

# Ezekiel

## Study Outline

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by  
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I am sincerely grateful to Chuck Missler  
(Koinonia House -- [www.khouse.org](http://www.khouse.org))  
for lighting a fire under me regarding God's Word.

The Holy Spirit used his uncompromising, scholarly, and in-depth approach to  
Bible Study to speak to me in a way that has never happened before.

Within me has now been ingrained a passion to know and understand the Bible,  
to deeply respect and honor it for what it is, and to treat it very seriously because  
it is indeed the very Words of God.



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These notes were written for use in our Home Bible Study. They were developed to encourage a regular verse-by-verse study of the Bible: this is the best way to immerse ourselves in God's Word. It needs to be read and studied "c-2-c", that is, "cover-to-cover." We need to involve ourselves with the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), not just the popular or favorite passages.

In addition, it is essential to document how the Lord speaks and instructs us as we study His Word. We are responsible to know His Word, and make it a part of our everyday life.

These notes are being made available to encourage you to engage in a daily, personal, and serious study of God's Word.

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." -- Psalm 119:105*

*"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." -- Psalm 119:11*

*"I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down." -- Proverbs 24:30-31*

*"Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks."  
-- Ecclesiastes 10:18*



## Lesson 1: Introduction + Ezekiel 1-3

- I. Introduction
  - A. Ezekiel, the person
    1. "Ezekiel" = "God strengthens" or "God will strengthen"
    2. he was a priest: Ezekiel 1:3
    3. he was called to be a prophet during the Babylonian captivity
      - a. about 593 B.C.
      - b. he was a prophet for 22 years, until about 571 B.C.
    4. he was married: Ezekiel 24:16-18
      - a. but not allowed to mourn when his wife died
  - B. Ezekiel, the book
    1. four sections
      - a. judgment against Israel: Ezekiel 1-24
      - b. judgments against the 7 surrounding nations: Ezekiel 25-32
        - (i) this is probably where the Fall of Jerusalem happened, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final deportation
        - (ii) false prophets were claiming that they would soon be delivered from Babylon and return home
          - Jerusalem was now completely destroyed: there was nothing to return home to
          - Jeremiah was preaching that the captivity would be for 70 years: Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10
        - (iii) Ezekiel now turns his attention to the future
      - c. future restoration of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel: Ezekiel 33-39
      - d. rebuilding of the Temple, and the Millennial Kingdom: Ezekiel 40-48
    2. uses a lot of symbols, more than any other prophet
  - C. historical background
    1. the Northern Kingdom, the "house of Israel" fell to the Assyrians in 722 B.C.
    2. the Assyrian empire fell to the Babylonians 612-605 B.C.
      - a. Nineveh was destroyed 612 B.C.
    3. the Babylonians defeated Egypt at Carchemish in 605 B.C.
      - a. according to the "Babylonian Chronicle" there were no survivors
    4. the Babylonians led by Nebuchadnezzar also began the conquest of Jerusalem in 605 B.C.
      - a. there were 3 invasions and deportations by Babylon
        - (i) 1<sup>st</sup> deportation 605 B.C.
          - took Daniel and his 3 friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: Daniel 1:6
        - (ii) 2<sup>nd</sup> deportation 597 B.C.
          - took Ezekiel
        - (iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> deportation 586 B.C.
          - took Jeremiah
    5. Jehoiakim was king of Judah 609-598 B.C.
      - a. 2 Kings 23:34-24:6
      - b. son of Josiah
      - c. appointed by Pharaoh Necho
      - d. his Hebrew name was Eliakim, but Pharaoh Necho changed it
      - e. "he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done." -- 2 Kings 23:37
      - f. Jeremiah had a message for Jehoiakim: Jeremiah 22:13-19
        - (i) he oppressed the people; he used forced labor: Jeremiah 22:13
        - (ii) he lived luxuriously: Jeremiah 22:14-15a
          - while he taxed the people to pay tribute to Egypt: 2 Kings 23:35
        - (iii) it went well for his father, Josiah (1 Chronicles 3:15): Jeremiah 22:15b-16
          - because he did "justice and righteousness": Jeremiah 22:15
          - because "he judged the cause of the poor and needy": Jeremiah 22:16

- (iv) Jehoiakim's reign was definitely not characterized by righteousness: Jeremiah 22:17
    - he was covetous (the Hebrew word refers to unjust gain, lucre, profit; gain acquired by violence)
    - he shed innocent blood
    - he was oppressive, an extortionist
    - he was violent
  - (v) they won't lament for him when he dies: Jeremiah 22:18-19
    - his death won't be considered any more significant than a donkey's death: Jeremiah 22:18
    - he'll just be dragged out of the city and left for scavengers: Jeremiah 22:19
    - however, the people did mourn for his father, Josiah: 2 Chronicles 35:24-25
6. Jehoiachin was king of Judah 598-597 B.C.
- a. 2 Kings 24:6-9
  - b. son of Jehoiakim
  - c. also known as Coniah and Jeconiah
  - d. he became king when he was 18 years old: 2 Kings 24:8
  - e. "he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done." -- 2 Kings 24:9
  - f. Jeremiah had a message for Jehoiachin: Jeremiah 22:20-30
    - (i) he and his mother were going to be delivered into the hands of the Babylonians: Jeremiah 22:25-27; 2 Kings 24:12-15
    - (ii) God despised him: Jeremiah 22:28
    - (iii) no one of Coniah's bloodline will sit on the Throne of David: Jeremiah 22:30
      - but the Messiah had to come from the line of David!
    - (iv) the genealogy of Jesus presented by Matthew: Matthew 1:1-16
      - David... Solomon... Jeconiah... Joseph... Jesus
      - Matthew presents the legal or regal line
      - Satan may have expected that this bloodline would have produced the Messiah
    - (v) the genealogy of Jesus presented by Luke: Luke 3:23-38
      - David... Nathan... Mary... Jesus
      - Luke presents the blood line
    - (vi) hence the need for a virgin birth
  - g. this ends the Throne of David until Jesus Christ sits on it
    - (i) this begins the Times of the Gentiles
7. Zedekiah was king of Judah 597-586 B.C.
- a. 2 Kings 24:17-19
  - b. Jeremiah 37:1
  - c. Jehoiachin's uncle
  - d. appointed by Nebuchadnezzar
  - e. his Hebrew name was Mattaniah but Nebuchadnezzar changed it
  - f. "He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done." -- 2 Kings 24:19

## II. The Call Of Ezekiel: Ezekiel 1:1-3

- A. Isaiah and Jeremiah also received significant revelations from God when they were called
  - 1. Isaiah 6:5-13
  - 2. Jeremiah 1:4-19
- B. it happened in "the thirtieth year": Ezekiel 1:1
  - 1. probably refers to Ezekiel's age
- C. it happened in "the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity": Ezekiel 1:2
  - 1. 593 B.C.
  - 2. King Jehoiachin, his mother, Ezekiel, and 10,000 captives were deported: 2 Kings 24:11-16
    - a. this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> invasion and deportation
    - b. the Babylonians also took treasures from the Temple: 2 Kings 24:13
    - c. only the poorest people were left behind: 2 Kings 24:14
  - 3. "the word of the LORD came expressly to Ezekiel the priest": Ezekiel 1:3
    - a. the phrase, "the word of the LORD came to me" is found 49 times in Ezekiel

- D. "in the land of the Chaldeans": Ezekiel 1:3
  - 1. he had already been taken captive
- E. "the hand of the LORD was upon him": Ezekiel 1:3
  - 1. this phrase is found 7 times in Ezekiel
    - a. Ezekiel 1:3; 3:14; 3:22; 8:1; 33:22; 37:1; 40:1
  - 2. he was in the grip of God Himself, being motivated and led by Him
  - 3. "Ezra came up from Babylon... the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him." -- Ezra 7:6
  - 4. "On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him." -- Ezra 7:9
  - 5. "I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me" -- Ezra 7:28
  - 6. "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him." -- Ezra 8:22
  - 7. "...and the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy..." -- Ezra 8:31
  - 8. "...and the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me." -- Nehemiah 2:8
  - 9. "And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me..." -- Nehemiah 2:18

### III. Vision Of Heaven: Ezekiel 1:4-28a

- A. a description of something heavenly limited and distorted by earthly language
  - 1. he probably had no idea what he saw!
  - 2. this is definitely not some sort of UFO!
- B. the coming judgment: Ezekiel 1:4
  - 1. wind and fire are common idioms of judgment
  - 2. it was the color of "amber"
    - a. "amber" = bronze or a shiny substance (not fully understood)
    - b. this word is only used here in Ezekiel
- C. four living creatures: Ezekiel 1:5-11a
  - 1. also seen in Revelation 4:6-8; 6:6
  - 2. the Hebrew is very precise here: these are actual living beings
    - a. this is not some sort of metaphor, such as for the Gospels
  - 3. "This is the living creature I saw... they were cherubim." -- Ezekiel 10:20
  - 4. "each had the face of a man... lion... ox... eagle": Ezekiel 1:10
    - a. the Israelites were to camp according to their "standard" or "banner": Numbers 2:1-25
      - (i) with the holiness of God in the middle (the tabernacle)
      - (ii) traditionally, these images were the standards that they camped around
        - Judah -- lion (Genesis 49:9; Revelation 5:5)
        - Reuben -- man
        - Ephraim -- ox (Deuteronomy 33:17)
        - Dan -- eagle
    - b. parallels can be made for the 4 Gospels
      - (i) Matthew -- lion
        - Matthew portrays Jesus as the Messiah, "the lion of the tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5)
      - (ii) Mark -- ox
        - Mark emphasizes that Jesus was a servant
      - (iii) Luke -- man
        - Luke emphasizes Jesus' humanity, that he was a man
      - (iv) John -- eagle
        - John portrays Jesus as the Son of God
        - the eagle being a picture of majesty or divinity
- D. burning coals of fire: Ezekiel 1:13a
  - 1. the iniquity of Isaiah was taken away by a coal from the altar of God: Isaiah 6:6
- E. torches: Ezekiel 1:13b
  - 1. God used a torch when He made His unconditional promises to Abraham: Genesis 15:17

- F. lightning: Ezekiel 1:13c-14
    - 1. heavenly appearances seem to be like lightning
      - a. Jesus' transfiguration: Matthew 28:3
    - 2. speaks of God's power and judgment
      - a. "If I whet My *glittering* sword, and My hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, and repay those who hate Me." -- Deuteronomy 32:41
      - b. "A sword, a sword is drawn, polished for slaughter, for consuming, for *flashing*" -- Ezekiel 21:28
      - c. "His arrow will go forth like *lightning*" -- Zechariah 9:14
      - d. 2 Samuel 22:15
      - e. Psalm 144:6
      - f. "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." -- Matthew 24:27
      - g. Revelation 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18; 20:9
  - G. "like the noise of many waters": Ezekiel 1:24
    - 1. "His voice as the sound of many waters" -- Revelation 1:15
  - H. throne like a sapphire: Ezekiel 1:26
    - 1. similar to Revelation 4:3
    - 2. and there is a man on it!
  - I. rainbow: Ezekiel 1:28
    - 1. speaks of His promises: Genesis 9:13-16
    - 2. seen in Revelation 4:3
- IV. Ezekiel Is To Prophesy To Israel: Ezekiel 1:28b-3:27
- A. Northern Kingdom was swept away, never to be seen again: Amos 5:2
  - B. the bloodline of all 12 tribes were kept safe in the Southern Kingdom: 2 Chronicles 11:13-17
  - C. this is now the nation of Israel; these are now the Jews for the rest of time
  - D. the children of Israel are rebellious: Ezekiel 2:3-5
    - 1. "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD." -- Deuteronomy 9:7
    - 2. "You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you." -- Deuteronomy 9:24
    - 3. Deuteronomy 1:26, 43; 9:7, 23, 24; 31:27
    - 4. they're impudent and stubborn: Ezekiel 2:4
      - a. "impudent" = "hard of face" or "stiff-faced"
      - b. "stubborn" = "hard-hearted"
    - 5. they will know that a prophet was with them: Ezekiel 2:5
  - E. he isn't to be afraid to speak to them: Ezekiel 2:6-7
    - 1. Jeremiah was told the same thing: Jeremiah 1:8, 17
  - F. he is to eat a scroll: Ezekiel 2:8-3:3
    - 1. it was very sweet to him: Ezekiel 3:3
    - 2. "sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." -- Psalm 19:10
    - 3. "How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" -- Psalm 119:103
    - 4. "Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts." -- Jeremiah 15:16
    - 5. "Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, 'Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel... take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth...'" -- Revelation 10:8-10
    - 6. what is our reaction to the Word of God?!
      - a. can we think of ways that it is sweet to us?
      - b. can we think of ways that it is bitter to us?
  - G. Ezekiel is to speak the Word of God: Ezekiel 3:4
  - H. he's going to people who speak the same language: Ezekiel 3:5-6
    - 1. so language won't be a problem
    - 2. he's not being sent to a distant foreign country to preach

- I. they won't listen to him: Ezekiel 3:7-9
  - 1. Jeremiah was told the same thing: Jeremiah 1:19; 7:27
  - 2. the people are "impudent and hard-hearted": Ezekiel 3:7
  - 3. he's being empowered to do this: Ezekiel 3:8-9
    - a. Ezekiel is just as stubborn?!
    - b. "adamant stone" = a hard stone, such as diamond; brier, thorn, thorn bush
- J. he's to prophesy to them anyway: Ezekiel 3:10-11
  - 1. Ezekiel is being given and prepared with the Word of God
- K. Ezekiel was taken away for seven days: Ezekiel 3:12-15
  - 1. he was probably overwhelmed
  - 2. he was bitter and angry: Ezekiel 3:14
    - a. he was probably very frustrated with his mission
  - 3. he was "astonished": Ezekiel 3:15
  - 4. priests were consecrated for seven days: Leviticus 8:33
- L. Ezekiel is being made a watchman: Ezekiel 3:16-21
  - 1. similar to Ezekiel 33:1-9
  - 2. the role of a watchman is to warn, not to force results
    - a. a person's choice is their responsibility
    - b. it's the Holy Spirit's job to save souls; it's our job to be a witness
  - 3. since the nation wasn't going to listen to Ezekiel, this call was more to the individual
    - a. such as Revelation 3:20
      - (i) the Laodicean church was so far gone that Jesus was looking for individuals
    - b. the missions of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Habakkuk were to the nation
      - (i) results were expected
      - (ii) Isaiah 56
      - (iii) Jeremiah 6
      - (iv) Habakkuk 2
  - 4. the responsibility of a prophet was very serious
    - a. "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." -- James 3:1
    - b. "But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.'" -- Acts 18:6
    - c. "...I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." -- Acts 20:17-21
    - d. "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men." -- Acts 20:26
    - e. "...for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account..." -- Hebrews 13:17
    - f. "So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands." -- Psalm 78:72
- M. the start of Ezekiel's ministry: Ezekiel 3:22-27
  - 1. "the hand of the LORD was upon me": Ezekiel 3:22
  - 2. the Lord met him there like He did before: Ezekiel 3:23
  - 3. the Spirit entered him: Ezekiel 3:24
    - a. the Holy Spirit entered and left people before Pentecost
    - b. David prayed, "do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" -- Psalm 51:11
    - c. the Holy Spirit dwells within a Christian forever
      - (i) "...that He may abide with you forever -- the Spirit of truth... He dwells with you and will be in you" -- John 14:16-17
  - 4. Ezekiel's ministry will be very selective: Ezekiel 3:25-27
    - a. because of their rebellion, some people will not be warned
    - b. when he does speak it'll be, "Thus says the Lord GOD"
    - c. "They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly." -- Amos 5:10

- d. "Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord GOD, 'That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.'" -- Amos 8:11-12
- e. "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." -- Isaiah 55:6

## Lesson 2: Ezekiel 4-7

- I. The Sign Of The Clay Tablet: Ezekiel 4:1-3
  - A. Ezekiel probably set up this model or object lesson somewhere out in public
  - B. some references call this a brick, some a clay tile
  - C. the model is to portray the coming siege against Jerusalem
  - D. the iron plate represents the separation that exists between sinful Jerusalem and Ezekiel
    1. "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." -- Isaiah 59:2
    2. "You have covered Yourself with a cloud, that prayer should not pass through." -- Lamentations 3:44
- II. The Sign Of The 430 Days: Ezekiel 4:4-8
  - A. Ezekiel is to lay on his left side for 390 days: Ezekiel 4:4-5
    1. represents the "house of Israel," the Northern Kingdom
  - B. he is then to lay on his right side for 40 days: Ezekiel 4:6
    1. represents the "house of Judah," the Southern Kingdom
  - C. speaks of the coming siege of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 4:7-8
    1. the uncovered arm speaks of being ready for battle
      - a. "The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations" -- Isaiah 52:10
    2. being restrained speaks of the inevitability of it
  - D. he probably didn't lay on his side continuously for 430 days, but did something ceremonially for 430 days in public
  - E. this is the only place in Scripture where it's definitely specified that a day represents a year
    1. the concept of a day equaling a year had been abused by commentators
  - F. in total, the 430 years is the number of years Israel will be punished
    1. 70 years are accounted for: the Babylonian captivity was going to be 70 years
      - a. commonly known as the "Servitude of the Nation"
      - b. this was Nebuchadnezzar's 1<sup>st</sup> siege against Jerusalem
      - c. they did not keep the Sabbath for the land for 490 years, so they'll be taken out for 70 years to let it rest
        - (i) Leviticus 25:2-7; 26:34-35, 43
        - (ii) Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10
        - (iii) 2 Chronicles 36:21
      - d. speaking of forgiveness Jesus said, "70 times 7" (Matthew 18:22)
        - (i) could He be referring to the Jews not keeping the Sabbath for the land those "70 times 7" years, resulting in their exile and punishment?
    2. because they rebelled against the King of Babylon and did not yield to the "Servitude" Jerusalem was to be destroyed as a punishment: Jeremiah 27:6-17; 38:17-28
      - a. commonly known as the "Desolation of Jerusalem"
      - b. Nebuchadnezzar began his siege against Jerusalem in the 9<sup>th</sup> year, 10<sup>th</sup> month, 10<sup>th</sup> day of Zedekiah's reign
        - (i) Ezekiel 24:1-2
        - (ii) 2 Kings 25:1
        - (iii) Jeremiah 52:4
        - (iv) this was his 3<sup>rd</sup> and final siege against Jerusalem
      - c. the walls were broken through in the 11<sup>th</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> month, 9<sup>th</sup> day of Zedekiah's reign
        - (i) Jeremiah 39:2; 52:5-7
      - d. they began to rebuild in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 9<sup>th</sup> month, 24<sup>th</sup> day of Darius: Haggai 2:10-18
        - (i) exactly 70 years later (360-day years)
    3. that leaves 360 years unaccounted for
      - a. if they did not obey they would be punished 7 times more: Leviticus 26:18, 21, 24, 28
      - b.  $360 \times 7 = 2520$  years
        - (i) but a year in Scripture is 360 days
        - (ii) must account for leap years, the Julian vs. Gregorian calendar adjustment, etc.
      - c. July 23, 537 B.C. to May 14, 1948
        - (i) David Ben Gurion using Ezekiel as his authority declared Israel as the new Jewish homeland

- d. August 16, 518 B.C. to June 7, 1967
    - (i) Israel regained control of Jerusalem for the first time since the days of Christ as a result of the "Six Day War"
    - (ii) Luke 21:24
- III. The Sign Of The Defiled Food: Ezekiel 4:9-17
- A. he is to make a type of bread and eat it for 390 days: Ezekiel 4:9
  - B. he is to eat only "20 shekels" a day of it: Ezekiel 4:10
    - 1. about 9 to 10 ounces
  - C. he is to drink only "1/6 of a hin" of water a day: Ezekiel 4:11
    - 1. about a pint
  - D. he is to cook them like barley cakes: Ezekiel 4:12
    - 1. barley cakes were cooked on hot stones
  - E. the fuel to be used to bake them was human waste: Ezekiel 4:12
    - 1. this was extremely offensive to them all
      - a. Leviticus 5:3; 7:21
      - b. Deuteronomy 23:13
  - F. speaks of them being forced to eat ceremonially unclean food when they're taken captive: Ezekiel 4:13
    - 1. they insisted on heathen idols and worship, so they'll be taken to the land of the heathens
  - G. Ezekiel has kept himself ceremonially clean: Ezekiel 4:14
    - 1. according to the dietary laws they were not to eat animals that died of natural causes or that were killed by another animal
      - a. Exodus 22:31
      - b. Deuteronomy 14:21
      - c. Leviticus 11:39-40; 17:15
    - 2. "abominable flesh" may speak of ceremonially unclean food, or maybe food sacrificed to idols
  - H. God allows Ezekiel to use cow dung as fuel, instead: Ezekiel 4:15
    - 1. using dried animal dung as fuel was very common
  - I. speaks of the lack of food, water, and fuel as a result of the siege of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 4:16-17
    - 1. during the siege they may be forced to use human waste as fuel
    - 2. it's their iniquity that would cause them to waste away: Ezekiel 4:17
      - a. "And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities, which are with them, they shall waste away." -- Leviticus 26:39
      - b. "...you shall pine away in your iniquities..." -- Ezekiel 24:23
      - c. sin can be its own punishment
- IV. The Sign Of Ezekiel Shaving: Ezekiel 5:1-4
- A. Ezekiel is to shave his head and beard with a sword: Ezekiel 5:1
    - 1. shaving his head and beard was shameful
    - 2. speaks of the humiliation to come
  - B. he is to take his hair and burn 1/3 of it, strike 1/3 of it with a sword, and throw 1/3 of it into the wind: Ezekiel 5:2
    - 1. speaks that they'll die by plague, famine, and by the sword, and the rest will be scattered: Ezekiel 5:12
  - C. he is to take a small amount and sew it into his clothes: Ezekiel 5:3
    - 1. speaks of the small remnant that shall remain
  - D. he is to take some more and burn them: Ezekiel 5:4
    - 1. speaks of the further calamity that will come to the remnant: Ezekiel 5:12
- V. Jerusalem did more evil before God than the nations around them: Ezekiel 5:5-10
- A. they knew the difference between right and wrong, so they'll be judged more severely
    - 1. they were supposed to be God's witnesses, living righteously
  - B. it's because of their abominations: Ezekiel 5:9
    - 1. "abominations" usually refer to idolatry
    - 2. Jeremiah 19:3-9
      - a. "...Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem... 'Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.'" -- Jeremiah 19:3

- C. the kind of punishment will be like none ever seen before: Ezekiel 5:8-10
    - 1. cannibalism
      - a. Leviticus 26:29
      - b. Deuteronomy 28:53-57
      - c. Jeremiah 19:9
      - d. Lamentations 2:20; 4:10
    - 2. scattered among the nations
      - a. Leviticus 26:33
      - b. Deuteronomy 28:64
  - D. they even defiled God's sanctuary with their idols: Ezekiel 5:11
    - 1. "as I live" is a key phrase, used 16 times in Ezekiel
  - E. their punishment: Ezekiel 5:12-17
    - 1. death by plague, famine, and sword: Ezekiel 5:12a
    - 2. they will be scattered: Ezekiel 5:12b
      - a. and those scattered will live a persecuted life
    - 3. the phrase "know that I am the Lord" used 62 times in Ezekiel
- VI. Judgment On Idolatrous Israel: Ezekiel 6
- A. this Ezekiel's first recorded message
    - 1. up until this time only object lessons are recorded
  - B. God is turning His attention to the mountains
    - 1. that's where the "high places" were, where the pagan altars were set up
  - C. God will destroy the altars: Ezekiel 6:1-7
    - 1. their corpses will be all around their pagan altars: Ezekiel 6:4b-5
      - a. they sacrificed their children as burnt offerings: Jeremiah 7:31
        - (i) this was explicitly forbidden in Leviticus 18:21; 20:1-5
        - (ii) "Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was defiled with blood." -- Psalm 106:37-38
        - (iii) "So you shall not defile the land in which you are. For blood defiles the land. And the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of him that shed it." -- Numbers 35:33
  - D. a remnant will be left: Ezekiel 6:8-10
    - 1. there will be a remnant
    - 2. God was "*crushed* by their adulterous heart": Ezekiel 6:9
      - a. they "*broke*" His heart
  - E. the dead people will litter the areas of the pagan altars: Ezekiel 6:13
- VII. A Lamentation: Ezekiel 7
- A. they'll be judged according to their ways: Ezekiel 7:3, 8
  - B. it's because of their abominations: Ezekiel 7:3-4, 8
  - C. their wealth won't be able to save them: Ezekiel 7:19
    - 1. their wealth led them into iniquity
    - 2. Zephaniah 1:18
  - D. the Temple will be destroyed: Ezekiel 7:20-22
    - 1. they put their idols in it
    - 2. they didn't respect and honor it so it will be taken away from them
    - 3. there was tremendous wealth in it
  - E. the Word will be taken away from them: Ezekiel 7:26
    - 1. they didn't obey it, so it'll be taken away from them
    - 2. "'Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord GOD, 'That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.'" -- Amos 8:11-12



### Lesson 3: Ezekiel 8-9

- I. Vision About Abominations In The Temple: Ezekiel 8
  - A. this vision happened 1 year, 2 months after the first vision: Ezekiel 8:1
    1. the first vision was on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, 4<sup>th</sup> month, 5<sup>th</sup> year: Ezekiel 1:1-2
    2. the "hand of the Lord" was upon him
      - a. this phrase is found 7 times in Ezekiel
        - (i) Ezekiel 1:3; 3:14; 3:22; 8:1; 33:22; 37:1; 40:1
        - b. he was in the grip of God Himself, being motivated and led by Him
        - c. "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him." -- Ezra 8:22
          - (i) the Old Testament equivalent of Romans 8:28
        - d. Ezra 7:6, 9, 28; 8:31
        - e. Nehemiah 2:8, 18
    - B. he saw the appearance of God like he did before: Ezekiel 8:2-4
      1. Ezekiel was taken to Jerusalem in a vision
      2. Ezekiel had previously seen the appearance "in the plain": Ezekiel 8:4
        - a. Ezekiel 3:22-23
    - C. Ezekiel saw the "image of jealousy": Ezekiel 8:3, 5
      1. an idol
      2. God is a jealous God
        - a. Exodus 20:5; 34:13-14
        - b. Deuteronomy 32:16, 21
        - c. 1 Kings 14:22
      3. the "glory of God" was there in the temple: Ezekiel 8:4
        - a. the people ignored the "cloud" and set up their idols anyway
        - b. God dwelt with them in the "cloud"
          - (i) "...I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat" -- Leviticus 16:2
          - (ii) Exodus 40:34-35
          - (iii) Numbers 11:25
          - (iv) 1 Kings 8:10-12
          - (v) 2 Chronicles 5:14
    - D. abominations cause God to leave: Ezekiel 8:6
      1. abominations refer to idols
      2. God will not force Himself onto us: He wants us to choose Him
        - a. He is knocking on the door in Revelation 3:20, requesting entry
      3. Ezekiel is going to see something even worse
    - E. the elders of Israel were worshipping idols in secret: Ezekiel 8:7-12
      1. there were drawings and carvings of their gods all over the walls: Ezekiel 8:10
      2. there were 70 elders there: Ezekiel 8:11
        - a. Exodus 24:1, 9
        - b. Numbers 11:16, 25
        - c. is this to say that all the leaders of Israel were into idolatry?
      3. in the middle of them was Jaazaniah, the son of Shaphan: Ezekiel 8:11
        - a. Shaphan was the scribe who read the Word that was found during Josiah's reign: 2 Kings 22:8-10
        - b. Saphan's son, Ahikam protected Jeremiah: Jeremiah 26:24
        - c. Shaphan's grandson, Ahikam's son, Gedaliah, was the governor of the remnant of Judah appointed by Nebuchadnezzar: 2 Kings 25:22-25
          - (i) Gedaliah was murdered, apparently because he knew it was God's will to cooperate with the Babylonians
        - d. Jaazaniah is apparently an ungodly offspring of Shaphan
      4. they thought that the Lord didn't see what they were doing: Ezekiel 8:12
        - a. or they didn't believe that He cared or was even watching anymore
        - b. God sees everything!
        - c. speaking of the wicked, "He has said in his heart, 'God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see.'" -- Psalm 10:11

- d. "Yet they say, 'The LORD does not see, nor does the God of Jacob understand.' Understand, you senseless among the people; and you fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see? He who instructs the nations, shall He not correct, He who teaches man knowledge?" -- Psalm 94:7-10
- e. "Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the LORD, and their works are in the dark; they say, 'Who sees us?' and, 'Who knows us?'" -- Isaiah 29:15
- f. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." -- 2 Chronicles 16:9
- g. "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry." -- Psalm 34:15
- h. "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD..." -- Proverbs 5:21
- i. "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." -- Proverbs 15:3
- j. "...the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth." -- Zechariah 4:10
- 5. they didn't believe that the Lord was still working in their lives: Ezekiel 8:12
  - a. they've become complacent about what the Lord is doing
  - b. they were calloused, disillusioned, unbelieving
    - (i) we can be the same way!
  - c. "...I will search Jerusalem... and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.'" -- Zephaniah 1:12
- 6. Ezekiel is going to see something even worse: Ezekiel 8:13
- F. women were having a ritual for Tammuz: Ezekiel 8:14
  - 1. according to mythology Tammuz was killed by a wild boar
    - a. Tammuz was the god of agriculture
    - b. he was the husband of Ishtar, the "queen of heaven"
      - (i) Jeremiah 7:17-20; 44:17-25
    - c. Tammuz (Dumuzu) and Ishtar are the Babylonian names for these false gods
    - d. Adonis and Aphrodite are the Greek equivalents
    - e. Osiris and Isis are Egyptian equivalents
    - f. Tammuz and Astarte are the Syrian equivalents
  - 2. the women were involved in an annual ritual mourning the death of Tammuz
    - a. they felt that they should share in the grief caused by the death of a god, otherwise they'd be punished
    - b. the ritual involved expressions of wild grief plus immoral practices such as prostitution
    - c. they then celebrated his supposed resurrection
  - 3. Ezekiel is going to see something even worse: Ezekiel 8:15
- G. the priests were worshiping the sun: Ezekiel 8:16
  - 1. they were having a "sunrise service"
  - 2. this was warned against
    - a. Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2-5
    - b. 2 Kings 23:5, 11
  - 3. they're now even further into the Temple
    - a. only the priests were allowed in the inner court
      - (i) Joel 2:17
  - 4. there were 25 men
    - a. may represent the 24 courses of priests plus the high priest
      - (i) 1 Chronicles 24:1-19
    - b. did this represent the entire priesthood?
  - 5. they had their faces towards the east
    - a. the Temple was designed so that they'd worship facing to the west, with their backs to the east
    - b. in their idolatrous worship they were facing to the east, with their backs to the Temple
- H. they will be punished: Ezekiel 8:17-18
  - 1. this was not a trivial thing to God: Ezekiel 8:17

2. "they have filled the land with violence" -- Ezekiel 8:17
  - a. Genesis 6:13
  - b. Jeremiah 6:7
  - c. Amos 3:10; 6:3
  - d. Micah 2:2
  - e. Zephaniah 1:9
3. "they have returned to provoke Me to anger" -- Ezekiel 8:17
  - a. may refer to returning to their sin after Josiah's reforms
    - (i) Josiah was a righteous king: 2 Kings 22:2; 2 Chronicles 34:2-3
    - (ii) when he was 16 years old "he began to seek the God of his father David" -- 2 Chronicles 34:3
    - (iii) when he was 20 he initiated many righteous reforms: 2 Kings 23:1-25; 2 Chronicles 34:3-7
      - tore down the altars to Baal
      - destroyed the wooden, carved, and molded idols
      - burned bones of false prophets
      - put away the astrologers
4. "they put a branch to their nose" -- Ezekiel 8:17
  - a. probably has something to do with their idol worship
  - b. "these are as scorners" (Brenton's Septuagint)
5. God isn't going to show any more mercy: Ezekiel 8:18
  - a. they had plenty of time and opportunity to call on the Lord and repent
  - b. they had reached the point of no return
  - c. mercy always precedes judgment

## II. Behind The Scenes Look At The Judgment: Ezekiel 9

- A. God's servants or angels were called to gather before the Lord: Ezekiel 9:1
  1. each had a "destroying weapon"
    - a. this word is used only here in Scripture
  2. their assignment or mission apparently had something to do with the city
- B. six men appeared: Ezekiel 9:2
  1. each was armed with a "shattering or slaughtering weapon"
    - a. this word is used only here in Scripture
  2. one was dressed in linen
    - a. linen may be a symbol of authority
    - b. linen was part of the priest's garments
      - (i) Exodus 28:6, 8
      - (ii) Leviticus 16:4
    - c. he had an inkhorn or ink stand
      - (i) so he may be a scribe, or was to record what was about to happen
      - (ii) he may be writing into the Book of Life the names of those who are going to be marked (Ezekiel 9:4)
  3. they stood beside the bronze altar
    - a. the bronze altar was the altar of burnt offerings, the altar of sacrifice for sin
    - b. the altar of incense was gold
- C. the godly were sealed or marked for protection: Ezekiel 9:3-4
  1. these were those who were upset over the idolatry and spiritual condition of the nation
    - a. how upset are we over the spiritual condition of our nation?!
      - (i) covetousness is idolatry: Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5
      - (ii) "...righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)" -- 2 Peter 2:7-8
    - b. "Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law." -- Psalm 119:136
  2. the sealing or marking is very reminiscent of the preserved 144,000 Jews during the Tribulation: Revelation 7:1-8; 14:1
  3. also very reminiscent of what Satan will have done through his counterfeit christ, the "coming world leader": Revelation 13:16-18

4. "mark" = "tav", the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet
  - a. the ancient shape of the letter was a cross!
5. the "glory... had gone up from the cherub": Ezekiel 9:3
  - a. the presence of God in the Temple had left prior to the judgment at the hands of the invading armies
  - b. this will be covered more fully in Ezekiel 10-11
- D. the rest of the angels are to kill those who didn't have the mark: Ezekiel 9:5-6a
- E. they were not to harm those with God's mark: Ezekiel 9:6b
- F. the judgment was to begin at His sanctuary: Ezekiel 9:6c
  1. "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?" -- 1 Peter 4:17
- G. God told them to "defile the temple": Ezekiel 9:7
  1. the people defiled it with their abominations
  2. He will defile it with their dead bodies
    - a. Levitically speaking, a dead body defiled anything it came into contact with
      - (i) Numbers 5:2; 19:6, 10-11, 16; 31:19
  3. the "courts," the area all around the Temple will be filled with dead bodies
- H. Ezekiel intercedes for the people: Ezekiel 9:8
  1. he's concerned that God will kill them all
  2. this demonstrates the heart of Ezekiel
- I. God's response: Ezekiel 9:9
  1. "The iniquity... is exceedingly great"
    - a. "Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem." -- 2 Chronicles 36:14
    - b. reasons for judgments on the Northern Kingdom: 2 Kings 17:7-23
  2. "the land is full of bloodshed"
    - a. speaking of Shallum the son of Josiah, "your eyes and your heart are for nothing but your covetousness, for shedding innocent blood, and practicing oppression and violence." -- Jeremiah 22:17
    - b. "Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another..." -- 2 Kings 21:16
    - c. and speaking of Manasseh again, "...because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon." -- 2 Kings 24:4
  3. "the city full of perversity"
    - a. "perversity" = a stretching, that is, distortion
    - b. they were no longer able to tell the difference between right and wrong
    - c. "You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." -- Deuteronomy 16:19
  4. "they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'"
    - a. it's an insult to accuse the Lord of breaking His promises
    - b. it's an insult to suggest that the Lord has lost control of things
- J. they're going to be punished for what they did: Ezekiel 9:10
- K. it's all done: Ezekiel 9:11
  1. Babylon was used to carry out the judgments: 2 Chronicles 36:15-21

## Lesson 4: Ezekiel 10-11

- I. The Glory Of The Lord Leaves The Temple: Ezekiel 10
  - A. we commonly use the word "Shekinah", but it doesn't appear in the Bible
    1. the word means "that which dwells"
    2. used in the Targums, the Jewish commentaries
  - B. during the Exodus it was a cloud by day and fire by night
    1. cloud for shade during the day; fire for light and warmth at night?
    2. Exodus 13:21-22
    3. Numbers 9:15-23
    4. it protected them: Exodus 14:19-20, 24
    5. it led them: Exodus 40:36-37
  - C. He dwelt with them in the cloud
    1. "...I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat" -- Leviticus 16:2
    2. Exodus 25:8, 21-22; 33:9; 40:34-38
    3. 1 Kings 8:10-12
    4. Numbers 11:25
    5. 2 Chronicles 5:14
  - D. God is commonly described as "dwelling between the cherubim"
    1. Exodus 25:22
    2. 2 Samuel 6:2
    3. 2 Kings 19:14-15
    4. Psalm 80:1
    5. Isaiah 37:16
  - E. the "glory of God" was still there in the Temple: Ezekiel 8:4
    1. the people ignored the "cloud" and set up their idols anyway
    2. their idols drove Him away: Ezekiel 8:6
  - F. the Glory had already left from above the cherubim and was at the threshold of the Temple: Ezekiel 9:3
  - G. the description of what Ezekiel sees is very similar to Ezekiel 1:4-28
  - H. coals of fire are scattered over the city: Ezekiel 10:2
    1. represents the city being burned by the Babylonian invaders
  - I. the "court", the area around the Temple, was filled with the cloud, brightness, and a sound: Ezekiel 10:3-5
    1. just as the original arrival and presence was very visible, so its departure will be very visible
    2. "Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, and the rumbling that comes from His mouth... He thunders with His majestic voice... God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend." -- Job 37:2-5
    3. "The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders... the voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty..." -- Psalm 29:3-9
  - J. behind the scenes look of the inner workings: Ezekiel 10:6-17
    1. "beryl stone": Ezekiel 10:9
      - a. "beryl" = Hebrew, "tarshish"
      - b. found 7 times in the Old Testament
      - c. its exact identification is unknown
        - (i) some say it's yellow, but it's probably green
      - d. a stone in the 4<sup>th</sup> row of the priest's breastplate: Exodus 28:20
      - e. a precious stone: Ezekiel 28:13
      - f. speaking of the angel that visited Daniel, "his body was like beryl" -- Daniel 10:6
      - g. the 8<sup>th</sup> foundation of the "New Jerusalem": Revelation 21:20
        - (i) "beryl" = Greek, "berullos"
    2. "wheel": Ezekiel 10:13
      - a. "wheel" = wheel; rolling thing; whirlwind
        - (i) "...like a *rolling thing*..." -- Isaiah 17:13
        - (ii) "The voice of Your thunder was in the *whirlwind*; the lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook." -- Psalm 77:18
      - b. if verse 14 is treated as a parenthesis, and this last phrase of verse 13 is associated with verse 15, it's as if it is saying, "Let's roll!"

3. "face of cherub": Ezekiel 10:14
    - a. but in Ezekiel 1:10 it was the face of an ox
    - b. was the face of the ox really on a cherub?
  4. Ezekiel recognized one of the cherubim as being the living creature he saw earlier (Ezekiel 1:3, 5): Ezekiel 10:15
  5. the cherubim are accompanying or escorting the Glory of the Lord
  - K. the Glory of the Lord leaves further out to the east gate of the Temple: Ezekiel 10:18-22
    1. the Glory will continue to the Mount of Olives in Ezekiel 11:22-23
    2. in the future the Glory will return through the east gate of the new Temple: Ezekiel 43:1-4
- II. Judgment On False Counselors: Ezekiel 11:1-13
- A. the vision of what is going on in Jerusalem continues
  - B. these 25 were misleading the people: Ezekiel 11:1-3
    1. "caldron... meat": Ezekiel 11:3
      - a. difficult to understand from this verse what they were preaching
      - b. caldron speaks of protection?
        - (i) they were denying that judgment was coming
        - (ii) they were encouraging the people to continue to settle down in Jerusalem
      - c. caldron speaks of the judgment to come?
        - (i) Jeremiah saw a vision of a "boiling pot": Jeremiah 1:13-14
          - it referred to the calamity that was coming
        - (ii) they were going to be cooked like meat in a pot, so prepare to do battle
        - (iii) God told them to surrender because this was judgment from Him: Jeremiah 21:9; 38:2-3
    2. the false message that they were preaching was that calamity wasn't coming
      - a. "They have lied against the Lord and said, 'It is not He; neither shall evil come on us; nor shall we see sword nor famine.'" -- Jeremiah 5:12
      - b. "They have also healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace." -- Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11
      - c. "Then I said, 'Ah, O Lord God! Behold, the prophets are saying to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine; but I will give you true peace in this place.'"" -- Jeremiah 14:13
      - d. "They still say to those who despise Me, 'the Lord has said, "You shall have peace!" And they say to everyone who walks after the stubbornness of his own heart, "No evil shall come on you!"" -- Jeremiah 23:17
  - C. Ezekiel was told to prophesy against them: Ezekiel 11:4-12
    1. but this is just a vision?!
    2. God knows our thoughts: Ezekiel 11:5
      - a. "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings." -- Jeremiah 17:10
    3. their false message will cause a lot more people to die: Ezekiel 11:6
      - a. "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand." -- Ezekiel 3:18
      - b. Ezekiel 33:8
    4. they're looking to Jerusalem for safety and security: Ezekiel 11:7-11
      - a. they may stand and fight, but some of them will be taken out of it and killed
        - (i) 2 Kings 25:18-21
        - (ii) Jeremiah 52:24-27
    5. it's because they did not follow the Lord: Ezekiel 11:12
      - a. they got involved in the pagan practices of the nations around them, that the Lord overthrew
        - (i) they were warned not to do that
          - Leviticus 18:3, 24-28
          - Deuteronomy 12:30-31
          - 2 Kings 16:3; 17:11-23; 21:2
          - 2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:2-9
          - Psalm 106:35-39
          - Jeremiah 10:2

- (ii) the Canaanites were thrown out because of their iniquity
      - so shall the Israelites for doing the same things
  - D. Pelatiah dies: Ezekiel 11:13a
    1. was he struck dead?
  - E. Ezekiel prays for the remnant: Ezekiel 11:13b
    1. as he has done before in Ezekiel 9:8
    2. we see his heart, being concerned for the believers
    3. how much do we pray for other believers?!
- III. The Restoration Of Israel: Ezekiel 11:14-21
- A. those that were left behind claim that the land is now theirs: Ezekiel 11:15
    1. the poorest people were left behind: 2 Kings 25:12; Jeremiah 39:10; 40:7
    2. Gedaliah was appointed governor over those left behind: 2 Kings 25:22; Jeremiah 40:7
    3. also mentioned in Ezekiel 33:24
      - a. but they weren't following the Lord so they didn't deserve the land: Ezekiel 33:25-26
  - B. although they've been scattered throughout many countries, God will not forget them: Ezekiel 11:16
    1. He will preserve them and take care of them; He will provide them "sanctuary"
    2. "sanctuary" = a holy place; asylum
    3. "The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. He will be as a *sanctuary*..." -- Isaiah 8:13-14
    4. "LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations." -- Psalm 90:1
  - C. they will be brought back to the land: Ezekiel 11:17
    1. those returning will be given the land of Israel
      - a. the books of Ezra and Nehemiah
      - b. it's God's to give
      - c. God promised it to Abraham (Genesis 15) and He never changed His mind
    2. because He used the term "countries" instead of just "Babylon" might indicate that it also refers to their future (our present) when the Jews will return from all over the world
    3. Ezekiel 34-37 will have more about this
  - D. they will put away the detestable things: Ezekiel 11:18
  - E. they will be given a new heart: Ezekiel 11:19-20
    1. Deuteronomy 30:6
    2. Jeremiah 31:31-33; 32:37-40
    3. Ezekiel 36:24-27
    4. Nicodemus should have understood: John 3:1-10
      - a. Jesus rebuked him for not knowing!
    5. no where in Scripture do we see anything about cleaning up a person's heart
      - a. God always talks about a new one
      - b. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" -- Jeremiah 17:9
        - (i) "desperately wicked" = incurable
      - c. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." -- Psalm 51:10
  - F. those who follow their own heart will be punished: Ezekiel 11:21
    1. "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts." -- Zechariah 7:12
- IV. The Glory Of The Lord Departs To The Mount Of Olives: Ezekiel 11:22-23
- A. the Mount of Olives is to the east of Jerusalem
  - B. Jesus left the earth from the Mount of Olives: Acts 1:9-12
  - C. Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives: Zechariah 14:4
  - D. the "glory of God" will return back into the Temple from the east: Ezekiel 43:1-5
- V. The Vision Is Over: Ezekiel 11:24-25
- A. he finds himself back in Chaldea (Babylon): Ezekiel 11:24
  - B. Ezekiel told the captives about everything he saw: Ezekiel 11:25



## Lesson 5: Ezekiel 12-13

- I. The Sign Of Packing Up And Leaving: Ezekiel 12:1-16
  - A. they refuse to see and listen: Ezekiel 12:2
    1. their rebellion has been mentioned many times already: Ezekiel 2:3, 6-8; 3:9, 26-27
      - a. "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD." -- Deuteronomy 9:7
    2. because of their refusal to listen, God has backed away and won't help them listen anymore
      - a. "Hear this now, O foolish people, without understanding, who have eyes and see not, and who have ears and hear not" -- Jeremiah 5:21
      - b. Deuteronomy 29:4
      - c. Isaiah 6:9-10
      - d. Matthew 13:13-15
  - B. Ezekiel is to demonstrate the captivity that's coming through an object lesson: Ezekiel 12:3-7
    1. he's to pack up his stuff and take it out through a hole in the wall
    2. he was also portraying attempts at escape
  - C. prophecy about Zedekiah: Ezekiel 12:8-13
    1. this burden or prophecy was about the "prince in Jerusalem": Ezekiel 12:10
      - a. Zedekiah was the ruler in Jerusalem appointed by Babylon: 2 Kings 24:17
      - b. Zedekiah also rebelled against the king of Babylon: 2 Kings 24:20
    2. Zedekiah will attempt to escape this way: Ezekiel 12:12
    3. Zedekiah will be caught: Ezekiel 12:13
      - a. he will be taken to Babylon and spend the rest of his life there, but he won't see it
    4. fulfillment
      - a. Zedekiah attempted to escape this way: 2 Kings 25:4; Jeremiah 39:4
      - b. they captured Zedekiah, killed his sons in front of him, blinded him, and took him to Babylon: 2 Kings 25:5-7; Jeremiah 39:5-7
        - (i) therefore, he was taken to Babylon but didn't see it
        - (ii) a very literal fulfillment of this prophecy
  - D. a remnant will be preserved: Ezekiel 12:14-16
    1. Ezekiel 6:8-10
- II. The Object Lesson Of Nervous Eating: Ezekiel 12:17-20
  - A. the famine to come was already mentioned in Ezekiel 4:16-17
  - B. he's reminding them of what will be coming upon them
- III. Judgment Won't Be Postponed: Ezekiel 12:21-28
  - A. they had gotten into the mindset that any judgment was going to be much later, something that they weren't going to have to deal with: Ezekiel 12:22, 27
    1. they actually weren't even believing the prophecies about what was to come
    2. "scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'" -- 2 Peter 3:3-4
      - a. they deny God's involvement or intervention on the earth
      - b. we see the same thing today
  - B. God emphasizes that they will indeed see the judgment: Ezekiel 12:23-25, 28
    1. the false prophecies will cease: Ezekiel 12:24
      - a. "flattering" = smooth
      - b. "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.'" -- Isaiah 30:9-10
      - c. "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple." -- Romans 16:17-18

2. there will be no more delay
3. from the time Ezekiel started (Ezekiel 1:2) until the fall of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 33:21) was 7 years

#### IV. Prophecies Against The False Prophets: Ezekiel 13

- A. they were falsely claiming that what they were saying was from the Lord: Ezekiel 13:2
  1. it came from their own heart or inspiration
  2. "And the LORD said to me, 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.'" -- Jeremiah 14:14
  3. "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD.'" -- Jeremiah 23:16
- B. God said that they've seen nothing: Ezekiel 13:3
- C. what they've been preaching was futile and empty: Ezekiel 13:6
- D. claiming that their message was from the Lord was deceitful: Ezekiel 13:6
  1. "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." -- 2 Timothy 3:13
    - a. liars will start to believe their own lies
    - b. over time the line between truth and deception becomes vague
- E. what they've been saying was just wishful thinking: Ezekiel 13:6
- F. there will be a 3-fold judgment against the false prophets: Ezekiel 13:9
  1. they will not be in the assembly or council of God's people
    - a. if they had an official office of prophet they'll lose it
    - b. they won't be part of God's people
  2. they will not be written in the record of the house of Israel
    - a. punishment for a prophet that was proven wrong was death: Deuteronomy 18:20-22
    - b. "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous." -- Psalm 69:28
    - c. "And the LORD said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.'" -- Exodus 32:33
  3. they will not return to the land of Israel
- G. building a false sense of security was like building a defective wall: Ezekiel 13:10-12
  1. it was going to collapse
  2. they used a skim coat of plaster, or "whitewashed" it, making the situation look better than it really was
  3. they were in denial
  4. "Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken." -- Ezekiel 22:28
    - a. same words used for skim coating or whitewashing
  5. "But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand." -- Ezekiel 33:6
- H. God will break through their false sense of security: Ezekiel 13:13-16
  1. this really speaks to us today!
- I. condemnation of the female false prophets: Ezekiel 13:17-23
  1. they also prophesy out of their own hearts or inspiration: Ezekiel 13:17
  2. they're involved in sorcery: Ezekiel 13:18-19
    - a. they want a following
    - b. they adorn themselves to bring attention to themselves
    - c. they're misleading people as if they're hunting them
    - d. they're using deception
    - e. "...Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols." -- Revelation 2:20

- f. "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber."  
-- 2 Peter 2:1-3
  - (i) "exploit you" = "make merchandise of you" (KJV)
- 3. there's been gross injustice: Ezekiel 13:19
  - a. because of bribery
  - b. by doing this they profane God
    - (i) they're not being a good and faithful witness or representative for God
    - (ii) they're polluting God's message and reputation
- 4. God will bring the false prophets to an end: Ezekiel 13:20-23
  - a. He will rescue "My people" from their hold: Ezekiel 13:21, 23
  - b. the righteous were upset at their deception: Ezekiel 13:22
  - c. their false messages "strengthened the hands of the wicked": Ezekiel 13:22
    - (i) they didn't repent because of it
    - (ii) this has been warned against
      - "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand." -- Ezekiel 3:18
      - "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand." -- Ezekiel 33:8
  - d. "Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who make my people stray... 'you shall have night without vision, and you shall have darkness without divination; the sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be dark for them. So the seers shall be ashamed, and the diviners abashed..." -- Micah 3:5-7
  - e. "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. 'It shall be in that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land... you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD... and it shall be in that day that every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies..." -- Zechariah 13:1-4



## Lesson 6: Ezekiel 14-15

- I. Idolatry Of The Heart: Ezekiel 14:1-11
  - A. God does not approve of people trying to approach Him with idolatrous hearts: Ezekiel 14:1-5
    1. people approached Ezekiel, apparently to inquire of the Lord: Ezekiel 14:1
    2. God saw what was hidden in their hearts and informed Ezekiel: Ezekiel 14:2
      - a. "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever." -- 1 Chronicles 28:9
      - b. "...my God... You test the heart..." -- 1 Chronicles 29:17
    3. they had idols in their hearts: Ezekiel 14:3a
      - a. the idols aren't merely on a shelf or a shrine at home
      - b. they're totally given over to their idols, making them an integral part of their lives
    4. they put before themselves things that caused them to stumble: Ezekiel 14:3b
      - a. money was a stumbling block: Ezekiel 7:19
      - b. "Because My people have forgotten Me, they have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, from the ancient paths, to walk in pathways and not on a highway" -- Jeremiah 18:15
      - c. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, "We will not walk in it." Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, "Listen to the sound of the trumpet!" But they said, "We will not listen."' -- Jeremiah 6:16-17
      - d. "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth..." -- Jeremiah 44:16-17
      - e. "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, nor did they know how to blush." -- Jeremiah 8:12
      - f. "For Jerusalem stumbled, and Judah is fallen, because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of His glory." -- Isaiah 3:8
      - g. "O Israel, return to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity" -- Hosea 14:1
      - h. "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. But you have departed from the way; you have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi" -- Malachi 2:7-8
      - i. "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble." -- Psalm 119:165
      - j. "But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." -- Proverbs 4:18-19
      - k. "They stumble, being disobedient to the word..." -- 1 Peter 2:8
    5. God will not allow Himself to be approached by such people: Ezekiel 14:3c
      - a. "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all these abominations?'" -- Jeremiah 7:8-10
      - b. "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight." -- Proverbs 15:8
      - c. "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." -- Proverbs 28:9
      - d. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear." -- Psalm 66:18
    6. God will deal appropriately with those who try to approach God with the wrong heart attitude: Ezekiel 14:4
    7. their idols caused them to be estranged from God: Ezekiel 14:5
      - a. the idols in the Temple drove Him out of it: Ezekiel 8:6

8. double-mindedness
    - a. "Therefore the Lord said: 'Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men' -- Isaiah 29:13
    - b. "Their heart is divided; now they are held guilty..." -- Hosea 10:2
    - c. "...choose for yourselves today whom you will serve..." -- Joshua 24:14-15
    - d. "And Elijah came to all the people, and said, 'How long will you falter between two opinions?'" -- 1 Kings 18:21
    - e. "do not turn aside from following the Lord... do not go after futile things" -- 1 Samuel 12:20-21
      - (i) there are only 2 choices: "following the Lord" and "going after futile things"
        - there is nothing in-between
        - if we try to be in-between, Jesus has something sobering to say to us, "I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16)
    - f. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." -- Matthew 6:24 (Luke 16:13)
    - g. "...a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." -- James 1:8
    - h. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." -- James 4:8
    - i. Jesus said, "...let him not return to the things behind. Remember Lot's wife." -- Luke 17:31b-32
      - (i) she looked back with favorable regard: Genesis 19:26
        - she may have actually gone back
      - (ii) "...looking back... not fit for the kingdom of God" -- Luke 9:62
  9. hypocrisy
    - a. Isaiah 29:13
    - b. Matthew 15:7-9
    - c. Mark 7:6-9
  10. sin can be its own punishment
    - a. "Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you..." -- Jeremiah 2:19
    - b. "So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners." -- Proverbs 1:19
    - c. "His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin." -- Proverbs 5:22
    - d. Psalms 7:14-16; 9:15-16
    - e. Isaiah 3:9
    - f. sin leads to a downward progression
      - (i) "Blessed is who walks not... nor stands... nor sits..." -- Psalm 1:1
      - (ii) Romans 1:18-32
    - g. we become like the gods we worship: Psalms 115:8; 135:18
    - h. "backsliding" = turning away, turning back, apostasy
      - (i) "But they did not listen, nor bow their ear, but walked in their own plans, in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward." -- Jeremiah 7:24
      - (ii) "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways, but a good man from above." -- Proverbs 14:14
      - (iii) Jeremiah 3:6, 8, 11-12, 14, 22; 5:6; 8:5; 14:7
      - (iv) Hosea 4:16; 11:7; 14:4
- B. they must repent: Ezekiel 14:6-8
1. they must choose to turn around: Ezekiel 14:6
  2. God will make an example of the idolators who try to approach him: Ezekiel 14:7-8
    - a. the example of Ananias and Sapphira: Acts 5:1-11
  3. "Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." -- Isaiah 55:6-7

- C. false prophets will be deceived to punish them: Ezekiel 14:9-11
1. prophets will be "induced" to speak that which will cause him to be punished: Ezekiel 14:9-10
    - a. "induce" = to be spacious, be open, be wide; be open-minded; to entice, deceive, persuade
    - b. speaking of God, "You have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem" -- Jeremiah 4:10
      - (i) could be referring to the message from the false prophets
        - the Targum (an ancient Jewish commentary) says that this is what is meant
      - c. He is going to allow them to follow their own choices
      - d. they're going to be allowed to be so open-minded that their brains fall out
      - e. God will allow it to happen so that it's just as if He did do it
        - (i) they've rejected Him so much that He's not going to try and convince them otherwise
    2. God certainly doesn't lie to people
      - a. "God, who cannot lie" -- Titus 1:2
      - b. "impossible for God to lie" -- Hebrews 6:18
      - c. Numbers 23:19
      - d. 1 Samuel 15:29
      - e. Romans 3:4
      - f. 1 Peter 2:22
      - g. "Your Word is true from the beginning" -- Psalm 119:160
    3. God will allow them to continue on in their deception for their punishment
      - a. they've already chosen not to listen to the Lord
        - (i) "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth..." -- Jeremiah 44:16-17
        - (ii) "Then they said, 'Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah... Come and let us attack him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.'" -- Jeremiah 18:18
      - b. they have preferred deceit, so they'll be given what they've chosen
        - (i) choosing the road of deception is very dangerous!
          - people will lose the ability to tell the difference between truth and fiction
        - (ii) "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us.'" -- Isaiah 30:9-11
        - (iii) "But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels." -- Psalm 81:11-12
      - c. God has allowed deception to bring about punishment
        - (i) a lying spirit was sent to punish Ahab: 1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Chronicles 18:18-22
        - (ii) "...just as they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations, so will I choose their delusions, and bring their fears on them; because, when I called, no one answered, when I spoke they did not hear; but they did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight." -- Isaiah 66:3-4
        - (iii) a lie will come to judge the unbelieving people after the Rapture
          - "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." -- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12
          - God will allow Satan to bring about appropriate punishment
    4. to demonstrate His power, and to punish Pharaoh and Egypt, God hardened Pharaoh's heart
      - a. Exodus 4:21; 7:3, 13-14, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 12, 35; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17
      - b. at times they hardened their own hearts, too
        - (i) Exodus 8:15, 32; 9:34-35
        - (ii) 1 Samuel 6:6
    5. the punishment will restore Israel to its position with God: Ezekiel 14:11

- II. Punishment On Persistent Unfaithfulness: Ezekiel 14:12-23
  - A. famine: Ezekiel 14:12-14
  - B. wild beasts: Ezekiel 14:15-16
  - C. sword: Ezekiel 14:17-18
  - D. pestilence: Ezekiel 14:19-20
  - E. these same 4 judgments are seen together in other places
    - 1. Leviticus 26:1-2, 14-17, 20, 22, 25
      - a. sword: Leviticus 26:17, 25
      - b. famine: Leviticus 26:20
      - c. wild beasts: Leviticus 26:22
      - d. pestilence: Leviticus 26:25
    - 2. Revelation 6:1-8
      - a. sword: Revelation 6:3-4
      - b. famine: Revelation 6:5-6
      - c. wild beasts: Revelation 6:7-8
      - d. pestilence: Revelation 6:7-8
  - F. even Noah, Daniel, and Job couldn't have helped their situation: Ezekiel 14:14, 16, 18, 20
    - 1. Noah
      - a. he was just, and walked with God: Genesis 6:9
      - b. he was righteous: Genesis 7:1
      - c. God established His covenant with Noah and his descendants: Genesis 6:18; 9:9-17
      - d. he was a preacher of righteousness: 2 Peter 2:5
    - 2. Daniel
      - a. he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies": Daniel 1:6-20
      - b. he sought mercies from God: Daniel 2:17-18
      - c. he publicly gave God the glory: Daniel 2:19-47
    - 3. Job
      - a. he watched over the spiritual well-being of his family: Job 1:5
      - b. he spoke what was right: Job 42:7-10
    - 4. they would only be able to deliver themselves by their righteousness: Ezekiel 14:14, 16, 18, 20
      - a. people can only take care of their own salvation, not the salvation of others
    - 5. a similar sort of analogy regarding Moses and Samuel is given in Jeremiah 15:1
  - G. all 4 punishments are coming upon Jerusalem: Ezekiel 14:21
  - H. there will be a remnant: Ezekiel 14:22-23
    - 1. God will preserve "My people" (Ezekiel 14:11)
- III. The Rejected Vine: Ezekiel 15
  - A. there are four common idioms for Israel in Scripture
    - 1. the vine or vineyard (collectively of Israel)
      - a. Isaiah 5:1-7
      - b. Jeremiah 2:21; 12:10
      - c. Deuteronomy 32:32-33
      - d. Psalm 80:8-16
      - e. Nahum 2:2
      - f. Matthew 21:33-41
      - g. Mark 12:1-9
      - h. Luke 20:9-16
      - i. John 15:1-6
    - 2. fig tree (may only refer to Judah)
      - a. Jeremiah 24
      - b. Matthew 24:32-34
      - c. Luke 21:29-31
      - d. one of Jesus' parables has a fig tree in a vineyard: Luke 13:6-7

3. olive tree (refers to the covenant relationship)
  - a. Jeremiah 11:16
  - b. Romans 11:17-24
4. bramble bush (may refer to their failures)
5. all four idioms are seen in the parable of Jotham: Judges 9:7-15
- B. the only real purpose of a vine is to bear fruit
- C. wood from a vine isn't too useful: Ezekiel 15:2-3
- D. it's more useful for firewood: Ezekiel 15:4
- E. it will be even less useful after it's burned: Ezekiel 15:5
- F. fire is a common idiom of calamity, judgment, and punishment
  1. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap." -- Malachi 3:2
  2. "I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" -- Zechariah 13:9
- G. the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be thrown into the fire: Ezekiel 15:6-7
- H. the reason for all this is because they "persisted in unfaithfulness": Ezekiel 15:8



## Lesson 7: Ezekiel 16

- I. The Nation Of Israel Is Born And Grows: Ezekiel 16:1-7
- A. may refer to the time from Abraham entering Canaan to the Exodus
  - B. God is going to remind them of their abominations: Ezekiel 16:1-2
  - C. they came from the land of Canaan: Ezekiel 16:3
  - D. no one was there to take care of them: Ezekiel 16:4-6
    1. but God did
    2. salt was used as an antiseptic
    3. "Live... Live..." -- Ezekiel 16:6
      - a. twice for emphasis?
      - b. refers to the two times they'll be brought into the land?
        - (i) Isaiah 11:11
  - E. God caused them to grow and prosper: Ezekiel 16:7a
    1. the Jews flourished during the 430 years in Egypt
      - a. "But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them." -- Exodus 1:7
      - b. "But when the time of the promise drew near which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt" -- Acts 7:17
  - F. she grew, matured, and became very beautiful: Ezekiel 16:7b
    1. some translations mention "ornaments" or "adornments" but this idiom really speaks of beauty, not jewelry
  - G. they were "naked and bare": Ezekiel 16:7c
    1. may refer to their vulnerability
    2. may refer to their lack of righteousness (without the Law)
    3. "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked..." -- Revelation 3:17-18
- II. The Nation Of Israel Matures And Marries: Ezekiel 16:8-14
- A. may refer to the time from the Exodus to the reigns of David and Solomon
  - B. she reached the age of betrothal: Ezekiel 16:8
  - C. "I spread My wing over you": Ezekiel 16:8
    1. "wing" refers to the extremity, edge, or corner of a garment
    2. a symbol of refuge
      - a. "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your *wings*." -- Psalm 36:7
      - b. "Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your *wings* I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by." -- Psalm 57:1
      - c. Psalm 61:4; 63:7; 91:4
      - d. Ruth 2:11-12
    3. a symbol of espousal
      - a. Ruth 3:9
  - D. God made a covenant with them: Ezekiel 16:8
    1. refers to what happened on Mt. Sinai
    2. Exodus 20:5-6; 24:7-8
    3. Jeremiah 31:32
    4. the covenant is being likened to marriage, which is a covenant
  - E. Israel being married to God is a common idiom
    1. "For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth." -- Isaiah 54:5
    2. "'Return, O backsliding children,' says the LORD; 'for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.'" -- Jeremiah 3:14
    3. "I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD." -- Hosea 2:19-20
    4. "...the LORD has been witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously; yet she is your companion and your wife by covenant." -- Malachi 2:14

5. Jeremiah 31:32
  - F. He washed and took care of them: Ezekiel 16:9
    1. speaking of the future, "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols." -- Ezekiel 36:25
  - G. God gave them fine clothing: Ezekiel 16:10
    1. "embroidered cloth" speaks of careful design, a lot of work
    2. "sandals of badger skin" refer to ornamental sandals or luxurious leather slippers
      - a. we're not exactly sure what the word translated as badger refers to
      - b. badger skins were also used in the Tabernacle
        - (i) Exodus 25:5; 26:14
        - (ii) Numbers 4:6, 8, 10-12, 14, 25
      - c. "And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet." -- Deuteronomy 29:5
        - (i) were badger skins tough and their sandals made from them?
    3. "fine linen" may speak of righteousness
      - a. "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." -- Revelation 19:8
  - H. God adorned them: Ezekiel 16:11-13
    1. they didn't do it themselves
  - I. they became famous because of the beauty of their nation: Ezekiel 16:14
    1. the queen of Sheba visited Solomon: 1 Kings 10:1-13
      - a. "However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard." -- 1 Kings 10:7
    2. "Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart." -- 1 Kings 10:24
    3. "And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart." -- 2 Chronicles 9:23
- III. The Spiritual Harlotry of Israel: Ezekiel 16:15-34
- A. may refer to the time of Solomon's reign through to Ezekiel's time
  - B. this clearly demonstrates why God was so upset
  - C. they used the beauty that God gave them to attract the wrong crowd and to corrupt others: Ezekiel 16:15
    1. "trusted in their own beauty" instead of acknowledging God for it
    2. they were proud about who they were
    3. it's bad enough to sin, but it's even worse when others are encouraged to sin
  - D. they took the garments that God gave them and adorned the places of idol worship: Ezekiel 16:16
    1. the "high places" is where they set up pagan altars and conducted their ceremonies
    2. their pagan ceremonies involved all kinds of sexual immorality
  - E. they took the jewelry that God gave them and made idols out of them: Ezekiel 16:17
    1. "male images" refer to phallic objects and symbols
    2. "My gold... My silver..."
  - F. they took the carefully made garments that God gave them and the oil God gave them, and presented them to their pagan gods: Ezekiel 16:18
    1. this may refer to the priestly garments and other objects from the Temple
    2. "My oil... My incense..."
  - G. they took the food God gave them and offered it to the pagan gods: Ezekiel 16:19
    1. "My food..."
  - H. they took the children that God gave them and offered them as human sacrifices to the pagan gods: Ezekiel 16:20-21
    1. as if it wasn't bad enough they offered physical objects to their idols, they made it far worse by killing and offering their children
    2. "whom you bore to Me... My children..."
    3. Psalm 106:37-38
    4. Isaiah 57:5
    5. Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35
  - I. they did not remember from where they came, and the destitute condition they used to be in: Ezekiel 16:22
    1. they did not acknowledge God for all things

2. we need to acknowledge God for all things
3. we need to remember how we were before becoming saved from our sins: Ephesians 2
  - a. "And you... were dead in trespasses and sins... we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath... But God... made us alive together with Christ..." -- Ephesians 2:1-5
  - b. "Therefore remember... you were without Christ... having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." -- Ephesians 2:11-13
- J. God pronounces 2 "woes" to them because of all their wickedness: Ezekiel 16:23
  1. twice for emphasis?
  2. two times representing what was about to happen to them plus what is yet to happen in the future?
- K. they built "shrines" all over the place: Ezekiel 16:24-25
  1. these shrines were used for sexual activity, maybe what we would call brothels
  2. "thou didst build thyself a house of fornication" -- Ezekiel 16:24 (LXX, Brenton's Septuagint)
  3. the word for "high places" isn't the same as used elsewhere for the pagan temples built on hills
    - a. only used 4 times in Scripture, and only here in Ezekiel 16
      - (i) Ezekiel 16:24, 25, 31, 39
        - oaththis is something specifically dedicated to unabashed, public sexual activity
  4. they promoted and encouraged sexual immorality as part of their pagan worship
- L. they adopted the pagan rituals of the Egyptians: Ezekiel 16:26
- M. God withdrew His provision because of their unfaithfulness to Him: Ezekiel 16:27a
  1. He's done it before to the Northern Kingdom more than 100 years ago: Hosea 2:9-12
- N. He allowed the Philistines to invade: Ezekiel 16:27b
  1. "The Philistines also had invaded... For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD." -- 2 Chronicles 28:18-19
- O. their behavior even embarrassed the Philistines: Ezekiel 16:27c
  1. they probably didn't try to copy the heathen practices of the Philistines because they've always hated them
- P. they adopted practices of the Assyrians: Ezekiel 16:28
  1. 2 Kings 16:7-18
  2. 2 Chronicles 28:20-25
  3. they still weren't satisfied
- Q. they adopted the immorality all the way to Babylon: Ezekiel 16:29
  1. they still weren't satisfied
- R. God summarizes their harlotry: Ezekiel 16:30-34
  1. speaks of not only religious and sexual perversity, but political as well, having associations and paying tribute to other countries that they shouldn't have
  2. based on their behavior God proclaims that their heart is weak and degenerate: Ezekiel 16:30
  3. they made their sexual immorality very obvious: Ezekiel 16:31a
  4. they didn't take payment like a typical harlot, but paid out huge sums of money: Ezekiel 16:31b
    - a. this was tribute to other countries
  5. they had inappropriate associations and relationships with other countries and other gods: Ezekiel 16:32
  6. it cost the nation dearly: Ezekiel 16:33-34
    - a. both monetarily and morally
- IV. They Will Be A Shameful Spectacle: Ezekiel 16:35-43
  - A. judgment will come because of their sexual immorality, idolatry, and the killing of their children: Ezekiel 16:36
  - B. they will be punished in front of all the countries that they had alliances with: Ezekiel 16:37
    1. the countries that they learned idolatry and sexual immorality from, and with whom they had paid tribute money to
  - C. the punishment for adultery was death: Ezekiel 16:38
    1. Leviticus 20:10
    2. Deuteronomy 22:22-24

- D. these countries will plunder them: Ezekiel 16:39
  - 1. they'll plunder their pagan shrines of the valuables that they put there from the Lord
  - 2. they'll plunder their possessions that God gave them and they didn't treat with respect
  - 3. they'll be left helpless and vulnerable as they were before God provided for them
  - 4. it's because of their ingratitude
- E. their immoral and idolatrous behavior will be put to an end, the hard way: Ezekiel 16:40-41
- F. once they're punished God's wrath will be satisfied: Ezekiel 16:42
- G. they're being punished for their deeds: Ezekiel 16:43
  - 1. they didn't remember how righteous and godly they were early in their history
  - 2. it's because of their lewdness and abominations
- V. They're Worse Than Samaria And Sodom: Ezekiel 16:44-59
  - A. their punishment will be a public demonstration of how: Ezekiel 16:44-45
  - B. Samaria was "to the north", Sodom was "to the south": Ezekiel 16:46
    - 1. literally "on your left... on your right" because their custom was to have maps with east at the top
  - C. they were more corrupt than Samaria and Sodom: Ezekiel 16:47
  - D. the sin of Sodom: Ezekiel 16:48-50
    - 1. they were worse than Sodom: Ezekiel 16:48
      - a. her "daughters" might be the cities around Sodom, such as Gomorrah and Zoar
        - (i) Genesis 14:8; 19
        - (ii) "as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." -- Jude 1:7
    - 2. the iniquity of Sodom is listed: Ezekiel 16:49-50a
      - a. pride
        - (i) the first sin: Isaiah 14:12-15
      - b. fullness of food
      - c. abundance of idleness
      - d. did not help the poor and needy
      - e. haughty
      - f. committed abominations
    - 3. God punished them as He saw fit: Ezekiel 16:50b
      - a. Genesis 19:24-25
  - E. Samaria: Ezekiel 16:51-52
    - 1. Samaria didn't commit half the sins that Judah did: Ezekiel 16:51a
    - 2. Judah was so bad that Samaria was innocent (justified) by comparison: Ezekiel 16:51b-52
  - F. they will be restored after Sodom and Samaria: Ezekiel 16:53-59
    - 1. in other words, never?!
      - a. Isaiah 13:19-20
      - b. Jeremiah 49:18; 50:40
      - c. Zephaniah 2:9
    - 2. or does it refer to the time when the entire area will be restored after Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives?
      - a. Zechariah 14:3-4, 8-11
      - b. Ezekiel 47:1-2
    - 3. they did not learn from the destruction of Sodom: Ezekiel 16:56
      - a. "and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly" -- 2 Peter 2:6
      - b. we are to learn from history
        - (i) "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning..." -- Romans 15:4
        - (ii) "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition..." -- 1 Corinthians 10:11
    - 4. it was because of their lewdness and abominations: Ezekiel 16:58

5. they broke the covenant: Ezekiel 16:59
    - a. "Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, 'All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.' And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.'" -- Exodus 24:7-8
    - b. Deuteronomy 4, 5, 29
      - (i) "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you." -- Deuteronomy 4:23
- VI. An Everlasting Covenant: Ezekiel 16:60-63
- A. but God will keep His covenant: Ezekiel 16:60
    1. "(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them." -- Deuteronomy 4:31
    2. Leviticus 26:42-46
    3. Psalm 106:45
    4. the covenant in the days of their youth refers to the covenant He made with Abraham
      - a. Genesis 12:1-3
      - b. Genesis 15
      - c. Genesis 13:16; 17:5-6; 18:18; 22:17-18
    5. the everlasting covenant refers to salvation
      - a. Isaiah 55:3
      - b. Jeremiah 31:31-34; 32:38-41
      - c. "Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant..." -- Hebrews 12:24
      - d. "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant" -- Hebrews 13:20
  - B. they'll be ashamed when they see their sisters restored: Ezekiel 16:61
    1. their older and younger sisters are Samaria and Sodom: Ezekiel 16:46
    2. could it be referring to the salvation coming to the Gentiles after Jesus came?
      - a. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." -- Zechariah 12:10
    3. God is doing it out of grace, not obligation
  - C. salvation will come to the Jews: Ezekiel 16:62
    1. "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward..." -- Ezekiel 39:22-29
    2. "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. -- Jeremiah 24:7
  - D. there will be an atonement for their sins: Ezekiel 16:63
    1. speaks of the atonement provided by the blood of Christ
    2. there will be remorse for their sins



## **Lesson 8: Ezekiel 17-19**

- I. A Parable About The Punishment Of Israel: Ezekiel 17:1-10
  - A. about 588 B.C., 2 years before the destruction of Jerusalem
  - B. Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon and that led to the destruction of Jerusalem
    - 1. 2 Kings 24:17-20
    - 2. 2 Chronicles 36:11-14
    - 3. Jeremiah 34-38; 52:1-3
  - C. "a great eagle": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. speaks of Babylon
    - 2. the picture of an eagle can refer to youth and power
      - a. Psalm 103:5
      - b. Isaiah 40:31
  - D. "large wings": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. speaks of its great forces
  - E. "long pinions": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. speaks of the wide extent of its empire
  - F. "full of feathers of various colors": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. speaks of its many inhabitants and captives from all the different nations
      - a. it was an empire of many nations
    - 2. the word for "various colors" could specifically refer to embroidery
      - a. Ezekiel 16:10, 13, 18
  - G. "came to Lebanon": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. Lebanon can refer to Jerusalem: Jeremiah 22:23-25
  - H. "took from the cedar": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. cedars of Lebanon can refer to the temple and palace: 1 Kings 7:2-3
  - I. "the highest branch": Ezekiel 17:3
    - 1. refers to the king
  - J. "topmost young twig": Ezekiel 17:4
    - 1. refers to Jeconiah, sometimes called Coniah, sometimes called Jehoiachin
      - a. he was 18 years old when he became king
        - (i) 2 Kings 24:8-15
        - (ii) 2 Chronicles 36:9-10
  - K. "land of trade... city of merchants": Ezekiel 17:4
    - 1. speaks of Babylon
      - a. Ezekiel 16:29
      - b. Daniel 7:4
      - c. Revelation 18
  - L. "he took some of the seed of the land": Ezekiel 17:5a
    - 1. speaks of Zedekiah
  - M. "planted it in a fertile field... by abundant waters... and it grew...": Ezekiel 17:5b-6
    - 1. Nebuchadnezzar made Zedekiah king
      - a. 2 Kings 24:17
      - b. 2 Chronicles 36:10
      - c. Jeremiah 37:1
    - 2. Zedekiah prospered with the help of Nebuchadnezzar
    - 3. things would have been fine, but Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar
      - a. 2 Kings 24:20
      - b. 2 Chronicles 36:13
        - (i) he had sworn an oath to Nebuchadnezzar
          - the oath is also seen in Ezekiel 17:13-14
      - c. Jeremiah 52:3
      - d. there was no reason to rebel against Babylon
      - e. he attempted to get help from Egypt to get out from under Babylon: Ezekiel 17:15
        - (i) Jeremiah warned him not to rebel and seek help from Egypt: Jeremiah 37:5-10
        - (ii) Isaiah warned about not seeking help from Egypt: Isaiah 30:1-7; 31:1-3

- N. another great eagle appears: Ezekiel 17:7-8
    - 1. refers to Egypt and Pharaoh Hophra (called Apries by Herodotus)
    - 2. it bent towards Zedekiah
  - O. the plant will wither: Ezekiel 17:9-10
    - 1. the "east wind" will cause it to wither: Ezekiel 17:10
      - a. refers to Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar
      - b. Ezekiel 19:12
    - 2. Jerusalem will be utterly destroyed because of Zedekiah's rebellion
- II. Interpretation: Ezekiel 17:11-21
- A. Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and took the king and princes: Ezekiel 17:12
    - 1. refers to Jeconiah, sometimes called Coniah, sometimes called Jehoiachin
  - B. Nebuchadnezzar made an oath with Zedekiah: Ezekiel 17:13a
  - C. Nebuchadnezzar took the "mighty of the land": Ezekiel 17:13b-14
    - 1. 2 Kings 24:14
  - D. Zedekiah attempted to throw off Babylon by seeking help from Egypt: Ezekiel 17:15a
  - E. a rhetorical question as to whether Zedekiah will succeed: Ezekiel 17:15b
  - F. it is important that a person keeps his oath: Ezekiel 17:16
    - 1. Zedekiah will die in the land he despises and under the reign of the king he despises
  - G. Pharaoh's army will not accomplish anything: Ezekiel 17:17
  - H. it is important that a person keeps his oath: Ezekiel 17:18-19
    - 1. "My oath... My covenant...": Ezekiel 17:19
      - a. was there a sacrifice before the Lord involved?
      - 2. an oath, even if based on deception needs to be kept
        - a. Joshua 9
        - b. 2 Samuel 21:1-9
  - I. as a punishment Zedekiah will be taken to Babylon: Ezekiel 17:20
    - 1. 2 Kings 25:5-7
    - 2. Jeremiah 39:4-7
  - J. his army was useless: Ezekiel 17:21
- III. A Messianic Prophecy: Ezekiel 17:22-24
- A. "I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar, and will set it": Ezekiel 17:22 (KJV)
    - 1. the "Branch" is a title of Jesus Christ
      - a. Isaiah 11:1
        - (i) netser (H5342) = "branch"
          - from where Nazareth got its name
          - "that it might be fulfilled... 'He shall be called a Nazarene'" -- Matthew 2:23
      - b. Jeremiah 23:5
  - B. "I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one": Ezekiel 17:22
    - 1. "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground." -- Isaiah 53:2
  - C. "and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it...": Ezekiel 17:22-23a
    - 1. Jesus will rule from Mount Zion
      - a. "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." -- Psalm 2:6
      - b. Isaiah 2:2-3
      - c. Micah 4:1
  - D. God will humble the proud: Ezekiel 17:24
    - 1. that was done to Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 4
- IV. Righteousness Is A Personal Responsibility: Ezekiel 18
- A. people will be judged for their own sins
  - B. a false proverb: Ezekiel 18:1-4
    - 1. a child cannot blame their father for their own choices
    - 2. people choose their own destiny
    - 3. they were trying to get out from under accountability
    - 4. "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin." -- Deuteronomy 24:16

5. death is the result of sin: Ezekiel 18:4
  - a. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." -- Romans 6:23
6. Ezekiel will demonstrate how three generations will make their own choices
  - a. he may be choosing certain sins and issues that they were very guilty of
- C. the righteous father: Ezekiel 18:5-9
  1. "has not eaten on the mountains, nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel": Ezekiel 18:6
    - a. the mountains is where they had idol worship, and pagan feasts and festivals
  2. "nor defiled his neighbor's wife": Ezekiel 18:6
    - a. Exodus 20:14
    - b. Leviticus 20:10
    - c. Deuteronomy 22:22-24
  3. "nor approached a woman during her impurity": Ezekiel 18:6
    - a. Leviticus 15:24; 18:19; 20:18
  4. "has not oppressed anyone": Ezekiel 18:7
    - a. Exodus 22:21-24; 23:9
    - b. Deuteronomy 24:14-15
  5. "has restored to the debtor his pledge": Ezekiel 18:7
    - a. Exodus 22:26-27
    - b. Deuteronomy 24:10-15
    - c. Amos 2:8
  6. "has robbed no one by violence": Ezekiel 18:7
    - a. Exodus 20:15
  7. "has given his bread to the hungry and covered the naked with clothing": Ezekiel 18:7
    - a. Deuteronomy 15:7-11
    - b. Isaiah 58:7-11
    - c. James 2:13-17
  8. "has not exacted usury nor taken any increase": Ezekiel 18:8
    - a. Exodus 22:12, 25
    - b. Leviticus 25:35-37
    - c. Deuteronomy 23:19-20
  9. "has withdrawn his hand from iniquity": Ezekiel 18:8
    - a. Isaiah 33:15
  10. "executed true judgment between man and man": Ezekiel 18:8
    - a. Leviticus 19:15, 35
    - b. Deuteronomy 1:16-17; 24:17
- D. the unrighteous son: Ezekiel 18:10-13
  1. definitely not like his father
- E. the righteous grandson: Ezekiel 18:14-18
  1. definitely not like his father
- F. call to repentance: Ezekiel 18:19-32
  1. their sin or their righteousness is on themselves only: Ezekiel 18:19-20
  2. God prefers repentance: Ezekiel 18:21-23
    - a. "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" -- 1 Timothy 2:4
    - b. "The Lord is... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." -- 2 Peter 3:9
    - c. "Mercy triumphs over judgment." -- James 2:13
  3. a person can turn from righteousness, too: Ezekiel 18:24
    - a. what we would call backsliding
    - b. under the Law they had to keep up with the blood sacrifices to keep their sins atoned for
    - c. today, the perfect sacrifice made permanent atonement
  4. God is being called unfair: Ezekiel 18:25-29
    - a. they're trying to blame their problems on their ancestors
    - b. they're not taking responsibility for their actions

5. call to repentance: Ezekiel 18:30-32
    - a. He's urging them to repent: Ezekiel 18:30
      - (i) "...so that iniquity will not be your ruin"
    - b. they needed a new heart and new spirit: Ezekiel 18:31
      - (i) they will (eventually) be given a new heart
        - Deuteronomy 30:6
        - Jeremiah 31:31-33; 32:37-40
        - Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:24-27
      - (ii) no where in Scripture do we see anything about cleaning up a person's heart
        - God always talks about a new one
        - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked ('incurable'); who can know it?" -- Jeremiah 17:9
        - "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." -- Psalm 51:10
    - c. He wants people to repent: Ezekiel 18:32
      - (i) "Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy." -- Micah 7:18
- V. A Lamentation About The End Of The Davidic Dynasty: Ezekiel 19
- A. speaks of the last kings of Judah and the collapse of the whole Davidic Dynasty
  - B. the Lions of Judah: Ezekiel 19:1-9
    1. the first lion cub is Jehoahaz (also known as Shallum): Ezekiel 19:1-4
      - a. he ruled for 3 months, and was then deposed and taken to Egypt by Pharaoh Necho
        - (i) 2 Kings 23:31-34
        - (ii) 2 Chronicles 36:1-4
    2. the second lion cub is Jehoiachin: Ezekiel 19:5-9
      - a. Jehoiakim was between Jehoahaz and Jehoiachin, but he died in Jerusalem, so this description doesn't fit him
      - b. he and his mother were going to be delivered into the hands of the Babylonians
        - (i) Jeremiah 22:25-27
        - (ii) 2 Kings 24:12-15
      - c. God despised him: Jeremiah 22:28
      - d. they put him in a cage with chains: Ezekiel 19:9
        - (i) "chain" = a ring for the nose (or lips); bracelet, chain, hook
  - C. Israel the vine: Ezekiel 19:10-14
    1. Israel was plucked up, taken away, and planted elsewhere
    2. "the east wind dried her fruit": Ezekiel 19:12
      - a. the east wind speaks of Babylon, as in Ezekiel 17:10
    3. no one was left to rule: Ezekiel 19:14
      - a. there was no one left in the line of David to rule
      - b. no one of Coniah's bloodline will sit on the Throne of David: Jeremiah 22:30
        - (i) but the Messiah had to come from the line of David!
      - c. the genealogy of Jesus presented by Matthew: Matthew 1:1-16
        - (i) David... Solomon... Jeconiah... Joseph... Jesus
        - (i) Matthew presents the legal or regal line
        - (ii) Satan may have expected that this bloodline would have produced the Messiah
      - d. the genealogy of Jesus presented by Luke: Luke 3:23-38
        - (i) David... Nathan... Mary... Jesus
        - (ii) Luke presents the blood line
      - e. hence the need for a virgin birth
    4. this ends the Throne of David until Jesus Christ sits on it
      - a. this begins the Times of the Gentiles

## **Lesson 9: Ezekiel 20**

- I. They Are Still Rebellious: Ezekiel 20:1-4
  - A. about one year after Ezekiel 8:1
    - 1. about July-August 591 B.C.
  - B. God refuses to hear them: Ezekiel 20:3
    - 1. similar to Ezekiel 14:1-3
      - a. they had idols in their hearts: Ezekiel 14:3a
    - 2. nothing about their disobedience, idolatry, and their hearts has changed since then
    - 3. they did acknowledge Ezekiel as a prophet
    - 4. they did not acknowledge their sinfulness that disqualified them from approaching the Lord
    - 5. they reached a point where God would not hear them
  - C. Ezekiel is to present His case against them: Ezekiel 20:4
    - 1. God is going to give them a history lesson from His point of view
    - 2. it will be a history lesson about their rebellion and abominations
      - a. "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD." -- Deuteronomy 9:7
    - 3. all of human history is about rebellion, not just Israel's
      - a. we rebel just like they did
- II. Rebellion In Egypt: Ezekiel 20:5-9
  - A. God chose Israel: Ezekiel 20:5
    - 1. "...the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth." -- Deuteronomy 7:6
    - 2. Deuteronomy 9; 14:2
    - 3. "I will take you as My people..." -- Exodus 6:7
    - 4. "...I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples." -- Leviticus 20:24
    - 5. "For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people." -- 1 Samuel 12:22
    - 6. "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples" -- Deuteronomy 7:7
    - 7. they didn't do anything to earn it, just like we didn't do anything to earn salvation
      - a. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..." -- 1 Peter 2:9-10
    - 8. God is always doing the work to reach out to people through His love, mercy, and grace
  - B. God made an oath about delivering them from Egypt: Ezekiel 20:5-6
    - 1. Exodus 6:1-8
  - C. their land is "flowing with milk and honey": Ezekiel 20:6
    - 1. it was promised to them
    - 2. Exodus 3:8; 13:5; 33:3
    - 3. "But I have said to you, 'You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples." -- Leviticus 20:24
    - 4. Numbers 13:27
    - 5. Deuteronomy 6:3; 11:9; 26:9, 15; 27:3; 31:20
    - 6. Joshua 5:6
    - 7. Jeremiah 11:5; 32:22
    - 8. Ezekiel 20:15
  - D. that land is "the glory of all land": Ezekiel 20:6
    - 1. Ezekiel 20:15
    - 2. "the Glorious Land" -- Daniel 8:9; 11:16, 41
    - 3. "the pleasant land" -- Zechariah 7:14
      - a. or "the land of desire"
    - 4. "...the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion..." -- Psalm 48:2

- E. they were told to throw away their idols: Ezekiel 20:7
    - 1. they were involved with idolatry in Egypt
    - 2. they brought them with them when they left Egypt
    - 3. Leviticus 17:7; 18:3
    - 4. Joshua 24:14
      - a. many years later they still had them!
    - 5. the account of the "golden calf": Exodus 32
      - a. they were very accustomed to dealing with idols
      - b. they fell back into something they already knew about
    - 6. prohibition against: Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 5:7-9
  - F. they kept their idols: Ezekiel 20:8a
  - G. God had to punish them: Ezekiel 20:8b-9
    - 1. it was for "My name's sake"
      - a. Ezekiel 20:14, 22; 36:21-22
      - b. Joshua 7:9
    - 2. God had to protect His reputation
      - a. Exodus 32:12
      - b. Numbers 14:16
    - 3. they were a reflection on Him
    - 4. we're His reflection
  - H. God had made Himself known to the Egyptians: Ezekiel 20:9
    - 1. He demonstrated that only He is the one and true God
    - 2. God's reputation of power and victories preceded the Israelites
      - a. at Jericho: Joshua 2:9-11
      - b. the Gibeonites: Joshua 9:3-10
- III. Rebellion In The Wilderness: Ezekiel 20:10-26
- A. God takes credit for bringing them out of Egypt: Ezekiel 20:10
    - 1. which he does many times
    - 2. it's a key way that He had demonstrated His great power
  - B. God gave them the Law: Ezekiel 20:11-12
    - 1. they needed to keep the blood sacrifices to atone for their sins
    - 2. the Sabbaths were given as a sign to them: Ezekiel 20:12
      - a. associated with creation and rest, and reminds them (and us) of the rest and eternal inheritance He wants for us
      - b. Hebrews 4
  - C. they rebelled against the Lord: Ezekiel 20:13-14
  - D. God prevented those who were disobedient from entering the Promised Land: Ezekiel 20:15-16
    - 1. they had still kept their idols: Ezekiel 20:16
  - E. God did not destroy all of them: Ezekiel 20:17
  - F. the next generation was told to obey the Lord: Ezekiel 20:18-20
  - G. the next generation also rebelled: Ezekiel 20:21-22
  - H. they will be punished even further by being dispersed: Ezekiel 20:23-24
    - 1. speaks of what is about to happen to them regarding being taken to Babylon, but also to another dispersion in the future
    - 2. "...there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands..." -- Deuteronomy 4:27-28
    - 3. "The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods" -- Deuteronomy 28:36
    - 4. Leviticus 26:33
    - 5. Deuteronomy 28:64-68
    - 6. Psalm 106:27
    - 7. the concept of being dispersed and regathered is a very key point in Israel's history
      - a. there are two cycles of dispersion and regathering: Isaiah 11:11
      - b. our era has witnessed the second and final cycle
  - I. because of their disobedience they were allowed to persist in their own sin: Ezekiel 20:25-26
    - 1. for their punishment people are allowed to follow their own paths: Romans 1:18-32
    - 2. sin can be its own punishment

- IV. Rebellion In The Promised Land: Ezekiel 20:27-32
- A. they continued their idolatrous practices even when they entered the Promised Land: Ezekiel 20:27-29
    1. the "high place" is where they set up their pagan worship
  - B. they're being called to confess their sins: Ezekiel 20:30-31a
    1. they were told not to be idol worshipers like their fathers: Ezekiel 20:18
  - C. God will not hear them because of their sin: Ezekiel 20:31b
    1. nothing has changed since Ezekiel 14
  - D. some may have wanted to live like the pagans: Ezekiel 20:32
    1. just like today, people prefer to live ungodly
- V. Future Restoration: Ezekiel 20:33-44
- A. God reconfirms His promises that He will be their God: Ezekiel 20:33
    1. instead of wood and stone
  - B. God will regather them back together: Ezekiel 20:34
    1. this speaks of more than just Babylon
    2. by doing this He will again demonstrate His might power
    3. "...the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity... and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you..." -- Deuteronomy 30:1-10
    4. Isaiah 11:11-16
    5. Jeremiah 23:3-8
    6. Amos 9:9-15
    7. Zechariah 10:8-12
  - C. where they will be dispersed to is compared to a wilderness: Ezekiel 20:35-36
  - D. they will "pass under the rod": Ezekiel 20:37
    1. speaking of how a shepard counts his sheep
    2. He is in control: He has everyone counted
    3. "...the flocks shall again pass under the hands of him who counts them..." -- Jeremiah 33:13
  - E. they will be spiritually purified: Ezekiel 20:38
    1. they will eventually become saved
  - F. let those who wish to sin, continue to sin: Ezekiel 20:39
    1. "So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels." -- Psalm 81:12
    2. "Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone." -- Hosea 4:17
  - G. future salvation of Israel: Ezekiel 20:40-44
    1. they will eventually return to the Lord: Ezekiel 20:40-42
    2. they will regret their past: Ezekiel 20:43
      - a. "Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations." -- Ezekiel 36:31
      - b. "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." -- Job 42:5-6
      - c. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." -- Zechariah 12:10
    3. they will understand His mercy towards them: Ezekiel 20:44
- VI. Imminent Judgment: Ezekiel 20:45-49
- A. fire is a common idiom for judgment
  - B. the South refers to Israel, with judgment from Babylon coming from the north
    1. although being to the east, they would follow the "fertile crescent" instead of crossing through the Arabian desert
  - C. it cannot be stopped or quenched: Ezekiel 20:48
  - D. they didn't take Him literally or seriously: Ezekiel 20:49
    1. a form of unbelief or denial



## Lesson 10: Ezekiel 21-22

- I. God's Sword Is Being Drawn Against Israel: Ezekiel 21:1-27
  - A. the innocent will suffer with the guilty: Ezekiel 21:3
  - B. everyone will be affected: Ezekiel 21:4
  - C. the sign of sighing: Ezekiel 21:6-7
    1. it's a sign of the trouble they're going to be soon facing
    2. demonstrates how Ezekiel feels about what is to come
    3. demonstrates how God feels about what is to come
  - D. the sword has been made ready: Ezekiel 21:8-13
    1. everything has been carefully planned and prepared
    2. "sharpened" = to be sharp, be alert, be keen; severe or fierce
      - a. "As iron *sharpens* iron, so a man *sharpens* the countenance of his friend." -- Proverbs 27:17
    3. "polished" = to polish, to furbish; to make smooth or bald, to pluck off
      - a. "I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who *plucked* out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting." -- Isaiah 50:6
    4. it will affect the scepter: Ezekiel 21:10, 13
      - a. the scepter speaks of the rulers
      - b. there will be no king sitting on the throne of David until Jesus Christ sits on it in the future
  - E. the sword will accomplish the judgment that God requires: Ezekiel 21:14-17
    1. no one will be able to escape
  - F. Babylon will be led to Israel: Ezekiel 21:18-23
    1. Ezekiel is to make a sign, a road sign pointing to Jerusalem?: Ezekiel 21:19-20
    2. the army had two choices: Ammon and Israel: Ezekiel 21:20
      - a. in about 590 B.C. Ammon had conspired with Judah against Babylon
      - b. in 588 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar sets out to quell revolts in Tyre, Judah, and Ammon
        - (i) there was a 13-year siege against Tyre (586-573 B.C.)
    3. the king of Babylon will use his own type of divination or fortune-telling: Ezekiel 21:21
      - a. "he shakes the arrows"
        - (i) choices would be put on arrows and the quiver shaken to see which one falls out
        - (ii) what we would call flipping a coin, casting lots, or putting names in a hat
      - b. "consults images"
        - (i) "images" = teraphim, a family idol
        - (ii) the idea of household idols is common
          - Genesis 31:19, 34-35
          - Judges 17:5; 18:14, 17-18, 20
          - 2 Kings 23:24
          - Hosea 3:4
        - (iii) today it would be having a medal or necklace representing a "patron saint," or a statue devoted to a certain purpose
      - c. "looks at the liver"
        - (i) they looked at the liver of a sacrificed animal for guidance
        - (ii) they also looked at how the entrails fell onto the ground
        - (iii) maybe what we may call "reading the tea leaves"
      - d. God is not condoning the use of pagan divination techniques, just stating how it's going to come out
      - e. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord." -- Proverbs 16:33
    4. the choice pointed to Jerusalem: Ezekiel 21:22
      - a. it's as if he held up the arrow with Jerusalem's name on it
    5. although they broke the oath they had with Babylon, they thought they were safe: Ezekiel 21:23a
      - a. the oath is referred to in Ezekiel 17:13-14
    6. they will be punished for their iniquity: Ezekiel 21:23b-24
      - a. their iniquities have not been forgotten: Ezekiel 21:24

- G. the present wicked king and priesthood will be removed: Ezekiel 21:25-27
1. the wicked prince refers to Zedekiah
  2. the turban, mitre, diadem, or tiara refers to the high priest
    - a. Exodus 28:4
    - b. Leviticus 16:4
    - c. Zechariah 3:5
  3. they will not have another king until the one who is worthy: Ezekiel 21:27
    - a. speaks of Jesus Christ who will be king and priest
    - b. Jesus did not come in the order of Aaron, but Melchizedek
      - (i) "The LORD has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'" -- Psalms 110:4
      - (ii) Hebrews 5:6
      - (iii) Melchizedek was a king and priest
        - "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High." -- Genesis 14:18-19
        - "Melchizedek" = "king of righteousness"
        - "Salem" = "peace", generally believed to be Jerusalem
      - (iv) the kings and priests were kept separate under the Mosaic Law
        - the kingship was of the tribe of Judah, the house of David
        - the priesthood was of the tribe of Levi, the house of Aaron
      - (v) the concept of the priesthood was obviously ordained even before Abram
        - Cain and Abel knew about the requirements of an offering: Genesis 4:2-7
    - c. believers are kings and priests: Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6
    - d. "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people." -- Genesis 49:10
- II. God's Sword Is Being Drawn Against Ammon: Ezekiel 21:28-32
- A. their judgment has been carefully prepared for them, too: Ezekiel 21:28
  - B. more will be said about their judgment in Ezekiel 25:1-7
  - C. they rejoiced at the fall of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 25:3
    1. Zephaniah 2:8
    2. Edom also rejoiced over the fall of Jerusalem: Obadiah 1:10-15
  - D. their own soothsayers and prophets led them into a false sense of security: Ezekiel 21:29
  - E. they will be destroyed in their own land: Ezekiel 21:30-32a
    1. they will not be carried off like Judah
    2. the idiom of fire representing God's wrath is used again: Ezekiel 21:31
    3. those used to bring God's wrath are "skillful to destroy": Ezekiel 21:31
      - a. or "fabricators of destruction"
      - b. "Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy." -- Isaiah 54:16
  - F. they will be wiped out: Ezekiel 21:32b
    1. they will be annihilated
    2. "...surely Moab shall be like Sodom, and the people of Ammon like Gomorrah -- overrun with weeds and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation." -- Zephaniah 2:9
    3. "...the Ammonites... not be remembered among the nations." -- Ezekiel 25:10
- III. The Sins Of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 22:1-16
- A. they shed blood: Ezekiel 22:3a
    1. seven times Jerusalem is said to be bloody: Ezekiel 22:2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13
  - B. they make idols: Ezekiel 22:3b
    1. covetousness is idolatry: Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5
    2. "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." -- 1 Samuel 15:23
  - C. because they shed blood and defile themselves with idols they're bringing judgment onto themselves: Ezekiel 22:4a
  - D. they'll be made shameful and be mocked in front of the rest of the world: Ezekiel 22:4b-5

- E. abusing their power, the rulers shed blood: Ezekiel 22:6
  - 1. Micah 3:1-3, 9-11
- F. they don't respect their parents: Ezekiel 22:7a
  - 1. Exodus 20:12
  - 2. Deuteronomy 5:16
  - 3. the authority of parents become undermined
    - a. just like what is happening in this country by the pagan left
    - b. as the home breaks down so does society
- G. they oppressed the stranger, and mistreated orphans and widows: Ezekiel 22:7b
  - 1. "oppress" = deceitfully gotten; gain by extortion
  - 2. there appears to be a special place in God's heart for widows, the fatherless, and strangers
    - a. they're often grouped together
    - b. they're vulnerable, helpless members of society
  - 3. "Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them." -- Proverbs 22:22-23
  - 4. "Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor." -- Zechariah 7:10
  - 5. Exodus 22:22-24; 23:6-9
  - 6. Deuteronomy 10:18; 14:28-29; 16:11-14; 24:17, 19; 26:12; 27:19
  - 7. Job 22:9; 24:3; 29:12-13; 31:15-20
  - 8. Psalm 68:5; 72:4; 94:6
  - 9. Isaiah 1:16-17, 23; 10:1-2
  - 10. Jeremiah 7:6-7; 22:3, 15-17
  - 11. Ezekiel 22:7, 12, 29
  - 12. Amos 4:1; 5:11-12
  - 13. Malachi 3:5
  - 14. Matthew 23:14; 25:34-46
  - 15. James 1:27
- H. they despised holy things: Ezekiel 22:8a
- I. they didn't respect the Sabbath: Ezekiel 22:8b
- J. people died because of false accusations: Ezekiel 22:9a
  - 1. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." -- Exodus 20:16
  - 2. "You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness." -- Exodus 23:1
  - 3. "You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD." -- Leviticus 19:16
- K. they took part in pagan feasts and festivals: Ezekiel 22:9b
  - 1. usually in the hills
- L. they were lewd: Ezekiel 22:9c
  - 1. they were openly lewd in public: Ezekiel 16:24-25
- M. they were sexually immoral: Ezekiel 22:10-11
- N. they hired killers: Ezekiel 22:12a
- O. they charged excessive interest rates: Ezekiel 22:12b
- P. they used extortion: Ezekiel 22:12c
- Q. they forgot God: Ezekiel 22:12d
  - 1. "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, therefore you shall bear the penalty of your lewdness and your harlotry.'" -- Ezekiel 23:35
  - 2. "They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt" -- Psalm 106:21
- R. God is dissatisfied with their dishonest gain and bloodshed: Ezekiel 22:13
- S. they won't be able to withstand God's judgment: Ezekiel 22:14
- T. they will be dispersed as part of their punishment: Ezekiel 22:15
  - 1. their evil was concentrated, so they'll be spread out to weaken the hold that the evil had on them
    - a. cities are frequently centers of wickedness
      - (i) "Nimrod... the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar." -- Genesis 10:8-10

- (ii) the story of Babel: Genesis 11:1-9
        - "And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city... let us make a name for ourselves'" -- Genesis 11:4
    - 2. but they will eventually become clean
      - a. Zechariah 13:9
      - b. Malachi 3:2-3
      - c. Isaiah 59:20-21
      - d. Romans 11:25-27
  - U. they won't be respected among the nations: Ezekiel 22:16
- IV. Israel In A Furnace: Ezekiel 22:17-22
  - A. the comparison of their punishment and purification to fire or a furnace is seen elsewhere
    - 1. "I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" -- Zechariah 13:9
    - 2. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness." -- Malachi 3:2-3
  - B. they had become like dross to God instead of pure metals: Ezekiel 22:18
    - 1. Isaiah 1:22
    - 2. Jeremiah 6:28-30
  - C. Jerusalem will be their furnace: Ezekiel 22:19-22
    - 1. both then and in the future (the Tribulation)
    - 2. very frightening words!
    - 3. this is obviously for the Jews and not the Church!
- V. Israel's Wicked Leaders: Ezekiel 22:23-31
  - A. lack of rain is a judgment: Ezekiel 22:24
  - B. they conspire among themselves for profit, to take advantage of the people: Ezekiel 22:25
    - 1. the Septuagint (LXX) says "princes" instead of "prophets"
    - 2. they should be servants and not out for profit
      - a. "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words..." -- 2 Peter 2:3
        - (i) "...make merchandise of you..." (KJV)
  - C. they didn't make a distinction between what is right and wrong: Ezekiel 22:26a
    - 1. just like today!
    - 2. "everything is relative"
  - D. they've ignored the Sabbaths: Ezekiel 22:26b
  - E. God isn't respected because of their behavior; Ezekiel 22:26c
  - F. the rulers took advantage of the people: Ezekiel 22:27
  - G. the prophets protected the wicked rulers by lying: Ezekiel 22:28
    - 1. this idea of "whitewashing" was seen in Ezekiel 13:10-11, 14-15
  - H. the people were guilty of oppression, robbery, mistreated the poor and needy; and they oppressed the stranger: Ezekiel 22:29
  - I. God was looking for honest spiritual leaders, for intercessors to save the people: Ezekiel 22:30
    - 1. He found none
    - 2. Moses frequently interceded for the people
      - a. "Therefore He said that He would destroy them, had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them." -- Psalm 106:23
      - b. although Moses and Aaron were being falsely accused, Aaron "ran... and he stood between the dead and the living" -- Numbers 16:46-48
    - 3. "Phinehas... has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal..." -- Numbers 25:11
    - 4. "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.'" -- Matthew 7:37 (Luke 10:2)
  - J. they were punished for their deeds: Ezekiel 22:31

## Lesson 11: Ezekiel 23

- I. The Parable Of The Two Sisters: Ezekiel 23
  - A. they were daughters of one mother: Ezekiel 23:2
    1. the one mother refers to the whole nation of Israel
  - B. both daughters committed spiritual adultery: Ezekiel 23:3
    1. from the very beginning in Egypt
    2. this idiom of spiritual harlotry is very common
      - a. Exodus 34:15-16
      - b. Judges 2:17; 8:27
      - c. Psalms 73:27; 106:39
      - d. Hosea 2:2; 4:12-14
  - C. Oholah and Oholibah: Ezekiel 23:4
    1. "they were Mine"
      - a. God chose Israel: Ezekiel 20:5
    2. Oholah represents Samaria, or the Northern Kingdom
      - a. "Oholah" = "her tent"
        - (i) God never accepted the worship system Jeroboam set up (1 Kings 12:28-33)
        - (ii) Jesus told the woman at the well that they had to worship in Jerusalem: John 4:20-24
    3. Oholibah represents Jerusalem, or the Southern Kingdom
      - a. "Oholibah" = "my tent is in her"
        - (i) this is where God set up His temple, and the proper worship system
        - (ii) "I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there" -- 2 Chronicles 6:6
  - D. Oholah: Ezekiel 23:5-10
    1. God still considered all the people of Israel to be His: Ezekiel 23:5a
    2. they lusted for what the Assyrians had: Ezekiel 23:5b-6
    3. they committed spiritual adultery with them: Ezekiel 23:7-8
      - a. by getting involved with their pagan, immoral rituals and idolatry
      - b. they never really got over the bad things learned in Egypt: Ezekiel 23:8
    4. they wanted the Assyrians, so God gave them over to them: Ezekiel 23:9-10
      - a. the Assyrians invaded: 2 Kings 15:19-20, 29; 17
      - b. her own lovers destroyed them
      - c. sin can be its own punishment
  - E. Oholibah: Ezekiel 23:11-35
    1. the Southern Kingdom should have learned from what happened to her sister, the Northern Kingdom: Ezekiel 23:11a
      - a. they were told that they should have learned from what happened to Sodom: Ezekiel 16:56
      - b. we need to learn from Sodom
        - (i) "and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly" -- 2 Peter 2:6
        - (ii) "as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." -- Jude 1:7
      - c. we need to learn from history
        - (i) "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning..." -- Romans 15:4
        - (ii) "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition..." -- 1 Corinthians 10:11
    2. however, the Southern Kingdom did even worse: Ezekiel 23:11b
      - a. Ezekiel 16:46-48
      - b. history tells us that people do not learn from history!
    3. they also lusted after the Assyrians: Ezekiel 23:12-13

4. that wasn't enough, so they went after the Babylonians, too: Ezekiel 23:14-17
  - a. "she looked... her eyes saw... she lusted"
    - (i) the eyes is how evil and ungodliness enters
      - "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate." -- Genesis 3:6 (compare this verse with 1 John 2:16!)
      - "the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful..." -- Genesis 6:2
      - "...his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph..." -- Genesis 39:7
      - "David... saw a woman bathing..." -- 2 Samuel 11:2
      - "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." -- Matthew 5:28
      - "For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world." -- 1 John 2:16 (compare this verse with Genesis 3:6!)
      - "I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?" -- Job 31:1
      - "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things..." -- Psalm 119:37
    - (ii) the ears is how goodness and godliness enters
      - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." -- Romans 10:17
      - "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit" -- Mark 4:20
      - "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear... take heed what you hear... and to you who hear, more will be given..." -- Mark 4:23-25
      - "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it." -- Luke 8:21
      - "...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" -- Luke 11:28
      - "...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" -- James 1:19
      - "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe." -- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
5. God turned away from them because of their sin: Ezekiel 23:18
  - a. just like He did with her sister, the Northern Kingdom
6. they revived the immorality they were involved in while in Egypt: Ezekiel 23:19-21
  - a. they were very public and overt about their immorality: Ezekiel 16:24, 31
7. God's judgment on Jerusalem: Ezekiel 23:22-35
  - a. judgment will come from her lovers: Ezekiel 23:22-26
    - (i) the nations they're messing with will come against them
    - (ii) cutting off of ears and noses (Ezekiel 23:25) was a punishment for adultery in some cultures at that time
  - b. the invasion will cause them to cease their lewd acts: Ezekiel 23:27
  - c. they will be punished by those they hate: Ezekiel 23:28-31
    - (i) when inappropriate passions are sated, loathing follows
    - (ii) they will lose everything
    - (iii) the idea of a cup being a picture of God's judgment (Ezekiel 23:31) is a common idiom
      - Jeremiah 25:15-38; 49:19
      - Job 21:20
      - Isaiah 51:17, 22
      - Revelation 14:10; 16:19
      - "For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down." -- Psalms 75:8
      - Matthew 20:22; 26:39, 42
      - Mark 14:36
      - Luke 22:42
  - d. they will be punished like their sister was: Ezekiel 23:32-34

- e. they will be punished because of their lewdness and (spiritual) harlotry: Ezekiel 23:35
  - (i) they forgot God
    - forgetting God is the root of all evil
    - "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting" -- Romans 1:28
    - Ezekiel 22:12
    - Isaiah 17:10
    - Jeremiah 2:32; 3:21; 13:25; 23:27; 32:33
  - (ii) they cast Him behind their back
    - 1 Kings 14:9
    - Nehemiah 9:26
- F. the indictment and judgment of both sisters: Ezekiel 23:36-49
  - 1. adultery: Ezekiel 23:37
    - a. both literally and spiritually
  - 2. they have blood on their hands: Ezekiel 23:37
    - a. "So you shall not defile the land in which you are. For blood defiles the land. And the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of him that shed it." -- Numbers 35:33
  - 3. idolatry: Ezekiel 23:37
  - 4. sacrificed their children to the false gods: Ezekiel 23:37
  - 5. defiled God's house: Ezekiel 23:38
  - 6. profaned the Sabbaths: Ezekiel 23:38
  - 7. they tried to worship both ways: Ezekiel 23:39
    - a. they killed their children and then pretended nothing was wrong!
  - 8. their spiritual adultery: Ezekiel 23:40-45
    - a. they wooed and pursued the foreigners: Ezekiel 23:40
    - b. they used God's incense and oil for their false worship: Ezekiel 23:41
    - c. both sisters had a satisfying adulterous relationship with the foreign gods: Ezekiel 23:42-44
    - d. they will be punished: Ezekiel 23:45a
    - e. they also shed blood: Ezekiel 23:45b
  - 9. the punishment that's coming: Ezekiel 23:46-49
    - a. invaders will be brought against them: Ezekiel 23:46
      - (i) "He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword... and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand." -- 2 Chronicles 36:17
    - b. they will die by stoning and the sword: Ezekiel 23:47
      - (i) murder and adultery were capital crimes
    - c. the lewdness will stop because the city will be destroyed: Ezekiel 23:48
    - d. they will be punished for their lewdness and idolatry: Ezekiel 23:49
      - (i) similar to Ezekiel 16:35-41



## Lesson 12: Ezekiel 24-25

- I. The Invasion Of Jerusalem: Ezekiel 24:1-2
  - A. 2 Kings 25:1-21
  - B. 2 Chronicles 36:15-21
  - C. Jeremiah 39:1-10; 52:4-30
  - D. God tells Ezekiel that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final invasion of Jerusalem by Babylon has started
    1. Ezekiel is in Babylon so he would not have known firsthand
    2. 9<sup>th</sup> year, 10<sup>th</sup> month, 10<sup>th</sup> day
      - a. about January 588 B.C.
      - b. this is about 4 years since the beginning of the book
        - (i) 5<sup>th</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> month, 5<sup>th</sup> day: Ezekiel 1:2
        - (ii) 6<sup>th</sup> year, 6<sup>th</sup> month, 5<sup>th</sup> day: Ezekiel 8:1
        - (iii) 7<sup>th</sup> year, 5<sup>th</sup> month, 10<sup>th</sup> day: Ezekiel 20:1
- II. The Parable Of The Cooking Pot: Ezekiel 24:3-14
  - A. the judgment on Jerusalem is likened to a cooking pot
    1. similar idiom used in Jeremiah 1:13-16 and Ezekiel 11:3
  - B. God again points out that Jerusalem is "bloody": Ezekiel 24:6
    1. as He did in Ezekiel 22:2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13
    2. this is a "woe to the bloody city"
  - C. there is "scum" in the city: Ezekiel 24:6
    1. "scum" = disease; rust
      - a. only Ezekiel uses this word in the Old Testament
        - (i) Ezekiel 24:6, 11, 12
    2. refers to the iniquity that infects the city, causing the city to be punished
  - D. "Bring it out piece by piece, on which no lot has fallen.": Ezekiel 24:6
    1. the entire city will be emptied
    2. there will be no lots cast to see who goes and who stays: they're all being taken out
      - a. lots may have been cast in the previous 2 deportations to see who will be taken
    3. Obadiah 1:11
    4. Joel 3:3
    5. Nahum 3:10
    6. 2 Samuel 8:2
    7. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." -- Proverbs 16:33
  - E. Jerusalem is guilty of bloodshed: Ezekiel 24:7
    1. attention is again being made to the shedding of innocent blood
      - a. judicial murders
      - b. killing of children
      - c. lack of properly-applied capital punishment?
    2. blood was to be poured out and covered by dust
      - a. Leviticus 17:13
      - b. Deuteronomy 12:16, 24
    3. they did not try to hide the fact that innocent blood was being shed
  - F. they will be punished for the bloodshed: Ezekiel 24:8
    1. they won't be able to hide the fact that they're guilty of murder
    2. "So you shall not defile the land in which you are. For blood defiles the land. And the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of him that shed it." -- Numbers 35:33
    3. this will happen again in the future: billions and billions will die
      - a. "For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain." -- Isaiah 26:21
      - b. "...power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth." -- Revelation 6:8
      - c. "So the four angels... were released to kill a third of mankind." -- Revelation 9:15
      - d. "By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed..." -- Revelation 9:18

- G. this is a "woe to the bloody city": Ezekiel 24:9a
    - 1. God brings up the blood again
  - H. God will make the "pyre" great: Ezekiel 24:9b-10
    - 1. emphasizes just how bad the punishment will be
  - I. the pot itself will then be destroyed: Ezekiel 24:11
    - 1. speaks of the physical destruction of the city of Jerusalem
    - 2. not just the people will be punished, but the city itself
    - 3. similar to the Levitical procedure for how a house is to be purged of leprosy: Leviticus 14:34-45
      - a. leprosy is a picture of sin
  - J. deception is rampant: Ezekiel 24:12a
    - 1. people were tired of it
    - 2. some translations indicate that it could mean that God is tired of their deception
  - K. there is "great scum" in the pot: Ezekiel 24:12b
    - 1. literally "abundant scum"
    - 2. the disease, or the degradation of society seems permanent
    - 3. the society did not clean itself up
      - a. by repentance
    - 4. it will therefore be purged the hard way
  - L. part of their filthiness is lewdness: Ezekiel 24:13a
  - M. God would have been willing to cleanse them, but they chose not to: Ezekiel 24:13b
    - 1. they will now therefore have to go through the purging process
    - 2. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" -- Matthew 23:37
  - N. God's mercy has come to an end: Ezekiel 24:14
    - 1. He will cause it all to happen
- III. Ezekiel's Wife Dies: Ezekiel 24:15-27
- A. God tell Ezekiel that his wife is going to die: Ezekiel 25:16-17
    - 1. and he is not to mourn
      - a. this may be referring to the public, outward mourning rituals
    - 2. Ezekiel has been called to do a lot of strange things and present numerous signs, but this must be one of the strangest and hardest things of all
  - B. Ezekiel's wife dies that evening: Ezekiel 24:18
    - 1. Ezekiel does not mourn as instructed
  - C. the people wonder why he's not mourning: Ezekiel 24:19
    - 1. they realize that this a sign
  - D. Ezekiel explains God's reasons: Ezekiel 24:20-24
    - 1. it's a picture of how the people are going to loose what is of value to them
      - a. the Temple
      - b. their families
    - 2. God is going to take away the Temple: Ezekiel 24:21a
      - a. it became just a physical thing for them to be proud of
      - b. many churches today take pride in their fancy buildings instead of the true reason for the building
    - 3. family members left behind will die by the sword: Ezekiel 24:21b-23
      - a. and they are not to mourn either: Ezekiel 24:22-23
    - 4. Ezekiel is serving as an example to them as to what they're to do: Ezekiel 24:24
  - E. now that the judgment has come upon Jerusalem he is not to talk about it any longer: Ezekiel 24:25-27
    - 1. he is to be silent about it until the captives arrive
      - a. fulfillment of Ezekiel 3:26-27?
    - 2. Ezekiel meets the first captives 3 years later: Ezekiel 33:21-22
      - a. on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the 10<sup>th</sup> month in the 12<sup>th</sup> year
    - 3. until then Ezekiel speaks about the seven surrounding nations
      - a. Ezekiel 25-32
      - b. we are to learn from what God says about these other nations
        - (i) "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" -- Genesis 12:3

- IV. Prophecy Against Ammon: Ezekiel 25:1-7
- A. Ezekiel 21:28-32
  - B. Jeremiah 49:1-6
  - C. Amos 1:13-15
  - D. Zephaniah 2:8-11
  - E. east of the Dead Sea, north of Moab
  - F. today this is part of the land of Jordan, one of the poorest nations on earth
  - G. this once fertile land will be desolated
  - H. descendants from the incest of Lot and his youngest daughter: Genesis 19:30-38
    - 1. mistakes made by Lot and his family adversely affected Israel throughout history
  - I. Molech was their god: 1 Kings 11:7
  - J. they committed atrocities against pregnant women: Amos 1:13
    - 1. this inhumane treatment was not an uncommon practice in the time of war
      - a. 2 Kings 8:12; 15:16
      - b. Hosea 13:16
    - 2. they attempted to obliterate Israel's posterity?
  - K. they consistently opposed God people and they're going to be punished because of it
    - 1. they were delighted at the judgment of Israel: Ezekiel 25:3, 6
    - 2. they fought with Nebuchadnezzar against Israel: 2 Kings 24:2
    - 3. they conspired against the Jews during the rebuilding: Nehemiah 4:7-8
  - L. Rabbah (Ezekiel 25:5) is the capital city
  - M. Nebuchadnezzar was on his way to invade Ammon: Ezekiel 21:20
    - 1. there is no historical account of an invasion of Ammon by the Babylonians
    - 2. Ammon may have surrendered and/or joined forces against Israel
  - N. the Ammonites are gone, they've been absorbed by other countries: Ezekiel 25:4, 7
- V. Prophecy Against Moab: Ezekiel 25:8-11
- A. Isaiah 15-16; 25:10-12
  - B. Jeremiah 48
  - C. Amos 2:1-3
  - D. Zephaniah 2:8-11
  - E. Moab was east of the Dead Sea
  - F. today this is part of the land of Jordan, one of the poorest nations on earth
  - G. this once fertile land will be desolated
  - H. descendants from the incest of Lot and his oldest daughter: Genesis 19:30-38
    - 1. mistakes made by Lot and his family adversely affected Israel throughout history
  - I. Chemosh was their god: 1 Kings 11:7
  - J. the king of Moab publicly sacrificed his son to try and gain favor of his idol: 2 Kings 3:26-27
  - K. they consistently opposed God people and they're going to be punished because of it
    - 1. they gloated over Israel's fall: Ezekiel 25:8
      - a. "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles" -- Proverbs 24:17
    - 2. they considered Israel to be just an ordinary nation: Ezekiel 25:8
      - a. they did not admit that they were a favored people before God
    - 3. they fought with Nebuchadnezzar against Israel: 2 Kings 24:2
  - L. they had pride
    - 1. Isaiah 16:6
    - 2. Moab was "exceedingly proud": Jeremiah 48:29
      - a. "He will bring down their pride" -- Isaiah 25:11
  - M. the Moabites are gone, they've been absorbed by other countries: Ezekiel 25:10
- VI. Prophecy Against Edom: Ezekiel 25:12-14
- A. also known as Mount Seir and Idumea
  - B. descendants of Esau
  - C. Jeremiah 49:7-22
  - D. Psalm 137:7
  - E. Amos 1:11-12

- F. Obadiah 1:1-16
  - G. Ezekiel 35
  - H. Joel 3:19
  - I. Malachi 1:2-5
  - J. Edom was located from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba
    - 1. about 100 miles long by 20 miles wide
  - K. they're going to be punished for the way they've treated Israel: Ezekiel 25:12
    - 1. 2 Chronicles 28:17
    - 2. Obadiah 1:10-16
    - 3. "...Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land." -- Joel 3:19
  - L. the whole area is very desolate today
- VII. Prophecy Against Philistia: Ezekiel 25:15-17
- A. Isaiah 14:28-31
  - B. Jeremiah 25:20; 47
  - C. Amos 1:6-8
  - D. Zephaniah 2:4-7
  - E. Zechariah 9:5-7
  - F. God will punish them because of their continual hatred towards Israel: Ezekiel 25:15
  - G. God will "execute great vengeance on them with furious rebukes": Ezekiel 25:17
  - H. Nebuchadnezzar invaded: Jeremiah 47
  - I. their land will be wiped clean and made into pastures: Zephaniah 2:6-7
    - 1. Judah inhabiting the land is still future

## Lesson 13: Ezekiel 26-28

- I. Tyre, Introduction
  - A. Tyre = "rock"
  - B. it was a major seaport of Phoenicia
    - 1. famous for many things including purple dye and bronze workings
    - 2. "Who has taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are the honorable of the earth?" -- Isaiah 23:8
  - C. it was a "fortified city": Joshua 19:29
  - D. it was initially rather friendly with Israel
    - 1. there was a friendly alliance set up with Tyre in the time of David
      - a. 2 Samuel 5:11
      - b. 1 Kings 5
      - c. 1 Chronicles 14:1
      - d. 2 Chronicles 2:3-16
    - 2. supplied lumber for King Solomon's temple: 1 Kings 5:1, 7-12
    - 3. supplied sailors for Solomon's navy: 1 Kings 9:26-27
  - E. relations between Tyre and Israel deteriorated
    - 1. could have been prompted by the righteous reforms by Josiah
    - 2. they sold captives to the Greeks: Joel 3:6
    - 3. they violated the "covenant of brotherhood": Amos 1:9
      - a. they delivered captives to Edom
      - b. perhaps dealing with the Philistines as mentioned in Amos 1:6
  - F. they were heavily involved in idolatry
    - 1. had a splendid temple built to Astarte
  - G. Jesus visited the area: Matthew 15:21; Mark 7:24
    - 1. at that time it was probably more populous than Jerusalem, making it the largest city Jesus visited
  - H. people from there came to hear Jesus: Mark 3:8; Luke 6:17
  - I. Paul visited: Acts 21:6-7
- II. Proclamation Against Tyre: Ezekiel 26
  - A. Isaiah 23
  - B. Joel 3:4-8
  - C. Amos 1:9-10
  - D. Zechariah 9:2-4
  - E. this new prophecy came in the 11<sup>th</sup> year, "on the first day of the month": Ezekiel 26:1
    - 1. no month is given
    - 2. might be in the month after Tyre taunted Israel (Ezekiel 26:2)
    - 3. Jerusalem fell in the 11<sup>th</sup> year
      - a. the walls were broken through on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the 4<sup>th</sup> month: Jeremiah 52:6-7
      - b. the house of the Lord was burned and the walls were broken down on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 5<sup>th</sup> month: Jeremiah 52:12-14
    - 4. Tyre might have taunted Israel in the 4<sup>th</sup> month because of its fall
      - a. therefore, this new prophecy might be in the 5<sup>th</sup> month
  - F. Tyre taunted Israel: Ezekiel 26:2
  - G. many nations will come against Tyre: Ezekiel 26:3
    - 1. God is against Tyre because Tyre is against Israel
      - a. "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" -- Genesis 12:3
    - 2. Assyrians: about 721 B.C.
      - a. unsuccessfully laid siege for 5 years
    - 3. Babylonians: 585-573 B.C.
    - 4. Persians: 525 B.C.
    - 5. Greeks (Alexander the Great): 334-332 B.C.
  - H. an incredible prophecy about how Tyre will ultimately fall: Ezekiel 26:4
    - 1. with Ezekiel 26:12
    - 2. inhabitants had escaped to a fortified island
      - a. the off-shore city had double walls 150 feet high

3. Alexander the Great took the material from the mainland city and built a causeway out to the off-shore city, and with the help of Sidon's navy it took only 7 months before the off-shore city was defeated in 332 B.C.
  4. "For Tyre built herself a tower, heaped up silver like the dust, and gold like the mire of the streets. Behold, the LORD will cast her out; He will destroy her power in the sea, and she will be devoured by fire." -- Zechariah 9:3-4
  5. "What city is like Tyre, destroyed in the midst of the sea?" -- Ezekiel 27:32
  - I. the city will be so destroyed that nets could be spread out in it: Ezekiel 26:4b-5a
    1. "like the top of a rock"
    2. also in Ezekiel 26:14
  - J. Babylon will come against Tyre: Ezekiel 26:7-11
    1. "he" refers to Nebuchadnezzar
    2. "Nebuchadnezzar" is used here, and is more correct to the original Babylonian than Nebuchadnezzar
    3. "king of kings" because he subdued many other kings
      - a. God ordained him to be a mighty ruler at that time
      - b. speaking to Nebuchadnezzar, "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory" -- Daniel 2:37
  - K. "they" will come against Tyre: Ezekiel 26:12-14
    1. "they" refers to the other nations
      - a. Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, and Greeks (Alexander the Great)
    2. Tyre's stones, timbers, and soil will be put out into the water: Ezekiel 26:12
      - a. Alexander the Great did this when he had the causeway built from the material of the city out to the island
    3. it will never be rebuilt: Ezekiel 26:14
      - a. it will be as desolate and open as a top of a rock, so that nets could be spread out in it
  - L. the fall of Tyre will affect other nations: Ezekiel 26:15-18
    1. kings will go through mourning rituals for the fall of the king of Tyre: Ezekiel 26:16
    2. they will lament Tyre's fall: Ezekiel 26:17-18
    3. the effect of Tyre's destruction is similar to that of Babylon's destruction in the future: Revelation 18:1-20
      - a. the world system is modeled by kings, merchants, and ship captains: Revelation 18:9-19
        - (i) 28 specific goods are listed
      - b. nations today need to learn from this
  - M. Tyre won't be able to be found: Ezekiel 26:19-21
- III. Lamentation For Tyre: Ezekiel 27
- A. Ezekiel is told to lament over Tyre: Ezekiel 27:2
    1. God does not delight in the judgment of the wicked
      - a. "The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." -- 2 Peter 3:9
      - b. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." -- 1 Timothy 2:4
  - B. they traded with a great many people around the world: Ezekiel 27:3a
  - C. Tyre had pride: Ezekiel 27:3b
    1. they felt as if they needed nothing
    2. they thought they were so wonderful
    3. they didn't think they had any room for improvement
  - D. their city must have been glorious: Ezekiel 27:4
  - E. they used fancy building materials: Ezekiel 27:5-7
  - F. they had well-skilled labor: Ezekiel 27:8-9
  - G. they had a fine military: Ezekiel 27:10-11
  - H. their goods were in high demand: Ezekiel 27:12-26
    1. they had a huge international market
  - I. their doom is foretold: Ezekiel 27:27-28
    1. nothing, including wealth will prevent their fall
  - J. their fall will affect the nations around them: Ezekiel 27:29-36
    1. they supplied goods and luxurious items to many people: Ezekiel 27:33

2. their fall will trouble other nations: Ezekiel 27:35
  3. Tyre will disappear forever: Ezekiel 27:36
- IV. Proclamation Against The King Of Tyre: Ezekiel 28
- A. prophecy against the king of Tyre: Ezekiel 28:1-10
    1. he promoted himself as a god: Ezekiel 28:2
      - a. many world leaders have a Messiah complex
      - b. "Then the serpent said to the woman, '...you will be like God...' " -- Genesis 3:4-5
      - c. speaking of the coming world ruler (commonly known as the "antichrist"), "who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" -- 2 Thessalonians 2:4
    2. he considered himself very wise: Ezekiel 28:3-5
      - a. he compared himself to Daniel: Ezekiel 28:3
        - (i) Daniel's achievements, prophecies, and involvement with the affairs of Babylon was apparently well-known
      - b. his ability to acquire wealth filled him with pride: Ezekiel 28:4-5
    3. God will judge him: Ezekiel: 28:6-10
      - a. because of his pride: Ezekiel 28:6-8
        - (i) the "strangers" that will be invading are the Babylonians: Jeremiah 27
        - (ii) the Babylonians were well-known to be cruel
      - b. his self-proclaimed status as a god will not save him: Ezekiel 28:9-10
        - (i) they'll die the death of the "uncircumcised": Ezekiel 28:10
          - according to Herodotus the Phoenicians practiced circumcision
          - the word for "death" is plural, indicating that it's referring to physical and spiritual
  - B. lamentation for the king of Tyre: Ezekiel 28:11-19
    1. this description goes well beyond the king himself and to the force or power behind him: Satan
      - a. an additional description of Satan or Lucifer is found in the proclamation against the king of Babylon: Isaiah 14:12-21
    2. Lucifer was perfect, full of wisdom, and very beautiful: Ezekiel 28:12
      - a. "perfect" refers to being the ultimate, most powerful creation
      - b. Lucifer isn't boasting here: God is saying this
    3. he was in Eden: Ezekiel 28:13a
      - a. Genesis 2-3
    4. he was adorned with many precious stones: Ezekiel 28:13b
      - a. these 9 are also found among the 12 listed on the breastplate of the priest (Exodus 28:17-20; 39:10-14) and the foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:19-20)
    5. he had a musical purpose or capability: Ezekiel 28:13c
      - a. music serves as a powerful tool for worship, or as a significant weapon against the human spirit
      - b. he is nothing more than a created being
    6. Lucifer was a "covering cherub": Ezekiel 28:14
      - a. a cherub is apparently a major angel, or a created being over all the angels
        - (i) we've seen them before in Ezekiel 10
      - b. there are different ranks of angels: "principalities and powers"
        - (i) Romans 8:38
        - (ii) Ephesians 3:10; 6:12
        - (iii) Colossians 1:16; 2:15
      - c. Lucifer might have been the head of all the other angels
        - (i) the "overshadowing" cherub?
    7. he was perfect or complete until he sinned: Ezekiel 28:15
      - a. he is nothing more than a created being
    8. his wealth or possessions caused him to sin: Ezekiel 28:16
      - a. "violence" = violence, wrong; unjust gain, injustice
      - b. he mistreated others
      - c. God kicked him out
    9. he had pride because of his beauty and it caused him to pervert his wisdom: Ezekiel 28:17
    10. his iniquity caused him to defile the things he was responsible for: Ezekiel 28:18a
    11. he will be destroyed and made an example of: Ezekiel 28:18b-19

- V. Prophecy Against Sidon: Ezekiel 28:20-24
  - A. Isaiah 23
  - B. Joel 3:4-8
  - C. Sidon = "fishing town"
  - D. it received its name from the firstborn of Canaan, the grandson of Noah: Genesis 10:15, 19
  - E. sister city of Tyre, about 25 miles north
  - F. about 50 miles from Nazareth
  - G. presently known as Saida, and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest port in Lebanon
  - H. used to be more dominant than Tyre
  - I. they revolted against Persia, who then destroyed them in 351 B.C.
    - 1. instead of allowing themselves to fall into the hands of the Persians about 40,000 committed suicide by burning the city with them inside
  - J. they were greatly involved in idol worship
    - 1. "For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians" -- 1 Kings 11:5
    - 2. Judges 10:6
    - 3. 1 Kings 11:33
    - 4. 2 Kings 23:13
  - K. they oppressed the Israelites: Judges 10:12
  - L. because of their wealth they lived a quiet and easy life, so much so that a saying was named after them
    - 1. "...They saw the people who were there, how they dwelt safely, in the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure..." -- Judges 18:7
  - M. they supplied timber to Solomon
    - 1. "Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon... For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians." -- 1 Kings 5:6
  - N. Jesus visited the area: Matthew 15:21; Mark 7:24
    - 1. it's the most northern city visited by Jesus
  - O. people from there came to hear Jesus: Mark 3:8; Luke 6:17
  - P. Paul landed there on his voyage from Caesarea to Rome: Acts 27:3
    - 1. he was allowed to "go to his friends and receive care"
  - Q. an invasion is coming against Sidon as judgment: Ezekiel 28:23
- VI. Israel's Future Gathering: Ezekiel 28:24-26
  - A. focus shifts back to Israel and their restoration (in the future)
  - B. Israel will eventually be at peace with the nations around them: Ezekiel 28:24
    - 1. they will know the true God
    - 2. "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell." -- Numbers 33:55
  - C. God will regather them from around the world: Ezekiel 28:25
    - 1. they will inhabit the land God gave them
  - D. they will dwell safely in the land: Ezekiel 28:26
    - 1. God will judge the nations who despise Israel
      - a. "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" -- Genesis 12:3

## **Lesson 14: Ezekiel 29-32**

- I. First Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 29:1-16
  - A. "the word of the Lord came to me"
  - B. 10<sup>th</sup> year, 10<sup>th</sup> month, 12<sup>th</sup> day: Ezekiel 29:1
    1. about 588 B.C.
    2. 1 year, 1 month, and 2 days after Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem
      - a. Ezekiel 24:1-2
      - b. 2 Kings 25:1
      - c. Jeremiah 52:4
  - C. Ezekiel is to prophesy against Pharaoh: Ezekiel 29:2
    1. this is Pharaoh Hophra
      - a. grandson of Pharaoh Necho
        - (i) Pharaoh Necho was defeated by Nebuchadnezzar at Carchemish in about 605 B.C.
          - Babylon was now the dominant power
        - (ii) Josiah died in battle against Pharaoh Necho during the Battle of Carchemish: 2 Chronicles 35:20-24
          - Josiah died in the Valley of Megiddo
    2. "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies... Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life.'" -- Jeremiah 44:30
  - D. the Pharaoh considered himself a god and creator: Ezekiel 29:3
    1. "great monster" might refer to the crocodile
      - a. some worshiped the crocodile and even embalmed them after death
      - b. some abhorred the crocodile
      - c. both may apply to Pharaoh Hophra
    2. "my river" refers to the Nile
      - a. it was considered the source of their provision, fertility, and wealth
  - E. he and his supporters will be caught just like a crocodile is caught with a hook: Ezekiel 29:4
  - F. they'll be punished: Ezekiel 29:5
  - G. they did not support Israel: Ezekiel 29:6-7
    1. "staff of reed" was a very weak staff
    2. Israel looked to Egypt for help but they were inadequate and a disappointment
      - a. it was not the Lord's will that they look to Egypt for help
        - (i) Ezekiel 17:15
        - (ii) Isaiah 30:1-4; 31:1-3
        - (iii) "Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him." -- 2 Kings 18:21
        - (iv) "Look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him." -- Isaiah 36:6
  - H. they will be punished: Ezekiel 29:8
  - I. God will cause them to know that He made the river, not the Pharaoh: Ezekiel 29:9
  - J. all of Egypt will be affected: Ezekiel 29:10
    1. Migdol was in the north
    2. Syene was in the south
  - K. Egypt will be desolate and uninhabited for 40 years: Ezekiel 29:11-12
    1. from Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Pharaoh Necho through Cyrus' Persian takeover of Babylon, Babylon ruled over Egypt for about forty years
    2. according to Babylonian records Nebuchadnezzar took great numbers of captives of the Egyptians
    3. could a more literal fulfillment of this prophecy happen in the future?
  - L. Egypt will be restored and repopulated: Ezekiel 29:14-15
    1. they were regathered under Cyrus
    2. Pathros was in "Upper (southern) Egypt," the original portion of the kingdom of Egypt
    3. but they will never be as great of a kingdom as they once were

- M. Israel will never again try to rely on Egypt: Ezekiel 29:16a
    - 1. Israel was being disobedient when they attempted to make military alliances with Egypt
    - 2. the present-day unrest between Israel and Egypt is a reminder of this past iniquity
  - N. "Then they shall know that I am the LORD.": Ezekiel 29:16b
    - 1. people frequently don't realize that God is the Lord until judgment, but then it's too late!
    - 2. Ezekiel uses this phrase 54 times
- II. Second Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 29:17-21
- A. 27<sup>th</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> month, 1<sup>st</sup> day: Ezekiel 29:17
    - 1. 17 years later, about 570 B.C.
    - 2. about the time when Nebuchadnezzar's 13-year siege of Tyre was coming to an end
  - B. Babylon's siege against Tyre was not fruitful: Ezekiel 29:18
  - C. Nebuchadnezzar will be rewarded by being able to take over Egypt: Ezekiel 29:19-20
    - 1. they were God's instruments
  - D. Israel's strength and power will be restored: Ezekiel 29:21
    - 1. the horn is a metaphor of power
    - 2. they will then understand and believe everything that Ezekiel was saying
- III. Third Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 30:1-19
- A. undated, so it may be the same day as the previous prophecy
  - B. the Day of the Lord: Ezekiel 30:2-3
    - 1. a very specific period of time that refers to the judgment of the world
  - C. judgment will come upon Egypt and her allies around her: Ezekiel 30:4-9
    - 1. all of Egypt will "fall by the sword": Ezekiel 30:6
      - a. Migdol was in the north
      - b. Syene was in the south
    - 2. Ethiopia will become upset at what happened to Egypt: Ezekiel 30:9
      - a. may refer to northeast Africa, to include eastern Sudan, present-day Ethiopia, Egypt, Somalia
      - b. Ethiopia was once very great, even ruling over Egypt (720-654 B.C.)
      - c. "careless" = secure, safe
      - d. "You Ethiopians... this is the rejoicing city that dwelt *securely*, that said in her heart, 'I am it, and there is none besides me.' " -- Zephaniah 2:12-15
      - e. they also felt very secure
      - f. they know that they will be judged, too
      - g. Isaiah 18
  - D. Nebuchadnezzar is coming against Egypt: Ezekiel 30:10-12
    - 1. "I will make the rivers dry": Ezekiel 30:12
      - a. because Egypt is nothing but a desert without the Nile, this was a very serious threat
      - b. the Aswan Dam has been an ecological disaster
  - E. God is going to come against the idols: Ezekiel 30:13
  - F. all of Egypt will be judged: Ezekiel 30:14-18
    - 1. Pathros was Upper Egypt
    - 2. Zoan was another name for Goshen, the land where Israel was originally settled
    - 3. No Amon was another name for Thebes
    - 4. Sin is in the north
    - 5. Noph is now Cairo
    - 6. Aven was also known as On and Heliopolis ("city of the sun")
      - a. a city famous for its idolatry, having the Temple of the Sun
    - 7. Pi-Beseth is Bubastis, in Lower Egypt
      - a. had the house of Bast or the Egyptian Artemis, the cat-headed goddess
    - 8. Tehaphnehes was in the northeast
      - a. where the Pharaohs had a house: Jeremiah 43:7-9
    - 9. "these cities shall go into captivity": Ezekiel 30:17
      - a. the word for "cities" isn't in most of the original texts
      - b. the LXX says "women" which agrees with the ending of Ezekiel 30:18
    - 10. "her arrogant strength shall cease": Ezekiel 30:18
      - a. they were arrogant about how strong their military was

- IV. Fourth Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 30:20-26
- A. 11<sup>th</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> month, 7<sup>th</sup> day: Ezekiel 30:20
    1. about 587 B.C.
  - B. God will break the military strength of Pharaoh
    1. could be that he won't be able to make good military decisions
    2. could be that his military will be overcome by stronger forces
    3. either way the pride he had in his military will be judged
- V. Fifth Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 31
- A. 11<sup>th</sup> year, 3<sup>rd</sup> month, 1<sup>st</sup> day: Ezekiel 31:1
    1. about 587 B.C.
  - B. Egypt's mighty power will be compared to a large tree: Ezekiel 31:2-9
    1. it's being pointed out that Assyria could also be compared to a tree: Ezekiel 31:3
      - a. but it also fell in about 609 B.C.
    2. the importance of water is emphasized: Ezekiel 31:4
      - a. God provided it all for him
      - b. we need the Spiritual water that He supplies
        - (i) "that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word" -- Ephesians 5:26
    3. birds nested in the tree: Ezekiel 31:6
      - a. this could mean that Satan was well in-control
      - b. Jesus used birds in 2 of His parables
        - (i) the Parable of the 4 Soils
          - Matthew 13:1-23
          - Mark 4:1-20
          - Luke 8:4-15
        - (ii) the Parable of the Mustard Seed
          - Matthew 13:31-32
          - Mark 4:30-32
          - Luke 13:18-19
      - c. in the Parable of the Mustard Seed Jesus uses the same idiom regarding the birds as He used in the Parable of the 4 Soils
        - (i) in each of these parables the "birds of the air" represent Satan and/or his ministers
        - (ii) "sinapis" is a common mustard bush that grows as high as 4 feet
        - (iii) there are some cultivated or hybrid varieties that can grow tall and become small trees
        - (iv) Satan cultivates the mustard plant so it becomes perverted, a hybrid such that it has branches
        - (v) Satan and his ministers are very comfortable in its branches and feel safe to roost there
        - (vi) speaks of the perversion of the Church: it will be so compromised that it will not be able to identify Satan in their midst
      - d. when birds are referred to in a general way they're sometimes used to represent something bad
        - (i) "Like a cage full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit" -- Jeremiah 5:27
        - (ii) "Babylon... has become the dwelling-place of demons, and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a cage of every unclean bird which has been hated" -- Revelation 18:2
      - e. when specific birds are referred to they can represent something good
        - (i) sparrows
        - (ii) doves
        - (iii) eagles
  - C. they will be judged: Ezekiel 31:10-12
    1. they had pride: Ezekiel 31:10
    2. they were wicked: Ezekiel 31:11
    3. they will be delivered into the "hand of the mighty one of the nations": Ezekiel 31:11-12
      - a. the "most terrible of the nations"
  - D. it will be a lesson to the rest of the world: Ezekiel 31:13-14
    1. no one should exalt themselves because of how strong they think they are
    2. this applies to us!
  - E. all the other nations will be affected by Egypt's fall: Ezekiel 31:15-17
  - F. Egypt and Pharaoh will fall: Ezekiel 31:18

- VI. Sixth Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 32:1-16
- A. 12<sup>th</sup> year, 12<sup>th</sup> month, 1<sup>st</sup> day: Ezekiel 32:1
    1. about 585 B.C.
  - B. it is a lamentation for Pharaoh: Ezekiel 32:2
  - C. Pharaoh is pictured as a crocodile hiding in the mud: Ezekiel 32:2
  - D. but many people will come and he will not be able to escape: Ezekiel 32:3-5
  - E. their blood will flow: Ezekiel 32:6
    1. the blood sounds like one of the 10 plagues from Exodus 7:17-19
  - F. their land will be plunged into darkness: Ezekiel 32:7-8
    1. the darkness sounds like one of the 10 plagues from Exodus 10:21-23
  - G. other nations will be frightened by what happened to Egypt: Ezekiel 32:9-10
  - H. the king of Babylon is coming: Ezekiel 32:11-15
    1. "the most terrible of nations": Ezekiel 32:12
    2. he will cause great devastation
- VII. Seventh Prophecy Against Egypt: Ezekiel 32:17-32
- A. 12<sup>th</sup> year, 12<sup>th</sup> month(?), 15<sup>th</sup> day: Ezekiel 32:17
    1. about 585 B.C.
  - B. a very solemn lamentation or funeral dirge about the heathen nations
    1. they are in the "Pit", the abode of the dead
  - C. "the uncircumcised" is used to indicate those who are not in a covenant relationship with God
  - D. Egypt: Ezekiel 32:18-21
    1. they're no better than anyone else, and won't escape their fate: Ezekiel 32:19
    2. others will greet him: Ezekiel 32:21
      - a. "Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming..." -- Isaiah 14:9
  - E. Assyria: Ezekiel 32:22-23
    1. they "caused terror in the land of the living"
  - F. Elam: Ezekiel 32:24-25
    1. Elam was the son of Shem: Genesis 10:22; 1 Chronicles 1:17
    2. Chedorlaomer was the king of Elam: Genesis 14:1, 9
    3. 200 miles east of Babylon, south of Assyria, east of Persia
      - a. a portion of today's Iran
    4. its capital was Susa or Shushan
      - a. where the book of Esther took place
      - b. Daniel was there at one time: Daniel 8:2
    5. warlike people, known for their good archers
    6. formed an alliance with the Medes and Persians against Babylon
    7. traditional enemy of Israel
    8. doom also foretold by Jeremiah: Jeremiah 49:34-39
  - G. Meshech and Tubal: Ezekiel 32:26-28
    1. these are the Scythians, predecessors to the Russians
  - H. Edom: Ezekiel 32:29
    1. also known as Idumea
    2. Ezekiel 25:12-14
  - I. Sidon and "princes of the north": Ezekiel 32:30
    1. Ezekiel 28:20-24
  - J. Pharaoh will find himself with all those who are eternally doomed from the other nations: Ezekiel 32:31
    1. "comfort" = regret, to be sorry, repent; comfort, be comforted, console oneself
    2. he'll be comforted in knowing that he's not the only one being punished
    3. everyone else are in the same situation as he is
    4. this tells us that the dead are conscious and thinking, and that the unrighteous are filled with regret
    5. this may also tell us that the unrighteous dead will see and know others
      - a. along with Ezekiel 32:21
  - K. Pharaoh caused terror while he was in the "land of the living": Ezekiel 32:32
    1. some manuscripts say "his terror" and others say "My terror"
      - a. either way God used Pharaoh to bring about His will
    2. but Pharaoh will be punished because of his wickedness

## **Lesson 15: Ezekiel 33-34**

- I. The Watchman: Ezekiel 33:1-9
  - A. the role of a watchman: Ezekiel 33:1-6
    1. the role of a watchman was already mentioned in Ezekiel 3:16-21
    2. the role of a watchman is to warn, not to force results
      - a. a person's choice is their responsibility
      - b. it's the Holy Spirit's job to save souls; it's our job to be a witness
      - c. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." -- Matthew 5:16
    3. "For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?" -- 1 Corinthians 14:8
  - B. Ezekiel is a watchman: Ezekiel 33:7-9
- II. Message Of Repentance: Ezekiel 33:10-11
  - A. we've seen this message of repentance before: Ezekiel 18:19-32
    1. "'Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?' says the Lord GOD, 'and not that he should turn from his ways and live?' " -- Ezekiel 18:23
    2. "'For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,' says the Lord GOD. 'Therefore turn and live!' " -- Ezekiel 18:32
  - B. people can't claim that their situation is hopeless
    1. repentance brings God's mercy
    2. no one can sin so much that God couldn't reach them
  - C. God's heart is that everyone repents
    1. "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" -- 1 Timothy 2:4
    2. "The Lord is... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." -- 2 Peter 3:9
    3. "Mercy triumphs over judgment." -- James 2:13
    4. "Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." -- Isaiah 55:6-7
- III. Only The Righteousness From God Counts: Ezekiel 33:12-20
  - A. a person's righteousness isn't good enough: Ezekiel 33:12-13
    1. all our good deeds can't even make up for one of our sins
      - a. "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all." -- James 2:10
      - b. "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" -- Titus 3:5
    2. "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags" -- Isaiah 64:6
      - a. "filthy rags" = menstruation cloths
    3. "Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel." -- Zechariah 3:3
      - a. "filthy garments" = garments covered with excrement
    4. "There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness." -- Proverbs 30:12
      - a. "filthiness" = excrement
    5. "not having my own righteousness... but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith" -- Philippians 3:9
  - B. repentance is what is important: Ezekiel 33:14-16
    1. righteousness will come from God's mercy
  - C. only God's ways and judgments are fair: Ezekiel 33:17-20
    1. people don't think God is fair because they are stubborn and want to do things their own way
- IV. The Fall Of Jerusalem Is Reported: Ezekiel 33:21-22
  - A. Ezekiel wasn't allowed (or able?) to speak until this happened: Ezekiel 24:25-27
  - B. this report came on 12<sup>th</sup> year, 10<sup>th</sup> month, 5<sup>th</sup> day
  - C. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem on 9<sup>th</sup> year, 10<sup>th</sup> month, 10<sup>th</sup> day
    1. Ezekiel 24:1-2
    2. 2 Kings 25:1
    3. Jeremiah 39:1; 52:4

- D. Jerusalem fell on 11<sup>th</sup> year, 4<sup>th</sup> month, 9<sup>th</sup> day
    - 1. Jeremiah 39:2; 52:6-7
    - 2. 2 Kings 25:3-4
    - 3. 18 months after Nebuchadnezzar invaded
  - E. this fugitive reported to Ezekiel 3 years after Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem
- V. Judah's Sin: Ezekiel 33:23-29
- A. this is a message to those left behind and/or those that escaped captivity
  - B. they thought that since they had been left behind they now inherited the land: Ezekiel 33:24
  - C. they somehow thought they deserved it or earned it?
  - D. God challenges their claim based on their disobedience: Ezekiel 33:25-26
  - E. they too will be punished because of their sin: Ezekiel 33:27-29
- VI. Hearing Without Doing: Ezekiel 33:30-33
- A. this message may be to the exiles with Ezekiel in Babylon
  - B. they're eager and willing to hear from the Lord through Ezekiel: Ezekiel 33:30-31a
  - C. they aren't willing to do what he says: Ezekiel 33:31b
    - 1. they're more interested in their own desires
  - D. they like what Ezekiel says: Ezekiel 33:32
    - 1. but they do not do what he says
  - E. God will prove that what Ezekiel said was true: Ezekiel 33:33
    - 1. Jeremiah was told that they weren't going to listen to him: Jeremiah 7:27
  - F. "Therefore the Lord said: 'Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men' " -- Isaiah 29:13
  - G. "Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue; for their heart was not steadfast with Him, nor were they faithful in His covenant." -- Psalm 78:36-37
  - H. "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was." -- James 1:22-24
- VII. Woe To Irresponsible Shepherds: Ezekiel 34:1-10
- A. shepherds can refer to secular and spiritual leaders, from kings to priests to prophets
  - B. they were looking to feed themselves: Ezekiel 34:2-3
    - 1. they were taking advantage of others
    - 2. Ezekiel 22:26-28
    - 3. "...shepherds... they all look... for his own gain" -- Isaiah 56:10-12
    - 4. "from the least even to the greatest, everyone is given to covetousness" -- Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10
    - 5. "whose owners slaughter them and feel no guilt; those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, for I am rich'; and their shepherds do not pity them." -- Zechariah 11:5
    - 6. "den of thieves" -- Jeremiah 7:11
      - a. Matthew 21:13 = Mark 11:17 = Luke 19:46
      - b. Jesus said, "Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise." -- John 2:16
    - 7. "For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple." -- Romans 16:18
    - 8. "through covetousness shall they... make merchandise of you" -- 2 Peter 2:3 (KJV)
      - a. even today some ministries emphasize material things: "name it and claim it", "health and wealth", "blab it and grab it"
    - 9. Paul's ministry was not "a cloak for covetousness -- God is witness" -- 1 Thessalonians 2:5
      - a. they were not in the ministry for the money
      - b. not looking for gain or material things
      - c. they weren't looking to cash in on Christianity
      - d. everything was out in the open
  - C. there was no feeding, protection, or direction: Ezekiel 34:4-6
    - 1. Micah 3:1-3, 11-12
    - 2. Zephaniah 3:3-4

- D. God will make the irresponsible shepherds accountable for their lack of good leadership: Ezekiel 34:7-10
  - 1. God will rescue the people from the poor leadership
  - 2. "'Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture... I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,' says the LORD." -- Jeremiah 23:1-2
- E. "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so." -- Jeremiah 5:30-31
- F. "...from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely... Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush..." -- Jeremiah 6:13-15
- G. "'But you have departed from the way; you have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,' says the LORD of hosts." -- Malachi 2:8
- H. "'Who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.' " -- Isaiah 30:10
- I. Hosea 4:6-10

VIII. God Will Be Their Shepherd: Ezekiel 34:11-24

- A. some of this section applies to that specific time, and some to our present and future eras
- B. God will seek out His flock: Ezekiel 34:11-12
  - 1. God says that they're still "My sheep"
  - 2. He does all the work
- C. they will be brought back to their land: Ezekiel 34:13
  - 1. both after the 70 year Babylonian captivity, as well as in our present era
  - 2. Isaiah 11:11
- D. they will be fed and taken care of: Ezekiel 34:14-16a
  - 1. "He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young." -- Isaiah 40:11
- E. those that fed off of the sheep will be punished: Ezekiel 34:16b-22
  - 1. similar sheep and goat idioms as in Matthew 25:31-46
- F. one Shepherd will be set up over them: Ezekiel 34:23-24
  - 1. this is also seen in Ezekiel 37:24-25
  - 2. David is a common idiom of the Messiah
    - a. Isaiah 11:1; 55:3-4
    - b. Jeremiah 23:5; 30:9
    - c. Hosea 3:5
    - d. Revelation 22:16
  - 3. this is a prophecy speaking of the Messiah, Jesus Christ
    - a. John 10
      - (i) Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd" -- John 10:11, 14
      - b. "...our Lord Jesus... that great Shepherd of the sheep" -- Hebrews 13:20
      - c. "and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory" -- 1 Peter 5:4
- G. God is clearly not done with the nation of Israel!

IX. The Future Kingdom: Ezekiel 34:25-31

- A. starts with the Millennial Kingdom, and goes beyond into the eternal kingdom
- B. they will live in peace
- C. they will be greatly blessed
- D. they will be respected by the rest of the nations
- E. they will accept the Lord as their God: Ezekiel 34:30
- F. they are the "sheep of My pasture": Ezekiel 34:31
  - 1. "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" -- Jeremiah 23:1
- G. Isaiah 11; 65:17-25
- H. Revelation 21:1-5
- I. Romans 11
- J. God is clearly not done with the nation of Israel!

Much is said in Scripture about false shepherds and the importance of good spiritual (and secular) leadership

- God holds the leadership accountable
- Jesus always had compassion on the people, but treated the poor spiritual leadership harshly
- "Hear this... priests... king... yours is the judgment... because you have been a snare... a net... deeply involved in slaughter" -- Hosea 5:1-2
- Israel had lying prophets: Micah 2:6-11
- Israel had wicked rulers: Micah 3:1-4
- Israel's false prophets misled them: Micah 3:5-12
- "...your rulers cause you to go astray and destroy the way of your paths" -- Isaiah 3:12
- "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture..." -- Jeremiah 23:1-2
- "Many shepherds have destroyed My vineyard; they have trampled My portion under foot; they have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness." -- Jeremiah 12:10
- "...rulers in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey... to destroy souls..." -- Ezekiel 22:26-31
- "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand... I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them." -- Ezekiel 34:10
  - unfaithful shepherds: Ezekiel 34
- "My anger is kindled against the shepherds... I will punish the goats" -- Zechariah 10:3a
  - "goats" could refer to evil leaders
    - Isaiah 14:9
    - Ezekiel 34:17
    - an idiom of sheep versus goats seen in Matthew 25:32-33
- "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God" -- 1 Peter 4:17

The responsibility of a prophet or spiritual leader is very serious

- "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." -- James 3:1
- "But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.'" -- Acts 18:6
- "...I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." -- Acts 20:17-21
- "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men." -- Acts 20:26
- "...for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account..." -- Hebrews 13:17
- "So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands." -- Psalm 78:72
- "For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?" -- 1 Corinthians 14:8

The leadership is to set a good example

- "I have made you a watchman..." -- Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:1-11
- "elders... shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving... willingly... eagerly; nor as being lords over... but being examples to the flock" -- 1 Peter 5:1-3
- "take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" -- Acts 20:28
- "So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands." -- Psalm 78:72
- "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands... indeed, the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass." -- Ezra 9:1-2
- "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts." -- Malachi 2:7
- "whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea... offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" -- Matthew 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-2

## **Lesson 16: Ezekiel 35-37**

- I. Prophecy Against Mount Seir: Ezekiel 35
  - A. Mount Seir is another name for Edom and Idumea
  - B. descendants of Esau
  - C. Ezekiel has already stated a prophecy against Edom: Ezekiel 25:12-14
  - D. Jeremiah 49:7-22
  - E. Psalm 137:7
  - F. Amos 1:11-12
  - G. Obadiah 1:1-16
  - H. Joel 3:19
  - I. Malachi 1:2-5
  - J. Edom was located from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba
    1. about 100 miles long by 20 miles wide
  - K. they will be made desolate: Ezekiel 35:3-4
  - L. they've been Israel's long-time enemy: Ezekiel 35:5
    1. they delighted in Israel's troubles
    2. the Philistines also had a longtime hatred for Israel and was judged because of it: Ezekiel 25:15
  - M. they did not hate bloodshed: Ezekiel 35:6
    1. so they will experience bloodshed
  - N. they will be made desolate: Ezekiel 35:7
  - O. their dead will fill the land: Ezekiel 35:8
    1. to be left unburied was great shame
  - P. they will always be desolate: Ezekiel 35:9
  - Q. they wanted to take over Israel: Ezekiel 35:10-12
    1. the "two nations" probably refer to the Northern and Southern Kingdoms
    2. they hated Israel: Ezekiel 35:11
    3. they wanted to take advantage of Israel when they had troubles: Ezekiel 35:12
  - R. they will be punished: Ezekiel 35:13-15
    1. they boasted against the Lord: Ezekiel 35:13
    2. the nations are going to rejoice at Edom's punishment: Ezekiel 35:14-15
      - a. just as Edom rejoiced at Israel's punishment
- II. Restoration Of The Land Of Israel: Ezekiel 36:1-15
  - A. Amos 9:9-15
  - B. judgment against the invading nations: Ezekiel 36:1-5
    1. the invading nations slandered and made fun of Israel just because they were victorious and led them captive: Ezekiel 36:1-4
    2. God will rebuke the nations' attitudes: Ezekiel 36:5
      - a. they were spiteful against Israel
      - b. they were happy about Israel's misfortunes
      - c. a reminder that Edom will be judged
  - C. the land of Israel will be restored: Ezekiel 36:6-15
    1. God is speaking to the land: Ezekiel 36:6
    2. God makes an oath that the nations around Israel will be punished for their own sins: Ezekiel 36:7
    3. the land will flourish: Ezekiel 36:8-10
      - a. Amos 9:13
    4. it will be better than before: Ezekiel 36:11
    5. the Israelites will take possession of the land: Ezekiel 36:12
      - a. it is their inheritance
      - b. Amos 9:14
      - c. "And the LORD said to Abram... 'all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever... walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.' "  
-- Genesis 13:14-17
    6. there will be peace in the land: Ezekiel 36:13-14
    7. the nations will no longer treat them with contempt: Ezekiel 36:15

- III. The People Of Israel Will Be Restored: Ezekiel 36:16-38
  - A. they defiled the land: Ezekiel 36:17
  - B. they were punished for the bloodshed and idolatry: Ezekiel 36:18
  - C. they didn't honor the land so they were dispersed as a punishment: Ezekiel 36:19
  - D. even in captivity they dishonored the Lord: Ezekiel 36:20
    - 1. as a result God lost respect among the nations
  - E. God was concerned about His reputation: Ezekiel 36:21
  - F. God had to prove Himself in front of the world: Ezekiel 36:22-24
    - 1. He had to bring the nation of Israel back into the land
    - 2. it's a great miracle
    - 3. an even greater miracle is doing it a second time (Isaiah 11:11)
      - a. we see this happening today: they're coming from all nations
    - 4. "Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known." -- Psalm 106:8
  - G. the salvation of Israel: Ezekiel 36:25-27
    - 1. Ezekiel 20:40-44
    - 2. they will be washed: Ezekiel 36:25
    - 3. they will be given a new heart: Ezekiel 36:26
      - a. same as in Ezekiel 11:19-20
      - b. it'll be a soft heart, not a stony, stubborn heart
        - (i) "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets." -- Zechariah 7:12
      - c. "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart." -- Jeremiah 24:7
      - d. Deuteronomy 30:6
      - e. Jeremiah 31:31-33; 32:37-40
      - f. Nicodemus should have understood: John 3:1-10
        - (i) Jesus rebuked him for not knowing!
      - g. no where in Scripture do we see anything about cleaning up a person's heart
        - (i) God always talks about a new one
        - (ii) "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked ("incurable"); who can know it?" -- Jeremiah 17:9
        - (iii) "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." -- Psalm 51:10
    - 4. they will be given the Holy Spirit: Ezekiel 36:27
    - 5. Romans 11:25-29
  - H. they will dwell in the land: Ezekiel 36:28-30
    - 1. they will once again be God's people: Ezekiel 36:28
      - a. Hosea 1:10
    - 2. it will be very fruitful for them
  - I. they will regret their past: Ezekiel 36:31
    - 1. Ezekiel 20:43
  - J. God isn't doing it for them: Ezekiel 36:32
    - 1. He's protecting His reputation
  - K. the rest of the world will realize that God did this for Israel: Ezekiel 36:33-38
    - 1. the land will become well-populated
      - a. Hosea 1:10
    - 2. the cities will be rebuilt
    - 3. the land will become very fruitful
- IV. The Valley Of The Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37:1-14
  - A. Ezekiel was given a vision: Ezekiel 37:1a
  - B. he was in a valley filled with bones: Ezekiel 37:1b-2
    - 1. the bones were very dry
    - 2. the bones represent the nation of Israel: Ezekiel 37:11
      - a. this is not the resurrection of the individuals
  - C. "can these bones live?": Ezekiel 37:3
    - 1. Ezekiel states that only He would know

- D. Ezekiel is to prophesy about God putting the bones back together: Ezekiel 37:4-6
- E. in accordance to the prophecy the bones come back together: Ezekiel 37:7-8
  - 1. but there was no breath or spirit in them
- F. God tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the breath: Ezekiel 37:9
- G. in accordance to the prophecy breath enters the bones and they become alive: Ezekiel 37:10
  - 1. there were a great number of them
- H. the bones represent the "whole house of Israel": Ezekiel 37:11
  - 1. they thought they didn't have any hope
- I. the nation will be resurrected and the people put into the land: Ezekiel 37:12-14
  - 1. God will plant them there
    - a. Hosea 1:11; 2:21-23
      - (i) "Jezreel" = "God sows"
    - b. Amos 9:11-15
      - (i) " 'I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,' says the LORD your God." -- Amos 9:15
- V. The Illustration Of The Two Sticks: Ezekiel 37:15-28
  - A. similar to Numbers 17 where a staff, rod, or scepter was used to represent each tribe
  - B. "stick" = tree, wood, timber, stock, plank, stalk, stick
  - C. one stick represents Judah: Ezekiel 37:16
    - 1. this represented the Southern Kingdom
  - D. the second stick represents Joseph: Ezekiel 37:16
    - 1. this represented the Northern Kingdom
  - E. Ezekiel put the two together: Ezekiel 37:17
    - 1. they miraculously became one stick
  - F. Ezekiel is told to explain it to the people: Ezekiel 37:18-20
  - G. Israel will be brought back into the land: Ezekiel 37:21
    - 1. yet another promise that the people will be brought back into the land
  - H. Israel will become one nation, never to be split again: Ezekiel 37:22
  - I. they will have one king over them: Ezekiel 37:22
  - J. they will be cleansed: Ezekiel 37:23
    - 1. they won't defile themselves with idols and detestable acts
    - 2. God said that they will be "My people"
  - K. David will be their king: Ezekiel 37:24-25
    - 1. this was spoken of in Ezekiel 34:23-24
    - 2. David is a common idiom of the Messiah, Jesus Christ
      - a. Isaiah 11:1; 55:3-4
      - b. Jeremiah 23:5; 30:9
      - c. Hosea 3:5
      - d. Revelation 22:16
    - 3. this is a prophecy speaking of the Messiah, Jesus Christ
      - a. John 10
        - (i) Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd" -- John 10:11, 14
      - b. "...our Lord Jesus... that great Shepherd of the sheep" -- Hebrews 13:20
      - c. "and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory" -- 1 Peter 5:4
    - 4. the land was given to Jacob: Ezekiel 37:25a
      - a. not Esau! (the Arabs)
    - 5. they will live in the land forever: Ezekiel 37:25b
    - 6. David will rule over them forever: Ezekiel 37:25c
    - 7. God is clearly not done with the nation of Israel!
  - L. God will live with them forever: Ezekiel 37:26-28
    - 1. He will "cut a covenant" of peace with them: Ezekiel 37:26a
    - 2. God will dwell with them forever: Ezekiel 37:26b-27
    - 3. Leviticus 26:11-12
    - 4. Zechariah 2:5, 10, 11
    - 5. Revelation 21:1-3



## **Lesson 17: Ezekiel 38-39**

- I. The Coming Invasion Of Israel: Ezekiel 38:1-17
  - A. this is not the Armageddon scenario
    1. the Armageddon scenario involves the entire world; but this invasion only involves a northern contingency plus a few allies
      - a. "I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat..." -- Joel 3:2
      - b. "I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem..." -- Zechariah 14:2
      - c. "...the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty... they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon." -- Revelation 16:12-16
      - d. Joel 3:9-17
    2. by the end of the Armageddon scenario Israel has fled to Bozrah; there is no indication here that Israel flees anywhere
      - a. Bozrah may or may not involve the ancient Roman city called Petra
        - (i) Petra would be too small to hold Israel or maybe even a small remnant
        - (ii) Petra would be defenseless against modern weapons
      - b. Isaiah 63:1-6
      - c. Revelation 12:14
      - d. "Therefore when you see the "ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.' " -- Matthew 24:15-16
    3. at the end of the Armageddon scenario Jesus returns to the earth and physically fights against Israel's enemies; Jesus' personal involvement on the earth isn't mentioned as putting an end to this invasion
      - a. "Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle." -- Zechariah 14:3
      - b. Isaiah 63:1-6
    4. at the end of the Armageddon scenario Israel's enemies are defeated at Bozrah; at this battle Israel's enemies are defeated on the mountains of Israel
      - a. Isaiah 63:1-6
    5. at the end of the Armageddon scenario Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives, which splits open and "living waters" go out to heal the earth; there is no indication that anything split or "living waters" are flowing or healing anything after this invasion is ended
      - a. Zechariah 14:4-8
      - b. Joel 3:18
      - c. Ezekiel 47:1-12
  - B. this is not the offensive by Gog and Magog at the end of Jesus' 1000-year earthly reign described in Revelation 20:7-10
  - C. God is against Gog: Ezekiel 38:2-3
    1. Gog
      - a. not clear who Gog is
      - b. name is almost only used here in Ezekiel 38-39
        - (i) used again with Magog in Revelation 20:8
      - c. could just be a general term referring to the enemies of Israel, or the force behind her enemies
      - d. the name is found in the Septuagint referring to the king of locusts
        - (i) "...a swarm of locusts... and behold, one caterpillar, king Gog." -- Amos 7:1 (Brenton Septuagint)
        - (ii) but locusts have no king
          - "The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks" -- Proverbs 30:27
        - (iii) locusts can be used as an idiom for satanic forces: Revelation 9:1-11
          - "And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon." -- Revelation 9:11
          - these locusts are obviously not natural creatures
        - (iv) therefore, this could be identifying Gog as Satan and/or his ministers!
          - this fits very well
    2. Magog
      - a. known as the Scythians to the Greeks

- b. Scythians settled north of the Caucasus Mountains and populated western Siberia
  - (i) they were famous horsemen
  - (ii) the Caucasus Mountains is the southern border of Russia between the Black and Caspian Seas
- c. it's well-accepted that this speaks of Russia
- 3. Rosh
  - a. "Rosh" is commonly translated "chief" or "head"
  - b. therefore some translations say "*chief* prince of Meshech..."
  - c. however, Rosh is also the name of a people dwelling north of the Taurus Mountains, and reckoned among the Scythian tribes
    - (i) the Taurus Mountains are in southern Turkey
  - d. this may be northern Turkey
- 4. Meshech
  - a. the Moschi, a barbarous people inhabiting the Moschian Mountains
    - (i) the Moschian Mountains connect the Caucasus and Taurus Mountains
    - (ii) many may have migrated north during the Babylonian and Persian empires and mingled with the Scythians, becoming known as the Muscovs
      - may be how Moscow got its name
  - b. this is modern Georgia, Armenia, and northern Turkey
- 5. Tubal
  - a. these people dwelt on and to the southeast of the Black Sea, west of the Moschi
  - b. this is modern Georgia and northern Turkey
- 6. Gog is the leader: Ezekiel 38:3
- D. they will be brought down to get involved: Ezekiel 38:4
  - 1. God will put hooks in their jaws and drag them down
    - a. this kind of method is spoken of in a number of other places
      - (i) Ezekiel 29:4
      - (ii) 2 Kings 19:28
      - (iii) Isaiah 37:29
    - b. but as far as they know it will be their own idea: Ezekiel 38:10-12
  - 2. God will deliberately use them for His purposes
    - a. to judge Russia and their allies: Ezekiel 38:18-39:6
    - b. to test Israel and get their attention: Ezekiel 39:7, 22
    - c. make a point to the rest of the world: Ezekiel 38:16, 23; 39:7, 21
  - 3. they will be "splendidly clothed"
    - a. same words as in Ezekiel 23:12
    - b. they will be well-equipped for battle
  - 4. there will be a "great company"
    - a. "company" = assembly, congregation
    - b. there will be a great assembly of people, or in other words, a big army!
- E. their allies: Ezekiel 38:5-6
  - 1. Persia
    - a. this is modern Iran
    - b. they are a very vocal enemy of Israel
    - c. for the first time in history Russia has a military alliance with Iran, and has been supplying arms to them
  - 2. Cush
    - a. commonly considered to be Ethiopia
    - b. they initially populated the Arabian Peninsula, and then migrated to Africa
    - c. may refer to more than just modern Ethiopia
  - 3. Put
    - a. commonly considered to be Libya
    - b. probably refers to Arab Africa to include Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria
  - 4. Gomer and all its troops
    - a. it's not exactly sure who this is referring to

- b. it's generally accepted that this refers to the Cimmerians, an ancient people that lived north of the Black Sea
        - (i) from where we get the name Crimea
      - c. the Cimmerians may have then settled in eastern Europe, becoming predecessors to the Germans and the Slavic countries
      - d. another viewpoint is that these are the ancient Galatians, which is northern Turkey
- 5. Togarmah
  - a. Armenia and perhaps the Turkiman/Turkmen tribes of central Asia
- 6. the "far north": Ezekiel 38:6
  - a. not just those to the north, but to the "far north"
  - b. to the far north of Israel is Moscow!
- 7. there will be "many people": Ezekiel 38:6
  - a. "people" = a people (as a congregated unit); specifically a tribe; hence (collectively) troops
  - b. there will be a large congregation of troops!
- 8. Egypt and Jordan seem to be missing from this list of allies
  - a. today Egypt and Jordan have peace treaties with Israel!
  - b. at the end of the 7-year Tribulation period, and the Armageddon scenario, Israel will flee to Bozrah, which is in Jordan: Isaiah 63:1-6
- F. Russia will be making themselves ready: Ezekiel 38:7
  - 1. they will be a "guard" for their allies
    - a. "guard" = place of confinement, jail, prison; act of guarding
    - b. this may refer to their allies being captive or subject to the Russians, such as a reunited (and expanded?) Soviet Union
- G. it will happen after they've been ready for a very long time: Ezekiel 38:8a
  - 1. Russia has been Israel's enemies for a very long time
  - 2. their punishment has been waiting for them for a long time, too
- H. Israel is described as being a people who have been brought back into the land: Ezekiel 38:8b
  - 1. they've been gathered from all over the world
  - 2. that area used to be very desolate, and now it's very fertile
  - 3. another reminder that God is the one that has brought them into the land, and that it's their land
- I. Russia and their large army will invade: Ezekiel 38:9
- J. their evil plan: Ezekiel 38:10-12
  - 1. they will think it's their own idea: Ezekiel 38:10
  - 2. Israel appeared to be a peaceful, defenseless, and vulnerable country: Ezekiel 38:11
    - a. Israel is smaller than New Hampshire, a little larger than Massachusetts
  - 3. Israel will be in the land "safely" or "securely": Ezekiel 38:11
    - a. there is no doubt that Israel today is firmly affixed in the land!
  - 4. once again God reminds us that Israel was brought back to the land: Ezekiel 38:12
    - a. places that were wasteland now flourish
- K. the reaction from other nations: Ezekiel 38:13
  - 1. Sheba and Dedan
    - a. grandsons of Abraham: Genesis 25:1-4; 1 Chronicles 1:32-33
      - (i) Midian was their uncle
    - b. the queen of Sheba visited Solomon: 1 Kings 10:1-13
      - (i) Jesus called her the "queen of the South": Matthew 12:42
    - c. it's well-accepted that this speaks of Saudi Arabia
      - (i) "...in Arabia you will lodge, O you traveling companies of Dedanites." -- Isaiah 21:13
  - 2. Tarshish
    - a. its location is not exactly known
      - (i) may have been a Phoenician port in Spain
      - (ii) may have been in the British Isles
    - b. was a well-known, distant trading destination
    - c. Jonah attempted to flee there: Jonah 1:3; 4:2
    - d. "ships of Tarshish": Psalm 48:7; Isaiah 2:16; 23:1, 14; 60:9
    - e. Tyre traded with Tarshish: Ezekiel 27:12
    - f. a source of silver, tin, lead, iron: Ezekiel 27:12; Jeremiah 10:9

- g. "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles..." -- Psalm 72:10
- h. "Cross over to Tarshish; wail, you inhabitants of the coastland!" -- Isaiah 23:6
- i. 2 Chronicles 9:21; 20:36-37
- j. could this be a metaphor for world trade and international commerce?
- k. could this be a metaphor for the West?
  - (i) "...the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions..." -- Ezekiel 38:13
- 3. these are not involved in the invasion
- 4. they're concerned about the Russian armies' intentions
- 5. they may have a major concern over oil
- 6. they may have a major concern for their own safety
- L. the Russian invasion of Israel: Ezekiel 38:14-17
  - 1. this will happen when Israel is "securely" in the land: Ezekiel 38:14
    - a. there is no doubt that Israel today is firmly affixed in the land!
  - 2. "My people Israel": Ezekiel 38:14, 16
    - a. Israel hasn't been "My people" during the era known as the "times of the Gentiles" or the "Church Age"
    - b. this may indicate that this will happen after the "times of the Gentiles" (after the "Rapture")
    - c. Zechariah 8:8
    - d. Jeremiah 30:22; 31:33; 32:37-42
    - e. Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:28; 37:23-28
    - f. Hosea 1:9-10; 2:23
    - g. Hebrews 8:10
  - 3. they will come from the "far north" with a mighty army: Ezekiel 38:15
  - 4. God is doing it to prove His existence and strength in front of the heathen world: Ezekiel 38:16
  - 5. Satan coming against Israel had long been prophesied: Ezekiel 38:17
    - a. we may not have all these prophecies
    - b. Joel 3
    - c. Zephaniah 3:8
- II. God Destroys The Invading Army: Ezekiel 38:18-39:8
  - A. God will act with His fury and wrath: Ezekiel 38:18-19a
    - 1. God will protect Israel: Zechariah 12:7-9
  - B. the entire earth will feel the earthquake: Ezekiel 38:19b-20
    - 1. "earthquake" = shaking
  - C. some sort of sword will be used against them: Ezekiel 38:21a
    - 1. nuclear weapons?
    - 2. the neutron bomb? (Zechariah 14:12-15)
    - 3. something clearly supernatural?
  - D. they will fight amongst themselves: Ezekiel 38:21b
    - 1. God has caused this type of confusion to happen before
      - a. Judges 7:22
      - b. 1 Samuel 7:10; 14:15-20
      - c. 2 Chronicles 20:22-23
    - 2. could this be a revolt against Russia from within the reunited Soviet Union?
  - E. God will also bring against them pestilence, bloodshed, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone: Ezekiel 38:22
  - F. many nations will take notice of this and acknowledge the Lord: Ezekiel 38:23
    - 1. "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" -- Psalm 46:10
  - G. God repeats that He is against Gog: Ezekiel 39:1
  - H. He will repel the invasion: Ezekiel 39:2
    - 1. there is a translation problem: are they annihilated, only a sixth of them remain, or are they led on?
    - 2. this may mean that God will repel the invasion and annihilate the entire army
      - a. God had wiped out the entire Egyptian army that was pursuing them during the Exodus: Exodus 14
        - (i) "Not so much as one of them remained." -- Exodus 14:28

- I. their military will be ineffective: Ezekiel 39:3
    - 1. their weapons will be useless against what they're facing
  - J. they will be defeated in the land of Israel: Ezekiel 39:4-5
    - 1. their bodies will be everywhere, open to be devoured by wild animals
  - K. God will send fire to the country of Magog: Ezekiel 39:6
    - 1. fire will also come upon those that live "securely" or "confidently" in the coastlands
      - a. not certain who this refers to
      - b. the word for coastlands could also mean islands
        - (i) the British Isles?
      - c. many people think that this could mean America
        - (i) America has lived securely and confidently for 200 years
    - 2. is this a major nuclear exchange between Russia and America (and NATO)?!
  - L. this will awaken Israel to the one and only true God: Ezekiel 39:7
    - 1. Zechariah 12:5-6
    - 2. this will spiritually shake them up
    - 3. this will demonstrate the power of the one and only true God to the heathen
  - M. there is absolutely no doubt that this will happen: Ezekiel 39:8
- III. The Aftermath: Ezekiel 39:9-16
- A. Israel will burn the weapons for seven years: Ezekiel 39:9-10
    - 1. these weapons will supply all their energy needs for 7 years!
    - 2. conventional fuels from all the vehicles?
    - 3. fuel derived from nuclear weapons?
    - 4. why 7 years?
      - a. they won't need fuel for any longer than that?
      - b. is this the beginning of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week?
        - (i) Daniel 9:24-27
        - (ii) the 7-year period commonly called the Tribulation
  - B. they will plunder their enemies: Ezekiel 39:10
    - 1. they came to plunder: Ezekiel 38:12
    - 2. "Those who plunder you shall become plunder, and all who prey upon you I will make a prey." -- Jeremiah 30:16
    - 3. Zechariah 14:14
  - C. they will bury the invading army and cleanse the land for 7 months: Ezekiel 39:11-16
    - 1. they'll be buried in a valley "east of the sea": Ezekiel 39:11
      - a. may refer to an already desolate area east of the Dead Sea
      - b. the valley will be called the "Valley of the Multitude of Gog"
        - (i) the "Valley of Satan's Army"?
      - c. there will be so many dead that it will interfere with travel
    - 2. they will have to bury the bodies to cleanse the land: Ezekiel 39:12
      - a. to prevent disease
      - b. to also remove nuclear and/or biological contamination?
    - 3. they will become famous for being able to accomplish such a task: Ezekiel 39:13
    - 4. they will employ professionals to do it: Ezekiel 39:14-15
      - a. if any bodies are found afterwards they will call in those professionals to take care of it
      - b. is this more than just a simple clean up, but a clean up of nuclear and/or biological contamination?
- IV. The Feast Of Predators: Ezekiel 39:17-20
- A. this is God's sacrifice for them: Ezekiel 39:17, 19
  - B. they're "fatlings of Bashan": Ezekiel 39:18
    - 1. this may be saying that the invading armies are well-fed members of Satan's kingdom
    - 2. Bashan was a very fertile but wicked area east of the Jordan River, east and north of the Sea of Galilee, south of Mount Hermon
    - 3. Bashan seen filled with Nephilim as early as Genesis 14:5
      - a. its ruler was Og
        - (i) "the kingdom of Og in Bashan... he remained of the remnant of the giants (rapha)" -- Joshua 13:12

4. God was displeased with them
    - a. "He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, and dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon withers." -- Nahum 1:4
    - b. "Hear this Word, cows of Bashan... who press down the poor, who crush the needy... the Lord has sworn by His holiness that the days shall come on you that He will lift you up with meat hooks, and your sons with fishhooks." -- Amos 4:1-2
  5. Bashan is mentioned in Psalm 22:12-13 (but why?!)
    - a. it's commonly believed that Psalm 22 is a description of Jesus' experience on the cross
    - b. a more literal rendering is, "The strong (or mighty) ones of Bashan have surrounded Me. They opened their mouth on Me, like a lion ripping and roaring."
      - (i) "surrounded" = besieged, such as in a hostile way
  6. when Jesus was headed there an attempt was made on His life: Matthew 8:18-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
    - a. Satan didn't want Jesus to interfere with his stronghold?
- V. God Will Be Glorified: Ezekiel 39:21-29
- A. the heathen will witness God's power: Ezekiel 39:21
  - B. Israel will acknowledge the true God from now on: Ezekiel 39:22
  - C. the Gentile world will understand exactly what God did in judgment against Israel over history: Ezekiel 39:23-24
    1. "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning..." -- Romans 15:4
    2. "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition..." -- 1 Corinthians 10:11
  - D. it's again emphasized that God has gathered them from the entire world and brought them back into the land: Ezekiel 39:25-28
    1. fulfillment of Isaiah 11:11
  - E. God will pour His Spirit on Israel: Ezekiel 39:29
    1. this is the salvation of Israel
    2. Ezekiel 16:62; 20:40-44; 36:25-27
    3. Zechariah 12:10-13:9
    4. Romans 11:25-29

## **Lesson 18: Ezekiel 40:1-43:12**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Ezekiel 40-48 is a very difficult passage to understand
    1. many different viewpoints
      - a. is it past, present, or future?
      - b. is it literal or allegorical?
  - B. Ezekiel 40:1-43:12 speaks of the new Temple
  - C. Ezekiel 43:13-46:24 speaks of the new worship of God
  - D. Ezekiel 47-48 speaks of the new partitioning of the land
- II. The New Temple: Ezekiel 40-42
  - A. what is described here has never been built
    1. the great amount of details emphasize that this is very literal and not symbolic
  - B. which temple?
    1. not Solomon's temple
      - a. 1 Kings 6-7
    2. not Zerubbabel's, or the second temple built during Nehemiah's and Ezra's time
    3. not Herod's temple
      - a. Herod embellished and modernized the second temple to try and gain favor with the Jews
    4. cannot be built in Jerusalem today
      - a. because of its size, about 1 mile square: Ezekiel 42:15-20
      - b. it was compared to the size of a city: Ezekiel 40:2
    5. could also not be built in Jerusalem during the Tribulation period because of its size
    6. not some sort of temple in heaven
      - a. because Ezekiel was taken to Israel to see it: Ezekiel 40:2
    7. not an eternal temple in the New Jerusalem
      - a. "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."  
-- Revelation 21:22
    8. probably refers to a temple built during the Millennium
      - a. the Millennium is Jesus' 1000-year reign on the earth while Satan is bound: Revelation 20:1-6
      - b. this brings up a number of problems and questions: there are priests and sacrifices!
        - (i) Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient once and for all: Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:1-4, 18
  - C. gold and silver aren't mentioned
  - D. no heights are mentioned
  - E. there will be many factors of 5, 25, 50, and 100 used in the dimensions
    1. 5 speaks of grace
  - F. Ezekiel receives this through a vision: Ezekiel 40:1-5
    1. this happened on the 10<sup>th</sup> day, of the 1<sup>st</sup> month, in the 25<sup>th</sup> year: Ezekiel 40:1
      - a. this was the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, the day the Passover lamb was chosen: Exodus 12:3-6
      - b. the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan is also the day that Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey proclaiming Himself as king
        - (i) Zechariah 9:9
    2. he was taken to Israel and saw "something like the structure of a city": Ezekiel 40:2
    3. he met a man: Ezekiel 40:3
      - a. this man had the appearance of bronze
        - (i) bronze is used in sacrificial altars because it can withstand heat
        - (ii) bronze speaks of judgment
        - (iii) Jesus is described as having feet of fine brass: Revelation 1:15; 2:18
      - b. this person may be the "angel of the Lord"
        - (i) he is called "Lord" in Ezekiel 44:2, 5
        - (ii) this may be another Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ
      - c. he had measuring instruments
        - (i) the concept of measuring the city or temple is seen in other places
          - Zechariah 2:1-2
          - Revelation 11:1
          - Revelation 21:15

4. Ezekiel is told to pay careful attention: Ezekiel 40:4
  - a. "look"
    - (i) "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." -- Psalms 119:18
    - (ii) "Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, 'Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see' " -- Luke 10:23
  - b. "hear"
    - (i) "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." -- Romans 10:17
  - c. "fix your mind" or "set your heart"
    - (i) "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel." -- Ezra 7:10
    - (ii) Ezekiel 28:2, 6
    - (iii) Deuteronomy 32:46
    - (iv) 1 Chronicles 22:19
    - (v) 2 Chronicles 11:16
    - (vi) Psalm 62:10; 78:8
    - (vii) Ecclesiastes 8:11
  - d. "declare"
    - (i) "For thus has the Lord said to me: 'Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he sees.' " -- Isaiah 21:6
    - (ii) "That which I have heard from the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, I have declared to you." -- Isaiah 21:10
    - (iii) "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." -- Acts 20:27
    - (iv) "...and to teach..." -- Ezra 7:10
  - e. he is to pay careful attention because God is speaking
    - (i) it is a great honor to have the Lord speak to us!
- G. the east gate: Ezekiel 40:6-16
  1. this would be the east gate to the outer court described in Ezekiel 40:17-27
  2. there were steps up to the gate: Ezekiel 40:6
    - a. probably 7 steps from the description in Ezekiel 40:22, 26
  3. there was a porch, archway, or vestibule: Ezekiel 40:16
    - a. it is not certain what the Hebrew word exactly means
    - b. the Hebrew word is unique to Ezekiel, and used 14 times
      - (i) Ezekiel 40:16, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36
  4. on each gatepost was a palm tree: Ezekiel 40:16
    - a. also seen in Ezekiel 40:22, 26, 31, 34, 37
    - b. there were carved palm trees in Solomon's temple
      - (i) 1 Kings 6:29, 32, 35; 7:36
      - (ii) 2 Chronicles 3:5
- H. the outer court: Ezekiel 40:17-27
  1. the north gate: Ezekiel 40:20-23
  2. the south gate: Ezekiel 40:24-27
- I. the inner court: Ezekiel 40:28-37
  1. there were 8 steps: Ezekiel 40:31, 34, 37
  2. the south gate: Ezekiel 40:28-31
  3. the east gate: Ezekiel 40:32-34
  4. the north gate: Ezekiel 40:35-37
- J. chamber to prepare the sacrifices: Ezekiel 40:38-43
  1. burnt offering
    - a. Leviticus 1:3-17
  2. sin offering
    - a. Leviticus 4:1-35
  3. trespass offering
    - a. Leviticus 5:1-6:7
  4. this indicates that there is sin in the Millennium
  5. there will be death in the Millennium: Isaiah 65:20

6. there were tables made of hewn stone: Ezekiel 40:42
  - a. the original altars were to be of unhewn stone
    - (i) Exodus 20:25
    - (ii) Deuteronomy 27:5-6
    - (iii) Joshua 8:31
  7. their sacrifices will just be a memorial to Jesus' sacrifice
    - a. just like today's Lord's Supper by Christians is a memorial
    - b. Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient once and for all: Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:1-4, 18
- K. chambers for singers and priests: Ezekiel 40:44-46
  1. sons of Zadok
    - a. will also be mentioned in Ezekiel 43:19; 44:15; 48:11
    - b. Zadok was a high priest during the time of David (2 Samuel 20:25) and Solomon (1 Kings 4:4)
    - c. Zadok was the priest who anointed Solomon king
    - d. during a rebellion Zadok remained faithful to David and then became the only high priest
      - (i) 1 Kings 2:27, 35
      - (ii) 1 Chronicles 29:22
- L. dimensions of the inner court: Ezekiel 40:47-49
  1. there are 2 pillars by the door: Ezekiel 40:49
    - a. there were 2 pillars in Solomon's temple, named Jachin and Boaz
      - (i) 1 Kings 7:15-21
      - (ii) 2 Chronicles 3:17
      - (iii) Jachin = "he will establish", implying stability; "firm"; "he that strengthens and makes steadfast"
      - (iv) Boaz = "fleetness" or "quickness"; "alacrity"; "in strength"
- M. dimensions of the temple proper: Ezekiel 41:1-4
  1. divided into 2 sections: the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place
    - a. Exodus 26:33-34
    - b. Hebrews 9:3-8
  2. the Holy Place: Ezekiel 41:1-2
  3. the Holy of Holies: Ezekiel 41:3-4
    - a. Ezekiel doesn't go in, only the angel of the Lord does
- N. side chambers: Ezekiel 41:5-11
- O. building on the western end: Ezekiel 41:12
- P. the temple area: Ezekiel 41:13-26
  1. cherubim and palm trees: Ezekiel 41:18-20, 25
    - a. similar to Solomon's temple: 1 Kings 6:29-35
    - b. these cherubim had 2 faces: Ezekiel 41:18
      - (i) the cherubim in previous descriptions had 4 faces: Ezekiel 1:10; 10:14, 21
      - (ii) couldn't draw or carve 4 faces?
  2. an altar: Ezekiel 41:22
    - a. the altar of incense?: Exodus 30:1-10
  3. no table of showbread
    - a. Exodus 25:30
    - b. "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." -- John 6:33
    - c. "And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.'" -- John 6:35
    - d. "I am the bread of life." -- John 6:48
    - e. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." -- John 6:51
  4. no lampstands
    - a. Exodus 25:31-35
    - b. "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'" -- John 8:12
    - c. "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness." -- John 12:46

5. no Ark of the Covenant
  - a. there will be no more Ark of the Covenant: Jeremiah 3:16
  - b. they won't need it; they won't need visual aids because Jesus will be there with them?
  - c. last time the Ark is seen is in 2 Chronicles 35:3
  - d. Nebuchadnezzar may have taken it along with all the other Temple items
    - (i) but it's not among the items listed in Jeremiah 52:17
    - (ii) it may have been hidden in a secret cavern somewhere?
    - (iii) the Ethiopians firmly believe that they have it
  - e. but there is a viewpoint that the Mercy Seat is the Throne of David that Jesus will sit on
- Q. eating and dressing area for priests: Ezekiel 42:1-14
  1. Leviticus 2:3, 10; 6:9-11; 10:12
- R. overall outer dimensions: Ezekiel 42:15-20
  1. 500 rods square
    - a. 500 rods is about 1 mile
    - b. that would be larger than ancient Jerusalem
  2. obviously cannot fit today's topology of the land
  3. at the end of the 7-year Tribulation there will be major physical changes to Israel and the surrounding area: Zechariah 14:4, 8, 10-11

### III. The Glory Enters The Temple: Ezekiel 43:1-12

- A. the Glory
  1. we commonly use the word "Shekinah", but it doesn't appear in the Bible
    - a. the word means "that which dwells"
    - b. used in the Targums, the ancient Jewish commentaries
  2. during the Exodus it was a cloud by day and fire by night
    - a. cloud for shade during the day; fire for light and warmth at night?
    - b. Exodus 13:21-22
    - c. Numbers 9:15-23
    - d. it protected them: Exodus 14:19-20, 24
    - e. it led them: Exodus 40:36-37
  3. He dwelt with them in the cloud
    - a. "...I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat" -- Leviticus 16:2
    - b. Exodus 25:8, 21-22; 33:9; 40:34-38
    - c. 1 Kings 8:10-12
    - d. Numbers 11:25
    - e. 2 Chronicles 5:14
  4. God is commonly described as "dwelling between the cherubim"
    - a. Exodus 25:22
    - b. 2 Samuel 6:2
    - c. 2 Kings 19:14-15
    - d. Psalm 80:1
    - e. Isaiah 37:16
- B. the Glory entered the Tabernacle: Exodus 40:34-38
- C. the Glory entered Solomon's Temple: 1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, 7:1-3
- D. the Glory left Solomon's Temple as the Babylonian army was approaching: Ezekiel 10
- E. no record of the Glory entering Zerubbabel's Temple
  1. because it was the "times of the Gentiles"?
  2. because Jesus Himself was to enter it?
- F. His voice was like the sound of many waters: Ezekiel 43:2
  1. that description is used of Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:15
  2. that description was also used in Ezekiel 1:24
- G. the Glory entered through the east gate: Ezekiel 43:4
  1. it had left through the east gate: Ezekiel 10:18-19
- H. God again brings up how the abominations they committed really bothered Him: Ezekiel 43:7-9
- I. Israel should be ashamed of themselves: Ezekiel 43:10-12

## **Lesson 19: Ezekiel 43:13-46:24**

- I. Dimensions Of The Altar: Ezekiel 43:13-17
  - A. steps up to the altar: Ezekiel 43:17
    1. there were no steps up to the altar before: Exodus 20:26
    2. the steps face the east
      - a. so that the people are facing west
      - b. as part of their past abominations the priests worshiped the sun: Ezekiel 8:16
        - (i) they had their faces towards the east
        - (ii) they were having a "sunrise service"
        - (iii) this was warned against
          - Deuteronomy 4:19; 17:2-5
          - 2 Kings 23:5, 11
        - (iv) the Temple was designed so that they'd worship facing to the west, with their backs to the east
        - (v) in their idolatrous worship they were facing to the east, with their backs to the Temple
- II. Consecrating The Altar: Ezekiel 43:18-27
  - A. the line of Zadok will be the ones ministering before the Lord: Ezekiel 43:19
    1. the reason why the other Levites are excluded will be given in Ezekiel 44:10-16
  - B. "consecrate" = "to fill the hand"
    1. "Then Moses said, '*Consecrate* yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother.' " -- Exodus 32:29
    2. a peculiar idiom used frequently and generally for the installation of a priest into his office... offerings... of the altar... of those who contributed to build the temple... (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)
    3. to set apart, dedicate, or devote, to the service and worship of God (Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary of American English)
  - C. previous consecrations also took 7 days
    1. Exodus 29:35-37
    2. Leviticus 8:33-35
  - D. now God will accept them: Ezekiel 43:27
  - E. the Old Testament sacrifices pointed forward to Jesus
  - F. these sacrifices may be pointing backward to Jesus
    1. just like the Lord's Table or Communion Service is a memorial and reminder of Jesus' sacrifice
- III. The Shut East Gate: Ezekiel 44:1-3
  - A. the Glory left through the East Gate: Ezekiel 10:18-19
  - B. the Glory returned through the East Gate: Ezekiel 43:4
  - C. Ezekiel is taken to the East Gate, but it's shut: Ezekiel 44:1
  - D. he's told that it's to remain shut: Ezekiel 44:2
    1. it's only the Lord to use?
    2. it was an Eastern tradition that a way to honor the king was to provide a gate for him that no one else used
  - E. in Jerusalem the gate to the east, sometimes called the Golden Gate has been shut since 1543 A.D.
    1. there is a Rabbinical tradition that says that it will remain shut until the Messiah comes to use it
    2. this may refer to a completely different gate: the gate to the city versus the gate to this new Temple
  - F. even the Prince can't use it, but must use the vestibule: Ezekiel 44:3
    1. the Prince is not Jesus Christ
      - a. he eats before the Lord: Ezekiel 44:3
      - b. does not use the East Gate: Ezekiel 44:3; 46:2
        - (i) uses the vestibule
      - c. offers sacrifices for his sins: Ezekiel 45:22; 46:2, 4
      - d. he worships the Lord: Ezekiel 46:2
      - e. he has sons: Ezekiel 46:16-18
      - f. Jesus is a priest and the Prince isn't seen doing priestly duties
        - (i) "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek" -- Psalm 110:4
        - (ii) "...He shall be a priest on His throne..." -- Zechariah 6:12-13

2. the Prince is probably not literally David
    - a. David is said to reappear: Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24
      - (i) it's generally accepted that in those references it refers to the son of David, Jesus Christ
    - b. if it is David then why not just say so?!
  3. it is not clear who this is!
- IV. Those Allowed In The Temple: Ezekiel 44:4-9
- A. the Glory is in the Temple: Ezekiel 44:4
  - B. Ezekiel is to pay attention to what God is saying: Ezekiel 44:5
    1. "mark well" = set your heart
    2. he is to set his heart, see, and hear
    3. same as in Ezekiel 40:4
    4. "You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently." -- Psalm 119:4
  - C. they're reminded of their rebellious past: Ezekiel 44:6-9
    1. Israel is reminded that they've been rebellious: Ezekiel 44:6a
      - a. "...they are a rebellious house... they are a rebellious house... they are rebellious... that rebellious house..." -- Ezekiel 2:5-8
      - b. "...they are a rebellious house." -- Ezekiel 3:9
      - c. "...they are a rebellious house... they are a rebellious house." -- Ezekiel 3:26-27
      - d. God is very sensitive to rebellion!
    2. God wants no more of their abominations: Ezekiel 44:6b
      - a. they were "abundant"
      - b. God is very sensitive to abominations!
    3. they brought into the sanctuary those who weren't allowed: Ezekiel 44:7
      - a. "foreigners" = "children of strangers"
        - (i) foreign believers were required to offer sacrifices for their sins
        - (ii) "Also the *sons of the foreigner* who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants... even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations." -- Isaiah 56:6-7
      - b. uncircumcised of heart and flesh refers to unbelievers
      - c. perhaps non-believers or those not from Levi were allowed to act as priests
    4. they did not respect His holy things: Ezekiel 44:8
      - a. they even had others take care of the sanctuary
    5. non-believers will not be allowed in: Ezekiel 44:9
    6. are they being reminded of all this because there is a possibility that it can happen again?
      - a. there is sin in the Millennium
- V. Laws Governing The Priests: Ezekiel 44:10-31
- A. God is not happy with the Levites in general: Ezekiel 44:10-14
    1. they had sinned and had Israel sin: Ezekiel 44:12
    2. they may not minister before the Lord as priests: Ezekiel 44:13
      - a. they couldn't enter the Holy of Holies or the Most Holy Place
  - B. the sons of Zadok are favored: Ezekiel 44:15-16
    1. the sons of Zadok were mentioned in Ezekiel 40:46
      - a. Zadok was a high priest during the time of David (2 Samuel 20:25) and Solomon (1 Kings 4:4)
      - b. Zadok was the priest who anointed Solomon king
      - c. during a rebellion Zadok remained faithful to David and then became the only high priest
        - (i) 1 Kings 2:27, 35
        - (ii) 1 Chronicles 29:22
    2. they remained faithful when Israel went astray: Ezekiel 44:15
    3. therefore, they will allowed to minister before the Lord: Ezekiel 44:16
  - C. clothing requirements: Ezekiel 44:17-19
    1. made of linen
      - a. as seen in Exodus 28:39-42
    2. nothing that would make them sweat: Ezekiel 44:18

- D. their hair should be well-groomed: Ezekiel 44:20
    - 1. shaving of the head can be a sign of heathen practices for the dead
  - E. they must not be under the influence of substances: Ezekiel 44:21
    - 1. Leviticus 10:9
  - F. marriage requirements: Ezekiel 44:22
  - G. they are to teach differences between right and wrong: Ezekiel 44:23
    - 1. Leviticus 10:10-11
    - 2. their foolish prophets, wicked leaders, and irresponsible shepherds were discussed earlier: Ezekiel 13:10-15; 22:23-31; 34:1-10
      - a. "Her priests... have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean..." -- Ezekiel 22:26
    - 3. implies that the differences between right and wrong need to be taught
      - a. there is absolute right and wrong
      - b. everything is not relative!
    - 4. there is sin in the Millennium
  - H. they shall judge according to God's standards: Ezekiel 44:24a
  - I. they're going to have to keep ceremonial Laws: Ezekiel 44:24b
  - J. they're going to have to keep the Sabbath: Ezekiel 44:24c
  - K. contact with dead bodies: Ezekiel 44:25-27
    - 1. Leviticus 21:1-3
  - L. the priest's inheritance: Ezekiel 44:28
    - 1. they will not have an inheritance in the land
      - a. God is their inheritance
      - b. Numbers 18:20
      - c. Deuteronomy 10:9; 18:1-2
      - d. Joshua 13:14, 33
  - M. the priest's provisions will come from the offerings: Ezekiel 44:29-30
    - 1. the best is to be offered: Ezekiel 44:30
    - 2. Leviticus 2:3, 10; 6:14-18, 26, 29; 7:6
    - 3. Numbers 18:9-11
    - 4. 1 Corinthians 9:13-14
  - N. they are not to eat any animals that died from natural causes or were killed by another animal: Ezekiel 44:31
    - 1. Exodus 22:31
    - 2. Leviticus 17:15; 22:8
    - 3. Deuteronomy 14:21
- VI. The Holy District: Ezekiel 45:1-8
- A. the land will be partitioned: Ezekiel 45:1
    - 1. this will be discussed further in Ezekiel 47-48
  - B. the area for the sanctuary: Ezekiel 45:1-4
    - 1. this section will be 25,000 by 10,000 cubits: Ezekiel 45:1, 3, 5
      - a. this is about 10 by 4 miles
    - 2. inside of this will be the area set aside for the Temple: Ezekiel 45:2
      - a. about 1 mile square as was described in Ezekiel 40-42
    - 3. this will be also for the priests: Ezekiel 45:4
    - 4. will be discussed in Ezekiel 48:8-22
  - C. the area for the Levites: Ezekiel 45:5
    - 1. this section will also be 25,000 by 10,000 cubits
    - 2. will be discussed in Ezekiel 48:13-14
  - D. area for the whole house of Israel: Ezekiel 45:6
    - 1. 25,000 by 5000 cubits
    - 2. adjacent to the area for the sanctuary
    - 3. will be discussed in Ezekiel 48:15-20
  - E. the section for the Prince: Ezekiel 45:7-8
    - 1. on both sides of the areas just described
    - 2. will be discussed in Ezekiel 48:21-22

- VII. Laws Regarding The Prince: Ezekiel 45:9-17
  - A. they shall be honest and fair in their commercial dealings: Ezekiel 45:9-12
  - B. offerings that they have to make: Ezekiel 45:13-17
- VIII. The Annual Feasts: Ezekiel 45:18-25
  - A. no lambs are mentioned to be sacrificed during these annual feasts
  - B. the offerings are somewhat different than what is specified in the Mosaic Law
    - 1. Numbers 28:19-21
  - C. the Feasts of Pentecost won't be mentioned
    - 1. the Feast of Pentecost was prophetic of the Church, the Bride of Christ
    - 2. Leviticus 23:9-22
  - D. the Feast of Trumpets won't be mentioned
    - 1. Leviticus 23:23-25
  - E. the Feast of Atonement won't be mentioned
    - 1. Leviticus 23:26-32
  - F. cleansing of the sanctuary: Ezekiel 45:18-20
    - 1. this is a new one, held on the first day of the year
    - 2. there is sin to atone for: Ezekiel 45:20
  - G. Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread: Ezekiel 45:21-24
    - 1. the Prince makes atonement for himself
      - a. this is obviously not Jesus!
    - 2. Leviticus 23:5-8
  - H. Feast of Tabernacles: Ezekiel 45:25
    - 1. also spoken of in Zechariah 14:16-19
    - 2. Leviticus 23:33-44
- IX. Offering Ordinances: Ezekiel 46:1-15
  - A. Sabbath and New Moon offerings: Ezekiel 46:1-8
    - 1. the East Gate to the Inner Court will only be open on the Sabbaths and New Moons: Ezekiel 46:1
      - a. and when the Prince makes voluntary offerings: Ezekiel 46:12
  - B. the flow of the people during the Feasts: Ezekiel 46:9-10
  - C. the Prince's voluntary offerings: Ezekiel 46:12
    - 1. the East Gate to the Inner Court will be opened special for this
  - D. daily offerings: Ezekiel 46:13-15
    - 1. only morning offerings are mentioned
    - 2. there were also evening offerings required in Numbers 28:3-4
- X. Laws Regarding The Prince And His Inheritance Of His Land: Ezekiel 46:16-18
  - A. "year of liberty": Ezekiel 46:17
    - 1. may refer to the year of Jubilee when all sold/leased land goes back to its original owners
      - a. Leviticus 25:10
  - B. he is not to take anyone else's land: Ezekiel 46:18
    - 1. an example of this abuse is in 1 Kings 21
- XI. How The Offerings Were Prepared: Ezekiel 46:19-24
  - A. there was a kitchen in each corner of the Outer Court of the Temple: Ezekiel 46:21-24

## **Lesson 20: Ezekiel 47-48**

- I. Physical Changes During The Millennium
  - A. Mount of Olives split open: Zechariah 14:4
    1. Jesus' return to the Mount of Olives is described in Acts 1:11
  - B. living waters will flow from Jerusalem: Zechariah 14:8; Joel 3:18
    1. it will flow east to the Dead Sea, and west to the Mediterranean Sea
  - C. this entire area will be transformed from a very deep depression into a raised fertile plain, with "Jerusalem shall be raised up" (sticking out above it): Zechariah 14:10
    1. "plain" = "Arabah"
      - a. present day Arabah is the region south of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba
      - b. the ancient region of the Arabah is also known as the "Great Rift," "rift valley," or "Jordan Valley"
      - c. generally speaks of the area north of the Sea of Galilee to the Gulf of Aqaba and northern Africa
      - d. Deuteronomy 1:7; 3:17
      - e. Joshua 11:2
    2. there is a geological fault from Mount Hermon to the Gulf of Aqaba
  - D. longevity and death: Isaiah 65:20-22
  - E. peace within the animal kingdom: Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25
  - F. there will be great fruitfulness: Amos 9:13
- II. Healing Waters: Ezekiel 47:1-12
  - A. Ezekiel is taken to look at the river flowing out to the east: Ezekiel 47:1-2
    1. it starts out as a trickle: Ezekiel 47:2
      - a. "running out" = "trickle"
  - B. the angel measures the river: Ezekiel 47:3-6
    1. it started out only ankle deep and eventually was over Ezekiel's head
  - C. there were a lot of trees on the banks of the river: Ezekiel 47:7
    1. signifies great fruitfulness
  - D. the river has healed the Dead Sea: Ezekiel 47:8
  - E. the water will heal everywhere it goes: Ezekiel 47:9-10
    1. En Gedi is about in the middle of the west bank of the Dead Sea near Masada
    2. En Eglaim may be in the middle of the east bank of the Dead Sea
    3. may be a way of saying "from one side of the Dead Sea to the other"
  - F. certain swamps and marshes will remain salty: Ezekiel 47:11
    1. to supply the salt needed for sacrifices?
    2. salt can also refer to judgment
      - a. Deuteronomy 29:23
      - b. Zephaniah 2:9
    3. some areas will remain under judgment?
      - a. such as where Sodom and Gomorrah were?
  - G. the waters will cause great fruitfulness: Ezekiel 47:12
    1. leaves are for healing
- III. Borders Of The Land: Ezekiel 47:13-20
  - A. this is for the 12 tribes of Israel: Ezekiel 47:13
    1. there are no "10 lost tribes"
      - a. a very unscriptural heresy
    2. Joseph gets 2 portions
      - a. Joseph had two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh
      - b. when Jacob came down to Egypt he blessed those two sons and adopted them as his own: Genesis 48:1-6, 22
  - B. inherit equally: Ezekiel 47:14
    1. God promised it to them
  - C. borders of the land: Ezekiel 47:15-20
    1. the northern border: Ezekiel 47:15-17
    2. the eastern border: Ezekiel 47:18
    3. the southern border: Ezekiel 47:19

4. the western border: Ezekiel 47:20
5. about 100 miles north of Damascus to about 100 miles south of Jerusalem
- D. similar to Numbers 34:1-15
  1. southern border: Numbers 34:3-5
  2. western border: Numbers 34:6
  3. northern border: Numbers 34:7-9
  4. eastern border: Numbers 34:10-12
  5. it's for the 9 ½ tribes: Numbers 34:13
    - a. a very sad commentary
  6. "by lot": Numbers 34:13
  7. the boundary for the 2 ½ tribes east of the Jordan is relatively boundless: Numbers 34:15
    - a. "...eastward, towards the sunrise"
      - (i) sounds vague and indeterminate
      - (ii) no direction, guidance, or organization
    - b. doesn't matter how much they take because it's worthless
    - c. they "have received their inheritance on this side of the Jordan": Numbers 34:15
      - (i) not crossing the Jordan = not accepting the gift of salvation
      - (ii) therefore they already have their inheritance
      - (iii) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." -- John 3:18
    - d. those east of the Jordan were allowed to cross the Jordan in the future if they wanted to
      - (i) "if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and take possession among us" -- Joshua 22:19

#### IV. Who Will Inherit: Ezekiel 47:21-23

- A. this land is for Israel: Ezekiel 47:21
- B. it will be given out by lot: Ezekiel 47:22a
  1. "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." -- Proverbs 16:33
  2. reminding them that God will have the final say?
- C. the strangers living with them are to inherit too: Ezekiel 47:22b-23
  1. these are non-Jewish believers
  2. Leviticus 19:34
  3. Exodus 12:48-49
- D. children will be born during this 1000-year time period: Ezekiel 47:22
  1. but not all will become believers as seen by the rebellion in Revelation 20:8-9

#### V. Division Of The Land: Ezekiel 48:1-29

- A. these are apparently parallel bands of land going from east to west
- B. Dan: Ezekiel 48:1
  1. he was missing from the list of the 144,000 in Revelation 7:1-8
- C. Asher: Ezekiel 48:2
- D. Naphtali: Ezekiel 48:3
- E. Manasseh: Ezekiel 48:4
- F. Ephraim: Ezekiel 48:5
- G. Reuben: Ezekiel 48:6
- H. Judah: Ezekiel 48:7
- I. the Holy District: Ezekiel 48:8-22
  1. as described in Ezekiel 45:1-8
  2. priests: Ezekiel 48:8-12
    - a. this is where the Temple is: Ezekiel 48:8, 10
      - (i) not in the city of Jerusalem
      - (ii) this might be Shiloh, site of the first Tabernacle in the Promised Land
        - Joshua 18:1; 19:51
        - 1 Samuel 1:9
        - Psalm 78:60
    - b. God again brings up the faithfulness of Zadok: Ezekiel 48:11

- 3. Levites: Ezekiel 48:13-14
  - 4. the city: Ezekiel 48:15-20
    - a. the city of Jerusalem rebuilt?
  - 5. the prince: Ezekiel 48:21-22
  - J. Benjamin: Ezekiel 48:23
  - K. Simeon: Ezekiel 48:24
  - L. Issachar: Ezekiel 48:25
  - M. Zebulun: Ezekiel 48:26
  - N. Gad: Ezekiel 48:27
  - O. a repeat of the southern border: Ezekiel 48:28
    - 1. as already described in Ezekiel 47:19
- VI. Gates Of The City: Ezekiel 48:30-35
- A. the city of Jerusalem rebuilt?
    - 1. it will be a square, each side 4500 cubits
    - 2. about 7 miles in circumference
  - B. each gate will be named after one of the tribes of Israel: Ezekiel 48:31a
  - C. the north gates: Ezekiel 48:31b
    - 1. Reuben
    - 2. Judah
    - 3. Levi
  - D. the east gates: Ezekiel 48:32
    - 1. Joseph
    - 2. Benjamin
    - 3. Dan
  - E. the south gates: Ezekiel 48:33
    - 1. Simeon
    - 2. Issacar
    - 3. Zebulun
  - F. the west gates: Ezekiel 48:34
    - 1. Gad
    - 2. Asher
    - 3. Naphtali
  - G. the name of the city is now "The Lord is There": Ezekiel 48:35
    - 1. Jehovah Shammah