



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 38. Ezekiel, pt. 2

- **Review**

- Ezekiel was a member of the second deportation to Babylon in the early 6th century BC prophesying to his fellow exiles about the coming destruction of Jerusalem to counter false prophets giving false hope about the condition of the nation, but after the judgment, his messages turned to God's plan to restore Israel and punish her enemies.
- Main themes:
 - God's holiness and wrath
 - God's continuing plan for Israel
- Sections covered so far:
 - Ezekiel's call (1–3)
 - God's Presence Departing Jerusalem (4–11)

- **The Judgments on _____ Sin (12–24)**

- Judgment is pronounced upon false prophets, idolatrous elders, Zedekiah, and the population of the city as a whole for all the sins they have amassed in breaking their covenant with God.

- God makes clear that even as He carries out these judgments against these groups, He recognizes the righteous among them to show mercy, and He will preserve a _____ (cf. ch14).
 - When acknowledging that some will see restoration, God often points out in Ezekiel that there will first be intense repentance after recognizing how much they sinned as a nation to get into that judgment.

- Chapter 16 makes clear why their sin is such a big deal by using the metaphor of _____.
 - This is further developed in chapter 23 where Israel's sin is called 'lewdness.'

- Chapter 18 teaches that individuals are responsible for their own sin, yet chapter 21 shows that both righteous and wicked people will be caught in the national judgment.

- Chapter 20 rehearses God's dealings with Israel to show that they have been unfaithful to Him from the beginning and deserve the judgment about to come.
 - **HP: Just because content is repeated in Scripture doesn't mean it's for the same reason—look for differences in accounts to find clues about their purposes.**

- The section ends with the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem pictured by the death of Ezekiel's wife.
 - Something terrible is happening that will result in the loss of their families back home too, but they will be unable to mourn because it is the beginning of judgment, not the end.

- **The Judgments on Israel's _____ (25–32)**

- All of Israel's closest neighbors will be judged, starting with the three closest 'relatives' (Ammon, Moab, & Edom) plus Philistia for rejoicing in and/or taking advantage of Israel's demise.
- Nearly three chapters are spent on Tyre.
 - They were an extremely wealthy trading city-state who went from allies of Israel to adversaries who are judged here for their arrogant self-reliance and lamented for how spectacular their fall will be.
 - Chapter 28 contains a clear example of prophetic escalation that most likely describes _____.
- After judging yet another 'thorn in Israel's side' in Sidon, God reassures them that one day, they will no longer have any external threats to fear.

- This section closes with four chapters addressing Egypt.
 - They are judged not just for arrogance and self-reliance, but also for letting Israel down when they had promised support.
 - As one of the greatest superpowers in world history, they are warned that they too will end up like other superpowers.
 - God is making clear that He is working through Babylon and that no nation is outside His sovereignty.

Discussion:

1. Why is understanding the 'ripple effects' of sin so important for our theology?
2. Why is so much Scripture devoted to specific judgments on human adversaries?

FOR REFLECTION: How does the concept of us being the Bride of Christ inform your understanding of your relationship with Him? How should that affect your attitudes and actions?

Blanks: Jerusalem's, remnant, marriage, Neighbors, Satan