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A PROPHET'S WIFE - A SIGN FROM GOD

There were times when the LORD used specific events in the life of a prophet to send a message to Israel. One example was when God told Hosea to take a prostitute to be his wife. She would be unfaithful, and she would desert him. Yet, he would buy her back from her evil masters. Her unfaithfulness was a sign that foretold the 722 B.C. captivity of Israel, who prostituted themselves to pagan gods by Assyria.

There was also an event which foretold the imminent capture of Judea in 586 B.C. by Babylon and the subsequent destruction of Solomon's temple. It occurred in the life of Ezekiel.

This event is recorded in Ezekiel 24:15-27 with the death of his wife. God told him, (NKJV), ***“Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes [his wife] with one stroke. Yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. Sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead. Bind your turban on your head [as if nothing had happened], and do not eat man's bread of sorrow. So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died. And the next morning I did as I was commanded. And the people said to me, ‘Will you not tell us what these things signify to us, that you behave so?’”***

Imagine the people's astonishment. Ezekiel's wife died in the evening, yet the next day he went about life as if nothing bothered him. According to Ussher's dating, this happened about two years before Babylon destroyed “the desire of their eyes,” which was Solomon's temple and took the last of the people captive. However, Ezekiel's message said they would not take it grievously emotionally. They would make their new life in Babylon and do business as usual.

Ezekiel was among the captives taken. The loss of his wife spoke as to what the kingdom of Judah lost. Ezekiel was himself a sign unto the people. Verse 27 says, “You will be a sign to them, and they shall know that I am the LORD.”