

Who will stand in the gap? Who will speak the truth and call into account those who claim to follow the Lord yet love the world and all it has to offer. “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend to the world makes himself an enemy of God.” - James 4:4

Judah had played the harlot. She was an adulteress. She was warned, but she loved her idols. She loved the world and paid no heed. Who could stand in the gap? Who could lead her to repentance and bring the nation back from the judgment that was about to fall on them?

Judgment is soon about to fall on this world (the “church”) as well. Is there anyone to stand in the gap today or is it too late for grace? God doesn’t desire to bring destruction on people (II Peter 3:9), but God is a holy God and cannot tolerate sin. Judgment has to fall on sin. God’s wrath will be poured out on sin; His wrath will be satisfied; sin will be abolished once and for all.

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

This week’s lesson will be a little long, but hang in there. These are the last four chapters that deal with the judgment that is about to fall on Israel. Chapter 25 begins a new section in Ezekiel’s book. Many think that it isn’t fair that God uses pagan nations to judge His own people, and they get away with it. On the contrary, God can use the pagan nations (the unsaved) to bring judgment on His people, but that doesn’t mean that they won’t pay for their sin as well. From Ezekiel 25-32, we will see them judged for the part they willingly played in bringing Israel down. But let’s not get ahead of ourselves, that’s next week’s study.

1. We will begin this time in prayer and prepare to delve into Ezekiel 21. Ask God to give you a teachable heart and speak to you through His Word. Complete your observation of this chapter and don’t forget to find the areas mentioned on your map.
 - a. Keep your eye on the word “*sword*” as well as the phrase “*the word of the Lord came*”. They should already be on your card.
 - b. Also watch for the word rod (you can mark it if you like). It is translated “*scepter*”.

2. Read through this chapter again, and record paragraph themes below and on your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. 21:1-7
 - b. 21:8-13
 - c. 21:14-17
 - d. 21:18-23
 - e. 21:24-27
 - f. 21:28-32
3. Record a chapter theme on your “At a Glance” chart and in your Observation Worksheets.
4. Ezekiel 21:18-27 tells us that God chose Nebuchadnezzar as His sword of judgment upon His people. God chose a pagan king who resorts to divination to be His sword. Read Jeremiah 27:1-7 and record what you learn about God, Nebuchadnezzar, the other nations and who they will serve, and what will happen to Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon.
5. Let’s take a look at Daniel 4.
 - a. Read Daniel 4:1-3. Who is speaking and how does this chapter begin?

b. Read Daniel 4:4-33.

1) Who is talking?

2) He has this dream/vision. What will happen to him and why?

3) There is a key phrase in this passage repeated in verses 17, 24-25, and 32. What is repeated about God?

c. Read Daniel 4:34-37. What is the conclusion of these events? Who does Nebuchadnezzar exalt?

6. According to Jeremiah 27:1-7 that you read in #4, Babylon was going to serve its enemies in the end. So let's see who conquered Babylon.

a. Read Isaiah 44:24-45:7. As you read, keep in mind that this was prophesied by Isaiah 150 years before the event.

1) Record what you learn about God from these verses.

2) What do you learn about Cyrus (the king of the Persians)?

b. Read II Chronicles 36:22-23. Record what you learn about God.

- b. 22:6-12
 - c. 22:13-16
 - d. 22:17-22
 - e. 22:23-31
3. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 22.
 4. Why does God call Jerusalem a bloody city? Just record what the text says. Don't read anything into it.
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5. Let's take a closer look at Ezekiel 22:23-31.
 - a. What groups of people are mentioned, and what are they doing?

 - b. Can you see any parallels today?

 - c. Why is God's wrath (indignation) coming?

 - d. What was the solution in Ezekiel's time? Is there any application to our times? How about in your life?

d. 23:22-35

e. 23:36-39

f. 23:40-42

g. 23:43-45

h. 23:46-49

3. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 23.

4. Summarize what you learned from marking the two sisters.

Oholah	Oholibah

5. You read and marked lewdness as well as saw the word lusted throughout this chapter and in other places. Let's stop for a moment and make sure you understand what those words mean. Use a dictionary and define both of those words.

6. As you come to the end of your work for today, read I John 1:5-10. Allow God's word to cleanse you and ask for His help to live according to the truths that have been revealed to you through your study. If we don't apply the word to our lives, it becomes nothing more than words on a page.

DAY 5

1. We have come to the conclusion of this portion of Ezekiel. It is an important chapter so observe Ezekiel 24 well.
 - a. *sign* is already on your card, so watch for any mention of this
 - b. mark *desire of your eyes* in this chapter but don't add it to your card.
2. Record paragraph themes throughout this chapter. Record them here and on your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. 24:1-5
 - b. 24:6-14
 - c. 24:15-24
 - d. 24:25-27
3. Record a chapter theme for Ezekiel 24.

4. What is the timing of this message? Don't forget to add the timing to the "divisions" section of your "At a Glance" chart.
5. In verse 3, Ezekiel is told to speak a parable. It is recorded in verses 3-13. What is the parable (record the major points), and what were the circumstances surrounding it?
6. Let's do a bit of review to put this parable in perspective.
 - a. Where was Ezekiel when the Lord spoke to him?
 - b. What is happening in Jerusalem ON THAT VERY DAY?
 - c. How does Ezekiel know what is happening in Jerusalem?
 - d. What is God doing and why is He allowing this to happen? Is this what God wanted to do? Couldn't He have stopped it? If He could have, why didn't He? Think through these questions.
 - e. Are there any applications here for your life?
7. You can see what your commentaries have to say about Ezekiel 24.

Ezekiel

Lesson 7, Chapters 21-24