

Ezekiel gave warning of destruction from God

God gives fair warning before destroying the wicked. What He says will take place, and He gives blessings to those who listen to Him. The blessings come in God's time.

Ezekiel was a prophet in the years leading up to Jerusalem's destruction and to the Jewish exiles in Babylon after.

He warned them about God's coming destruction and then encouraged the exiles to seek God's favor and to look forward to their restoration to their homeland. They were in exile 70 years before being released to return to Jerusalem, so they had to wait.

During the same time period, Jeremiah and Daniel also served as prophets, and Isaiah had prophesied years before about the destruction and then restoration of Jerusalem.

They were God's chosen nation but did not obey Him. He gave them fair warning of the coming destruc-



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

tion, but they did not change their ways.

Ezekiel 3:17 says, "Son of man, a watchman is what I have made you to the house of Israel, and you must hear from my mouth speech and you must warn them from me."

Ezekiel 39:21-24 says, "And I will set my glory among the nations; and all the nations will have to see my judgment that I have executed and my hand that I have placed among them. And those of the house of Israel will have to know that I am their God from that day forward. And the nations will have to know

that it was because of their error that they, the house of Israel, went into exile, on account of the fact that they behaved unfaithfully toward me, so that I concealed my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they kept falling, all of them, by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I did with them, and I kept concealing my face from them."

Ezekiel 28:25, 26 says, "This is what the Sovereign Lord has said: 'When I collect together the house of Israel out from the peoples among whom they have been scattered, I will also be sanctified among them. And those of the house of Israel will have to know that I am their God from that day forward. And they will certainly dwell upon their soil that I gave to my servant, to Jacob. And they will actu-

ally dwell upon it in security and build houses and plant vineyards, and they must dwell in security when I execute acts of judgment upon all those treating them with scorn all round about them; and they will have to know that I am their God.'

Ezekiel is called "Son of man" over 90 times throughout the book; Jesus was also referred to that way.

Just as Ezekiel had an assignment from God to warn people about the consequences of wickedness and to give tell them about the excellent future awaiting righteous ones, Jesus, as told in Matthew chapters 24 and 25, warns of another destruction of wicked ones and blessings for righteous ones.

In Matthew 24:3, his disciples asked Jesus to tell them "what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?"

After warning them to be care-

ful that no one misleads them, Jesus lists several signs for that time period. Verse 7 says, "For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be food shortages and earthquakes in one place after another."

Can we doubt that this is happening now?

Verses 11-13 say, "And many false prophets will arise and mislead many; and because of the increasing of lawlessness the love of the greater number will cool off. But he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved."

Just as Ezekiel was a watchman to warn of the coming destruction and then prophesied the restoration of Jerusalem, Christians today preach about God's coming kingdom.

Matthew 24:14 says, "And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth

for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."

Just as Ezekiel's prophecies were fulfilled concerning the nation of Israel, Jesus' prophecies about the end of the system of things will come true. We already see the indications around us of his presence, and the Bible tells us what we need to do to serve God and be one of those who endures to the end and is saved.

Ezekiel 18:21-23 assures us that our own behavior determines our outcome: "Now as regards someone wicked, in case he should turn back from all his sins that he has committed and he should actually keep all my statutes and execute justice and righteousness, he will positively keep living. He will not die. All his transgressions that he has committed — they will not be remembered against him. For his righteousness that he has done he will keep living."

Bill collectors not included in No-Call Act but not allowed to harass

Dear Attorney General Kline: Unfortunately, I've been laid off for several weeks now, and it looks like it may be several more before I go back to work. I have always paid my bills, but now I'm getting calls from debt collectors, even though my phone number is registered on the Kansas No-Call list. How is this possible?

Dear Kansas Consumer: Many unwanted phone calls are prohibited under the Kansas No-Call Act, but there are some calls not governed by the Act.

Calls from debt collectors, calls from political candidates and calls from persons conducting surveys and polling are exempt for the simple reason that none of those callers are making an attempt to sell anything.

But under the federal law known as the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, you do have some protection. A debt collector is required to send the debtor a written notice of



phill kline

- attorney general

the debt within five days of making contact by telephone. After that, the debtor has 30 days to challenge the debt and also demand proof the debt exists.

It is very important that consumers take advantage of this chance to verify that the debt is legitimate. If you are not allowed the opportunity to challenge the debt, you should report this to my Consumer Protection Division and also the Federal Trade Commission.

The act offers other protections, including a mandate that debt collection callers conduct themselves in a professional manner. Debt collectors are not permitted to issue threats, use profane or obscene lan-

guage or call repeatedly to harass the debtor.

Debt collectors are allowed to make collection calls only between 8 a. m. and 9 p.m., seven days per week, but are prohibited from contacting debtors at work if they know the debtor's employer does not approve.

Under the act, debt collectors are not allowed to place collection calls at any time or to any place the collector knows is not convenient to the consumer. It is the responsibility of the debt collector to honor these restrictions provided he or she is informed of the restrictions by the person called.

Debt collectors have the right to investigate a debtor to determine where the person owing money lives, works and accepts phone

calls. But collectors do not have the right to harass debtors, their relatives, friends or neighbors.

Collectors are also not permitted to divulge the nature of the debts to third persons or harass third persons in an effort to make contact with the debtor. In addition, when informed that a debtor is represented by an attorney, the debt collectors must then contact the attorney instead of the debtor.

If you would like the calls to stop, you should put your request in writing and send it via certified mail with a return receipt requested. When the debt collector receives your demand, all telephone communication related to collecting the debt must stop.

You should also realize that your demand may have some more immediate consequences: your letter in essence communicates to the debt collector that you do not intend

to pay and only a legal judgment would cause the debt to be serviced. Debtors who write and demand that collection calls cease should be prepared to provide an explanation to a judge as to why the debt is now owed.

Most debt collection calls are not violations of the law, but if you believe you received a call that violates the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, you have some options.

You should report the violation to the Federal Trade Commission by calling toll-free at (877) 382-4357 or by going on-line at www.ftc.gov. If you receive a call from a debt collector that is more than a technical violation of the law, it may constitute an unconscionable act under

the Kansas Consumer Protection Act. In that instance, please file a complaint with my office by calling toll-free at (800) 432-2310 on on-line at www.ksag.org.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Aug. 1 — Johnny C. White \$118 for motor carrier safety rules and regulations.

Jennifer L. Wittstock \$156 for speeding.

Aug. 2 — Mitchell D. Waters \$144 for over weight load.

Aug. 3 — Marvin Ray Asher \$171 for over weight load.

David Y. Bao \$165 for speeding.

Aug. 4 — Jorge Davalos-Camcito \$132 for speeding.



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Crossword Puzzle

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CLUES ACROSS

- Bachelor of Laws
- K. Chesney won their top award (abbr.)
- A matter of fact
- Strayed
- Assistant parish clergyman
- Encrypt
- Stretched to see
- Refuse of molten metals
- Type of gimp
- Make possible
- Baggings
- Louisiana
- Skid
- C C C
- Wooden rod
- Dried up, withered
- Half-way point
- Land plan
- Art __, U.S. jazz pianist
- German woman's name
- 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- To the same degree
- Maestros
- Abandon on a desolate island
- Sir __ Newton
- Albanian city
- Speedway cars
- Yearn
- Banished people
- Make certain of something
- Where bells are hung
- Mood Ring artist
- Skilled in deception

CLUES DOWN

- Capital of Angola
- Not on time
- Lost blood
- Greek for Mars
- Prevent from being seen
- Georgia city
- Add to periodically
- Respiratory poison
- Paths
- Mire
- Suitable for use as food
- A firm engaged in trading
- London radio station
- Female sheep
- Palladium
- School of Mathematics and Statistics
- Labrador tea
- Mental ability
- John __, English statesman (1584-1643)
- Abhor
- Name of 6 Popes
- Woody spines
- Hide shop
- One thousandth of an ampere
- In its own nature
- The closer of two
- With sod cover
- Portuguese money (abbr.)
- Mediterranean island
- Hemp packing fiber
- Surface within a set of lines
- Southern fighters (slang)
- Skating jump

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



dine-in
carry-out
delivery

1803 Cherry
Goodland, Kan.
67735
899-3661

Richardson's Homestead Realty

New lowered price 1023 W. 11th....

One of Goodland's newer homes is being offer for sale at a reduced price. Originally \$185,000....NOW \$150,000. This home offers all the new amenities...vaulted ceilings, oak cabinets and woodwork, vinyl siding, beautifully landscaped yard with extra adjoining lot included. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen with dining area and atrium doors to patio on the main floor. The full basement is unfinished for future expansion but is plumbed for a bath and has egress windows. Please contact Donna Moore to tour this beautiful home today. 899-2328 or email donnam@eaglecom.net



Commerical Opportunity.... 624 W. Highway 24, Goodland....

This multi-building property offers unlimited possibilities. Office space, several buildings with overhead doors, road access at front and back of property. Situated on 3.8 acres of prime commercial land. \$250,000. Please call listing agent Donna Moore for more information on this commercial property located in a prime location. 899-2328.



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Updated and sparkling! This 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath home is ready-to-move into! New floor coverings throughout, new paint, newer furnace and central air, no paint siding, nice deck, privacy fenced yard, carport and lots more. \$55,500. Please let Donna show you this home today! 899-2328



609 Washington

Cute bungalow featuring large living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, two bedrooms, bath and laundry room. Hardwood floors, central heat plus inexpensive heating with corn stove. Lots of recent updates make this home affordably priced at \$43,000. Please call Donna today to see this home.



920 West 13th

This home has it all! Spacious one level living offering large living room, formal dining area, kitchen with newer appliances, three bedrooms, two baths, laundry room. Beautiful yard, garden area plus a big 4 car garage. Don't miss this one! \$59,500. Give Donna a call at 899-2328 to view this home today...you'll be glad you did.



You can view all my listings at www.goodlandrealtor.com It would be my pleasure to help you find your next home! Thanks, Donna Moore



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RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY, INC.



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OR E-MAIL US AT: homestead@eaglecom.net
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