

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 05 Dec 2021	Ezekiel 01-07	Commissioned
2) 12 Dec	Ezekiel 08-14	Saves
3) 19 Dec	Ezekiel 15-24	Judges
4) 26 Dec	Matthew 2	Christmas Message: Sought
5) 02 Jan 2022	Ezekiel 25-32	Warns
6) 09 Jan	Ezekiel 33-48	Offers
7) 16 Jan	Ezekiel 16; 23; Ps 139	Values
8) 23 Jan	Daniel 01	Integrity Established
9) 30 Jan	Daniel 02-03	Demonstrate Allegiance
10) 06 Feb	Daniel 04-05	Humility Required
11) 13 Feb	Daniel 06	Trust Exhibited
12) 20 Feb	Daniel 07-08	Future Seen
13) 27 Feb	Daniel 09-12	Confession Made

INTRODUCTION

- Ezekiel's God-given task to hammer the Jews hard with God's pending judgment on Jerusalem was not politically correct. He talked of the Jews being stripped naked by their captors, of babies being bashed against stone, of Jews eating their young ones to survive, and having to use human dung to cook their food
 - Gill's Commentary on Ezekiel:** "The visions Ezekiel saw are very abstruse and difficult of interpretation, especially the vision of the living creatures and wheels; wherefore the Jews forbade the reading of it, as well as the end of this prophecy, until persons were thirty years of age."
 - Matthew Henry Commentary:** "If we may give credit to the tradition of the Jews, Ezekiel was put to death by the captives in Babylon, for his faithfulness and boldness in reproving them; it is stated that they dragged him upon the stones till his brains were dashed out. An Arabic historian says that he was put to death and was buried in the sepulcher of Shem, the son of Noah."
- Our study this week doesn't help Ezekiel's appeal to the people as he pronounces more dire consequences for God's chosen ones

Passage	Comments
Ezekiel 8:1-18	<p>The Vision of Abominations in Jerusalem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-4. Ezekiel is transported in the Spirit from Babylon to Jerusalem to observe in real time what is happening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v4. Even though the Jews were performing abominable practices in God' temple, the glory of God was still there vv5-10. "Do you see what they are doing?" – An idol was set up, and numerous idolatrous paintings adorned the temple walls vv11-12. The older generation (Elders) should have set an example of holiness for the younger generation instead of pointing them away from the one true God vv13-17. Women weep/worship in a forbidden place in the temple over another idol; & men bow down toward the sun v18. Result: God will not have any pity, nor will He spare
Where is God's Tolerance?	<p>If we are commanded to love our enemies; to pray for those who wrong us; and to be merciful, kind, and forgiving as God is to us – why isn't God more tolerant of people who do stupid things, even if it is in His temple? Why be so merciless to His people?</p> <p>We have to factor in more data. This passage just summarizes some of the wickedness Ezekiel sees.</p> <p>God has been warning His people for more than 250 years, and they have progressed from bad to worse. We have to recognize that God's day of salvation has a limit when He will no longer deliver based on continuous, progressively worse, and non-repentant bad behavior Judges 10:13; Hos 1:6; Zech 11:6</p>
9:1-11	<p>The Vision of Slaughter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. God calls for the angelic executioners of the city vv4-8. God had a special messenger to mark the good ones on the foreheads. All others were to be slain – young and old, men, women, and children – show no pity and do not spare! vv9-11. We see a little more of Jewish wickedness – Their sin is very, very great; the innocent are slain (child sacrifice), & sexual perversion is rampant (homosexuality and bestiality)
10:1-22	<p>The Vision of God's Glory Departing from the Temple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. We find out that the 4 living beings are Cherubims

Passage	Comments
Brief look at Angels	<p>Cherubims ("Living Creatures") – They had 4 wings and 4 faces (man, lion, ox/calf, eagle).....Ez 1:10; 10:14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 were on top of the Ark of Covenant, & 2 were within the inner Temple (holy-of-holies) with their wings touching See http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKh_U2NnIs8 (interesting computer graphics display of Cherubims, submitted by Jack Wood from Shawnee, Kansas) <p>Seraphims ("Fiery Flying Serpents") had 6 wings and 4 faces, and they reside above the throne of God Is 6:2; Rev 4:7-8 – Satan was considered a Seraphim</p>
11:1-13	<p>Evil Rulers to be Judged</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v5. God knows our thoughts, & we are accountable for them vv17-19. Better days are coming when Israel will be rounded up and given a clean heart and a new spirit, but not now...
12:1-28	<p>Ezekiel Prepares for Exile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. These people have eyes to see, but they are blind; and they have ears to hear but they are deaf.....Mark 8:18 – and they are willfully blind and deaf to spiritual truths vv2-15. Another object lesson – Dig through the wall. You can run from trouble, but you will be caught & scattered – THEN YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD v16. BUT God will spare a few from the sword, famine, and plagues – THEN YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD vv23-28. Better days are coming, but not now...
13:1-23	<p>False Prophets Condemned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a monarchy, the people are only as good as the leaders; and in a democratic society (such as the USA), the leaders are only as good as the people who vote them in vv6-10. The spiritual leaders have visions and dreams, but they are lies – not of God. And God holds them responsible for misleading the people with such lies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where did they get such lying dreams and visions? It was either of themselves or of Satan Zech 10:2; Col 2:18 v19. It is possible to kill those who should not die (e.g., drunk driving) and save others who should not live (e.g., abolish of the death penalty), yet God is still sovereign over all things vv20-23. Better days are coming, but not now. There will be a day when false dreamers will no longer deceive the righteous <p>WARNING – Watch out for Pentecostals & their many dreamers and prophets. They are all false, and they don't perceive it.</p>
14:1-23	<p>Idolatrous Elders Condemned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v3. The Hebrew word for "idols" here is related to the Hebrew term for a pile of dung vv6-7. Ezekiel, like his contemporary, Jeremiah who resided in Jerusalem, conveyed God's intense message for the Jews to repent and live (14:6; 18:30,32) – Why did the Jews choose death? Because idolatry is a heart disease v11. The purpose of God's discipline is to keep His people from straying away and defiling themselves vv12-20. BUT, there comes a time of destruction when God only saves the cream of the crop (Noah, Daniel, and Job). Even their prayers wouldn't be able to save their own kids vv21-23. AND, God does preserve a remnant

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- In our materialistic culture, we must watch out ourselves for covetousness, for God puts it in the same category as idolatry, immorality, & blasphemy: ([Ex 18:21](#); [Ps 119:36](#); [Pr 21:26](#); [Ecc 5:10-12](#); [Jer 8:10](#); [Mr 7:20-23](#); [Lk 12:15](#); [Rom 1:29](#); [Col 3:5](#); [Eph 5:3-5](#); [1 Cor 6:10](#); [1 Tim 6:10](#); [Heb 13:5](#))

NEXT WEEK: Ezekiel 15-24. God's grace comes on the scene.

