

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

- 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
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 Psalm 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] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What was this "lewdness"? See v36. → Perversion

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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

ANOTHER CONSIDERATION

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



Passage	Comments
Ezekiel 20:1-49	<p>Repeating Past Failures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. ...I will NOT be inquired by you!" Instead, Ezekiel was to remind them of their history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Many seek a fresh revelation from God, or an experience of some kind. BUT God says read my Word, and recall My wonders of old Psalms 77:11 • v12. God gave His Sabbaths to be a sign between Him and the Jews that they might know He is their Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Wasn't the 7th day of rest given to all mankind as an example? What was then special of God's Sabbath given only to the Jews? Consider this – The Sabbath was a distinctive sign of God's distinguishing grace to Israel above other nations and people groups • v25. NASB - I also gave them statutes that were not good and ordinances by which they could not live" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does this mean God intentionally gave His people impossible laws to live by? IOW, God set them up to fail? ♦ Remember, the laws, commands, ordinances that God gave to His people were good laws to protect them from themselves and from other evil forces (Satanic & worldly) ♦ Recall Paul said God's Law is holy and righteous and good.....Romans 7:12 ♦ Rather the good, holy, righteous laws of good reveal our true sinful selves, which needs redeemingRomans 7:13 ♦ Consider the NIV rendering of this passage: "I (God) also gave them over to statutes that were not good and laws they could not live by" ♦ Essentially, because of discipline, God gave the Jews over to their conquerors who had different and difficult laws and customs for them to live by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider the difficulties Daniel and his comrades had in dealing with Babylonia dietary practicesDaniel 1 - Or the difficulties the Jews experienced in Babylon during the time of EstherEsther 3:6-8
21:1-32	<p>Reaping Sin's Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Even the righteous will suffer & die along with the wicked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How do we resolve a seemingly contradiction between this passage and other passages that proclaim that the righteous will not suffer from hunger (Prov 10:3), or suffer any harm (Prov 12:21) ♦ Recall that a proverb is a generality and may not be an absolute • v24. Many sinners are even proud of their sins, and very open about their exploits. God has a surprise for such sinners – for they will be seized and led away
22:1-31	<p>Exposing a Broken Society (Sin's Progression)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. The signs of a degrading society begins with ill-treatment of parents, innocent immigrants, orphans, and widows • v8. Another sign of a degrading society – disrespect of what God considers Holy – His word and the Sabbath • vv10-11. Sins progress from bad to worse beginning with adultery, then rape, then incest • v12. Then they commit the worst sin according to God – "They have forgotten Me" • v26. Spiritual leaders fail to teach respect for God and for His house and to distinguish between what is holy and wicked behavior [e.g., calling evil good] – Presbyterian Church (USA) proclaim gay marriage is Christian (see link http://news.yahoo.com/presbyterian-assembly-gay-marriage-christian-212658672.html) • v30. God always looks for someone to stand in the gap, to faithfully and boldly teach and proclaim God's word, but sometimes no one is willing stand up for God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ezekiel served another purpose for God at this time – to be God's object lesson to the people ♦ The prophet Jeremiah was in Jerusalem at this time, but he was forbidden to pray for the Jews Jer 11:14

Passage	Comments
23:1-49	<p>Judging Disgraceful Actions (Sin Upon Sin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v11. Oholibah (Jerusalem) is described as being more corrupt than the other 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom (Oholah, aka Samaria) • v14. She (Jerusalem) increased her harlotries by portraying warriors on the wall in vermilion (red). IOW, this depicts pornography • v39. They slaughtered their kids in God's house • vv46-49. After progressing from sexual sins (pornography), then to murdering of innocents, they progress to the worst sin of all in God's eyes – Idolatry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Therefore, God pronounces final judgment – death, terror, and destruction ♦ Then they will know that God is God ♦ Why do people wait till the roof caves in before taking action? <input type="checkbox"/> Laziness? <input type="checkbox"/> Pride? <input type="checkbox"/> Ignorance? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
24:1-27	<p>Dealing with Grievous Loss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-13. Parable of the Boiling Pot – another pronouncement of judgment on the Jews ("the rebellious house") – who will not be fully clean from their sins till God expends His wrath on them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v14. God has reached a point where He will not change His mind (relent), nor show pity or regret for His actions against His own people • vv15-27. Another Object Lesson - Death of Ezekiel's Beloved Wife. Ezekiel could mourn in private (v17), but He could not mourn publicly (v16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This would be equivalent to the Jews having sorrow upon sorrow, yet were too caught up with their own misery to mourn their loved ones who would die suddenly from sword, famine, or plague

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Are such open sins of perversion applicable for our society today? Unfortunately, YES.
- Is our fate the same as Jerusalem's – fire and destruction? Unfortunately, YES[2Peter 3:7](#)

NEXT: Ezekiel 25-32. God pronounces judgment on many Gentile nations for their anti-Semitic behavior

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



"...and the Lord said, "Today I will take from you your beloved wife with a blow, but don't be a wimp & cry about it in public."

Ezekiel 24:15-17