

Thoughts on the Daily Word

20th Week of Year. Tuesday 18th August. Readings: Ezekiel 28:1-10; Psalm: Deut. 32:26-28,30,35-36; Gospel: Matthew 19:23-30.

Ezekiel now turns on the other small nations around Israel because it was normal for nations to join in the scavenging when one went down. There was a long history of vicious rivalry between Israel and its surrounding neighbours. Israel and Judah were just as likely to take part. Ezekiel, like many of the prophets, warns them that they too will face the evil empires of the time. Essentially it is a call to work together, one which few listened to then and much the same now. Greed and eagerness to win the spoils of war are perpetual temptations. Taking time out to prophecy against other nations also indicates the assertion that the God of the Covenant is not just one god among many. In a culture of 'my god is bigger than your god'! a new dimension of warring gods was asserted with the recognition by Israel that their god was the supreme and only God. It took time and much suffering for that to sink in. He was supreme not because he won more battles but because he was the Master of History and decided the fate of nations. The message of the Cross would be the ultimate symbol of victory not the size of your camels!