

Intro

Tests to determine if your diamond is real

1 Fog test - To tell if your diamond is real, place the stone in front of your mouth and, like a mirror, fog it up with your breath. If the stone stays fogged for a few seconds, then it's probably a fake. A real diamond won't fog up easily since the condensation doesn't stick to the surface.

2 Water Test - Since diamonds have high density, if you carefully drop one into a drinking glass with $\frac{3}{4}$ water, it will sink to the bottom. If it floats in the middle or at the surface of the water, then you know it's not real.

3 Heat Test - fill a drinking glass with cold water. Hold the diamond with pliers, heat it with a lighter for 40 seconds, then drop it into the glass. A real diamond won't be affected. If your diamond cracks or breaks, it's probably made of weaker materials and thus, isn't a true diamond.

4 Sparkle Test - hold your diamond under a regular lamp, and observe how the white light bounces off and the colorful light reflects. A true diamond will exhibit incredible sparkle

~ Diamond is extremely hard and has a high melting point. For this reason, it is very useful in cutting tools.

~ Diamonds can only be cut with diamonds. The reason? Diamonds are some of the hardest material on earth, so the tools they use to do it are usually diamond bladed on the edges or have an edge of diamond dust. ... From there, the cutter then determines whether it's shaped using a step cut or a brilliant cut.

~ The connection to diamonds in our passage is that Israel is stubborn and rebellious and though their countenance and resistance is hard God will make Ezekiel's resolve like a diamond that can cut through

~ The Jews needed to hear Ezekiel's messages because they were rebellious, stiff-necked, and hardhearted. At least sixteen times in this book you find the Jews described as "rebellious." They had revolted against the Lord and were obstinate in their refusal to submit to His will. Their refusal to obey the terms of the covenant had led to their defeat and capture by the Babylonian army. Even in their captivity, they were nursing false hopes that Egypt would come to their rescue or the Lord would do a great miracle.

~ MAIN IDEA: Ezekiel is commissioned to confront the rebellious Israelites even though they will not be responsive to the message of God.

~ We confront the world with the word

Outline

V1-3 = Ezekiel Needs the Word (We need the word)

V4-7 = Judah Needs the Word (The world needs the word)

V8-11 = Ezekiel takes the Word to Judah (We take the word to the world)

Text

V1-3 Jeremiah needs the word

- Eat and speak the word is a summary of our message (v1)
- The word was sweet in his mouth like honey
- Passages on the Word in Jeremiah
 - ~ Jer 15:16 word is rejoicing of the heart
 - ~ Jer 20:9 – word is a fire in the bones
 - ~ Jer 23:29 – word is a fire and hammer
 - ~ Job 23:12 – Job esteemed God's word more important than his necessary food
- The word is: 1 Informative 2 Instructive 3 Corrective 4 Transformative
- Deut 8:3 the word is likened to manna which God fed to Israel daily in the wilderness. As they were to eat this manna daily so they were also to eat the words of God from Moses
- Rev 10:8 John was to take the scroll that represented the word and eat it
- Rev 10:8-10 The word was also sweet as honey in John's belly
- The word is sweet to the Psalmist's (Psalm 19:10; 119:103)
- Paul said to Timothy - 2 Tim 3:15-17 *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*
- The word is the source of our spiritual maturity and growth (1 Pet 1:2); prevents spiritual lethargy (Heb 5:11-14); and prevents carnality (1 Cor 3:1-3)

V4-7 the people need the word

- V4 – go to the house of Israel and speak my words
- V5,6 – the people's language isn't hard
- V7 – the people's language isn't hard but their heart is hard
 - Stiff forehead and hard heart or stubborn and hardheaded
- The fact that his audience aren't a people of the same language means their lack of responding to Ezekiel's message is because of stubbornness and not lack of understanding
- The world needs the word because it contains all there is to know about the Lord Jesus Christ
- What the world needs is the gospel (Good News)
- God was sending Ezekiel to the captives of Judah in all of their stubbornness because they needed to be reproved by God
- Even though they were stubborn they still needed to hear the words of the Lord
- Speak the word of God to the world
- Here several times God says to Ezekiel to speak the words from the book

V8-11 We need to take the word to the world

- V8 – God is making Ezekiel's face hard against their faces and forehead hard against their foreheads
- V9 – God is making Ezekiel's forehead strong
 - Adamant (8068) sharp, original sense of the word is the pricking of a thorn, also the idea of keenness from scratching, it means a gem or a diamond, It has the ability to cut because of its sharpness
 - Flint – Hard pebble used as a knife
 - Your forehead is stronger than Israel's stubborn hearts and forehead
 - You can cut through their stubbornness with the word
 - Because I'm making your forehead stronger than their stubbornness DO NOT FEAR, DON'T BE AFRAID OF THEIR LOOKS, even though their rebellious
- V10 – Receive God's word in your heart and hear with their ears
- V11 – speak my words regardless of whether they listen or they don't listen
- We speak the truth to the world because we care for their eternal destiny
- We have the most important information the world needs to know
- As we take the word to the world the word of God fortifies our resolve and confidence
- The world may not want to hear what God's word says but we can still talk about it
- It may hurt to hear the truth but when we're sick we want to hear the truth so we really know what we're dealing with and how to proceed and get better
- If a building is on fire we warn everyone
- When the heat pump blew up in the lab I went through the lab and told people to get out of the lab
- *Col 1:28 whom we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus*
- We know what a warning sign is. There's a warning sign when you go around a sharp to warn you to not take the turn to fast and go off the road.
- The bible is a warning sign of a "hell" to be avoided by saving faith in Christ
- Three times in verse 6 the Lord admonished the prophet not to be afraid of the people, and He repeated it again (3:9). He had given a similar caution to Jeremiah (Jer. 1:8), and Jesus gave the same warning to His disciples (Matt. 10:26, 28, 31).

Conclusion

- ~ Three elements are involved here: receiving (understanding) the message, speaking, and obeying
- ~ One simple question – are we taking the word to the world? If not let's get going on it
- ~ The future of our church depends in part on us taking the word of God to the world
- ~ Let's have a plan to take the word to the world
- ~ Jesus went out of his way to share the gospel in his earthly ministry – Samaritan woman at the well,
- ~ We confront the world with the word of God
- ~ People will reject us but they are rejecting the word that we speak
- ~ As God strengthened Ezekiel to speak the word he will strengthen us also
- ~ May we set our face like a diamond

