

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson 5

21:¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²“Son of man, set your face against Jerusalem and preach against the sanctuary. Prophecy against the land of Israel ³and say to her: ‘This is what the Lord says: I am against you. I will draw my sword from its sheath and cut off from you both the righteous and the wicked. ⁴Because I am going to cut off the righteous and the wicked, my sword will be unsheathed against everyone from south to north. ⁵Then all people will know that I the Lord have drawn my sword from its sheath; it will not return again.’ ... ¹⁷ ... and my wrath will subside. I the Lord have spoken.”

21:¹⁸And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
¹⁹“Now as for you, son of man, make two ways for the sword of the king of Babylon to come; both of them will go out of one land.... ²⁰You shall mark a way for the sword to come to Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and to Judah into fortified Jerusalem. ²¹For the king of Babylon stands at the parting of the way ... to use divination.... ²²Into his right hand came the divination, ‘Jerusalem,’ to set up battering rams.... ²³And it will be to them like a false divination in their eyes; they have sworn solemn oaths. But he makes guilt known, so that they may be seized.

21:²⁴“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says:
‘Because you people have brought to mind your guilt by
your open rebellion, revealing your sins in all that you
do—because you have done this, you will be taken
captive.

²⁵“ ‘You profane and wicked prince of Israel, whose day
has come, whose time of punishment has reached its
climax, ²⁶this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Take off the
turban, remove the crown.... ²⁷A ruin! A ruin! I will make it
a ruin! The crown will not be restored until he to whom it
rightfully belongs shall come; to him I will give it.’

Genesis 49:8“Judah, your brothers will praise you;
your hand will be on the neck of your
enemies;

your father’s sons will bow down to you....

¹⁰The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,
until he to whom it belongs shall come
and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

22:¹²Among you they have taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest, you have injured your neighbors by oppression, and you have forgotten Me,” declares the Lord GOD. ¹³“Behold, then, I strike with My hand your profit which you have made and the bloodshed which is among you.... ¹⁵And I will scatter you among the nations and disperse you among the lands, and I will eliminate your uncleanness from you.... ²¹And I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you will be melted in the midst of it. ²²As silver is melted in the furnace, so you will be melted in the midst of it; and you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out My wrath on you.”

“The things that horrified the prophets are even now daily occurrences all over the world. ... To us a single act of injustice—cheating in business, exploitation of the poor—is slight; to the prophets, a disaster. To us injustice is injurious to the welfare of the people; to the prophets it is a deathblow to existence; to us, an episode; to them, a catastrophe, a threat to the world.”

Abraham Heschel, *The Prophets*

Micah 3:¹...“Listen, you leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of Israel.
Should you not embrace justice,
²you who hate good and love evil;
who tear the skin from my people
and the flesh from their bones;
³who eat my people’s flesh,
strip off their skin
and break their bones in pieces;
who chop them up like meat for the pan,
like flesh for the pot?”

“What seems to be exaggeration is often only a deeper penetration, for the prophets see the world from the point of view of God, as transcendent, not immanent truth... the fundamental experience of the prophet is a fellowship with the feelings of God, *a sympathy with the divine pathos*, a communion with the divine consciousness which comes about through the prophet’s reflection of, or participation in, the divine pathos.... In speaking, the prophet reveals God. This is the marvel of a prophet’s work: in his words, *the invisible God becomes audible*.”

22:²⁵There is a conspiracy of her princes within her like a roaring lion tearing its prey ..., take treasures and precious things and make many widows within her. ²⁶Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things ... so that I am profaned among them. ²⁷Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. ²⁸Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says'—when the Lord has not spoken. ²⁹The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the **foreigner**, denying them justice.

22:³⁰“I looked for a man from among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one. ³¹So I have poured my anger on them, and destroyed them with the fire of my fury. I hereby repay them for what they have done, declares the sovereign Lord.”

23:⁵Then Oholah lusted after other lovers instead of me, and she gave her love to the Assyrian officers. ⁶They were all attractive young men, captains and commanders dressed in handsome blue, charioteers driving their horses. ⁷And so she prostituted herself with the most desirable men of Assyria, worshiping their idols and defiling herself. ⁸For when she left Egypt, she did not leave her spirit of prostitution behind.... ⁹“And so I handed her over to her Assyrian lovers, whom she desired so much. ¹⁰They stripped her, took away her children as their slaves, and then killed her. After she received her punishment, her reputation was known to every woman in the land.

23:¹¹“Yet even though Oholibah saw what had happened to Oholah, her sister, she followed right in her footsteps. And she was even more depraved.... ¹²She fawned over all the Assyrian officers ... defiling herself just like her older sister. ¹⁴“Then ... She fell in love with pictures that were painted on a wall—pictures of Babylonian military officers ... ¹⁶ ... so she sent messengers to Babylonia to invite them to come to her ¹⁷ ... and committed adultery with her.... After being defiled, however, she rejected them in disgust.... ¹⁹Yet she turned to even greater prostitution, remembering her youth when she was a prostitute in Egypt.... ²¹And so, Oholibah, you relived your former days as a young girl in Egypt.

23:²²“Therefore, Oholibah, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will send your lovers against you from every direction—those very nations from which you turned away in disgust.... ²⁴ ... And I will hand you over to them for punishment so they can do with you as they please. ²⁵I will turn my jealous anger against you, and they will deal harshly with you.... ²⁷In this way, I will put a stop to the lewdness and prostitution you brought from Egypt. You will never again cast longing eyes on those things or fondly remember your time in Egypt.

23:³⁶The LORD said to me, “Son of man, you must accuse Oholah and Oholibah of all their detestable sins. ³⁷They have committed both adultery and murder—adultery by worshiping idols and murder by burning as sacrifices the children they bore to me. ³⁸Furthermore, they have defiled my Temple and violated my Sabbath day! ³⁹On the very day that they sacrificed their children to their idols, they boldly came into my Temple to worship! They came in and defiled my house.... ⁴⁹You will be fully repaid for all your prostitution—your worship of idols. Yes, you will suffer the full penalty. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.”

16:⁷.... You grew and developed and entered puberty. Your breasts had formed and your [pubic] hair had grown, yet you were stark naked....²⁵At every street corner you built your lofty shrines ... spreading your legs with increasing promiscuity to anyone who passed by.

23:²⁰There she lusted after her lovers, whose genitals were like those of donkeys and whose emission was like that of horses. ²¹So you longed for the lewdness of your youth, when in Egypt your bosom was caressed and your young breasts fondled.

“The practice of idolatry is exaggerated and described using inflammatory sexual imagery and its offensiveness and dangerous consequences are amplified. In a society where sexual excess is labelled deviant, such texts as Ezekiel might well incite moral outrage; and when idolatry is linked with sexual deviance, this outrage might be transferred to idolatrous practice too.”

Johanna Stiebert, “The woman metaphor of Ezekiel 16 and 23: A victim of violence, or a symbol of subversion?”

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson 6



Chap 25 – 32

Judgement on the Nations

For nations surrounding Israel, pronouncements of judgements starts for nations in the East and move in clockwise fashion

- Ammon (25:1-7)
- > Moab (25:8-11)
- > Edom (25:12-14)
- > Phillistia (25:15-17)
- > Tyre (26:1-28:19)
- > Sidon (26:20-26)

These are nations steeped in idolatry and was happy for Israel's downfall

Tyre Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8_jV6R0_5A

25:³“Say to the Ammonites ... Because you said, ‘Aha!’ against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was made desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into exile, ⁴... I am going to give you to the people of the east as a possession ⁵ ...Then you will know that I am the LORD.” ⁶... “Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet, and have rejoiced with all the malice in your soul against the land of Israel, ⁷ ... I will give you as plunder to the nations. And I will cut you off from the peoples and eliminate you from the lands. I will exterminate you. So you will know that I am the LORD.”

25:8... “Because Moab and Seir say, ‘Behold, the house of Judah is like all the nations,’ 9... I am going to deprive the flank of Moab of its cities, of its cities which are on its frontiers, the glory of the land, ... 10and I will give it as a possession along with the sons of Ammon to the people of the east, so that the sons of Ammon will not be remembered among the nations. 11So I will execute judgments on Moab, and they will know that I am the LORD.”

25:12... “Because Edom has acted against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred great guilt, and avenged themselves upon them,” ¹³ ... I will also reach out with My hand against Edom and eliminate human and animal life from it. And I will turn it into ruins ¹⁴And I will inflict My vengeance on Edom by the hand of My people Israel. Therefore, they will act in Edom in accordance with My anger and My wrath; so they will know My vengeance,” declares the Lord GOD.

25:¹⁵... “Because the Philistines have acted in revenge, and have taken vengeance with malice in their souls to destroy with everlasting hostility,” ¹⁶ ... I am going to reach out with My hand against the Philistines ... and I will destroy the remnant of the seacoast. ¹⁷I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes; and they will know that I am the LORD, when I inflict My vengeance on them.”””

26:2“... because Tyre has said in regard to Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, now that she is laid waste,’ ³... I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. ⁴They will destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down her towers; and I will sweep her debris away from her and make her a bare rock. ⁵She will become a dry place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,’ declares the Lord GOD; ‘and she will become plunder for the nations. ⁶Also her daughters who are on the mainland will be killed by the sword, and they will know that I am the LORD.’”

26:7... “Behold, I am going to bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a great army....¹¹With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will go down to the ground. ¹²Also they will take your riches as spoils and plunder your merchandise, tear down your walls and destroy your delightful houses, and throw your stones, your timbers, and your debris into the water.... ¹⁴I will turn you into a bare rock; you will become a dry place for the spreading of nets. You will not be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken,” declares the Lord GOD.

26:19“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: When I make you a desolate city, like cities no longer inhabited, and when I bring the ocean depths over you and its vast waters cover you, ²⁰then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago. I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, and you will not return or take your place in the land of the living.

28:2 “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD:

“Because your heart is proud,
and you have said, ‘I am a god,
I sit in the seat of the gods,
in the heart of the seas,’
yet you are but a man, and no god,
though you make your heart like the heart of a god ...

28:⁷therefore, behold, I will bring foreigners upon you,
the most ruthless of the nations;
and they shall draw their swords against ... your wisdom
and defile your splendor.

⁸They shall thrust you down into the pit,
and you shall die the death of the slain
in the heart of the seas.

⁹Will you still say, 'I am a god,'
in the presence of those who kill you,
though you are but a man, and no god,

In the hands of those who slay you?
¹⁰ ... I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD."

8:12 “... a lament concerning the king of Tyre:

““You were the seal of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13You were in Eden,
the garden of God;
every precious stone adorned you: ...

14You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.

15You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.

28:¹⁶ Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.

¹⁷Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.

So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.

¹⁸By your many sins and dishonest trade
you have desecrated your sanctuaries....”

Isaiah 24:⁵The earth lies defiled
under its inhabitants;
for they have transgressed the laws,
violated the statutes,
broken the everlasting covenant....

²¹On that day the LORD will punish
the host of heaven, in heaven,
and the kings of the earth, on the earth.

²²They will be gathered together
as prisoners in a pit;
they will be shut up in a prison,
and after many days they will be punished.

Psalms 82:¹God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:
²“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?...
⁵“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
⁶“I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
⁷But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”
⁸Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance

1 Corinthians 2:⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

28:²²...“Behold, I am against you, O Sidon,
and I will manifest my glory in your midst.
And they shall know that I am the LORD
when I execute judgments in her
and manifest my holiness in her;
²³for I will send pestilence into her,
and blood into her streets; ...

Then they will know that I am the LORD.

²⁴“And for the house of Israel there shall be no more a
brier to prick or a thorn to hurt them among all their
neighbors who have treated them with contempt.
Then they will know that I am the Lord GOD.

28:²⁵ ‘This is what the Lord GOD says: “When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and show Myself holy among them in the sight of the nations, then they will live on their land which I gave to My servant Jacob. ²⁶They will live on it securely; and they will build houses, plant vineyards, and live securely when I execute judgments upon all around them who despise them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.”””