

The Book of Ezekiel
Chapters 22-24: The Sinful City (Part 3)
Lesson 26 “The End of the Kingdom ” (Part 2)
Ezekiel 23:1-49 (ANSWERS)
March 21 , 2021

Recap from Lesson 25:

1. **The End of the City (Ezek. 22:1-32)**
 - **A Doomed People (Ezek. 22:13-22)**
 - God strikes His hand in an angry response to the Sins of His people (Ezek. 6:11) and He announces that a day of reckoning is Coming.
 - His first act of judgment would be Dispersion (Ezek. 22:13-16)
 - The second judgment would be Fire (Ezek. 22:17-22), the Destruction of their beloved city and temple.
 - **A Debased People (Ezek. 22:23-27)**
 - **A Deceitful People (Ezek. 22:28-29)**
 - Along with the priests, the false prophets supported the evil political regime and Encouraged the common people with Lies.
 - **A Disappointing People (Ezek. 22:30-31)**
 - 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.

Lesson 25 (Cont.) “The End of the Kingdom”
Ezekiel 23:1-49

1. **The End of the Kingdom (Ezek. 23:1-49)**
 - **The People of Judah Ignored God’s Warning (Ezek. 24:5-13)**
 - Samaria had no true faith in the living God, so she looked to the Assyrians to help her.
 - The picture is that of a prostitute seeking a Lover to care for her, and the language is quite graphic.

Lesson 26

1. **The End of the Kingdom (Ezek. 23:1-49)**
 - **The People of Judah Sinned even more than Samaria Did (Ezek. 23:14-21)**
 - 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.
 - The Kingdom of Judah become more and more idolatrous as one weak king after another took the throne, some of them for only three months. Judah was actually more Corrupt than her sister, Samaria.
 - **The People of Judah will Suffer the Wrath of God (Ezek. 23:22-35)**
 - The logic is obvious: If God punished Samaria for her sins, and if Judah sinned Worse than Samaria, then Judah Must be punished also.

- In this section of his message, Ezekiel delivered four **Oracles** from the Lord.
 - First, God would bring the **Babylonians** to punish Judah just as He brought the Assyrians to punish Samara. **(Vss. 22-27)**
 - Using the image of punishing a prostitute, he described how the invaders would strip the nation, expose her **Lewdness**, and mutilate her body.
 - The second oracle represents some of the Facts in the first one and reminded the people that this **Judgment** was perfectly just. **(Vss. 28-31)**
 - The third oracle uses the image of the **Cup**, familiar in Scripture for experiencing **Suffering**. **(Vss. 32-34)**
 - **(Isa. 51:17; Jer. 49:12)**
 - The cup He hands them will be **Large** and deep and filled with the **Wrath** of the Lord, and they will have to drink it.
 - The final oracle explained why God judged His people: They had **Forgotten** Him **(Ezek. 23:12)** and had cast Him behind their **Backs**- that is, rejected Him and left Him out of their thinking and living.
 - **(Rom. 3:18)**
- What were their sins? **Idolatry, Injustice, Unbelief** (Depending on the heathen nations for help), followed by blatant **Hypocrisy**.
 - They **Worshipped** idols and killed innocent people, and then marched piously into the temple to worship Jehovah.
 - They prostituted themselves to **Heathen** nations when, if they had trusted the Lord, He would have taken care of them and delivered them. In their idolatry, they even sacrificed their **Own** children, sons and daughters who really belonged to God **(“Whom they bore to me”)**

Conclusion:

- From God’s point of view, Judah was nothing but a worn-out adulteress soliciting lovers, and their sin was something His **Heart** could not accept.
- As Samaria had sinned by patronizing Assyria, so Judah was playing the harlot by seeking the help of pagan nations instead of trusting the Lord.
 - That being the case, Judah would be treated like an adulteress and even worse.
 - The Law of Moses called for the adulteress to be **Stoned**. **(Lev. 20:10)**
 - The Law of Moses called for prostitutes to be **Burned**. **(Lev. 21:9)**
 - The Law of Moses called for murderers to be put to **Death**, probably by stoning. **(Lev. 24:17)**