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

“How much less [would they save even their sons or daughters] if I inflicted upon Jerusalem my four calamitous judgments—sword, famine, wild animals, and plague—cutting off both human and beast. <sup>22</sup>But look! Some survivors will be left in it, some of their sons and daughters who are being brought out. Look at

them, coming out to you! But when you see how they have behaved and how treacherously they have acted, you will breathe easier over the disaster that I have inflicted upon Jerusalem, that is, over everything that I have brought upon her. <sup>23</sup>And they will let you breathe easier when you see how they have behaved and how treacherously they have acted. Then you will know that it was not without good reason that I have treated her this way. The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

### Exposition

#### A. The Four Strikes of YHWH's Hand:

##### The Theoretical Basis for Divine Judgment (vv. 12–20)

1. The Agents of Divine Judgment
2. The Purpose/Results of the Divine Judgment.
3. The Irrevocability of the Divine Judgment.
  - a. What about Noah?
  - b. What about Job?
  - c. What about Daniel? (דניאל/דנאל; *dn'l/dny'l*; Dan'el/Dani'el)

#### B. The Application of Divine Judgment (14:21–23)

נִחַם (*niḥam*) conveys the sense of relieving tensions. Now their minds may be quieted, and they may breathe easier, knowing that true justice had been served.

### Theological and Practical Application

1. Within the Lord's economy each person is responsible for his/her own welfare.
2. The Lord is just in all his ways.