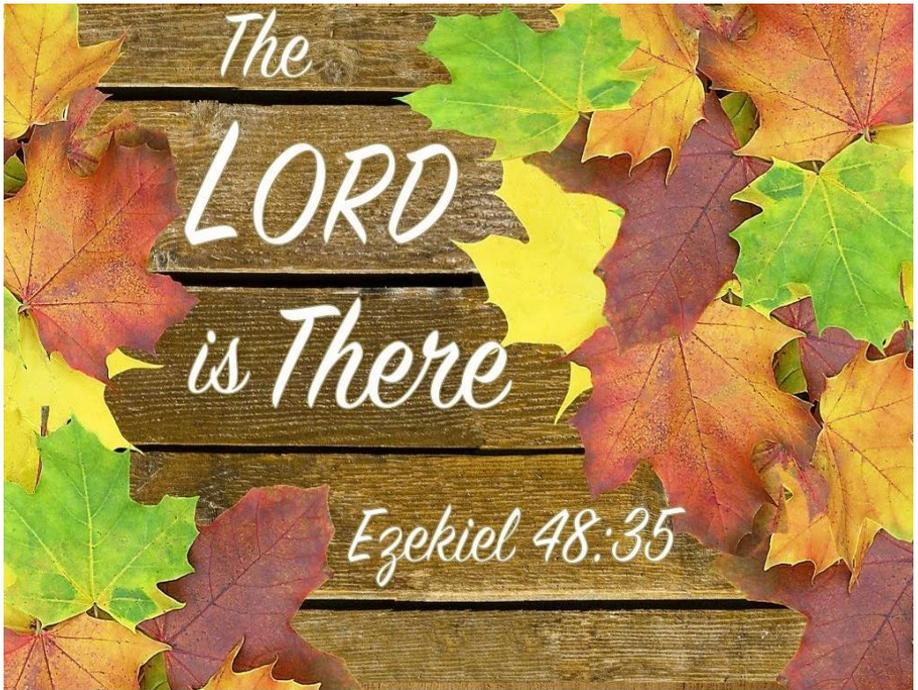


Judgment and Blessing

Ezekiel 25-48



NOVEMBER 2018

Day 1

Who is someone you would consider an enemy? If you could do anything to them, what would you do? Why that?

How is it good that we are not in charge but God is?

We have all had an enemy at one time or another. And I know you would sit at your desk in school, or lie awake at night wishing bad things would happen to them. You wished they would trip down the stairs, or have everybody laugh at them, or that they would have no friends, or maybe worse, you wished them dead. For the next few days we are going to look at the pronouncements of judgment God gave on his enemies. Ask God to help you see your own world through the word today.

Read Ezekiel 25

Summarize God's prophecy (who against, what would happen, why)

1. Verses 1-7 –

2. Verses 8-11 –

3. Verses 12-14 –

4. Verses 15-17 –

5. Verses 28:20-24

What does God want the nations to know through his judgment according to the last verses of their prophecies?

What about their destruction will show them these truths?

How can we take hope in these verses as Christians dealing with persecutions today?

PRAYER – Give thanks for God's judgment and his love for his people.

Day 2

What is a nation from history that is no more? What happened to them? Why? Take a moment to describe that city's downfall.

The Roman Empire was huge at one point in time. It ruled most of the known world. They would conquer people and assimilate them into the empire. Nobody could stand against the Romans. But then king squabbled, land was divided and the mighty Roman empire came down with a crash. The mighty had fallen. I guess the phrase, "Pride goes before a fall" was quite appropriate for the Romans. God through Ezekiel spends quite a bit of time looking at the country of Tyre. Let's take a look at what God had to say against that nation. Ask God to open your eyes to His truths today.

Read Ezekiel 26:19-21 (read rest of chapter for other details)

What did God do to the nation of Tyre?

How do we see today that God meant what he said?

What does this show us about God's character?

Read Ezekiel 27:26-36

Tyre was a trading center. Many people traveled through and wanted what they had to offer. They were rich. In our verses how do we see that God judged and ended Tyre?

What does this show you about the power of God and the powerlessness of man?

Read Ezekiel 28: 1-19

What important things do we see about the following people?

1. Prince of Tyre –

2. King of Tyre –

Look at 28:25 and 26 – how will God's people know God is the Lord their God?

PRAYER – Pray for your nation, it's leaders and that you would trust the Lord no matter what is going on.

Day 3

What are all the things that come to mind when you think of the nation of Egypt, past and present?

Egypt has always seemed to be right in the middle of Biblical narratives. Joseph was taken there as a slave and became the 2nd in command. The people of God were enslaved there and delivered by Moses while suffering much through the plagues. Egypt was a place some of God's people disobediently dwelled and obediently dwelled (Joseph and Mary). They plundered Israel and they were plundered and defeated by other nations. Ah, Egypt. Today we look at 2 chapters that deal with Egypt and the prophecy against it. Ask God to help you dig deep and mine the spiritual truths of His word.

Read Ezekiel 29:3-6a and 10-16

What do we see about Pharaoh in these verses?

How will God judge him and the whole nation because of their sin?

God said Egypt would never be powerful again. How do we see that is still true today?

Read Ezekiel 30:10-12

How do we see God is in control of Egypt's downfall? What words or phrases are used?

Who does God use in defeating Egypt? Why is he an important figure?

God does all this so the people will know what in verse 19? How will all that happens show this truth?

Do you know that God is the Lord? How do you know?

Write down 2 people who do not know Jesus is Lord. Write next to them 2 ways you can pray for them along with their salvation.

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray for the two people you just wrote down.

Day 4

What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen that was ruined?
What happened to it?

I remember driving by the house I grew up in as a child. We had some good climbing trees in that yard. They were some good memories. Several years I drove by the old house that my parents lost due to some sketching financial issues. The trees had been removed. They were no longer there. It was disappointing. It was almost as if someone ripped up and trampled on my childhood memories. That is the feeling we have when something majestic and beautiful is ruined. What a shame. What a disappointment. Today we turn our focus specifically to the ruler of Egypt, Pharaoh. Ask God to help you learn from his example today.

Read Ezekiel 31:9-14, 18

Pharaoh and Egypt are compared to a large and fruitful tree in the previous verses. How does verse 9 show that God made them that way?

What happened according to verses 10 to 14 and 18?

What does this show you about the person or nation that does not serve and follow the Lord and his commands?

Read Ezekiel 32:9-15

How would Egypt be totally destroyed according to these verses?

What impact would Egypt's destruction have on other nations around her?

All this so people would know what in verse 15?

Pride goes before a fall. Pharaoh and Egypt fell hard. What are ways in which you struggle with pride in your life? List what you can think of.

PRAYER – Pray about your pride struggles.

Day 5

Think of a watchman. What important responsibilities does he have?

What could happen if he neglects his responsibilities?

In *Night at the Museum*, Larry the night watchman is responsible for caring for all the exhibits that come to life at night. He has to care for them to make sure they are not discovered but also that they might not be destroyed. His warning to the exhibits is don't be outside when the sun comes up or you will turn to dust and cease to exist. One Neanderthal exhibit did not heed the warning and was caught outside as the sun came up and Larry watched helplessly as it turned to dust. Gone because he did not heed the warning. Today we look at Ezekiel's role as the watchman of Israel. Ask God to guide you in the study of his word today.

Read Ezekiel 33:1-9

Look at verses 1 to 6. What does God tell Ezekiel about who is responsible if the people disobey? He gives two scenarios.

God then makes it personal to Ezekiel. What does he tell him to do?

What happens if Ezekiel would have said, "No, not going to do it!"

What happens when the people say, "No, not going to listen to you!"

What are ways in which we are watchmen like Ezekiel?

Think about the non-Christians in your life, what you say or don't say to them, would God say you being a faithful watchman? Explain.

PRAYER – Pray for boldness in telling truth. Pray for 2 people you need to be sharing that truth with.

Day 6

What are reasons some Christians do not like the fact that God forgives some people of pretty horrible sins?

What does that reveal about their own hearts and attitudes?

This is nothing new. Jesus even told the story of the Prodigal son. The younger son basically wished his father dead by demanding his inheritance while he was still alive. He took the money and spent it all on wild living until he had nothing. He then came back home, ready to be a servant. His Father, waiting for Him to come back, ran and greeted him, kissed and hugged him, and threw him a party for his son was back. He restored him. The older son was angry with his brother but especially his father. He had been faithful and did not get a party. This brother hated his father just as much and did not understand his father's actions. We can be like that as Christians today. Ask God to reveal the attitudes of your own heart as you read Ezekiel today.

Read Ezekiel 33:10-20

What words or phrases in these verses show that God wants to see people to repent and not show wrath on them?

What does Ezekiel say about “God’s people” who think they just have to believe in God and can do anything sinful, for they are God’s people?

If someone truly repents, what does God say he will do in verses 14-16?

What was the Israelites reaction to God forgiving them in verses 17 to 20?

What sin do you need to confess today? What bad attitudes towards God’s grace to others do you need to confess? Write them all down.

PRAYER – Thank God for his grace. Confess your sins to God.

Day 7

If someone came to you and said that the town/city you live in is going to be totally destroyed and not able to be lived in, what are 3 things you would say, ask or think to that news?

1.

2.

3.

In *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, the king of Rohan is told that Saruman's army wants to destroy Rohan. Aragorn encourages him to find the exiled riders and fight. That is the way to save Rohan. The king ignores the counsel and takes his people to hide out in Helm's Deep. All Aragorn said came to pass. Saruman's orc army comes to Helm's Deep and when they are about to be totally wiped out, the exiled riders of Rohan show up and save the people. Ezekiel the watchman knew his people and their city would be destroyed. God told him. Ask God to challenge you in your faith as you read the Bible today.

Read Ezekiel 33:21-33

What did God do to Ezekiel according to verses 22?

Why did God do this to Ezekiel? What was God waiting for?

What sins had the people committed in verses 24 to 26?

What was God going to do to them in verses 27 to 29? Why?

People came to hear Ezekiel's message in verses 30 to 33. What did they do with these truths? Why do you think that is?

So which person are you most like: the people who hear the truth and reject it to do their own thing, OR the person who tells the truth no matter what others say, think or do? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – For strength and wisdom to share the truth of God's Word with the people God has put in your life.

Day 8

How have leaders (shepherds) in our world been bad shepherds? List all that you can think of.

The pictures that come to mind is some of these countries where they are having humanitarian crisis. There is disease spreading, a lack of clean drinking water, and food is scarce. Then you read that the leaders of those countries are living lavish lives. They have water, lots of food and spend their money on many things and never help the people. It is horrible and makes many people frustrated, angry and sad all at once. God's people were in a similar situation with some pretty horrible leaders. Today we read about them. Ask God to encourage you to think about your own attitudes and leadership as you read the word today.

Read Ezekiel 34:1-24

Look at verses 1 to 10. What do we learn about the shepherds of Israel, both in what they did and what God was going to do to them? List everything.

How should we react to leaders such as these?

What does God say he will do as a shepherd in verses 11 to 22? Again list everything Ezekiel tells us.

How do verses 23 to 24 point us forward to Jesus Christ?

How is Jesus the Good Shepherd to His people? Write 5 and next to each one, write what that looks like in everyday life.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

PRAYER – Give thanks to God and Jesus for being “good” shepherds.

Day 9

Think of a conflict in your life or in our world, that has not been resolved. What would be 3 benefits to a peaceful resolution in that situation?

1.

2.

3.

We live in a country where people, leaders, occupations are divided sharply based on a party that you vote or don't vote for. There is no peace. If there was peace, man so much could be done. Communication would be better. People would be able to talk and listen without being ready to react according to an agenda. The real needs of our country would be talked about and dealt with if we were not so focused on retaining power and numbers to sway votes. People could have positive relationships across all lines. They could be friends and encourage and support one another even if they did not agree on everything. A guy can dream right? God promises peace for those who follow him. Let us look at that today. Ask God to convince you of His truths today.

Read Ezekiel 34:25-31

How do we see peace for God's people in Ezekiel's day if they would turn away from sin and to God? What did He promise to do?

Why would God do these things according to verses 27 and 30?

Why would people, in Israel and outside, know the Lord is God when these things would happen?

What does God say about his relationship with his people in verse 31?
Why is that such an encouraging verse to Israel but also us today?

What things should we be at peace about as followers of Jesus Christ?

PRAYER – Give thanks for the peace only God can give. Pray for peace in hard situations or decisions you are facing.

Day 10

What is a mighty nation in our world history that is no more? What happened to that nation that caused them to cease to exist?

There are so many nations that we don't see anymore: Babylon, Assyria, Roman Empire, Mongols, and the list can go on and on. What happened to these nations? Pride, greed, jealousy, corruption, no regard for the people they ruled, etc. It shows that no nation is outside of God's power to reduce to nothing, which includes our own country. That is why we are given many different prophecies against God's people as well as other nations in Ezekiel. Today we look at a prophecy against Mount Seir. Ask God to teach you His truths today.

Read Ezekiel 35

Write a list of all the things that the people and leaders of Mount Seir did to bring them to being judged by God?

What specific things does God say he is going to do to this nation?

What does this show you about the character of God?

What does this show you about the seriousness of sin, individually, but also as a nation?

How have you seen God's judgment in your own life? How have you seen his grace?

1. Judgment –

2. Grace –

PRAYER – Give thanks that God judges and shows grace.

Day 11

Describe a time when you felt bad for the punishment someone received that they probably deserved for their actions? Why did you feel bad?

At one of our winter retreats, I walked into the guys' room after an evening of activities. Several of the guys were putting money on a table and playing poker. I had to walk out and back in. Did I see what I thought I saw? Yup, I did. I put a stop to this poker game, and found out that at the Christian school these guys would play poker for money. I had to go to the parents of some of the guys. Some of them got in some big trouble. I knew I had to do it. But I felt a little bad as some of these guys dealt with some pretty harsh consequences. Sometimes it is easy to feel bad for Israel and all they had to deal with for their unfaithfulness. Today we see how God did not want to judge them, but had to. Ask God to help you see your own sin and God's grace through the story today.

Read Ezekiel 36:1-21

Look at verses 1 to 7. What do we see about the actions of the other nations against Israel? What do we see about God's attitude towards them and what he would do? Write it all down.

What hope did God give to his people in verses 8 to 15?

What does this all show us about the power, plan and grace of God?

Yet, verses 16 to 21 are a reminder to the people of their sin. What does God remind them about in these verses?

God was concerned about how his name was profaned by Israel. God is concerned about how his name is profaned today in the church. Think about your words, actions, attitudes. Are you profaning or promoting God's name? Explain.

PRAYER – Confess your profaning God's name. Ask Him to help you promote his name before all who God has put in your life.

Day 12

What is something somebody has done that gave you a bad name or reputation even though you did nothing wrong? How did you react?

I remember having a couple girls that were divisive and trouble in our youth group. They did not like some decisions that were made about how we would do missions trips. They took the information, out of context, and shared them with some adults. These adults said some pretty harsh things to me about not loving or caring for students, and thinking of only myself. It was some hard words to read. My reputation was being smeared. When I was able to share what we were doing and why and that it was not about the students, but the Lord, they were quick to apologize for their words. It is easy for a reputation to do be smeared. God's was because of the action of his people. Today we read about that. Ask God to help you apply these words to your own life.

Read Ezekiel 36:22-38

What words or phrases does Ezekiel use to show that God was thinking about his own reputation and name?

Why was this important?

This whole passage is a reminder that we cannot change our own hearts and lives, but God has to. Verses 25 to 27 say this so clearly. How do we see in these verses that God alone changes us and helps us serve him?

Why are verses like that, and this whole passage, humbling to us as people and as Christians?

Why did and does God change lives according to verse 36a?

How will people look at your life and see that the Lord is God? Write all that comes to mind.

PRAYER – Thank God for those things.

Day 13

What would your reaction be to a skeleton suddenly standing up, walking, talking and having flesh appear on it? Why?

The movie *The Mummy* starring Brendan Frasier was about an ancient mummy, only a skeleton, coming to life and becoming flesh and blood to exact his revenge on the whole earth. I share this because this pile of bones found by archaeologists takes on flesh as it eats living people. It is eerie to think about a skeleton becoming fully human again. It is not supposed to happen. Yet, our story today is about piles of bones becoming flesh and blood. Ask God to show you the importance of sharing his word as you read from Ezekiel today.

Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Describe the view Ezekiel would have seen in your own words.

Then God asks a question to Ezekiel. What is it and what is Ezekiel's response?

God tells Ezekiel to speak to the bones. What does God say he will do?

What kinds of thoughts or questions do you think might have went through Ezekiel's mind as he thought of God's command?

Ezekiel is obedient. God made the bones come to life. What did Ezekiel and what do we learn about God and us through this story?

In verses 11 to 14, God says he brings people to life. He does that. Not us. We need this reminder. Who are 3 people in your life who are piles of bones, that need God to give them life, eternal life. Write their names and a way you can pray for them in addition to salvation.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray for the 3 people you wrote down above.

Day 14

Describe a time, real or fiction, when people who were enemies joined together as one. What brought them together? What did they accomplish together? How did they stay together?

In the movies *Batman versus Superman* and *Justice League* Batman and Superman are enemies. They both want justice but don't like how each other goes after it. So Batman has a way to take Superman down. It is not until a bigger enemy rises up that they see the need to join together as one to defeat real evil. They do this in the first movie and then (spoiler alert) in the second movie after raising Superman from the dead they need to remind him they are not enemies but friends, that they can defeat Steppenwolf. We do so much more when we are united than when divided. This is a lesson the world needs to hear and one we as Christians have to believe as followers of Christ. Ask God to teach you His truths today.

Read Ezekiel 37:15-28

Describe the object God wants to use to teach a lesson to Ezekiel and to his people.

In one sentence what is God teaching through the two sticks?

In verses 19 to 23, how do we see God would accomplish this? What was God going to do?

God's people messed up big time. So what do we see about God's grace and love for his people in these verses?

How do verses 24 to 28 point Israel to hope in God's promises and us forward to hope in Jesus Christ?

How does God continue to multiply us? What role are you playing in the multiplying process?

PRAYER – Ask God to grow the church by bringing many to faith in Jesus. Pray for new people to come to church, youth group, etc.

Day 15

Pick two people in your opinion that have shown greatness. Next to their name write how they have shown that greatness.

1.

2.

William Wilberforce is a story of a great man. Here is someone who stood up against many politicians in England to stop the slave trade. It came at great cost to him. People hated him, friendships were changed, his reputation was smeared. Yet this man stood up for what was right, that all men are created equally in the image of God and should be free and not slave. He was a great man. The last several chapters of study we have seen the greatness of God in bringing life and in exacting judgment. We continue to see that truth in our chapter of study today. Ask God to help you read and apply his word today.

Read Ezekiel 38

Write down all the ways that Ezekiel describes the people of Gog and all the hordes with them.

What are ways in which we see these same people in our world today?

How does Ezekiel describe the condition of God's people?

God's people had hope in the midst of their judgment and exile. What do we see in these verses about the greatness of God? List them all.

God is greater than anybody or anything. What are 3 ways you have experienced the greatness of God in your life?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Give thanks for God's greatness in your life.

Day 16

Say you had a big, strong and fast team in football and you looked on the other side and the guys were small, slow and kind of scared of you. Your confidence in winning would be sky high. What would your reaction be if someone wise came to you and said, you are going to lose to this team? Why?

In the 1984 Olympics if anybody had told the Russian hockey team that the Americans would beat them to take the Gold Medal in Lake Placid they would have laughed in your face. They were stronger, faster, professionals and had played together a long time and they never lost. In fact, they killed the Americans earlier. The Americans were college kids who had not played together very long. It was a sure bet the Russians would win. Or was it? The Americans beat them in one of the epic games in Olympic History. Today we continue to read about God's judgment against the vast nation of Gog. Ask God for understanding as you read.

Read Ezekiel 39:1-21

In the first few verses how do we see it is God who is leading Gog to its destruction?

What does this show you about the character of God?

How do we see the total and utter destruction of Gog in these verses?

What does God's people do after the destruction of Gog? List them all.

How does God use Gog to provide for the birds and beasts?

God did all this to show the world and Israel that he is God, that he is in control of all things and loves his people. What goes through your mind as far thoughts or questions when you read about God's judgments in this passage?

PRAYER – Take time to take those thoughts and questions to God.

Day 17

What is something that you really loved (restaurant, business, place of entertainment, etc.) that was destroyed and then restored)? What thoughts or feelings did you deal with when you saw it restored?

I loved my dad's Chevy Trailblazer when I was driving as a senior in high school. It was a great car. It was red, four-wheel drive, had lots of room for people and things. I loved that car. Then one day I drove it into a row of mailboxes. It smashed the windshield, left a big huge dent all along the passenger side. It was horrible. We took it to the body shop and after a few weeks we got the car back and it looked as good as new. For me it was a sense of relief that the car had been restored. I was excited and also a little nervous about messing up again. But we had the car back. Israel's story is tragic. God's people who had the promises, the covenants, they were God's. Yet they rebelled and worshipped other gods and ended up losing everything. God left them with hope even in the midst of that rebellion. We read about that today. Ask God to show you hope in the midst of your own struggles with sin.

Read Ezekiel 39:22-29

How are we reminded of God's hatred for sin in verses 22 to 24?

What point was God making to his people and the nations?

What are we told about Israel's restoration in verses 25 to 27?

Did they deserve it? Why not? What does this show us about God?

How else does God say he will do for his people in verses 28 to 29?

Israel sinned horribly against God and He restored and forgave them. How does that give you hope when you think about your own struggles with sin?

PRAYER – Confess your sin, thank God for his forgiveness of your sin.

Day 18

Each of the following people command you to clean up your room. Write next to their name how you would react to the command and why.

1. Brother or Sister –
2. Parents –
3. Friend –
4. Enemy –
5. God –

I would guess you had some very different reactions to each person who each gave the same command. The differences vary because of the relationship we have with the person, the influence they have in our lives, how we see their authority. Yet it was the same command. The next couple days we are going to see the command God gave to Ezekiel to share a vision with God's people. Ask God to help you think about and apply what can be "boring" parts to read in the Bible.

Read Ezekiel 40:1-4

Where is Ezekiel when he receives this vision according to verse 1? Why is that important?

How do we see God's hand was upon Ezekiel? What did God do for him?

What do you think would have been Ezekiel's reaction to this? Why?

Describe the man that Ezekiel encounters in his vision? What was his command to Ezekiel?

What are 2 things that God has commanded you to share as a Christian with others? Next to each one write if you are obeying that command.

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray about those 2 commands and for strength to obey.

Day 19

Describe important rooms of your house and why those two rooms are important.

1.

2.

The living room in my house has a nice size tv with a VCR, DVD and 2 game systems hooked up to it. There is a fire place with all the tools and fires starting wood next to it. We have a couch and two chairs. On the wall is a nice sized clock. We have a piano on another wall. There are cabinets for CD's and videos. This is the most active room in the house where we talk, play, watch entertainment together. It is where we entertain guests. It is the hub of activity. Now that room is boring for you to read about but so important to me and my family. The next several chapters of Ezekiel are God describing for him God's house and he goes into detail because it was important for Ezekiel and God's people and even for us today. Ask God to help you see how important these chapters are in God's plan for his people and for us.

Read Ezekiel 40:5-49

Summarize in your own words the important parts of the temple listed in this chapter:

Verses 5 to 16 –

Verses 17 to 19 –

Verses 20 to 23 –

Verses 24 to 27 –

Verses 28 to 43 –

Verses 44 to 47 –

Verses 48 to 49 –

God seemed to think of everything when it came to the temple. What does this chapter show you about how much God cares about his place of worship? How does that challenge you when you think about your place of worship?

PRAYER – Give thanks for your church building and pray for its upkeep.

Day 20

Describe your church building using 3 words. Next to each word write why you used that word.

1.

2.

3.

There are a lot of people that can be really critical of their church buildings: the color is horrible, the seats are uncomfortable, the room is too hot, the room is too cold, there are too many stairs. We don't often enough step back and give thanks for the building we are blessed to worship in, especially as we think of many in the world who can't have a building because of the persecution they endure in those countries. Pray as you read through these next two chapters that God would give you an appreciation for the details of God in constructing the temple and an appreciation for your own place of worship.

Read Ezekiel 41

List at least 5 details of the inner temple.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Read Ezekiel 42

List at least 5 details of the temple's chambers

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

In verses 13 to 14 how do we see that God is serious about the use of his building and the men who oversee the place of worship?

What are 3 things in the sanctuary that you appreciate? Why?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Give thanks for those 3 things. Ask that God would prepare your heart to worship in your place of worship.

Day 21

What are ways in which we don't take serious worship on Sunday mornings. List 3.

1.

2.

3.

How would our worship change if we could physically see God in our sanctuary during worship? List 2

1.

2.

Three things that come to mind for me. People don't get enough rest the night before so they come into worship tired. You look around and people are looking at their watches, because they have other places to be. Then there are those people, youth and adults, who are on their phones even in worship. If we could see God, physically, in our midst, man that would change our attitudes and how we worship. It really would. Ask God to convince you of his truths as you read Ezekiel today.

Read Ezekiel 43:1-12

Describe in your own words what Ezekiel saw in verses 1 to 5.

What promise does God make to his people in verses 6 to 9? Why would that be encouraging when you think of the people being in exile?

What are the conditions to God's people of Him fulfilling these promises?

What were God's commands to Ezekiel and the people in verses 10-12?

There is always the condition, keep my commands and I will bless you. How are you doing in keeping God's commands? List your struggles with sin and your victories in resisting sin.

PRAYER – Confess sin, ask for strength to resist sin, give thanks for victories over sin.

Day 22

In your opinion, what is the most important object in the place where you worship? Why?

Why do we need to be careful of the objects we place in the worship area?

When considering the things that are in our worship area, we need to always ask ourselves, “are these things that promote or hinder my worship with God and why?” Now this can cause fierce debate among people in the church that can produce silly arguments like colors of carpets, chairs and candles. There are always controversies of images of Christ whether in windows, pictures or even on a cross. The thing we need to wrestle with is why we are there to worship and making sure we are worshipping God and not any object. That is why such care goes into the setup of the worship area of many churches. Some don't put enough care into the set up. Today we read about a really important object in the temple, the altar. Ask God to help you read, understand and apply his word to your life.

Read Ezekiel 43:13-27

What is God describing about the altar in verses 13 to 17? Why do you think these details are important?

After the altar is erected God wanted to purify the altar. Describe all God says to Ezekiel in how to purify the altar in verses 18 to 26?

After the construction and purification what does God say is ready to happen in verse 27?

How do we see God took serious this whole process?

God cares for our places of worship. We see that in the detail he goes into in the construction of the temple. How does this challenge your attitude towards your place of worship today?

PRAYER – Thank God for how he loves the church and how we worship.

Day 23

What are ways in which religious leaders have failed in their leadership in our country and world. Try to think of at least 2.

1.

2.

3.

The list is pretty long when it comes to the leadership in the church and how it has failed. You have men and women who have asked for money only to spend it on helicopters, fancy homes, and lavish living. You have many pastors and priests who have been immoral sexually either with children, or having affairs with people they are counseling or making unwanted advances towards people of the opposite sex. Should I list anymore? This failed leadership is not in a particular denomination but goes across the board. Today God uses Ezekiel to talk to the Levites and their failed leadership in the nation of Israel. Ask God to teach you from his word so you know how to encourage and support the leadership in your church.

Read Ezekiel 44:1-14

In verses 1 to 3 what are we told about this room, who it was for and why?

Who is the ultimate prince that will be before the Lord? What does he do for us?

For verses 5 to 14 list all the offenses the people and the priests committed against the Lord.

The Levites were held more accountable for the sins of all the people. Why? What should they have been doing?

Think of the leaders of your church. Are they like the leaders you read about here? Explain.

What are two ways you can pray for the leadership of your church?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray for the leaders of your church by name and that they would serve the Lord faithfully and with boldness.

Day 24

Think of the pastors of your church. What do you think are 3 rules that they are required to obey? Why?

1.

2.

3.

Pastors in some ways are held to a higher standard than other people in the church. Why? They are the shepherds, the leaders, the examples for the people. They need to show all the qualifications that are listed in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Take a minute and read them if you never have before. People follow their pastors for better or for worse. God knows the importance of his priests, prophets, or pastors in leading the people. That is why God has set standards and rules for his leaders. Today we read about the rules God set down for the priests after they led the people astray. He gives them the standard to live and lead by. Ask God to open your eyes to His standard for those who follow Christ.

Read Ezekiel 44:15-31

Is God concerned with the quality of the person leading for Him? How do you know?

List 10 rules God gives to the priests in these verses?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

What rule is most surprising to you? Why?

How do we see these rules in place for our pastors and leaders today?

PRAYER – Pray the leaders of your church would teach and lead well.

Day 25

In what ways should kings or rulers provide for those they rule over? List all that comes to your mind.

A good and just and kind ruler will be a ruler that provides for his people and does not oppress his people. Unfortunately, many kings and leaders in the history of the world and even today oppress their people while they keep everything for themselves. Left to our own sin, we will want to look out for our own interests but the burden of leadership means we need to look out for those whom we rule. This is important especially in the church. Ask God to help you read, study and understand His word.

Read Ezekiel 45

Look at verses 1 to 6. Summarize this in your own words. What is God's purpose of including this as a rule or blueprint for his people?

What were given to princes according to verses 7 and 8?

Look at verses 9 to 12. What did God want the princes to be doing as the leaders of Israel? What did he want them to stop doing?

What did God want the princes to do for the people in verses 13 to 25?

The prince was to do this. How does this point forward to Jesus Christ and what he would do and provide for us as His followers?

What are 2 things you need to be thankful for that Jesus provided for you as your prince?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Give thanks for how Christ has provided for your needs.

Day 26

In your opinion what are 3 things that make a pastor a “good” pastor? Write why next to each thing that you wrote down.

1.

2.

3.

This could be quite the list that would vary from person to person depending on preferences, life experiences and what is important in a relationship. Here are my three. They not only teach the whole Bible and know it to explain it, but they also live it out in their lives, and are also honest in how they struggle in living it out. A second thing is they are genuinely interested in my life in that they ask good questions and then they remember the things I shared with them for follow up conversations or prayer. Lastly they love the church and don't belittle the church in all of its challenges and imperfections. We all know the church is not perfect but we still love it and serve in it anyways. A good pastor would do that. Today we continue to read about the prince and what he should be doing in serving the people. Ask for God to help you read and understand His word today.

Read Ezekiel 46

How do we see that the Sabbath is a special day in these verses?

What important things do we see about the prince and his relationship with his people? List them all.

What is so important about verse 10? Why is that important?

Again, how do the actions and the attitudes of this prince point us forward to Jesus Christ?

How are you doing in walking with Jesus? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – Ask God to help you in your walk with Him, to trust Him and serve Him in all that you do.

Day 27

List 5 things that are good about water?

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

Describe a time when you went a long period without water. How did you feel? How did you feel after getting water?

We cannot survive without water. The human brain and heart are 73% water. The human lungs are 83% water. About 71% of the earth's surface is water. Water is essential to life. It is important. God knows this which is why there are many times throughout scripture, Old and New Testament where water is used to bring life and also to judge. Jesus is referred to as Living Water. So today we look at one of those passages about water. Ask God to help you learn and grow in your faith today.

Read Ezekiel 47:1-12

Why is it important that the water is flowing from the temple?

List the ways that this water is “special”. What does it do?

What is God showing he wants to do for his people through this vision?

How does a passage like this point us forward to Jesus Christ?

How have you seen God provide for all of your needs, physical, financial, social, emotional, spiritual? List as many as you can think of.

PRAYER – Give thanks for all you just listed in the last question.

Day 28

Think about your house. Describe the boundaries of your property. What is on the boundaries between you and every neighbor, front back and side?

At my house we have a raspberry patch and ivy along with trees on one border. On the back border we have a row of hedge bushes. In the front we have the curb. One of the sides there is no boundary, we just sort of guess when mowing the lawn. Why do we put up bushes, fences or trees between us and our neighbors? We want to make our territory. This is ours. Some of us it is more an issue of privacy. We don't want our neighbors to look over into our yard. For others we might want to contain children or pets. There are lots of reasons to have boundaries. As we come to the end of Ezekiel, we see God setting boundaries for God's people as far as where they will live, worship and what belongs to certain people in the nation. Ask God to help you see the relevance of this passage of scripture to your life.

Read Ezekiel 47:13-48:35

What are a couple reasons why this can be a hard passage of scripture to read?

Pick 5 things in this passage that you found interesting. Write down why that was that interesting to you?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

God cares about every detail of our lives. With that in mind, what are 3 things in your life that God cares about that you might overlook?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Pray about those 3 areas of your life.