



## **TURNING THE WORD TO SWORD & LIFE TO DEATH**

### **THE SWORD OF THE LORD**

- ◇ The sword of the Lord is coming (21:1-7)
- ◇ The sword is prepared for impartial justice (21:8-17)
- ◇ The sword against Jerusalem (21:18-23)
- ◇ Zedekiah's fall is prophesied (21:25-27)

### **SIN IS IN THE LAND:**

- ◇ The Sins of Jerusalem and Israel (22:1-31)
- ◇ Defiled and sentenced (22:1-16)
- ◇ Jerusalem will be refined as in a smelting furnace (22:17-22)
- ◇ Destruction comes because the whole land is corrupt (22:23-31)

### **TWISTED SISTERS**

- ◇ A Parable of two Immoral Sisters (23:1-49)
- ◇ Their wickedness began in Egypt (23:1-4)
- ◇ The harlotry of Samaria and her just punishment (23:5-10)
- ◇ The harlotry of Jerusalem (23:11-21)
- ◇ The punishment of Jerusalem (23:22-35)
- ◇ A further indictment of the sins of the two sisters (23:36-49)

### **THE BOILING POT**

- ◇ Fire burn, and caldron bubble (24:1-14)



### **DEATH OF EZEKIEL'S WIFE**

- ◇ O my love! my wife! Death, hath stolen the honey of thy breath!

**JEFFERSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Fall 2016 Adult Bible Study

*Ezekiel*

By Elder Betsi Moise

JUDGEMENT NEAR		JUDGEMENT NOW		HOPE AHEAD	
INWARD		OUTWARD		ONWARD	
1	Ezekiel's Vision	3		33	New Shepherd
4	Jerusalem's Signs	6		36	
7	Condemnation for Idolatry	11		37	New Life
12	Condemnation for Leaders	15		39	
16	Parables	19		40	New Temple
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25	Judgment on Judah's Enemies	28		44	New Worship
29	Judgment on Egypt	32		48	

# EZEKIEL: GOD IS STRONG

The Jews were so deep in their own ignorance, in fact, that a person outside the law, a person widely seen as wrong, dirty or untrustworthy seems to be the only person who is aware of the creeping societal death of the Jewish people. An outlaw [fugitive], a person abandoned by society for their crimes, a person unwelcome in communities, a person disgraced, perhaps is the only observer who can see through the rationalizations of the shortcomings of a society well enough to recognize the weak underpinnings and rotted supports. This native guide to the rough terrain of moral bankruptcy is only able to tell the Jews where they are, not how to get back, and thus Ezekiel's mouth is opened. The native guide to the far rougher terrain of repentance.

How can this lesson help to inform our understanding of our current times? Who is the outlaw, welcoming us to the downfall of our society? What do we extoll that we ought to despise? Are we sleeping next to a corpse? Do not fail to follow Jesus the Lamb, the fulfillment of the prophesies. We may not require Ezekiel to save our souls any longer, but we are expected, as Christians, to learn from past errors, and stray not from our salvation.

While the outlaw does open Ezekiel's mouth, it is important to note that he does not lead. He is only the voice of reason insofar as he's able to pinpoint and communicate where Israel went wrong. He is, however, incapable of showing the Jews a better way. That job is for Ezekiel.

While we need to keep our eyes and ears open, we are listening for the too-familiar rationalizations and excuses for our sin, not for the wisdom to see our own sin. God's voice is silent to those who do not listen.

Nathaniel Moise on the Narrow Road of Repentance





## NOTES:

## Questions:

- ◇ **Who or what is the "sword of the Lord" in this context? (21:1-7)**
- ◇ **Why is Nebuchadnezzar's advance toward Jerusalem perceived as a "false divination" by the lying prophets in Jerusalem? (21:18-24)**
- ◇ **What is "dross"? (22:13-22)**  
**How had the house of Israel become "dross"? (22:23-29)**  
**What was it that God could not find among them? (22:30-31)**
- ◇ **Who do these two sisters represent? (23:14) What do their figurative names signify?**
- ◇ **When would Ezekiel be released from the command to remain silent except when he had a word from the Lord? (24:25-27)**

## Biblical References:

Ezekiel	See and Compare
21:1-7	Hebrews 4:12
22:1-6	Matthew 23:37-39:
22:17-22	Psalms 12:6 ; 1 Peter 1:7
22:23-31	2 Timothy 3:1-5
23:5-35	Matthew 23:1-36
24:15-18	Galatians 3:10-14

## Reflection:

- ◇ Reflect on the meditation that accompanies this reflection and consider the high price of following Christ Jesus. In what ways are you challenged in your walk with the Lord?

