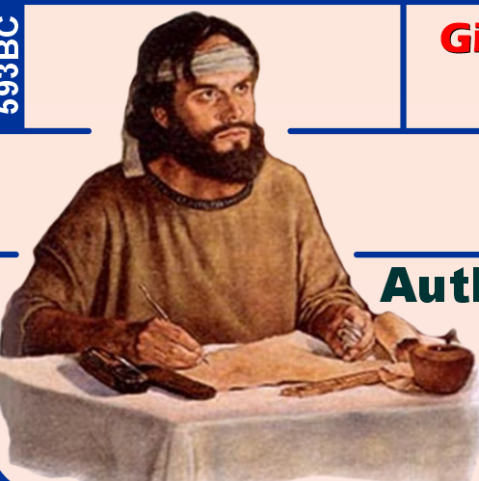


IDOLATROUS RULERS OF JUDAH

22

EZEKIEL

BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↺ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic													
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48											
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God											
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC					
						The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT						The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE					
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)																	
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old																	
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old																	
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old																	
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old																	

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 22

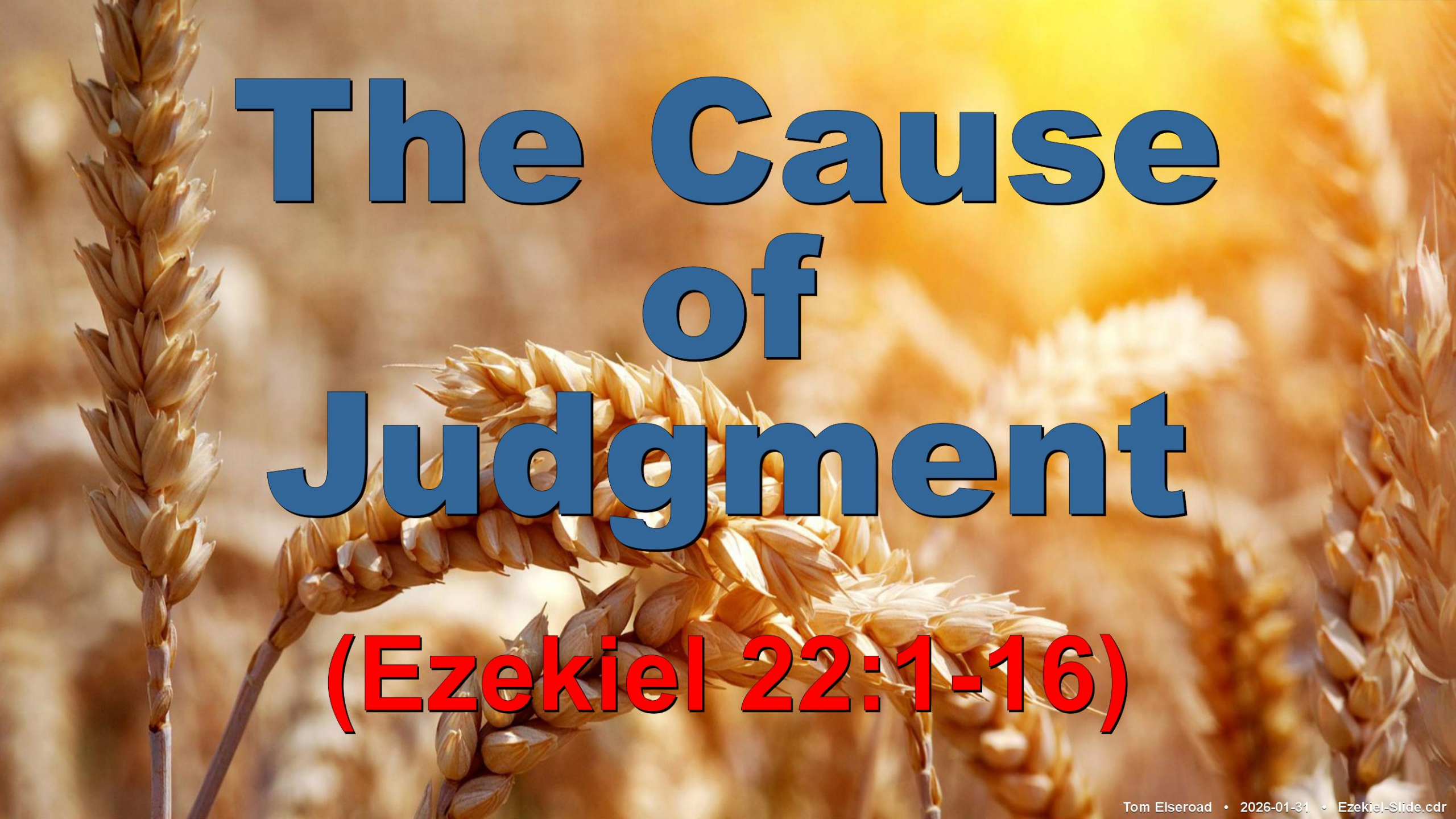
IDOLATROUS RULERS OF JUDAH (Ezekiel 22)

- **The Cause of Judgment (Ek.22:1-16)**
- **The Means of Judgment (Ek.22:17-22)**
- **The Recipients of Judgment (Ek.22:23-31)**



IDOLATROUS RULERS OF JUDAH

Ezekiel 22



The Cause of Judgment

(Ezekiel 22:1-16)

**Moreover the word
of the LORD came
to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 22:1



Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.22:1)

- **Another message came from the Lord instructing Ezekiel to remind the residents of the bloody city of Jerusalem about all their abominations.**
- **Shedding blood was Jerusalem's primary offense, according to this prophecy (Ek.22:3-4, 6, 9, 12-13), and it had its roots in idolatry.**



**"Now, son of man, will you judge,
will you judge the bloody city?
Yes, show her all her abominations!"**



EZEKIEL 22:2



"Now, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? Yes, show her all her abominations! (Ek.22:2)

- **God asked Ezekiel, Will you judge this city of bloodshed?**
- **This is similar to the questions God asked him at the beginning of this section on Jerusalem's sin (Ek.20:4).**
- **If Ezekiel was to function as a prosecuting attorney or judge, he had to declare the facts of the case.**
- **Ezekiel needed to confront Jerusalem with all her detestable practices.**



**Then say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:
"The city sheds blood in her own
midst, that her time may come; and
she makes idols within herself to
defile herself.**

EZEKIEL 22:3



Then say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "The city sheds blood in her own midst, that her time may come; and she makes idols within herself to defile herself. (Ek.22:3)

- **God gave Ezekiel two charges to present against the city: shedding blood and making idols.**
- **Ezekiel mentioned blood or bloodshed seven times in this message to drive home the city's sin of extreme violence ("violence," Ek.7:23; 8:17; 12:19).**



You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and have defiled yourself with the idols which you have made. You have caused your days to draw near, and have come to the end of your years; therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all countries.

EZEKIEL 22:4



You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and have defiled yourself with the idols which you have made. You have caused your days to draw near, and have come to the end of your years; therefore I have made you a reproach to the nations, and a mockery to all countries. (Ek.22:4)

- **Jerusalem's sin would be punished — the end of her years had come.**
- **Bloodshed and idolatry opposed the Mosaic Law's standards for Israel's relationships with God and her fellow Israelites (Mt.22:34-40, "love the Lord all your heart ... neighbor as yourself").**
- **Rather than loving God she had turned to idolatry; and her love for her fellow Israelites had been replaced by treachery.**



**Those near and those far
from you will mock you
as infamous and full of
tumult.**

EZEKIEL 22:5



Those near and those far from you will mock you as infamous and full of tumult. (Ek.22:5)

- **When she fell, her neighbors would mock her.**
- **The pride of this infamous city would turn to shame as she would be exposed in her sin before others.**
- **When a righteous person follows the world's ways, as Judah had done, the world ends up laughing at her.**



**"Look, the princes of Israel:
each one has used his power
to shed blood in you.**

EZEKIEL 22:6



"Look, the princes of Israel: each one has used his power to shed blood in you. (Ek.22:6)

- **In Ezekiel 22:6-12 Judah's rulers are the main focus of indictment.**
- **The rulers of Israel had been guilty of shedding blood, each in his own sphere of authority, through the misuse of power (Ex.20:13).**
- **Evidently judicial murders were common (2Ki.21:16; 24:4) as were child sacrifice (Ek.16:21; 20:26, 31; 23:37) and acts of personal violence.**



**In you they have made light of father
and mother; in your midst they have
oppressed the stranger; in you they
have mistreated the fatherless and
the widow.**



EZEKIEL 22:7



In you they have made light of father and mother; in your midst they have oppressed the stranger; in you they have mistreated the fatherless and the widow. (Ek.22:7)

- **Judah's leaders had undermined parental authority (Ex.20:12; Lv.19:3).**
- **When children stop respecting their parents, it is not long before citizens stop respecting their rulers.**
- **They had taken advantage of the helpless-aliens, orphans, and widows. These are people particularly in need of protection by those in positions of power (Ex.22:21-24; 23:9; Lv.19:33; Du.24:17).**
- **The real test of any society is how it treats the people with no voice and no power.**



**You have despised My
holy things and profaned
My Sabbaths.**

EZEKIEL 22:8



You have despised My holy things and profaned My Sabbaths. (Ek.22:8)

- **The rulers had also despised what God considered holy and had failed to observe the Sabbath Days (Ex.20:8; Lv.19:3).**



**In you are men who slander to
cause bloodshed; in you are
those who eat on the mountains;
in your midst they commit
lewdness.**

EZEKIEL 22:9



In you are men who slander to cause bloodshed; in you are those who eat on the mountains; in your midst they commit lewdness. (Ek.22:9)

- **Some of them had resorted to slander to get their way and to premeditated murder (Lv.19:16).**
- **Jerusalem's leaders had also worshipped idols at mountain shrines (Du.12:1-2; 16:21-22) and practiced sexual sins in connection with their idolatry (Lv.18:6-23; 20:10-21).**



**In you men uncover their fathers'
nakedness; in you they violate
women who are set apart during
their impurity.**

EZEKIEL 22:10



In you men uncover their fathers' nakedness; in you they violate women who are set apart during their impurity. (Ek.22:10)

- **Moral purity had broken down completely.**



**One commits abomination with
his neighbor's wife; another
lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law;
and another in you violates his
sister, his father's daughter.**

EZEKIEL 22:11

One commits abomination with his neighbor's wife; another lewdly defiles his daughter-in-law; and another in you violates his sister, his father's daughter. (Ek.22:11)

- **Sexual impurity, adultery outside and inside the family, and incest all occurred in Jerusalem (Lv.18:7-8, 19; 20:11,18; Du.22:30; 27:20).**



In you they take bribes to shed blood; you take usury and increase; you have made profit from your neighbors by extortion, and have forgotten Me," says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 22:12



In you they take bribes to shed blood; you take usury and increase; you have made profit from your neighbors by extortion, and have forgotten Me," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.22:12)

- **Taking bribes to kill people, taking interest and making a profit at the expense of a fellow Israelite, and oppressing a neighbor for personal gain also took place there (Ex.23:8; Du.23:19-20; 24:6, 10-12; 27:25).**
- **The root problem is that they have forgotten God (Ek.23:35).**
- **God is at the center of all moral relations, all social and moral rights are secure only when God is recognized in His sovereign rule.**



**"Behold, therefore, I beat My
fists at the dishonest profit
which you have made, and at
the bloodshed which has
been in your midst.**

EZEKIEL 22:13



"Behold, therefore, I beat My fists at the dishonest profit which you have made, and at the bloodshed which has been in your midst. (Ek.22:13)

- **God would strike His hands together (Ek.6:11; 21:14, 17) in derision against Jerusalem.**
- **The financial corruption and physical violence that marked Jerusalem disturbed God so greatly that He pictured Himself as striking His palm with His fist (an anthropomorphism).**



**Can your heart endure, or can your
hands remain strong, in the days
when I shall deal with you? I, the
LORD, have spoken, and will do it.**

EZEKIEL 22:14



Can your heart endure, or can your hands remain strong, in the days when I shall deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken, and will do it. (Ek.22:14)

- **The proud and insolent people who treated God's commands lightly would not be able to dismiss His judgment.**
- **The hearts of the people would not be able to bear up under His coming judgment of these sins, nor would they be able to maintain their physical strength.**



**I will scatter you among the
nations, disperse you
throughout the countries,
and remove your filthiness
completely from you.**

EZEKIEL 22:15



I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you. (Ek.22:15)

- **Their courage would vanish when God would disperse them among the nations.**
- **This verse has direct reference to the captivity in Babylon though it says, “among the nations.”**
- **“Remove your filthiness” applies specifically to the cure of idolatry which the captivity was to accomplish.**



**You shall defile yourself in
the sight of the nations;
then you shall know that
I am the LORD.**

EZEKIEL 22:16



**You shall defile yourself in the sight of the nations;
then you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.22:16)**

- **Moses had warned Israel that national disobedience would eventually lead to dispersion (Lv.26:27-39; Du.28:64-68).**
- **Israel had defiled God's Law; now she would be defiled in the eyes of the nations.**
- **After the nation was dispersed she would understand the character of the God she had scorned and forgotten.**





The Means of Judgment

(Ezekiel 22:17-22)

**The word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 22:17



The word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.22:17)

- **Ezekiel's second message stressed that Jerusalem would become a furnace of affliction.**
- **Jerusalem would become a smelting furnace of judgment that would melt those who remained in it.**



**Son of man, the house of Israel
has become dross to Me; they
are all bronze, tin, iron, and
lead, in the midst of a furnace;
they have become dross from
silver.**

EZEKIEL 22:18



Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to Me; they are all bronze, tin, iron, and lead, in the midst of a furnace; they have become dross from silver. (Ek.22:18)

- **Israel had become worthless to God, for she was dross to Him.**
- **Dross was like the scum of copper, tin, iron, and lead left inside a furnace.**
- **When metals are heated in furnaces, the residue left after the pure metal is poured is the dross.**



**Therefore thus says the Lord
GOD: 'Because you have all
become dross, therefore
behold, I will gather you into
the midst of Jerusalem.**

EZEKIEL 22:19



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Because you have all become dross, therefore behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. (Ek.22:19)

- To God, Israel was like dross — worthless because of her sin.**
- These evil men of Judah were destined to be put through the fire of God's chastisement, and they were to be seized upon while in the midst of Jerusalem.**
- God planned to gather them in Jerusalem, and subject them to a trial by fire, as refiners do to extract any remaining silver from the dross (Is.1:22-25; 48:10; Je.6:27-30; 9:7; Zc.13:9; Mi.3:2-4).**



**As men gather silver, bronze, iron,
lead, and tin into the midst of a
furnace, to blow fire on it, to melt it;
so I will gather you in My anger and
in My fury, and I will leave you there
and melt you.**

EZEKIEL 22:20



As men gather silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire on it, to melt it; so I will gather you in My anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there and melt you.(Ek.22:20)

- **The dross was the by-product of smelting, but God was going to resmelt the dross.**
- **Punishment for sin involves three major things: retribution, correction, and purification.**
- **Here purification is in view.**



**Yes, I will gather you and blow
on you with the fire of My
wrath, and you shall be melted
in its midst.**

EZEKIEL 22:21



Yes, I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst. (Ek.22:21)

- **As metals are melted in a furnace, so God would gather the people inside the city and melt them.**
- **Judah retreated to Jerusalem when Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land.**



**As silver is melted in the midst
of a furnace, so shall you be
melted in its midst; then you
shall know that I, the LORD,
have poured out My fury on you.**

EZEKIEL 22:22



As silver is melted in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be melted in its midst; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have poured out My fury on you. (Ek.22:22)

- **The city became the tragedy as God's fiery blasts of wrath and judgment blew on the people.**
- **God's judgment and destruction forced the people to acknowledge Him.**





The Recipients of Judgment

(Ezekiel 22:23-31)

**And the word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 22:23



And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.22:23)

- **This message names the recipients of the judgment: Princes (Ek.22:25), Priests (Ek.22:26-27), Prophets (Ek.22:28), and People (Ek.22:29).**



**Son of man, say to her: 'You
are a land that is not
cleansed or rained on in the
day of indignation.'**

EZEKIEL 22:24



Son of man, say to her: 'You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.' (Ek.22:24)

- **Ezekiel was to announce that Judah was a land that had not been cleansed with rain.**
- **It would receive no "rain" of blessing in the day when God poured out His indignation on the city (in 586 B.C.).**



**The conspiracy of her prophets in
her midst is like a roaring lion
tearing the prey; they have devoured
people; they have taken treasure
and precious things; they have made
many widows in her midst.**

EZEKIEL 22:25



The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. (Ek.22:25)

- The “princes” probably referred to the royal family, including King Zedekiah (Ek.12:10-12; 19:1; 21:25).**
- The leaders used their power for material gain, ravaging the people like a lion (Ek.19:1-9).**
- In their greed they took treasures and precious things; and they murdered, thus making many wives widows.**
- Instead of being examples to the people, the leaders were corrupt overlords.**



Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.

EZEKIEL 22:26



Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. (Ek.22:26)

- **Jerusalem's priests do violence to God's Law and profane His holy things (Zp.3:4).**
- **They were not instructing the people in the ways of God, or enforcing the Law's statutes.**
- **They even shut their eyes to the keeping of God's Sabbaths (Ek.20:16, 21, 24).**
- **Abandoning God's precepts, they let sin run rampant among the people.**



**Her princes in her midst are like
wolves tearing the prey, to shed
blood, to destroy people, and to
get dishonest gain.**

EZEKIEL 22:27



Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. (Ek.22:27)

- **Other government officials besides those in the royal family (princes, Ek.22:25) were also guilty of unjust gain.**
- **Instead of equitably dispensing justice and upholding the rights of the disadvantaged, they were like wolves tearing their prey.**



**Her prophets plastered them with
untempered mortar, seeing false
visions, and divining lies for them,
saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,'
when the LORD had not spoken.**

EZEKIEL 22:28



Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken. (Ek.22:28)

- The prophets should have been God's spokesmen and denounced these wicked deeds. But (except for men like Ezekiel and Jeremiah) the prophets ignored those sins and gave the people false visions and lying divinations.**



**The people of the land have used
oppressions, committed robbery,
and mistreated the poor and
needy; and they wrongfully
oppress the stranger.**

EZEKIEL 22:29



The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. (Ek.22:29)

- **Then Ezekiel denounced the people, the commoners who followed their leaders' example.**
- **The populace too was involved in extortion and robbery (Ek.22:25, 27), and in oppression of the needy.**
- **So, rulers oppressed the common people, and the common people oppressed the helpless.**



**So I sought for a man among them
who would make a wall, and stand
in the gap before Me on behalf of
the land, that I should not destroy
it; but I found no one.**

EZEKIEL 22:30



So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. (Ek.22:30)

- The corruption was so complete that when God searched for a man who could stem the tide of national destruction (build up the wall and stand in the gap), none could be found.**
- No one in a position of authority in Israel had the moral qualities to lead the nation aright.**
- Obviously Jeremiah had these qualities, but he lacked the authority to lead the nation from the brink of disaster.**



**Therefore I have poured out My
indignation on them; I have
consumed them with the fire of
My wrath; and I have recompensed
their deeds on their own heads,"
says the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 22:31



Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.22:31)

- **Israel's extensive decay demanded justice. God concluded this message against Jerusalem by vowing to pour out His wrath and consume the people with His fiery anger (Ek.21:31).**
- **Israel would suffer because of her sins. She had rebelled against God's grace; now she would feel God's wrath.**



IDOLATROUS RULERS OF JUDAH

22

EZEKIEL