

Ezekiel Part 2, Week 10, Ezekiel 21-22

Day 1 – Ezekiel 20-22 Bookends for the Last Davidic King

Please just read chapters 20-22 in one setting. We did chapter 20 last week along with chapter 19, so chapter 20 is just in review. Chapter 20 was the long laundry list of Israel's sins. Chapter 22 is another laundry list of their abominations. These 2 chapters sit as bookends for the removal of the last Davidic king from the throne until the Messiah comes in chapter 21.

After reading Ezekiel 20-22, go back and read these chapters word for word. Again, as before in the other lessons, slow your reading down enough to pick up the details of the text as you go. Take a mental note of key words that you see as you move through the text of these three chapters.

Now, reread these three chapters with discernment. Tomorrow, we will begin marking chapter 21.

Day 2-4 – Chapters 21-22

Ezekiel 21 – Babylon Removes the Last Davidic King from the Throne of Israel until the Messiah Comes

Please mark the following key repeated words in your own unique way for Ezekiel chapter 21:

all references to God as before, including, "LORD," "Lord GOD," "I am the LORD," "He whose right it is," with the same marking including pronouns

also mark "Lord GOD," as "Sovereign Lord"

all references to Israel or "My people," "the land of Israel," as before including all pronouns referring to them

all references to "Jerusalem," separately from Israel

all references to "Ammon," and all pronouns referring to this land

all references to Ezekiel as before, including "Son of man"

"the prince of Israel," "O slain," and "wicked one," with the same marking as "princes" in Ezekiel 19

"Babylon" "king of Babylon," and all pronouns as the same

"two ways," "both," "way to the city" as one marking

all points of direction, i.e., "north," as a capital "N," "south," as a capital "S," as before

all references to "divination" as you marked "abominations," "idols," as before

all references to "iniquity," "sins," and "transgressions," as one marking as before

the phrase: "thus says the Lord GOD," as before; include "declares the Lord GOD," as one marking as before

the phrase: "the word of the LORD came to me saying," as before

"heart" as before

"signpost" the same way as you marked "sign" before

“wrath,” “indignation,” as you marked them before
“all flesh” as you marked “nations” and their pronouns before
God’s “sword” separately from Babylon’s ‘sword’
“cut off”
“rod”
“clap”

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheets, i.e.
“whose day has come,” “in the time of the punishment of the end,” and “until He comes.”

Mark all references to the word “therefore” in some unique way in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheet. What is the “therefore,” there for in Ezekiel 21:4, 21:12, 21:14, and 21:24. What statement(s) precede the “therefore(s)” which gives the reader understanding?

What was the object(s) of God’s judgment here in Ezekiel 21:1-5?

What city is Ezekiel to set his face toward? What is he specifically to speak against in this city? See Ezekiel 21:2.

What is Ezekiel to prophesy against the land of Israel? See Ezekiel 21:2-5.

Will the Lord really cut off all the wicked and the righteous from the land? I thought that God said in an earlier chapter of Ezekiel that only the wicked would die, not the righteous. See Ezekiel 21:3-4. Does this mean that he will kill all flesh from the northern-most tip to the southern-most tip of the land of Israel or does this “cut off” mean taken into captivity? To what time period of the Jews is this prophecy referring? What will be the end result of this?

Make a list describing how Ezekiel is to groan and why he is to groan in this way. See Ezekiel 21: 6-7.

Describe the Lord's sword from Ezekiel 21:3-17.

Why did God tell Ezekiel to clap his hands in 21:14? Why did the Lord then clap His hands together in Ezekiel 21:17? What does the "clapping of hands," signify?

Describe the King of Babylon's sword from Ezekiel 21:18-20.

How does the King of Babylon discern his plan? What were the three ways that the King of Babylon used to decide his course of action? What does "looking at the liver" have to do with divination? See Ezekiel 21:21-23.

What are the two ways the King of Babylon could choose to go, first referred to in Ezekiel 21:18? How is Ezekiel to mark these two destinations for the King of Babylon? See Ezekiel 21:19.

How will the King of Babylon take Jerusalem? See Ezekiel 21:22-27.

Who is the "prince of Israel" in 21:25? Why is he called, "O slain," and "wicked one"? What will happen to this prince? Who will take his place on the throne of David? When will this transfer occur? Also, see Genesis 49:10.

How will the King of Babylon take the sons of Ammon? See Ezekiel 21:28-32. Will this devastation that comes upon the sons of Ammon be the King of Babylon's doing or God's doing or both?

Please record the theme of chapter 21 on the individual worksheet for Ezekiel 21 and on the Ezekiel Theme Summary Chart in the Appendix.

Ezekiel 22 – The Abominations of the City of Jerusalem

Please mark the following key repeated words in your own unique way for Ezekiel chapter 22:

all references to God as before, including, "LORD," "Lord GOD," and "I am the LORD,"
with the same marking as before including pronouns
also mark "Lord GOD," as "Sovereign Lord"
all references to Ezekiel as before, including "Son of man"
all references to Israel or "house of Israel," as before including all pronouns referring to
them
"bloody city" and its pronouns as you have marked "Jerusalem" before
all "in you," and "in your midst," phrases as you marked "Jerusalem" above
all references to "abominations," and "idols," as one marking as before
the phrase: "thus says the Lord GOD," as before; include "declares the Lord GOD," as
one marking as before
the phrase: "the word of the LORD came to me saying," as before
"blood" and "bloodshed" with the same marking
"heart" as before
"wrath," "anger," as you marked them before
"nations," and "all the lands," "those who are near," "those who are far," as you marked
"nations" before
"judge" as before
"guilty"

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheets, i.e.
"then," "her time," "your day near," "your years," and "in the day of indignation"

Mark all references to the word "therefore" in some unique way in the left margin of the
double-spaced worksheet. What is the "therefore," there for in Ezekiel 22:4 and 22:19?
What statement(s) precede the "therefore(s)" which gives the reader understanding?

Which "bloody city" is God referring to here in chapter 22? Is this city Jerusalem or is it
an Ammonite city referred to us in chapter 21? See 22:6 for a clue.

Describe this “bloody city,” using the words, “in you,” or “in your midst,” and “shedding blood,” or “the blood which you have shed.” Please mark the address with each line of your description.

What shall the Lord do according to Ezekiel 22:14-15?

What is dross? What is “dross” according to Ezekiel 22:17? How does a silversmith get rid of the dross? What will Israel know when the LORD has melted her?

In the Scripture, one usually sees the dross being skimmed off the top of the precious metal to make the precious metal most pure. The people are seen as being purified by the fire and go on to live a more righteous life. However, this time in 22:21-22, the “dross” is the people themselves. God is done trying to purge them of impurities; they will be delivered over to the King of Babylon.

Describe the Prophets in Israel’s midst at this time in history. See Ezekiel 22:25,28.

Describe the Priests in Israel’s midst at this time in history. See Ezekiel 22:26.

Describe what Israel’s Princes are like at this point in history. See Ezekiel 22:27.

Describe what the People of Israel are like at this point in history. See Ezekiel 22:29-30.

It seems as though, the leaders (the false prophets, the priests, and the royalty) oppressed the common people and the common people oppressed those who were weak and helpless.

When God found no one to build up a wall nor stand in the gap for the Israelites, what did He do?

The corruption in Judah had totally run its course and the amount of decay in the land demanded God's judgment.

Please record the theme of chapter 22 on the individual worksheet for Ezekiel 22 and on the Ezekiel Theme Summary Chart in the Appendix.

Day 5 - Personal reflection:

These questions are as much for me as they are for you.

Who is the righteous in our world today? Are they the ones who think they are righteous? Are they the ones who practice religion? Are they the ones who are saved? Are you part of the righteous today? How do you know?

Were the Jews of the day trying to cover up their sin by becoming religious? How do we do the same thing today?

The time of judgment had come for the nation of Israel. When will this judgment occur for our nation? What are we doing, as a nation, today, that mimics much of what went on in the nation of Israel in chapter 21?

The people in the day of Ezekiel didn't really want to "get" the message that Ezekiel was giving them. They knew it was from God. They simply did not want to hear it anymore. Have you ever felt animosity towards someone who continues to tell you that you are

wrong in your attitudes and actions? How do you think these Jews felt about Ezekiel's constant barrage of words?

Do you ever sigh in anguish over what is coming in judgment for our nation like Ezekiel was told to sigh for the nation of Israel? Should we not be weeping for others in our nation that are so hardened in their thinking that they cannot see what is coming for them? I think that we, who have been studying Ezekiel, now know more of what is coming for our nation than we did at the beginning of last semester. But, do we care enough to take our anguish to God in prayer on a daily basis?

Do any of our leaders today use pagan means to determine a course of action? the eenie, meenie, miney, mo method or the drawing of straws? How about the use of astrology or the rolling of dice with our tax money? Can you think of any examples?

Who or what have you taken off the throne of your life? Have you put Jesus, the One "whose right it is" on the throne of your life?

Who are the false prophets of our nation, today? Who are telling us that we are getting along nicely, that we are definitely in the right in our thinking and our doing for the other nations of the world? Who are telling us that we are doing right by our own country? Who are those who are telling us that we need to keep the earth green by discarding so many of our unborn babies? God will judge the nation who turns their back on Him. Is this where we are in the United States, today? Have we turned our back on God?

Are we, as a nation, involved in gross sins? How about our movies and our language? How about the devaluing of the family unit? We now have a "can ask" "can tell" policy in the military.

Who are the wolves out there in sheep's clothing for who we need to be aware? Are any of these in the church today?

Who is the One who stands in the gap for you today? Are you thankful for Him?

Way back in our study of Isaiah 6, Isaiah was obviously very nervous when he saw God. Why was Isaiah nervous? What characterizes God in Isaiah 6? What characterizes God in Ezekiel 22?

I believe we have looked at these names of God before in our study in Ezekiel, but I would like to run by these two names again: Esh Oklah and El Kanna.

God is a jealous God, El Kanna. He is jealous for His Name. He is jealous for His People's devotion and affection. He is jealous for their worship. Exodus 20:3-5 says this:

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...."

What had Israel forgotten about God considering all of the above?

What do you think of today when you hear the word "jealous?" Does this word have a good connotation when it is associated with Man's jealousy? Is it wrong for a human Man to be jealous for his wife's faithfulness? Her devotion?

Deuteronomy 4:23-24 digs deeper into God's nature, into His all-consuming fire (Esh Oklah), His anger and His wrath against sin, against those who do not regard Him as holy and those who would worship another in His place.

“So watch yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which the Lord your God has commanded you.

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”

Fire (wrath and anger) is what God used to melt the Israelites in Ezekiel 22. God had the right to all of them, to their obedience, to their adoration, to their worship, because He was and is and always will be God – there is no other – there is no one like Him. He is the Creator of all that is seen and unseen. Those little “gods” the Israelites worshiped and put before God, didn’t really even exist, and yet they had the devotion and the eye of God’s People whom He called out for Himself.

Do the “gods” we worship today really have any substance? We must ask ourselves, are they really worth what we give to them?

The Israelites questioned God’s chastening of them, His discipline of them, His purification of them. They probably thought God was just plain mean. How about you? Do you despise His hounding of you and His reigning in of your attitudes and appetites for the things of this world? Or do you thank Him daily for keeping you on the straight and narrow?

God, however, was not hounding the Jews in chapter 22 of Ezekiel, nor was He trying to make them most pure at this point. Their chances for change were over. God would now judge them in His anger and His wrath. I know that in today’s dispensation of time, Jesus became sin for us and died in our stead and in a very real demonstration of His love for us, He became the peace between God, the Father, and us, the sinners. In a way, Jesus diffused God’s anger against our sin. I know this to be true, for if we were still in Old Testament times, I would be burned to a charred piece of toast by now.

I often think about the regular Israelites, the old “Joes,” the ones just like me in my world. Ezekiel 22 pulls out the prophets, the priests, the princes and then the people, as all being responsible for the demise of the land and the nation. I can’t help but think the leaders (the prophets, the priests, the princes) had to have been more at fault than just the regular people. Yet, listen for what God says the people of the land are guilty in Ezekiel 22:29. They “have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and the needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.”

I have to ask myself: could I have been more generous to others in need in the past than I was? The answer is definitely a “yes.” What about my future? How will I be to them in that day of their need?

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Chapter 21

Chapter Theme _____

21:1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

21:2 “Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem, and speak against the sanctuaries, and prophesy against the land of Israel;

21:3 and say to the land of Israel, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Behold, I am against you; and I shall draw My sword out of its sheath and cut off from you the righteous and the wicked.

21:4 “Because I shall cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore My sword shall go forth from its sheath against all flesh from south to north.

21:5 “Thus all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have drawn My sword out of its sheath. It will not return to its sheath again.””

21:6 “As for you, son of man, groan with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight.

21:7 “And it will come about when they say to you, ‘Why do you groan?’ that you will say, ‘Because of the news that is coming; and every heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint, and all knees will be weak as water. Behold, it comes and it will happen,’ declares the Lord GOD.”

21:8 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,

21:9 “Son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the LORD.’ Say, ‘A sword, a sword sharpened And also polished!

21:10 ‘Sharpened to make a slaughter, Polished to flash like lightning!’ Or shall we rejoice, the rod of My son despising every tree?

21:11 “And it is given to be polished, that it may be handled; the sword is sharpened and polished, to give it into the hand of the slayer.

21:12 “Cry out and wail, son of man; for it is against My people, it is against all the officials of Israel. They are delivered over to the sword with My people, therefore strike your thigh.

21:13 “For there is a testing; and what if even the rod which despises will be no more?” declares the Lord GOD.

21:14 “You therefore, son of man, prophesy, and clap your hands together; and let the sword be doubled the third time, the sword for the slain. It is the sword for the great one slain, which surrounds them,

21:15 that their hearts may melt, and many fall at all their gates. I have given the glittering sword. Ah! It is made for striking like lightning, it is wrapped up in readiness for slaughter.

21:16 “Show yourself sharp, go to the right; set yourself; go to the left, wherever your edge is appointed.

21:17 “I shall also clap My hands together, and I shall appease My wrath; I, the LORD, have spoken.”

21:18 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

21:19 “As for you, son of man, make two ways for the sword of the king of Babylon to come; both of them will go out of one land. And make a signpost; make it at the head of the way to the city.

21:20 “You shall mark a way for the sword to come to Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and to Judah into fortified Jerusalem.

21:21 “For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination; he shakes the arrows, he consults the household idols, he looks at the liver.

21:22 “Into his right hand came the divination, ‘Jerusalem,’ to set battering rams, to open the mouth for slaughter, to lift up the voice with a battle cry, to set battering rams against the gates, to cast up mounds, to build a siege wall.

21:23 “And it will be to them like a false divination in their eyes; they have sworn solemn oaths. But he brings iniquity to remembrance, that they may be seized.

21:24 “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Because you have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered, so that in all your deeds your sins appear — because you have come to remembrance, you will be seized with the hand.

21:25 ‘And you, O slain, wicked one, the prince of Israel, whose day has come, in the time of the punishment of the end,’

21:26 thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Remove the turban, and take off the crown; this will be no more the same. Exalt that which is low, and abase that which is high.

21:27 ‘A ruin, a ruin, a ruin, I shall make it. This also will be no more, until He comes whose right it is; and I shall give it to Him.’

21:28 “And you, son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the sons of Ammon and concerning their reproach,’ and say: ‘A sword, a sword is drawn, polished for the slaughter, to cause it to consume, that it may be like lightning —

21:29 while they see for you false visions, while they divine lies for you — to place you on the necks of the wicked who are slain, whose day has come, in the time of the punishment of the end.

21:30 ‘Return it to its sheath. In the place where you were created, in the land of your origin, I shall judge you.

21:31 ‘And I shall pour out My indignation on you; I shall blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and I shall give you into the hand of brutal men, skilled in destruction.

21:32 ‘You will be fuel for the fire; your blood will be in the midst of the land. You will not be remembered, for I, the LORD, have spoken.’”

Chapter 22

Chapter Theme _____

22:1 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

22:2 “And you, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Then cause her to know all her abominations.

22:3 “And you shall say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “A city shedding blood in her midst, so that her time will come, and that makes idols, contrary to her interest, for defilement!

22:4 “You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and defiled by your idols which you have made. Thus you have brought your day near and have come to your years; therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mocking to all the lands.

22:5 “Those who are near and those who are far from you will mock you, you of ill repute, full of turmoil.

22:6 “Behold, the rulers of Israel, each according to his power, have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood.

22:7 “They have treated father and mother lightly within you. The alien they have oppressed in your midst; the fatherless and the widow they have wronged in you.

22:8 “You have despised My holy things and profaned My sabbaths.

22:9 “Slandorous men have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood, and in you they have eaten at the mountain shrines. In your midst they have committed acts of lewdness.

22:10 “In you they have uncovered their fathers’ nakedness; in you they have humbled her who was unclean in her menstrual impurity.

22:11 “And one has committed abomination with his neighbor’s wife, and another has lewdly defiled his daughter-in-law. And another in you has humbled his sister, his father’s daughter.

22:12 “In you they have taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and profits, and you have injured your neighbors for gain by oppression, and you have forgotten Me,” declares the Lord GOD.

22:13 “Behold, then, I smite My hand at your dishonest gain which you have acquired and at the bloodshed which is among you.

22:14 “Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken and shall act.

22:15 “And I shall scatter you among the nations, and I shall disperse you through the lands, and I shall consume your uncleanness from you.

22:16 “And you will profane yourself in the sight of the nations, and you will know that I am the LORD.””

22:17 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

22:18 “Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to Me; all of them are bronze and tin and iron and lead in the furnace; they are the dross of silver.

22:19 “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Because all of you have become dross, therefore, behold, I am going to gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

22:20 ‘As they gather silver and bronze and iron and lead and tin into the furnace to blow fire on it in order to melt it, so I shall gather you in My anger and in My wrath, and I shall lay you there and melt you.

22:21 ‘And I shall gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you will be melted in the midst of it.

22:22 ‘As silver is melted in the furnace, so you will be melted in the midst of it; and you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out My wrath on you.’”

22:23 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

22:24 “Son of man, say to her, ‘You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.’

22:25 “There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst, like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her.

22:26 “Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

22:27 “Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain.

22:28 “And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ when the LORD has not spoken.

22:29 “The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.

22:30 “And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

22:31 “Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads,” declares the Lord GOD.

Jerusalem - Ezekiel 22

The Prophets of Jerusalem	The Princes of Jerusalem	The People of Jerusalem	The Priests of Jerusalem
<p>See Ezekiel 22:25,28. There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst, like a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured lives; they have taken treasure and precious things, they have made many widow in the midst of her.. Her prophets have smeared white-wash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, ‘thus says the Lord God’ when the LORD has not spoken.</p>	<p>See Ezekiel 22:27 Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain.</p>	<p>See Ezekiel 22:29-30. Her people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.</p>	<p>See Ezekiel 22:26. Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean and they hide their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them</p>
The Prophets of the USA	The Princes of the USA	The People of the USA	The Priests of the USA

Jerusalem - “In You...” Ezekiel 22:6-12

The Leaders of Jerusalem and slanderous men

the rulers of Israel, each according to his power, have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood

they have treated father and mother lightly within you.

the alien they have oppressed in your midst

the fatherless and the widow they have wronged in you

you have despised My holy things and profaned My sabbaths

slanderous men have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood and in you they have eaten at the mountain shrines

in your midst they have committed acts of lewdness

in you they have uncovered their fathers' nakedness

in you they have humbled her who was unclean in her menstrual impurity

and one has committed abomination with his neighbor's wife

and another has lewdly defiled his daughter-in-law

and another in you has humbled his sister, his father's daughter

in you they have taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and profits, and have injured your neighbors for gain by oppression

you have forgotten Me, declares the Lord GOD