

**The Book of Ezekiel**  
**Chapters 22-24: The Sinful City (Part 4)**  
**Lesson 27 “The End of a Delusion” and “The End of a Marriage”**  
**Ezekiel 24:1-27 (ANSWERS)**  
**March 28, 2021**

**Recap from Lesson 26:**

- 1. The End of the Kingdom (Ezek. 23:1-49)**
  - a. The People of Judah Sinned even more than Samaria Did (Ezek. 23:14-21)**
    - i. God’s punishment of Samaria and His miraculous deliverance of Judah should have brought the people of Judah to their knees in Gratitude and Dedication, but it did not happen that way.
  - b. The People of Judah will Suffer the Wrath of God (Ezek. 23:22-35)**
    - i. The logic is obvious: If God punished Samaria for her sins, and if Judah sinned Worse than Samaria, then Judah Must be punished also.
    - ii. What were their sins? Idolatry, Injustice, Unbelief (Depending on the heathen nations for help) followed by blatant Hypocrisy.
    - iii. Judah would be treated like an adulteress and even worse.
      1. The Law of Moses called for the adulteress to be Stoned.
        - a. (Lev. 20:10)
      2. The Law of Moses called for prostitutes to be Burned.
        - a. (Lev. 21:9)
      3. The Law of Moses called for murderers to be put to Death probably by stoning.
        - a. (Lev. 24:17)

**Lesson 27**

**Introduction:**

- This chapter closes the section of the book that focuses on the Destruction of Jerusalem (**Chapters 4-24**) and it is divided into two parts: A parable about a Boiling pot (**Ezek. 24:1-14**) and an “Action sermon” involving the sudden Death of the prophet’s Wife (**Ezek. 24:15-27**)
- 1. The End of a Delusion (Ezek. 24:1-14)**
    - a.** God’s message came to Ezekiel on January 15, 588 BC, the date of the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 25:1-3; Jer. 39:1-2; 52:4-6**)
    - b.** During their years of exile, the Jews observed Four annual feasts to remember the painful events of the destruction of Jerusalem (**Zech. 7; 8:18-23**).
      - i. They marked when the siege Began (Tenth month), when the walls were Breached (Fourth month), when the temple was Burned down (Fifth month), and when Gedaliah the governor was Assassinated (Seventh month).
    - c.** God called Judah a “Rebellious House” not only because they broke His laws and violated His covenant, but also because Zedekiah had broken his treaty with Babylon and incited the displeasure of Nebuchadnezzar.

- d. In his parable about the cooking pot, Ezekiel used the image and vocabulary of the Jerusalem **Leaders**.
    - i. Yes, God would put “**The best cuts of meat**” into His pot (**Jerusalem**) and boil the meat and the bones (**The Babylonian Siege**).
2. **The End of Marriage (Ezek. 24:15-17)**
- a. It is interesting to study what is said in Scripture about the wives of prophets.
    - i. Abraham was a prophet who lied **Twice** about his wife and got in trouble. (**Gen. 20:7**)
    - ii. Moses was criticized for the wife he **Chose**. (**Num. 12:1**)
    - iii. Isaiah’s wife was a **Prophetess**. (**Isa. 8:3**)
    - iv. The prophet Jeremiah was not allowed to **Have** a wife, and this was a sign to the Jews that judgment was coming and people would wish they had never married and brought children into the world. (**Jer. 16:1-4**)
  - b. But Ezekiel paid a great price than all these prophets.
    - i. In order to give his message, Ezekiel had to see his wife die **Suddenly**, and he was not to show great **Grief** because of it!
    - ii. God told him that she would suddenly die and that he was not to do what the Jews usually did in times of **Bereavement**.
      - 1. He was allowed to groan **Quietly**, but he was **Not** permitted to weep or make the kind of lamentation that was typical of his people.
  - c. The prophet’s wife was the **Joy** of his life and the **Desire** of his eyes, but the Lord took her away. (**Ezek. 24:16**)
    - i. The temple in Jerusalem was the **Joy** of the Jewish people, for no other nation had such a sanctuary, but now the Lord would **Take** the temple away.
    - ii. On **August 14, 586 BC**, the Babylonians set fire to the temple in Jerusalem!
  - d. Once again, Ezekiel was a sign to the exiles of what the Lord was doing, and this was the most painful and costly of all his “Action sermons.” In order to **Preach** one sermon, Ezekiel had to **Lose** his wife.
    - i. The death of the prophet’s dear wife was an **Act** of God, and so was the destruction of the temple. The woman who had died was innocent of any gross sins, but the **Temple** had become a den of thieves.
  - e. How did the people know that the prophet was telling the truth?
    - i. God said that a messenger would arrive in Babylon with the news of the fall of the city and the destruction of the temple, and this occurred five months later, on **January 8, 585 BC**.
  - f. The next day, God opened the prophet’s mouth and removed the discipline He had imposed at the beginning of his ministry.
    - i. From this point on, the prophet was free to speak as he felt led, and at the same time, the focus of his ministry shifted.
    - ii. He had **Exposed** the nation’s sins and announced her judgment. Now he would announce God’s **Plan** for the Gentile nations, including victorious Babylon, and then he would minister hope to the Jewish exiles and share with them the vision of the kingdom yet to come.