

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 22-24: The Sinful City (Part 2)
Lesson 25 “The End of the City ” (Part 2)
Ezekiel 22:1-31 (ANSWERS)
March 7, 2021

Recap from Lesson 24:

- The End of the City (**Ezek. 22:1-31**)
 - “**David took the stronghold of Zion**” (**2 Sam. 5:7**) and made Jerusalem his Capitol.
 - 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**)
 - A Defiled People (**Ezek. 22:1-12**)
 - The prophet named two grievous sins:
 - The Shedding of innocent blood (Injustice)
 - The Worship of foreign gods (**Ezek. 7:23; 9:9**).
 - 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.

Lesson 25

1. The End of the City (**Ezek. 22:1-32**)
 - a. A Doomed People (**Ezek. 22:13-22**)
 - i. God strikes His hands in an angry response to the Sins of His people (**Ezek. 6:11**) and He announces that a day of reckoning is Coming.
 1. His first act of judgment would be Dispersion (**Ezek. 22:13-16**)
 - a. The people would be exiled to Babylon and others scattered to the surrounding nations. (**Ezek. 22:15-16**)
 2. The second judgment would be Fire (**Ezek. 22:17-22**), the Destruction of their beloved city and temple.
 - a. The prophet pictured a smelting Furnace with different kinds of metal in it, and the dross (Slag) being removed.
 - ii. Two key words in this passage are “Melt” and “Gather.”
 1. The prophet hath gathered in Jerusalem for safety, but it was the Lord who gathered them so He could melt them in His furnace as He poured out His fury upon them!
 - b. A Debased People (**Ezek. 22:23-27**)
 - i. Ezekiel pointed the finger of accusation at the Princes (**Ezek. 22:25, 27**), the Priests (**Vs. 26**), the False prophets (**Vs. 28**), and the People of the land (**Vs. 29**), and each segment of society is found Guilty!
 - c. A Deceitful People (**Ezek. 22:28-29**)
 - i. Along with the priests, the false prophets supported the evil political regime and Encouraged the common people with Lies.
 - d. A Disappointing People (**Ezek. 22:30-31**)

- i. God searched among His people for **One** person in authority who would stand in the gap so that the enemy would not penetrate the wall and invade the city, but He found **None**.

Conclusion:

- The Lord is still seeking men and women who will take their **Stand** for the **Moral** law of God, stand in the gap at the wall, and confront the enemy with God's people.
 - The Lord is looking for **Intercessors** who will cry out to God for mercy and for a return to **Holiness**. Surely the Lord must be disappointed that His people have time for everything except intercessory prayer.

Lesson 24: "The End of the Kingdom" Ezekiel 23:1-49

Introduction:

- This chapter is a good deal like **Chapter 16** in that it **Depicts** the history of the Nation of Israel and its **Apostasy** from the Lord.
 - In both chapters, the image is that of **Prostitutes**, the nation breaking her "Marriage vows" and like a **Harlot**, turning to others for help.
 - However, in **Chapter 16**, the sin is idolatry, trusting the false gods of the pagans while in **Chapter 23**, the sin is **Trusting** other nations to protect her.
- Aholah (Oholah) represents **Israel**, whose capital was **Samaria**, while her sister Oholibah (Aholibah) represents **Judah**, whose capital was **Jerusalem**.
 - Oholah/Aholah means "**Her tent**," while Oholibah/Aholibah means "**My tent is in her**." When hearing the word "Tent," most Jews would immediately think of the tabernacle where God dwelt with His people.
- The main message the Lord wanted Ezekiel to get across to the Jewish people was that He was **Perfectly** just in punishing the kingdom of Judah because of the way they had behaved toward Him.
 - The Lord made three declarations:
 - Judah **Arrogantly** ignored God's warning when He judged Samaria. (**Ezek. 23:4-13**)
 - Judah then went **Beyond** the sins of the Samaritans committed. (**Ezek. 23:14-21**)
 - Therefore, the Lord had every **Right** to judge **Judah** (**Ezek. 23:22-35**)

1. The **End** of the Kingdom (**Ezek. 23:1-49**)

a. The **People of Judah Ignored God's Warning** (**Ezek. 24:5-13**)

- i. **Samaria** had no true faith in the living God, so she looked to the Assyrians to help her.
 - 1. The picture is that of a prostitute seeking a **Lover** to care for her, and the language is quite graphic.
- ii. The leaders of Judah knew what had happened to their sister kingdom and why it happened, but they did not take the lesson to heart.
 - 1. **Judah** also made alliances with **Assyria** and "Fell in love" with the handsome soldiers in their beautiful uniforms. (**Ezek. 23:11-13**)