

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 22-24: The Sinful City (Part 1)
Lesson 24 “The End of the City ” (Part 1)
Ezekiel 22:1-31 (ANSWERS)
February 28, 2021

Recap from Lesson 23:

- In the Hebrew Scripture, **Chapter 21** begins with **20:45**, and this is the best arrangement for **20:45-49** and it introduces the **Coming** judgment on Judah and Jerusalem.
- 1. **Divine Responsibility (Ezek. 20:45-21:32)**
 - a. **God Identifies His Target (Ezek. 20:45-49)**
 - i. This was one way to point out the “Target” at which His judgment would be hurled, in this case, **Judah** and Jerusalem. **(Ezek. 21:1-2)**
 - b. **God Draws the Sword (Ezek. 21:1-7)**
 - i. The word “Sword” is used 19 times in this chapter to represent the **Invasion** and **Attack** of the Babylonian army.
 - 1. God has His eye on three targets: The **Land** of Judah, the **City** of Jerusalem, and the **Holy** Temple.
 - c. **God Sharpens His Sword (Ezek. 21:8-17)**
 - d. **God Directs His Army (Ezek. 21:18-27)**
 - i. The pagan nations of that day used many forms of divinations to **Discern** the will of the gods, and Ezekiel pictured the Babylonian army at a **Fork** in the road, trying to discover which way to go.
 - e. **God Completes the Task (Ezek. 21:28-31)**
 - i. The message closed with another **Fire (Ezek. 20:47-48)**, but this time a **Furnace** in which ore was melted.
 - 1. God would **“Blow”** against the furnace and make it hotter, and then He would pour out the molten metal on His enemies.

Lesson 24:

Introduction:

- If you can remember, this evening, the outline I gave you for the Book of Ezekiel, you will see that these three chapters complete the section of the book, **“The Fall of Jerusalem.”**
 - Ezekiel focuses on four final events:
 - The End of the **City (Chapter 22)**
 - The End of the **Kingdom (Chapter 23)**
 - The End of a **Delusion (Chapter 24:1-14)**, and
 - The End of a **Marriage (Chapter 24:15-27)**
- 1. **The End of the City (Ezek. 22:1-31)**
 - a. **“David took the stronghold of Zion” (2 Sam. 5:7)** and made Jerusalem his **Capital.**
 - i. Not only was the royal throne there but also the **Holy altar**, for it was in Zion that God put His sanctuary. **(Ps. 132:13)**

- ii. But now the city of Jerusalem and the temple would be invaded by **“Unclean Gentiles”** who were brought there by the Lord!
 - 1. Why would the Lord destroy His own beloved city and temple? Because His people had sinned and broken the covenant, and they were beyond **Remedy**.
- a. **A Defiled People (Ezek. 22:1-12)**
 - a. The prophet named two grievous sins:
 - i. The **Shedding** of innocent blood (Injustice)
 - ii. The **Worship** of foreign gods (**Ezek. 7:23; 9:9**)
 - b. So **Evil** was the judicial system in Jerusalem that the Gentile nations heard about it (**Ezek. 22:4-5**) and **Reproached** the name of the Lord.
 - c. Ezekiel named some of the sins that the people were committing, and he began with the **Abuse** of People- Parents, Strangers and Aliens, and orphans and widows. (**Ezek. 22:7**)
 - i. The law also gave special consideration to widows, orphans, and aliens (**Ezek. 22:21-24**), and this commandment contained a **Warning**.
 - ii. Disobedience is a serious thing! The church today has a ministry obligation to **Strangers (Matt. 25:35)**, **Widows** and **Orphans (James 1:27)**.
 - d. After dealing with the inhumanity of the people in Jerusalem, God condemned their **Idolatry (Ezek. 22:8)**.
 - i. The Jews had polluted the **Sabbath** by treating it like any other day. The Sabbath was a special **Sign** between God and Israel that they were His special people (**Ezek. 20:12-13**), and to violate this law was to **Defy** the Lord’s authority and deny Israel’s calling and ministry to the world.
 - e. But how could the people persist in these sins and not be judged by the courts?
 - i. Because the courts were run by **Wicked** men who had **No** desire to acquit the innocent or punish the **Guilty**. The rich were set free and the poor were exploited.
 - f. In **Ezekiel 22:9b-11**, God **Targeted** the **Immorality** of the Jewish people, starting with their **Participation** in their unspeakably filthy “Worship” at the pagan shrines.
 - g. **“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (I Tim. 6:10)**, so we are not surprised that the businesspeople in Jerusalem were **Charging** exorbitant interest on loans and were practicing **Extortion** rather than business. (**Ezek. 22:12**)
 - i. The world’s motto “Business is **Business**” must never replace our Lord’s commandment **“Give and it will be Given unto you” (Lk. 6:38)**.
 - h. Why were God’s chosen people living such wicked lives?
 - i. Because they had **Forgotten** the **Lord (Ezek. 22:12)**, a sin that Moses had commanded them to **Avoid**. (**Deut. 4:9, 23**)

- ii. They were admonished to remember their Slavery in Egypt and God's Grace in redeeming them, and also to remember the Lord Their God. **(Deut. 5:15, 8:18)**
- iii. People who Forget God gradually become their Own god and begin to Disobey God's Word, Mistreat other people, and take God's gifts for granted.

