

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 June Ezekiel 01-07 When Your World Crumbles
- 2) 08 June Ezekiel 08-14 When Idols Tug at your Heart
- 3) 15 June Ezekiel 15-19 **When You Want to Blame Others**
- 4) 22 June Ezekiel 20-24 When Tragedy Hits Home
- 5) 29 June Ezekiel 25-32 When Pride Turns to Greed
- 6) 06 July Ezekiel 33-35 Hope of New Freedom
- 7) 13 July Ezekiel 36-39 Hope of New Life
- 8) 30 July Ezekiel 40-48 Hope of New Worship
- 9) 27 July Daniel 01 Draw the Line
- 10) 03 August Daniel 02-03 Risk Everything for God
- 11) 10 August Daniel 04-05 Tell it Like it is
- 12) 17 August Daniel 06 Never Give Up on Prayer
- 13) 24 August Daniel 07-08 Live to Win in the End
- 14) 31 August Daniel 09-12 Be Ready for Tribulation

INTRODUCTION

- Many people seek to blame others for their own problems. We blame our parents for our character faults; We blame our boss or co-workers for our performance issues; We blame our kids and spouses for our unhappiness; and when in doubt, we blame the Government for all our other problems
 - ♦ One parent said to their child, "I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was going to blame you"
- In the following chapters we see that God lays the bulk of the problems on each individual – Yet, problems of society do affect everyone, including innocent victims
 - ♦ For example, readily accessible pornography in society is proven to lead to sexual abuse of innocent women and children; And out of 50,000 traffic deaths each year, 40% are due to drunk driving,

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What was this "lewdness"? See v36. → Perversion ♦ Sexual sins, which are of the body, are different from all other sins, which are outside the body..... 1Cor 6:18 ♦ Rampant, non-repentant, society-wide sexual sins (adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, etc.) invoke God to wipe the slate clean and start over – e.g., Noah's generation, Sodom & Gomorrah, the 7 Canaanite nations which God had Israel wipe out, Judah and Israel; and finally the last generation • vv60-63. Better days are coming when God will make a new covenant with His people, and His people will be truly shameful of their sins – which leads to repentance
17:1-24	<p>Judgment Through Real-Time Disasters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parable of the 2 Eagles and a Vine – representative of the king of Babylon and Egypt deporting/enslaving Judah's kings • God's judgment takes many forms. He can use nations more wicked than Israel to punish His people • v24. In the end, all nations will know that God is the Lord as He exalts or blesses one nation, and devastates another through weather phenomena (rain or drought) and war
18:1-32	<p>Personal Accountability in Judgment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4 & v20. "The soul that sins shall die" – alludes to individual accountability. This chapter is dealing with aspects of the Law – good works vs bad works. So dying typically equates to physical death, but could also equate to spiritual death • v21. "But if the wicked man repents, he shall live" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do we have a loss of salvation for the once righteous person who happens to sin before dying? NO ♦ Look at this passage from the perspective of 1John 2:19 where "those who went out from us, were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us" – IOW, the pig returns to its mud, and the dog returns to its vomit 2Peter 2:22 • God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desires for them to repent and live <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Which means that God has made provisions for this to be possible for everyone to be able to be saved (Calvinists hate this passage because it means the non-elect can become the elect if they willingly repent) 1Cor 6:9-11 • v25. Some claim God is unfair since he saves the wicked for eventually choosing life, and he condemns the once-righteous for eventually choosing a life of sin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Again, see 2John 2:19. God's sovereignty knows the hearts of everyone, & eventually, people's true colors come out. Some gravitate toward sin, and others repent • vv30-32. God echoes for the 2nd time (it must be important) that he wants sinners to repent no matter how bad they are
19:1-14	<p>Judgment: A Time for Grief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God uses this funeral dirge/lamentation to highlight Israel's current state of affairs – and it was not good

Passage	Comments
Ezekiel 15:1-8	<p>Judgment Against Unfaithfulness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The citizens of Jerusalem failed to see the connection between their behavior and the fate of their city • vv1-6. Parable of the useless vine. • v7. God, in effect, becomes the enemy of His people, and that is what it takes for His people to wake up and realize the cause & effect of their predicament → Unrepentant disobedience leads to desolation/famine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Isaiah 63:10 <i>Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.</i> Also see Lamentations 2:5
16:1-63	<p>Judgment Against Detestable Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This parable of the adulterous wife is one of the longest chapters in the Bible. Six Minor Prophets books are shorter • v6. When God saw Israel/Jerusalem in times past as a nobody, He chose them to become special ("Live") • vv7-9. But the more God blessed His people (His spouse), the more they rebelled – but, being sovereign, this behavior did not take God by surprise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God knew what needed to be done to achieve the most good for His people and for His glory • vv20-21. "You slaughtered My children" – an allusion to child sacrifice that both Israel and Judah performed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some use this passage to universally show that all babies go to Heaven, but, that is bad hermeneutics for this passage. ISSUE – At best we can only assume those children sacrificed were Heaven-bound, but not necessarily so. God also considered all Israel as His people, His children, His nation; but we know "they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel" (Rom 9:6). IOW, not all Israelites are Heaven-bound, though all Israelites are considered God's people, God's children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For more details on whether or not all children go to even when they die, see Psalms 139 lesson plan • vv31-34. Israel is compared to a prostitute, and a very bad one. Instead of taking money and gifts from her suitors, she gave them money and gifts • v43. God draws a line in the sand – "You will not commit this lewdness on top of all your other sins" [NASB] or "Did you not add lewdness to all your other detestable practices?" [NIV]

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Vince Lombardi once said "The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." The converse is also true, "the sins of a nation are the results of the combined effort of each individual" – So let's preach repentance while it is still day.

NEXT WEEK: Ezekiel 20-24. We see that unrepentant behavior eventually leads to unrelenting wrath from God, to include famine, war, & pestilence

