

13 Son of man,¹ when a land sins against Me by gross unfaithfulness,² and I stretch out My hand against it, and break the staff of its bread, and send on it Famine, and cut off man and beast from it. 14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel,³ and Job were in it, they would save only their own lives by their righteousness, says the Lord Jehovah. 15 If I let Wild Beasts come into a land, and they bereave it of its children, so that it become such a desert that no one can pass through it any more, because of these beasts; 16 though these three men were in it, as I live, says the Lord Jehovah, they would save neither sons nor daughters; they, themselves, only, would be saved, but the land would be desolate. 17 Or, should I bring War on that land, and say, "Sword, go through that land," and should cut off man and beast from it; 18 though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, they would save neither sons nor daughters; they, themselves, only would be saved! 19 Or, if I send Pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, cutting off from it man and beast; 20 were even Noah, Daniel, and Job in it, as I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, they would save neither son nor daughter; they would save their own lives only, by their righteousness.

21 Now, says the Lord Jehovah; ⁴ How much more will this be the case when I send My four sore judgments on Jerusalem—the Sword, Famine, Wild Beasts, and Pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast! 22 And, behold, if a few should be spared in it, and led away captives, both men and women, it will be that they may be brought among you,⁵ that you may see their way and their doings, and be comforted concerning the evil I have brought on Jerusalem, and all I have done against it. 23 For they will satisfy your minds respecting Me, when you see their ways and their doings, and you will know that I have not done without cause, all that I have done in it, says the Lord Jehovah!

Another fragment of Ezekiel's utterances in these years strikes keenly at the self-complacency of his brethren, and

¹ Ezek. xiv. 12-20.

² Ewald thinks the breach of the oath by Zedekiah is referred to.

³ Daniel was at the time a captive in Babylonia. The inversion of names may rise from the fact of the case of Job seeming like a climax. See Heb. xi. 32.

⁴ Ezek. xiv. 21-23.

⁵ In Babylon, among the exiles.