

# **EZEKIEL 1-24**

**THE GLORY OF THE LORD: IN CALLING AND  
REJECTION**



**JULY 2018**

## **Day 1**

If you could make up a picture to represent God, what picture would you use? Describe your picture. Why that picture?

In the Old and New Testaments, we see God give visions to his people. These visions were usually to illustrate a point God wanted his people to see. Some of those visions can be easy to figure out like a man appearing to Paul and saying to not go a certain direction and others of these visions are a little hard to figure out like parts of Revelation and the first chapter of Ezekiel. Yet we need to ask God to help us understand those parts of the Bible so we can learn about Him, us and what He wants us to do in service of Him. This month you will study the first half of Ezekiel. Ask God to help you understand His word as you read it today.

### **Read Ezekiel 1**

Look at verses 1 to 3. What important things do we see about Ezekiel: where he is, what is the source of his authority, etc.? How do these things help us understand what we are about to read in this book?

Look at verses 4 to 14. What are 3 things you learn from these verses?

1.

2.

3.

Now look at verses 15 to 25. What are 2 things you learn about God's control over the earth and the affairs of man?

1.

2.

In verses 26 to 28 who is being described?

What are 2 things you learn about this man described?

1.

2.

This vision shows God knows all things (eyes), that he is in control of all the earth and we can trust him. Do you trust the Lord? Explain.

PRAYER – Ask God to help you trust Him in all things.

## Day 2

Describe a time when you were overwhelmed by a task you had been given. Why did you feel overwhelmed? What did you do or not do?

The United States dealt with several destructive hurricanes in the fall of 2017. The pictures from Florida and Houston were heart breaking. Whole neighborhoods were underwater, destroyed. As you look at the pictures it left you wondering how people could ever rebuild. I can imagine being that family going back to their house to see everything destroyed and wondering how they would ever rebuild. It would be an overwhelming task. God called Ezekiel to a task that was overwhelming but the Lord was asking him to step out in faith and do what he asked. Ask God to touch your heart with his truths as you read and study today.

### **Read Ezekiel 2:1-3:15**

List all the words and phrases that God gives Ezekiel to describe his people in these verses.

Look at your list. What do you see about God's people?

Now list all the ways in which God shows Ezekiel that this huge task is not something he would do on his own, but one God would do through him.

Look at all you just listed. What does this show you about God's character and man's power?

Then in verse 15 God brings Ezekiel to his people. What is Ezekiel's reaction to seeing his people and all he just heard from God? Why?

What are 2 things in our culture and world overwhelm you when you think of the work that needs to be done?

1.

2.

PRAYER – For strength and for the two situations you just wrote about.

## Day 3

If you had a king come to you and say he wanted to make you a watchman, what kinds of things would he be asking you to do?

A watchman needs to be undistracted and alert so he can see and know all that is going on. His role is critical to the guidance and protection of his people. If he falls asleep or does not care about his position, then he puts all his people in danger. This is not a position that would be for the weak, lazy or uncommitted person. You would want someone reliable, strong and dedicated to the welfare of his people. God saw Ezekiel as this kind of person. Today we look at Ezekiel as a watchman for Israel but also how we need to be watchmen for the people that God has put in our lives. Ask God to open your eyes to see how you need to serve Him.

### **Read Ezekiel 3:16-27**

What was the responsibility God gave to Ezekiel? What was he to do?

What would be the penalties for the people if they did not listen?

What would be the penalties for Ezekiel if he did not share God's word?

In verses 22 to 24 how do we see that Ezekiel could not undertake this task alone? What does God do for him?

What does God ask Ezekiel to do to himself in verses 25 to 27? How was this to be an example to the Israelites of their sin and rebellion?

I want you to list 2 people you know are Christians who are struggling with obedience. Then list 2 people you know are not Christians. What sins can you pray they see so they can repent. Write them down.

1. Christian –
2. Christian –
3. Non- Christian –
4. Non-Christian –

PRAYER – Pray for these 4 people.

## Day 4

What is the craziest thing someone has asked you to do? Why did they ask you to do it? What happened?

In the original *Star Wars*, Han solo, Chewbacca, Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker are trapped in the cell block by Stormtroopers. Leia blasts a hole in the garbage chute and asks them all to jump in. That is crazy. Wouldn't people know exactly where they were? Garbage? Would there be a way out? So many questions. Yet they all listened to her and jumped in. They almost died by a garbage monster and the empire activating the garbage compacter. But C3PO rescued them. They did a crazy thing because they were asked to by Leia and they all ended up okay. Ezekiel was asked to do a crazy thing to God to leave an example to the people of the disaster that was yet to come. Ask God to help you read and understand His word today.

### Read Ezekiel 4

Sign one. Look at verses 1 to 3. What does God want Israel to see through the brick illustration? What was coming?

What did God ask Ezekiel to do in verses 4 to 8? What point did God want to give to Israel (Northern kingdom) and Judah (Southern kingdom)?

Think about what Ezekiel did to help God make his point. How did this show Ezekiel was really committed to serving the Lord?

In verses 9 to 17, what were 3 things God asked Ezekiel to do for food in this time of laying around? Why?

1.

2.

3.

Why? –

How can you use this message to share with people in your life how serious God takes sin and punishment?

PRAYER – Ask God to use you to tell people about trusting Christ.

## **Day 5**

What do you think is the worst way to die? Why?

My top three are easy. Drowning would be the worst. Being burned while alive is second. Third would be floating off into space without anybody to haul me back in a ship. Horrible ways to die. The Jews were not faithful to God. They continued to worship other idols and to follow their own ways and not God's. And they encouraged others to do the same. Judgment would come and it would not be pretty. Today we see the destruction, that God says through Ezekiel, would come upon Jerusalem. Ask God to help you see and apply his truths from his word today.

### **Read Ezekiel 5**

Look at verses 1 to 4. Break down what God asked Ezekiel to do?

What did this symbolize according to verse 12?

What did the Jews do that was so bad in verses 5 to 7? Why was this so bad when you think about who they are?

List all the ways that God said he would judge his people for their sin in verses 8 to 11 and 13 to 17.

God takes sin pretty serious. Why do you think God took much more serious the sin of his people compared with the nations?

How do you see our country in these verses?

PRAYER – Pray for our country, its leaders and that the church would not be like the world, but set an example of how to live for the Lord.

## Day 6

What are the idols that people worship? List 5 or 6.

How do these idols compare to God? Make 3 observations.

1.

2.

3.

Idols are dead. God is alive. Idols have no power. God is all powerful. Idols lead us to destruction. Faith in God leads us to life. These are some of the comparisons between idols and the living God. That is why it is important to identify the idols in our own lives, because if we have them, we are worshipping a dead, powerless, lead us to destruction object. Ask God to help you identify the idols in your own life as you read this passage of Ezekiel today.

### Read Ezekiel 6

Look at verses 1 to 7. List all that God did to those who worshipped dead, powerless idols?

How was it appropriate that the people died where their idols were?

According verses 8 to 10 what does God tell us were some of the reasons that he would leave a part of the people alive?

In verses 11 to 14, how would people know that the true and living God is more powerful than the gods and idols people make?

Now think about your own life. What idols have you made in your life?  
Next to each one wrote what you can do to remove that idol?

PRAYER – Pray about these idols.

## Day 7

When you hear the phrase, “They shall know that I am the Lord” what picture or characteristics of God come to mind? Why?

Usually a big action is in mind with someone says they will know I am their boss, or I am their father, or I am their coach. Usually this phrase is said as a proof to the power and authority of the speaker. The people who this is being said of, are probably going to be humbled and beat down a little bit to realize this truth about this person. This is the idea that we will look at today, how the people will know that God is the Lord. They will know this in their destruction and hardships brought on by their own sinful actions. Ask God to show you your sin and lay on your heart to take serious the things you do or don't do for Him as you read and study.

### Read Ezekiel 7

How would you summarize this chapter in your own words?

Why is this passage easy or hard for you to read? Why?

Summarize the point of each section in your own words.

1. Verses 1 to 9 –
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Verses 10 to 13 –
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Verses 14 to 22 –
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Verses 23 to 27 –

What do you see about God's character in this chapter?

If God takes sin this serious, what are 3 ways in which you need to take your sin more serious?

- 1.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3.

PRAYER – Ask God to help you take sin more serious.

## Day 8

List 5 things that churches are doing in our country that are bad in the sight of the Lord.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

These are just 5 things. I bet you could have listed more. What has happened to the church in our country today? They have compromised on what the Bible says we are to be and do as a church. We have decided to put ourselves in the center of everything and take God out. We have committed adultery against God. We will read today about how the place of worship had become corrupt in Ezekiel's time. It is what we are seeing in the church today. Ask God to open your eyes to these truths as you study the world today.

### Read Ezekiel 8

Describe in your own words what happened in verses 1 to 4?

Why was it important for the Lord to now turn his attention to the place of worship in this chapter? What did the people need to hear?

In the following sections describe where in the temple Ezekiel was taken and what he saw that was corrupt in the place of worship.

1. Verses 5 to 6 –

2. Verses 7 to 13 –

3. Verses 14 to 15 –

4. Verses 16 to 18 –

List 3 things you can pray for in the church today, in general, and in your own church.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for the things you just listed above.

## Day 9

What is a sin you have committed that you got away with and nobody found out? How did you get away with it? Did you really get away with it? Explain.

Crime and court room shows are full of guilty people who think they got away with the perfect crime only to be proven guilty in time. Little clues they leave behind are discovered by ambitious detectives or lawyers and each is a little string that undoes the perfect crime of the criminal. Their guilt just about always is found out. Our sin is that way. We think we get away with it because no human being caught us or ever finds out about it. Yet God sees and knows all, so we don't really get away with our sin. Today we see how God has seen the sin of His people even as they think they have gotten away with sinful behavior. Ask God to teach you as you read and study His word today.

### Read Ezekiel 9

Describe the two groups of people mentioned in the chapter:

1. Those who have been marked –
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Those who are left unmarked –

What do we see about God's wrath and judgment?

How do we see that this is a judgment that is aimed at ALL people?

What was Ezekiel's response to God's judgment in verse 8? How does God respond to him?

In verse 9 we see the people thought God did not see their sin. He did and he enacted judgment. What sins do you struggle with that you need to be taking more seriously? How can you take them more serious?

PRAYER – Ask God to show you your sin, confess it.

## Day 10

What kinds of reactions or questions would you have if someone said that God was no longer going to bless your church?

At the end of the first *Narnia* movie Lucy is sad as she sees Aslan walking on the beach and leaving them. The king, the powerful and terrible beast, is leaving his people to fend for themselves. Though Tumnus says that Aslan will return, they just do not know when. The Jewish people had sinned. They worshipped idols and they were not repentant. God judged them. The glory of the Lord left the temple, the people's place of worship. This was in judgment for their sin. Today we look at that account. Ask God to encourage you and challenge your faith as you read today.

### Read Ezekiel 10

Let's get creative. Attempt to draw a picture of how these wheels and angels are describe in this passage. Just try it.

This can be hard to understand. What do we see here about who God is?

What do we see about the place of worship? How should we take the place of worship more serious?

These wheels and angels all ultimately signify the glory of God. He is removing his glory from the place of worship. What statement is God making in doing this?

What are 3 things this should make you think about when it comes to worshipping God at church on Sunday mornings?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray about the 3 things you listed above.

## Day 11

Compare and contrast three things between wicked and good counselors.

1.

2.

3.

The kind of counselors we surround ourselves with can make or break us. Anakin Skywalker from *Star Wars* is a great example of this. His mentor Obi Wan was always trying to make him better. He did this by pointing out his faults and struggles so he could work on them. He did not give him big responsibilities right away but he wanted him to earn them. This was a big frustration to Anakin because on his other hand he had a counselor in Senator Palpatine. He was the Sith Lord who wanted to turn Anakin to the dark side of the force. He told Anakin he saw him being the greatest Jedi and that he was being held back from his full potential. He listened to Palpatine and he gave into his anger and ultimately the dark side. All because he listened to a bad counselor. Today we look at how God condemned the wicked counselors in Jerusalem. Ask God to build you up in your faith today.

### Read Ezekiel 11

Look at verses 1 to 13. What are all the things the “wicked” counselors did in Israel? List them.

In these same verses how does God bring judgment on them? How was this judgment serious?

God would scatter his people. How do we see in verses 14-25 that God would change the hearts of the people? Write them all here.

Why is it important to not miss the point that God opens their eyes and changes their hearts and not the men themselves? What does this show us about God and about our inability to change ourselves?

Do you have a heart of stone or flesh? Explain how you know.

PRAYER – Pray for 3 non-Christians, that God would change their hearts.

## Day 12

What is a story or picture someone has used with you to illustrate a point? What was the point? Did you get it at the time? Explain.

The *Far Side* were cartoons that were often times bizarre but so funny. I remember one where a dad is sitting there and his son is making a whole lot of commotion. He just wants peace and quiet. He pushes a button that makes loud noise on the other side of the door that leads to the basement. He tells his son that he needs to be quiet or the monsters in the basement will come and get him. The son becomes really quiet. The point of the story was to be quiet in the house or monsters will eat you up. Strange story but the dad was making a point. God often makes points to his people using stories, illustrations, symbols and parables. Today we see how he uses this to make a point to his people. Ask God to instruct your heart in his truths today.

## Read Ezekiel 12

What phrase is repeated in verses 1, 8, 17, 21 and 26?

What is important about this phrase that should have Israel and us listening?

Summarize what God told Ezekiel to do in verses 1 to 16. What was God's point to his people? What was he going to do?

What is the symbol God used with his people in verses 17 to 20? What was God communicating to his people in the use of this symbol?

Look at verses 21 to 28. The people did not believe the end was coming. What does God say about that and about his people in these verses?

How should these truths motivate you to act and speak to the people who God has put into your life?

PRAYER – Pray for those you know who need to repent and turn to God.

## Day 13

What are ways in which you have seen or heard of pastors and leaders in the church who lead people away from the Lord? List 3 ways.

1.

2.

3.

This could be a fairly lengthy list but I will give you three. There are many pastors out there who say right from the pulpit that the Bible is not God's perfect word but just a good moral guide for us to follow. Another thing that pastors and leaders say in the church are that there are many ways that lead to God. Muslims who are good, they can get to heaven their way. The last one I want to mention are pastors who say that men are basically good, that we are not sinful through and through. Yikes. If these things are true then it really shows we don't need Jesus, the Bible is not authoritative and we are the masters of our own destiny. These leaders are guiding people away from God and to death. We need to make sure we are not like those leaders. Ask God to help you evaluate your leadership as you read the Bible today.

## Read Ezekiel 13

God's word comes to Ezekiel concerning the prophets, God's supposed spokesmen. What bad have they done according to verses 1 to 16?

In these same verses what does God say would be the consequences for these false and evil prophets? List them all.

Then God turns his attention to the women in verses 17 to 23. What evil things were they doing in these verses?

What does God say he is going to do to these women?

God takes the leaders of the church serious. What are 3 things that our leaders need to make sure they are doing in the church when you think about this passage of scripture?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray the leaders of your church would lead in a godly way.

## **Day 14**

What are some of the idols that people carry with them as they gather for worship with God's people? List 4 or 5.

Money. Relationships. Titles. Jobs. Sports. There are many more idols that can be added to this list that people carry with them as they gather to worship each week. And guess what? These idols are not just for the regular person but also are some of the elders, our leaders. Some of them are carrying around idols into worship. Today Ezekiel will address our idols and talk about the consequences if we don't deal with them. Ask God to expose your own idols as you read the Bible today.

### **Read Ezekiel 14**

Look at verses 1 to 11. How did the elders, the leaders of God's people, struggle with idol worship according to these verses?

What kinds of things does God say he is going to do to these people if they do not repent?

According to verse 11 what is God's desired goal in dealing harshly with the idols of his people? What does that say about the God we serve?

Look at verses 12 to 23. How is Jerusalem's destruction described?

Why does God use Noah, Daniel and Job several times in this passage of scripture? What is his point in comparing the people to them?

If God would destroy the Jews because of worshipping idols, that means he will do the same to us today. What are the idols that you struggle with or think you might struggle with one day? List them below.

PRAYER – Pray for deliverance from these idols & to worship God alone.

## Day 15

Describe a vine. What is good? What is bad? What can it be used for?

I hate vines. They are pretty useless. They creep all over everything, covering trees, plants and even the vegetables in the garden. If you want to be rid of it, you have to find the original root and get it all up or it will come back. There is a lot of wood that you can char it so as to use it for something else. Not vines. Useless. I know some smart aleck will say Tarzan swings from them so they are useful. Have you ever seen someone swing from tree to tree in a vine? Useless. Today we will see Israel compared to a vine. Ask God to apply His word to your heart today.

### Read Ezekiel 15

What does God say about the uselessness of the vine in verses 1 to 5?

What one use is the vine in these same verses?

How does God compare Jerusalem to the vine in verses 6 to 8?

If you are a Jew hearing this, what do you think your initial reaction is to hearing Ezekiel's words from God?

What does God want his people to hear in this comparison?

Psalm 1:3 says we are to be trees planted by streams of water. We are not to be a vine. Are you vine or a tree? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask God to make you a tree that bears fruit and is useful.

## Day 16

What are ways in which men and women are unfaithful to each other when married?

What are the consequences on a marriage and on the individuals in a marriage when one spouse is unfaithful to the other?

If you watch tv and movies enough, there are so many story lines where a spouse cheats on the other spouse. The consequences are disastrous. There is the emotional damage it causes: anger, sadness, frustration, depression, anxiety, etc. There are the other consequences: strains in common friendships, messed up children, divorce, not trusting the opposite sex or even thinking badly about all people of the opposite sex, splitting of possession and the list goes on. This should motivate us, if we get married, to do all we can to have a God honoring, Christ centered marriage. The next two days we will look at a picture of Jerusalem as the Lord's bride and how the Jews cheated on God. Ask God to help you apply these truths to your life as you read and study.

### **Read Ezekiel 16:1-34**

How does God describe his people in verses 1 to 7 when they were still pagans, not following God?

Verses 8 to 14 describe after God chose his people and made Israel his own, their conversion. How does God describe his bride, Israel?

Then in verses 15 to 34 we see how God's bride, Israel, cheated on God. What things are said about his people, what they did and were like?

This story is like our story before we knew Jesus. We were dead in our sin. God saved us and cleaned us up and made us his own. And yet for many they run after sin again, acting like they were before they knew Jesus. Summarize your own story – what you were like before Jesus, how God changed your life and some of your sinful struggles since then.

PRAYER – Give thanks for your faith. Ask for forgiveness for your sin.

## Day 17

Describe a time when someone forgave you of something you did to them. How did it feel to be forgiven? How did God work in that relationship after being forgiven?

When we wrong someone we need to deal with the consequences of our action. In the case of disobeying our parents. We need to deal with penalty of our disobedience and in some cases it takes time to build trust back up with our parents. It is not something that goes away overnight. You need to demonstrate that you are changed and different. But what starts this process of growing and restoring the relationship is we are confronted with our sin by someone who loves us. When we see it and repent, then starts the hard process of restoration. Today we see the consequences that would come on God's people because of their sin, but we also see a glimmer of hope. Ask God to help you see your sin, but also see His love in confronting us with our sin as you read and study.

### **Read Ezekiel 16:35-63**

Look at verses 35 to 58. What consequences does God say he would give to Jerusalem because of their sin?

God compares Jerusalem to Sodom in this section. What is his point in comparing his people to this evil city? What does he want them to see?

In all this, what do we see about how serious God takes sin? Do you take serious your sin; I mean really take it seriously? Explain.

What hope does God give to his people after saying they would be destroyed in verses 59 to 63? How did he take the initiative?

What hope and encouragement do you need to take from verses 59 to 63 when you think about your own struggle with sin?

PRAYER – Pray for your sin struggle or someone you know.

## Day 18

What is a favorite book or movie that has a clear point? What was the point of the book or movie?

Most of us want to know the point of the story we are reading or watching, for better or for worse, even if reading or watching just for pleasure. There is something about disaster movies that I like to watch them. They are low on plot but have lots of great special effects. *The Day After Tomorrow* is one of those flicks. Basically a super snow storm with really cold temperatures ushers in a new ice age to the northern hemisphere killing many people and leaving the United States mostly uninhabitable. The point of the story became clear. If you don't take care of the earth, then this could happen to us. So recycle and treat the earth nicely. God likes to use stories or pictures to make a point many times. Today we will see one of these stories he gave to the Jews. Ask God to open your eyes to His truths today.

### Read Ezekiel 17

Describe what God says about the following characters in his story. What does he say about them, who do they represent and why?

1. Eagle 1 –

2. The vine –

### 3. Eagle 2 –

Everything God said would happen to Jerusalem by Babylon's hands came to pass. The king died in exile, the people were killed or exiled. It all happened. What does this show us about the power of God's word?

What hope does God give to his people in verses 22 to 24?

How do we see in these same verses that only God can change us?

How is this humbling to you?

PRAYER – Give thanks for God's power, judgment and how he changes hearts and lives.

## Day 19

What are 2 things that you think are unfair? Next to each one write down why you think they are unfair.

1.

2.

I think it is unfair that when you start driving that guys' car insurance is higher than girls' car insurance. Equality right? When trying out for a play I think it is unfair for the director to let people try out for a part if they already have someone picked out for that part. It gives false hope. These are two things I think are unfair. Israel thought it was unfair that God was going to bring destruction on them so severely because of their sin. Today we see that even in the midst of God's judgment that he really does love his people. Ask God to help you see His love for you even when you rebel against Him.

## Read Ezekiel 18

What does God say about the person who shall live in verses 5 to 9?

Why does God say a person will die in verses 10 to 13?

Who is responsible for sin according to verses 14 to 20? Who is not responsible?

What does God say about the wicked person who repents and the righteous person who sins in verses 21 to 29?

How do we see in verses 30 to 32 that God desires not to discipline us but to see us live?

Israel said no fair in verses 25 and 29. They don't think they should die because of their sin. Do you think this is unfair? Explain your answer.

**PRAYER** – Ask God to help you take sin as serious as he does. He does!

## Day 20

If you were to write a headline of the status of our culture today, what would be the headline? Why that one?

Maybe these would be some of your headlines for America: "Only the fittest survives." "Whatever you want to do, do it, for no one should judge you." "You are basically a good person no matter what anybody tells you." "Wo what you have to do to get to the top." These are only a few that you can see true in our society. Jerusalem had become like our country is today. God was not happy which is why Ezekiel was sent to proclaim his message. The state of his country and people was sad to Ezekiel. Today we get a lament from him about his people. A lament is a passionate expression of grief and sorrow. Hear Ezekiel's lament today and ask God to help you feel this way towards our world and country today.

### Read Ezekiel 19

What do we see about the mother lion in verse 2?

What becomes of her young cub in verses 3 and 4?

How does the lioness react to this cub and what does she do next?

Describe the second lion cub in from verses 6 to 9?

The lioness is Judah and the cubs are kings who failed to lead God's people in a godly way. What is the result of their ungodly way of leading in verses 10 to 14 for God's people?

Think about this lamentation. What are 3 things observations you can make about our country and culture when you think about this chapter?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – For our country, leaders and the church leading as it should.

## Day 21

Who are three types of people or groups who get rebelled against? Write next to each why people rebel against them?

1.

2.

3.

Many worlds rebelled against the Empire led by the evil emperor in the *Star Wars* saga. They did not like how the universe was being ruled and so they stood against the emperor. William Wallace led a band of Scotsman against the king of England because of the unfair taxes and practices they held over the people of Scotland. They wanted their freedom. Okay, those are two good reasons to rebel. Then you have the child in a family who rebels against the rules of his parents. They don't like the curfew, or that they can't watch certain movies or listen to certain music or have certain friends. They do all that behind their backs. They are rebelling. This is a bad rebellion. Today we look at the history of God's people rebelling against God. Ask God to show you how you rebel against him as you read the Bible today.

### Read Ezekiel 20:1-32

List all you that is listed through these verses of what the Lord commanded the people to do?

What are all the ways in which the people rebelled against God? List them all.

How do we see the grace of God in the lives of his people through all these incidents in their history?

God's people were rebelling. What did God not want them to do according to the beginning and end of the chapter?

List the ways you find that you are or have rebelled against God.

PRAYER – Confess your rebellion; ask help to honor his commands.

## Day 22

Let's say you have a rusted old car. What kinds of things would you do to restore that car to good, working order?

It would be a lot of work if you wanted to have a good looking and fine running car. You would have to rip, tear and sand to get down to the frame of the car. Then you would need to rebuild every part of that car so it could actually run. You cannot leave any part out or the car will not look or run right. It takes hard work and long hours to do this. God's people were a work in progress. God often had to tear them apart so he could rebuild them back up. We have seen lots of hard words from Ezekiel regarding the people. Today we see that God looks to bring restoration to his people. Ask God to remind you of how he restored you as you read through this passage today.

### **Read Ezekiel 20:33-49**

Look at verses 33 to 38, what kinds of things did God say to his people to show them that exile was not the end, but that they could have hope?

How do we see God initiated this change and not the people?

In verses 39 to 40, what did require of his people?

According to verses 41 and 42 what does God want the nations to see and for all the world to know in what He did?

How do we see God's forgives and grace in verses 43 to 44? Why is this so awesome when you think about all the people had done?

How do you know you have been restored? How have you seen God's grace and mercy in your own life?

PRAYER – Give thanks for God's grace and mercy specifically in your life.

## Day 23

What are all the reasons a person would draw a sword?

The sword is symbolic of judgment and justice. We see it used in good ways in defending against the wicked and striking down the enemy. But some use it as an instrument of injustice to persecute and oppress people. The symbol of justice is perverted. Often times when we are given a picture of God in the scripture, there is some kind of sword associated. We see this in the Old and New Testaments. It is a sharp and double edged sword as Hebrews says. Today we get a picture of that sword. Ask God to convict you of His truths today.

### **Read Ezekiel 21:1-17**

Look at verses 1 to 5. Summarize what this word of the Lord was about.

Why did God want Ezekiel to groan in verses 6 to 7? What was the point?

Summarize the second word of the Lord in verses 8 to 13.

What did God want Ezekiel to do in verses 14 to 17 as a result of this word? Why?

What important characteristic do we see about God in these verses? Why is this a trait that most people like to ignore when it comes to God?

What are 3 sins you see and ways you should grieve about that sin you see around you?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for the things you just listed above.

## Day 24

What is a war or battle in which you could see and knew who would win?  
Why was it so one sided and predictable?

The movie *Gladiator* was a good movie about Maximus a Roman General, and seeing him from leading an army to fighting for his life in a gladiator arena. In the beginning of the movie as he leads the Roman army against a group of fighters from Gaul, he remarks at how he wished the people who just realize when they are defeated. He wanted them to stop fighting and just accept Roman rule. As we read through these prophecies in Ezekiel we see a people, the Jews, who are defeated. They are going to lose, die and go into exile. They cannot fight it. Yet they try. Let us look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the picture of the sword coming to Jerusalem. Ask God to help you understand his word today.

### **Read Ezekiel 21:18-32**

How is the king of Babylon described in verses 18 to 23?

How does it seem weird that God would use this kind of man and nation to defeat his people?

How do we see Jerusalem would be defeated in verses 24 to 27?

They were guilty, not innocent. Why is that important to remember here?

According to verses 28 to 32, how do we see that all this is not about Babylon or Assyria but about God judging his people? What does this say about God?

How does this picture of God, which is still true today, encourage you and strike fear in you? What does it challenge you to do in your own life?

PRAYER – Thank God for his judgment; ask for help to obey him.

## Day 25

What is a country, group of people or company in which you see total corruption from top to bottom? Describe the corruption in detail.

The biggest groups that come to mind are Islamic Extremist groups. On the top you see leaders who speak against democracy and want to see the downfall of any group or individuals who are anything but Muslim. You see this attitude in the generals as they carry out brutal acts of violence. Most disturbing is to see children being trained to kill people either with guns or other horrible acts of murder. You see this evil and corruption from top to bottom. God's people had become evil. You see it in the kings, priests and the people who follow those kings and priests. They would face judgment as they had become a people who shed a lot of blood. Ask God to teach you from his word today.

### Read Ezekiel 22

How do we see the people shedding blood and sinning in the following groups of verses?

1. Verses 1 to 5 –

2. Verses 6 to 12 –

3. Verses 13 to 16 –

4. Verses 17 to 22 –

5. Verses 23 to 29 –

Think about all these verses. What do you see about God's people?

Look at verse 30. What was God looking for that he did not find? Why is that significant as you think about what is happening here?

What are the ways you can stand in the breach or the gap for the people who are dying in their sin all around you?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you stand in the breach, to share the Gospel.

## Day 26

What are ways in which men and women act inappropriately in relationships with each other?

We live in a world where pornography can be viewed with the click of a mouse, or you can go to a major city and find women selling themselves on the street, or men and women who are willing to sleep around with whoever they meet. The list goes on in the ways in which people are in inappropriate relationships with each other. We have a lot in common with the people of Israel. Today, some of the language of the chapter can be a bit graphic but it is giving you a picture of what God's people did in violating God's commands and living like the other nations. Ask God to help you see the importance of following Him in every area of your life as you read the Bible today.

### **Read Ezekiel 23:1-35**

Who do Oholah and Oholibah represent? Why is that important to know?

What are we told about Oholah's character and actions in verses 5 to 10?

How do things end for her?

List the ways in which Oholibah is described in verses 11 to 21.

In verses 22 to 35, what are we told will happen to Oholibah?

Samaria and Judah both are destroyed like the two sisters. God's judgment is sure and quick. How do you see these two sisters in our country and church today? Write down 4 things.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER – Pray for individual people you know who are like the two sisters. Pray God would use His church to share our hope in Christ.

## Day 27

Think of three big sins someone can commit. List next to each sin the possible consequences of that sin.

1.

2.

3.

There are a lot of big consequences of sin. You think of pastors who sin big and the ripple effects it has on the church. Churches lose members, split and even cease to be a church anymore. Couples that sin against each other by cheating have to deal with divorce, problems with their children, and causing problems in the extended family. These are just a couple of examples of how our sin can have big and disastrous consequences. Yesterday we looked at Oholah and Oholibah and how they represented the Jews in the north and south, and the destruction that would come on them as a result of their sin. Today we look further at the consequences of their sin. Ask God to show you your sin so you can repent today.

### **Read Ezekiel 23:36-49**

List the sins given that the two sisters committed in verses 36 to 44.

What was the sentence given to the sisters by righteous men in verse 45?

What consequences would they deal with in verses 46 to 49?

Is this a stiff penalty for the women? Explain your answer.

These two sisters again represent Judah and Samaria who were destroyed because of their sin. They were sent into exile. God did this to his own people to show the seriousness of their sin and its consequences. How do we as a church and as Christians avoid these consequences?

PRAYER – Pray for consequences of sin; also pray people would repent.

## Day 28

Has anyone ever threatened bad to you if you did not change something you did or were doing? Explain that situation.

In the *Back to the Future* movies Mr. Strickland, the principle of the high school Marty and his dad went to tells both his dad and Marty that they are slackers and they will never amount to anything. He said this because they did not take serious school and they did not really stand up for themselves. The warning comes true for Marty's dad. Marty goes into the past and changes things for both of them. We have been studying the first half of Ezekiel this month and all the prophecy that said Jerusalem would be destroyed and the people exiled. Today we come to the siege of Jerusalem. Ask God to teach how to apply his word to your life today.

### **Read Ezekiel 24:1-14**

In verses 1 to 5 we see the siege of Jerusalem. Ezekiel uses the picture of cooking. Look at how he describes the cooking here. How is this a good picture of what happened to the people holed up in Jerusalem?

In verses 6 to 12, who is represented by what in these verses? Why?

1. People of Jerusalem –

2. Babylonians –

What is God saying about the people of Israel as he talks about corrosion of the pot?

In verses 13 and 14 how do we see God's judgment is final and will not be stopped?

God's people lost everything. What kinds of things could you lose if you do not take serious your sin?

PRAYER – Confess your sin; Ask for strength to say not to sin.

## Day 29

Who is the closest person to you? What would you do, feel and think if that person was to die?

What would you do, feel or think of someone asked you to not grieve for that person but just move on?

That is a hard thing to imagine, being told to move on and not grieve over someone close to you who has just died. In most cases it would seem cold for someone to even mention this. For many people they say this kind of comment meaning well but coming across us unfeeling. They want to see the person move on with their life, to live, to not get stuck in a cycle of depression and sadness. Of course it is about the comfort of the friend and not the one grieving. Well we end our study with the death of Ezekiel's wife. We see what God says he needed to do on her death and also the reason for her death. It is a hard read but we see God's plan in the tragic event. Ask God for a heart of understanding today.

### **Read Ezekiel 24:15-27**

How does God ask Ezekiel to grieve in verses 15 to 18?

If you stop reading there, what kinds of questions go through your mind?

Look at verses 19 to 27, how was Ezekiel to be a sign to the people of Jerusalem? What would they do and not do when Jerusalem was destroyed?

During this whole process Ezekiel could not talk. Why according to the last verse? Why is that important?

What is something that you have learned about yourself and God through your study of the first half of the book of Ezekiel?

PRAYER – Give thanks for God's word, his wrath and his mercy.