

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) 20 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

- 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 oldPsalms 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"> NIV "I also gave them over to statutes that were not good and laws they could not live by" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ NIV wins on this rendition where God gave the Jews over to their conquerors who had different and difficult laws and customs for them to live by
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

Passage	Comments
	<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
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 or 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
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, YES2Peter 3:7

NEXT WEEK: 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