

EZEKIEL 8-19

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 41: Ezek 8-19*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Ezekiel Chapter 8. The eighth chapter of Ezekiel is about evil abominations in the Temple of God. Idols provoke God to anger. Where was Ezekiel when the vision from God came to him in verse one?

How did Ezekiel describe the figure who appeared before him in verse two?

Where was Ezekiel transported in his vision, according to verse three?

What was the first thing that the man called to Ezekiel's attention in verse five?

What would soon be the effect of the detestable things that were being done in the temple in verse six?

What did Ezekiel observe in an inner room after digging through a wall, according to vv. 7-10?

What were the elders of Israel doing in the inner room with the pictures on the walls in verse eleven?

Why weren't the elders afraid of introducing idol worship into the temple in verse twelve?

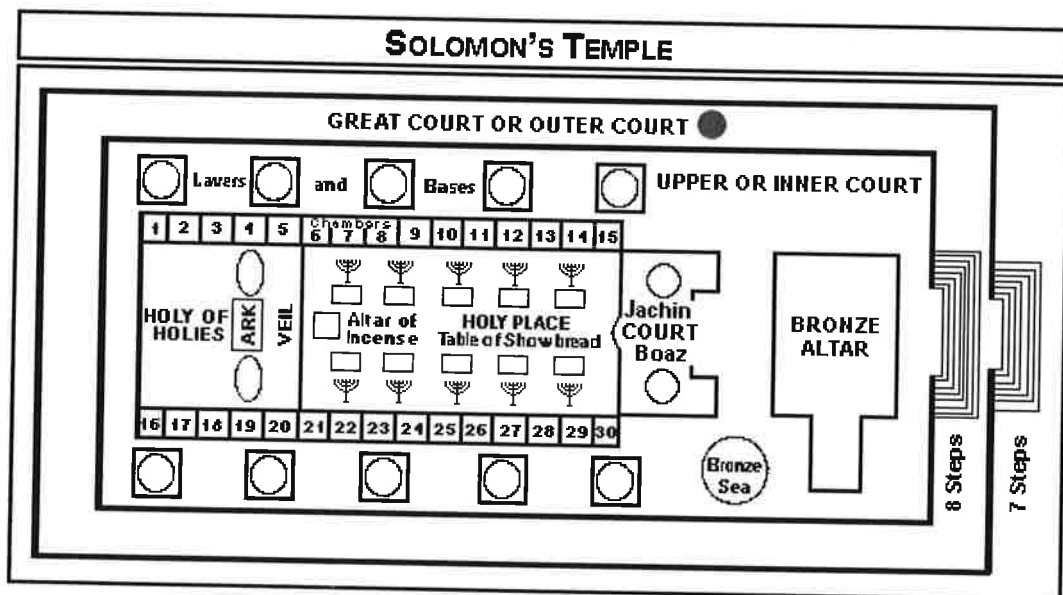
What was going on at the entrance to the north gate in verse fourteen?

What did the man repeat after each situation he showed to Ezekiel in verse fifteen?

What were twenty-five men doing in the inner court of the temple in verse sixteen?

Besides the practices in the temple, what sin did God hold against Jerusalem in verse seventeen?

What did God promise to do to Jerusalem because of its great sin in verse eighteen? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?



2. Read Ezekiel Chapter 9. The ninth chapter of Ezekiel is about marking on the forehead of those who cry out against the abominations happening in the Temple of God and killing the rest. God in His fury commanded not to spare or have pity but to destroy all who don't cry out against the abominations for their iniquity is very great.

OCTOBER YEAR 1

Who did God summon before Him, as Ezekiel watched in vv. 1-2?

What occurrence must have emphasized God's power and holiness for Ezekiel in verse three?

What instruction did the Lord give to the man with the writing kit in verse four of this chapter?

What characteristics was God looking for in the people who would receive the mark in verse four?

What orders were given to the six men with deadly weapons, according to verse five?

Which people were to be spared from the general slaughter in Jerusalem in verse six?

What did God command to be done to the temple in verse seven of this chapter?

What emotion did Ezekiel express when he was alone before the Lord in verse eight?

Why was God driven to such extreme action against Jerusalem in vv. 9-10?

What did the man with the writing kit report back to God in verse eleven? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read Ezekiel Chapter 10. The glory of God had been present at the temple for about 4 centuries. You can read how the glory of God entered the temple in 1 Kings 8:6-11. But now Ezekiel watched as God's glory left the temple. And because God's glory left, his special protection for Jerusalem ended. Now nothing prevented the punishment of the people in the city. These things were happening because their lives were so evil.

OCTOBER YEAR 1

How did Ezekiel attempt to describe what he saw in the presence of God in verse one?

What did God command his servant to do with the coals he was to take from between the wheels of the cherubim in verse two?

As Ezekiel watched, what movement took place first with the cloud that represented God's glory in verses three and four of this book?

How far did the radiance and sound of God's glory extend in verses four and five?

How did one of the cherubim assist the man in white with the coals in vv. 6-7?

What new detail did Ezekiel learn about the cherubim as he watched in verse eight?

What did Ezekiel notice about the wheels of the cherubim, according to vv. 9-11?

What unique feature virtually covered the cherubim in verse twelve?

What did the four faces of the cherubim look like to Ezekiel in verse fourteen?

How was the wheels, related to the creatures Ezekiel called cherubim in vv. 15-17?

What specific movements of the glory of the Lord did Ezekiel witness, according to vv. 18-19?

Where had Ezekiel seen the living creatures before, according to vv. 20-22?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What features of the cherubim especially stood out in Ezekiel's mind in verses twenty-one and twenty-two of this chapter?
What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read Ezekiel Chapter 11. What did God show Ezekiel at the east gate of the temple in verse one?

What did God tell Ezekiel about the leaders of Jerusalem in verse two?

What was the attitude of the twenty-five leaders of Jerusalem toward their plight and their future in verse three?

What did the Spirit command Ezekiel to do in relation to the twenty-five leaders?

What was God's accusation against the leaders of Jerusalem in vv. 5-6?

What did God predict would happen to the leaders of Jerusalem who felt they were safe in vv. 7-10?

In what sense did the leaders of Israel fail to understand the nature of God in verses eleven and twelve?

What happened to one of the leaders even as Ezekiel was prophesying in verse thirteen?

What attitude did the people of Jerusalem hold toward Ezekiel and the other exiles in verse fifteen?

What ray of hope did God offer to the exiles in verse sixteen?

What did God promise about the future of the exiled Israelites in verse seventeen?

What internal difference did Ezekiel foresee in the Jews who would return to the land? See vv. 18-20.

OCTOBER YEAR 1

How did God determine the punishment for those who insisted on idolatry in verse twenty-one?

When the glory departed from Jerusalem, where did Ezekiel go, according to vv. 22-25? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read Ezekiel Chapter 12. What was God's description of the rebelliousness of Israel in these first two verses?

What did God command Ezekiel to do in order to "act out" the prophecy he was giving, according to these verses 3 through 6?

How did Ezekiel report that he responded to God's command in verse seven?

How did God tell Ezekiel to interpret his actions to make them clear to the people? See vv. 8-11.

What would happen to the prince of Jerusalem, according to the prophecy in vv. 12-14?

What point did God wish to make by scattering the inhabitants of Jerusalem in verse fifteen?

For what purpose did God intend to spare a few people from "sword, famine and plague"? Refer to verse 16.

What was the symbolic meaning of the way God told Ezekiel to eat his food in vv. 17-20?

What proverb was heard frequently in the city of Jerusalem at the time in verse twenty-two?

How did God promise to respond to the false proverb that was common in Jerusalem in verses 22 through 25?

How did God tell Ezekiel to respond to the common wisdom that Ezekiel's prophecies were about a time in the distant

OCTOBER YEAR 1

future, according to vv. 26-28? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

6. Read Ezekiel Chapter 13. Who did God tell Ezekiel to prophesy to in these verses in these first two verses of this chapter?

Where did the false prophets get the message they were preaching in verse two?

What had the prophets of Israel actually seen in verse three of this chapter?

What animal did Ezekiel compare the false prophets to in verse four?

What had the false prophets not done that God expected of His prophets in verse five?

What verbal "signature" did the prophets use to give their words more weight in verses six and seven?

What attitude did God take toward the false prophets in verse eight?

What way did the Lord promise to silence the false prophets in, according to verse nine?

With what pleasing message were Israel's prophets leading the people astray in verse ten?

What did God predict about the flimsy wall covered with whitewash in vv. 11-12?

What imagery did God use to portray the fate of the false prophets and their lies in vv. 13-16?

What practices did God condemn in the prophetesses of Israel in vv. 17-19?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What did God promise to do for the people who had been ensnared by the prophetesses in verses twenty and twenty-one?

How did the false prophets have justice completely reversed in verse twenty-two?

What would God prove by delivering His people from the false prophets in verse twenty-three? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

7. Read Ezekiel Chapter 14. Who had come to visit and inquire of Ezekiel the prophet in verse one?

What did God reveal to Ezekiel about the elders who came to him in verse three?

What message was Ezekiel instructed to give the elders about their duplicity in verse four?

What did God hope to accomplish by answering the elders Himself in verse five?

What did God call the people to do immediately in verse six of this chapter?

What promise did God reiterate about people who tried to seek Him without giving up their idols in vv. 7-8?

How would God treat any prophet who would presume to answer a double-minded seeker in verses nine and ten?

What did God desire from His people, according to verse eleven of this chapter?

What was the cause of God's judgment in the first example given to Ezekiel in verses 12 and 13?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What form did God's judgment take in the first hypothetical example in verse thirteen?

What three great servants of God are used for Ezekiel's examples of faithfulness in verse fourteen?

In a circumstance that required God's judgment, how many could be saved by exemplary men of faith in v. 14?

What was the second example of judgment that God gave to Ezekiel in verse fifteen?

What family members could Noah, Daniel, and Job save from God's judgment by their own righteousness, according to verse sixteen?

What was a third example of a means of punishment God might use against unfaithfulness in verse seventeen?

What expression in this word from God illustrates the certainty of it in verse eighteen?

What was the fourth calamity that God might use to execute justice in verse nineteen?

If Noah, Daniel, and Job were present in God's hypothetical country, who would be saved by his or her righteousness in verse twenty?

How did God portray the prospects for Jerusalem in comparison to the examples He had given in verse twenty-one?

When the exiled Jews encountered the survivors of Jerusalem, what would they know about the justice of God's punishment of Jerusalem in vv. 22-23? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

8. Read Ezekiel Chapter 15-17. What is required of the people to do in verse two, according to the writer? See Ezek 15:2.

What is required of the people to do in verse three, according to the writer of this book?

Why did God vow to treat the remnant of His people in Jerusalem like a vine thrown into the fire, according to these verses? (Ezek 15:6-8)

What reception did the allegorical Jerusalem get at the time of her birth in these verses? (Ezek 16:3-5)

Into what relationship did God enter with the woman when she was grown in verse eight of chap 16?

How are God's blessings to His people described in the allegory Ezekiel told in Ezek 16:9-14?

How did Jerusalem respond to God's love and her good fortune, according to vv. 15-19 of chap 16?

With what nations did Jerusalem prostitute herself in these verses? (Ezek 16:23-29)

What punishment does God detail for Jerusalem's unfaithfulness? (Ezek 16:35-43)

How would God reverse the fortunes of the Jews and the Canaanites in order to humble them? (Ezek 16:53-58)

What did God promise to do for Israel in the final analysis in these verses? (Ezek 16:59-63)

What is described in the parable told by Ezekiel in Ezek 17:1-6?

How did the vine respond to the appearance of another eagle in verses seven and eight of chap 17?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What fate did God predict for the “unfaithful” vine in verses nine and ten?

How did God explain the allegory of the two eagles and the vine in vv. 11-15?

What did God say would happen to the king who turned to Egypt for help in Ezek 17:16-21?

After all of this destruction, what did God intend to do with a “shoot” in these verses? (Ezek 17:22-24)

What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

9. Read Ezekiel Chapters 18 and 19. The Lord explains that each person is responsible for his own sin. What parable was current in Israel that God wanted to correct the first three verses of chap 18?

Whose sin did God say has the power to condemn a person to death in verse four?

What sinful activities does God’s “righteous man” abstain from in Ezek 18:5-8?

What positive activities are part of the righteous person’s life? (Ezek 18:5-9)

What will happen to the “violent son” of a righteous person who commits the sins his or her father avoided in vv. 10-13?

In Ezekiel’s story, how does the violent son’s son respond to what he sees in his father? (Ezek 18:14-17)

How would God judge the son who did not follow the evil practices of his father in verse seventeen?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

Whose actions are the final determiner of every soul's fate, according to vv. 19-20 of chap 18?

How does God feel about a wicked person who repents in Ezek 18:21-23?

What happens to a righteous person's good deeds if he or she later turns to sin in verse twenty-four?

What logic does God explain His justice through Ezekiel by, in vv. 25-29?

What does God call each person to do in light of His coming judgment in verse thirty?

What new things does a repentant person possess in verse thirty-one?

What does God desire for each soul He has created in verse thirty-two of chap 18?

What picture did Ezekiel use to portray Judah's princes in his lament in Ezek 19:1-9?

How did Ezekiel use the image of a vine to sketch a "before and after" picture of Judah in Ezek 19:10-14?

EZEKIEL 20-27

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 42: Ezek 20-27*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Ezekiel Chapter 20. What was God's reaction to the elders' request in verses two and three of this chapter?

What was the first instance of His love and favor with which God confronted the elders of Israel? (Ezek 20:4-7)

How did Israel respond when God delivered them out of Egypt in verse eight?

How did God bless Israel in spite of their unfaithfulness, according to vv. 9-12?

Even after they had been delivered from Egypt, how did Israel treat God and His law in verse thirteen?

What was God's concern for His name in verse fourteen of this chapter?

What punishment did the generation of the Exodus suffer for their sin in vv. 15-16?

How did God show His pity to the elder generation and offer a new start to the younger generation in vv. 17-20?

What was to be the punishment for the second generation's rebellion in verse twenty-three?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

To what pagan practice did God “give them over” in verses 25 and 26?

How did Israel continue to rebel against God, once they had taken possession of the promised-land? (Ezek 20:27-29)

What practices of the current generation led God to swear that He would not allow their elders to inquire of Him in vv. 30-31?

Why did God say that they would never worship “wood and stone” as they seemed to desire? (Ezek 20:32-38)

What would be different about the Israel that God would gather from their exile in the future in vv. 39-42?

What would Israel realize about God and about them selves when He accomplished His final deliverance in vv. 43-44?

Where did God tell Ezekiel to direct his prophecy in vv. 45-46?

What image of natural disaster did God use to illustrate what was about to happen to Judah? (Ezek 20:46-48)

What did Ezekiel tell God that the people were likely to say about his prophecy in verse forty-nine of chap 20? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

2. Read Ezekiel Chapter 21. This chapter describes how the king of Babylon and his army would attack Judah and Ammon. It refers often to the “sword of the Lord.” That sword means the Babylonian army. That army would carry out the Lord’s punishment against Judah and Ammon.

What new image did God use to describe the destruction to come in verse three?

Which of the people were to be “cut off” from the land of Judah and Jerusalem in Ezek 21:3-4?

What did God intend for the people to understand through the immensity of disaster in verse five?

What sign was Ezekiel to give through his behavior in vv. 5-6? How would the scepter of Judah (symbol of nationhood) stand up to the sharpened sword of God's judgment? (Ezek 21:8-10)

What emotion was Ezekiel portraying by wailing and beating his breast in these verses? (Ezek 21:11-12)

According to the prophecy, what was going to become of the scepter of Judah in these verses? (Ezek 21:13-17)

What did God reveal in advance that the king of Babylon would decide to do, guided by pagan divination? (Ezek 21:18-22)

Since the people felt they were safe, how would they respond to the approach of the army of Babylon in verse twenty-three? (Ezek 21:23)

Why were the people of Jerusalem going to be taken captive in verse twenty-four?

What did Ezekiel say it would take to restore the throne of Judah in verse twenty-seven?

How would the Ammonites be judged for their insulting delight in the destruction of Judah, according to vv. 28-32? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

3. Read Ezekiel Chapter 22. What had made Jerusalem guilty and defiled, according to Ezekiel in vv. 1-4?

What consequences had Jerusalem brought upon herself by her sin in verses four and five?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What accusation did Ezekiel bring against the princes of Israel in verse six?

What direct contradictions of God's laws were taking place in Jerusalem? (Ezek 22:7-12)

What was the chief thing Israel had "forgotten" in verse twelve of this chapter?

What did God predict about the courage and strength of Judah in the face of His judgments? (Ezek 22:13-16)

What image did God use to illustrate how He would purify Israel? (Ezek 22:17-22)

What particular sins did God hold against the civil and religious leaders of the people in these verses? (Ezek 22:23-29)

Who did God look for before he decreed the destruction of Jerusalem in verse thirty?

Who did God hold responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem in verse thirty-one? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read Jeremiah Chapter 23. Who was represented by the two sisters in Ezekiel's parable in Ezek 23:1-4?

Where were the two sisters first guilty of unfaithfulness and prostitution in verse three?

After what nation's warriors did the first sister, representing Samaria, lust in Ezek 23:5-8?

What other sin followed along with "prostitution" in verse seven?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What judgment did God hand over Oholah, the first sister to in verses nine and ten?

How did the one woman behave when she saw what happened to her sister in Ezek 23:11-13?

In what way did Oholibah (Judah) go farther than Oholah in her sin in vv. 14-21?

What did God promise would happen to Oholibah, according to vv. 22-24?

Whose standards of punishment would be applied against Judah in vv. 24-26?

What words are used to describe what would be Judah's condition after she was judged? (Ezek 23:28-34)

What attitude toward God compelled Him to allow Judah's suffering in verse thirty-five?

What sins did the Lord list that He held against Israel and Judah in these verses? (Ezekiel 23:36-41)

Who did even the children of prostitutes belong to in verse thirty-seven?

How would the two sisters be treated by evil men and righteous men, respectively? (Ezek 23:42-45)

How did God intend to put an end to the prostitution of His people? (Ezek 23:46-48)

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read Ezekiel Chapter 24. Of what cataclysmic event did God inform Ezekiel on the very day it was taking place far away in vv. 1-2?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What procedures of a normal sacrificial meal did God detail at the beginning of the cooking pot prophecy? (Ezek 24:3-5)

What did God call the city of Jerusalem in Ezekiel's day in verse six of this chapter?

According to the prophecy, what was wrong with the "cooking pot" of Judah in vv. 6-8?

Why did God intend to take the "cooking" far beyond the point where it would give pleasure to the people? (Ezek 24:9-12)

What would be necessary in order for Judah to be "clean" once again in verse thirteen?

What would be the basis of God's judgment against Judah in verse fourteen?

What unusual command did the Lord give Ezekiel along with a disturbing prediction in vv. 15-17?

What did Ezekiel do when his wife died as God had predicted in verse eighteen?

What question did the exiles ask Ezekiel about his unusual behavior in verse nineteen?

What intention did God declare to the exiles in vv. 20-21?

What attitude had the exiles had toward the city of Jerusalem and its leaders who remained there in verse twenty-one?

What did God predict that the exiles would do in response to the news about Jerusalem in vv. 22-24?

When would Ezekiel be released from the command to remain silent except when he had a word from the Lord? See vv. 25-27.

What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

6. Read Ezekiel Chapters 25-27. What was the first foreign nation against which Ezekiel was instructed to prophesy in verses one and two? (Ezek 25:1-2)

What attitude did God hold against the people of Ammon in verse three of chap 25?

What group did Ezekiel prophesy that Ammon would fall victim to in Ezek 25:4-5?

How did Ezekiel describe the reaction of the Ammonites to the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of God in verse six?

What point did God desire to make by the destruction of Ammon in verse seven?

What blasphemy was uttered by Moab and Seir in verse eight?

Who was God's instrument to punish Moab in vv. 9-11?

What was the source of Edom's guilt before God in verse twelve?

What people did God intend to use to express His vengeance against Edom in verse fourteen?

How did God feel about the long-standing hostility of the Philistines against Judah in Ezek 25:15-17?

What bad news about Jerusalem did the people of Tyre assume to be good news for them in Ezek 26:1-2?

What sorts of destruction did God decree for Tyre in Ezek 26:3-6?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What king is named as the final destroyer of Tyre in Ezek 26:7-11?

What specific components of the wealth of Tyre were slated for destruction in Ezek 26:12-13?

How lasting was the judgment against Tyre in verse fourteen of chap 26?

What reaction of foreign princes would underline the extent of the destruction in Tyre in Ezek 26:15-18?

In what way was the end of the kingdom of Tyre going to be the worst of those described in Ezek 26:19-21?

For what city outside of Israel did God instruct Ezekiel to "take up a lament" in verses one and two of chap 27?

With what riches and skills was Tyre generously endowed in verses 3 through 9 of chapter 27?

What countries did some of Tyre's soldiers hail from, according to Ezek 27:10-11?

What were some of the exotic products that were traded through Tyre in Ezek 27:12-24?

What disaster did Ezekiel predict would bring an end to Tyre in Ezek 27:25-36? What lessons do you learn in these chapters?

EZEKIEL 28-36

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading for Week 43: Ezek 28-36*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Jeremiah chapters 28-29. Who was Ezekiel instructed to speak God's Word in Ezek 28:1-2?

What chain of events brought the ruler of Tyre to his current estimation of himself in Ezek 28:2-5?

What judgment did God declare for the ruler who thought of himself as a god in Ezek 28:6-10?

What were some of the glories of Tyre for which people would mourn in Ezek 28:11-14?

What "before" and "after" pictures are presented of the character of the king of Tyre in Ezek 28:15-19?

What other trading kingdom besides Tyre was to come under God's judgment in Ezek 28:20-24?

What reversal of fortunes would eventually take place between Israel and her neighbors, according to Ezek 28:25-26?

What attitude or belief on the part of Pharaoh King of Egypt brought him under God's judgment in Ezek 29:3?

What figure of speech is used to describe the power and extent of God's judgment on Egypt in Ezek 29:4-5?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

How had Egypt hurt God's people Israel most recently in Ezek 29:6-7?

Over what crucial resource did God want to demonstrate that He had power in verse of chap 29?

How long was the devastation of the land going to last in Ezek 29:11-12?

Following the initial punishment, what would be the fate of the kingdom of Egypt in Ezek 29:13-15?

What false promise of assistance did God want to eliminate for Israel in Ezek 29:16?

About what foreign war did God inform Ezekiel because of its bearing on Egypt in Ezek 29:17-20?

2. Read Ezekiel Chapters 30-32. What did Ezekiel prophesy about the greatness and wealth of Egypt? (Ezek 30:1-4)

What great cities, along with their idols, was doomed to destruction in Ezek 30:13-19?

In the third word to Ezekiel concerning Egypt, what physical image was used to illustrate how unreliable she was to become as an ally for Israel? (Ezek 30:20-26)

What formerly great nation is described as a comparison for Egypt in Ezek 31:1-9?

Why was Assyria judged like a huge tree that is cut down and abandoned in Ezek 31:10-13?

According to the allegory, how did the smaller nations fare who had allied themselves with Assyria in Ezek 31:15-17?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

To what powerful animals did Ezekiel liken Egypt in his lament in Ezek 32:1-8?

What reaction to Egypt's downfall was predicted for other peoples and nations in Ezek 32:9-10?

What was the consistent complaint against the nations God had already consigned to "the pit" in Ezek 32:22-30? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

3. Read Ezekiel Chapter 33. In the event of a threat to a city, what is the responsibility of the watchman and the people in Ezek 33:1-6?

What title and picture of his duties did God give to Ezekiel, according to Ezek 33:7-9?

What result did God want from the warnings given by His "watchman" in Ezek 33:10-11?

How did God say He would judge a righteous person who turns and does evil in verses twelve and thirteen?

What concrete steps might a wicked person take to demonstrate true repentance in Ezek 33:14-16?

What "argument" did God have with the exiles regarding justice in Ezek 33:17-20?

What point in his exile did Ezekiel receive confirmation of the fall of Jerusalem at in verse twenty-one?

What restriction on the prophet was lifted at about the time of the fall of Jerusalem in Ezek 33:22?

What assumption was made by those who were left in Judah after the first deportation from Jerusalem? See Ezek 33:23-24.

OCTOBER YEAR 1

Why did God say that the remaining Jews did not deserve to possess the land in Ezek 33:25-26?

What judgment did God pronounce on the remnant that had stayed in Jerusalem in Ezek 33:27-29?

What did God inform Ezekiel that the people were saying about him in Ezek 33:30?

What was the difference between what the people heard and what they did in vv. 31-32?

What did God say would vindicate Ezekiel in the eyes of his fellow exiles in verse thirty-three? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read Ezekiel Chapter 34. Why was God angry with the "shepherds" of Israel in Ezek 34:1-2?

What comforts and privileges were the rulers taking for themselves in Ezek 34:3?

What needs of the common people were being overlooked by their leaders in Ezek 34:4?

What condition did God find "His sheep" in, at this point in Israel's history in Ezek 34:5-6?

What did God promise to do on behalf of the helpless sheep in Ezek 34:7-10?

How does God describe His care for the flock (that is, His people) in Ezek 34:11-16?

Why did God find it necessary to judge some of the sheep, according to Ezek 34:17-19?

How would the weak and strong sheep fare under God's one shepherd in Ezek 34:20-24?

What are the various forms of deliverance and blessing promised to God's people in Ezek 34:25-29?

What undeniable conclusion would Israel draw from God's activity on their behalf in verse thirty?

How did God describe His relationship to Israel in verse thirty-one of this chapter? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

5. Read Ezekiel Chapter 36. How did God, through Ezekiel, show that He understood all that had happened to Israel at the hands of their enemies in Ezek 36:1-5?

What did God promise to do to Israel's enemies in answer to their scorn in verses six and seven?

What changes did Ezekiel predict in the land of Israel, according to Ezek 36:8-12?

What did God's people do while they were dwelling in the land to defile it and reap God's judgment? (Ezek 36:16-19)

How was God's name slandered by the very judgment He visited on His people in Ezek 36:20-21?

Whose sake did God act to restore Israel and punish her enemies for in Ezek 36:22-23?

What did God intend to prove to the other nations who had witnessed Israel's punishment in Ezekiel 36:23)?

Once God had gathered His people, what internal changes did He promise them in Ezek 36:24-28?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What calamities did God intend to reverse for Israel in verses twenty-nine and thirty?

How would God's people feel about their past rebellion after He restored them in verse thirty-one?

What message would the surrounding nations get from God's restoration of Israel in Ezek 36:33-36?

EZEKIEL 37-46

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 44: 37-46*
- b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Ezekiel Chapter 37. What strange sight was Ezekiel shown in a vision in verses one and two of this book?

What question did the Lord ask of Ezekiel, and how did he answer in verse three?

What did God promise to do with the dry bones in vv. 4-6?

What happened as Ezekiel began to prophesy to the bones, as God had commanded in verses seven and eight?

How did the restored bodies begin to breathe again in verses nine and ten?

What saying of the people had given rise to the image of "dry bones" in verse eleven? (Ezek 37:11)

What did God explain to Ezekiel about the meaning of the vision of the valley of dry bones in verses eleven and twelve?

What would God's people know and receive when God acted in their behalf in Ezek 37:13-14?

What visual demonstration did God tell Ezekiel to do with two sticks in Ezek 37:15-17?

What good news was contained in Ezekiel's symbolic action with two sticks in Ezek 37:18-22?

What sins would God cleanse in order to make Israel His people again in Ezek 37:23?

How was Israel's relationship to God and God's treatment of them going to change, according to the prophecy in Ezek 37:24-28?

The bones in this vision mean the whole nation that is called Israel. The Israelites include the families from both parts of the divided nation, called Israel and Judah. God tells Ezekiel about their sad state:

- (a) They said that they were like dry bones. It was as if they had been dead for a long time. They had lost the life (relationship) that they had with God. In other words, they were dead in their spirits.
- (b) They said that they had no hope. There is no hope for people who have *turned away from God. *Israel had refused to obey God. They could not expect anything from God. *Israel could not hope to become a nation again. Only God can give real hope to people who are in a hopeless situation.
- (c) They said that they had no future. In God alone is there life after death.

The Israelites could do nothing to improve their terrible situation. And everyone who does not have a real relationship with God is in a similar situation. Such people have no life in their spirits. They are in a hopeless state, and they do not have a worthwhile future. They can do nothing to rescue themselves. They should trust completely in God. Only God can make people alive. Only God can give real hope and a worthwhile future to people. And that is what he promised to do for the Israelites in this vision.

The vision then changed. In the first part of the vision, the bones had scattered across a large valley. Here the bones are in graves. God will open the graves. The nation that seemed dead will become alive again. God will bring his people back to their country. Israel will be a nation again. This is what has happened now. The Jews are returning to the nation called Israel.

The Lord will cause Israel to know him. The Lord will send his Holy Spirit on Israel. The Israelites will become alive to God. In other words, they will have a real and active relationship with him. We have not seen this happen yet.

2. Read Ezekiel Chapters 40-42. The purpose of chaps 40-48 is to give hope to the Israelites. They were in exile in Babylon. But the Lord spoke to them about the future of Israel. The Israelites will live in the land that God promised to Abraham (Gen 15:18). Then the Lord will take away their sin. They will be his special people. They will be loyal to him and he will be their God. There will be a new temple in Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord God will fill that temple. There will be sacrifices for worship in that *temple. There will be priests who serve in the temple. The people will live in the whole land that God promised to Abraham. Each of the 12 tribes will have a share of that land. There will be shares of the land for the prince, the priests and the city of Jerusalem.

Whom did Ezekiel meet when God transported him to Jerusalem in a vision in Ezek 40:2-3?

What instructions did the man have for Ezekiel before they set out on their exploration in Ezek 40:4?

What was impressive about the wall that surrounded the temple Ezekiel saw in Ezek 40:5?

What are some examples of how detailed Ezekiel's description of the east gate area becomes in Ezek 40:6-16?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What did the man do each time he stopped at the outer court, the north gate, and the south gate in Ezek 40:17-27)

What sorts of rooms did Ezekiel see before he actually came into the temple in Ezek 40:28-47?

What was at the center of the temple structure, according to verse forty-eight?

What was at the center of the temple structure in verse fifteen of chap 41?

How were the internal parts of the temple decorated in these verses of Ezek 41:16-26?

What important activity was to take place in the side rooms around the temple in Ezek 42:1-13?

What specific regulations were given with regard to the priests' garments inside and outside the temple in verse fourteen of Ezek 42:14?

How was the whole temple area kept distinct, from the "common" parts of the city in Ezek 42:15-20? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

3. Read Ezekiel Chapter 43. What did the man of bronze show to Ezekiel after he had toured the whole restored temple area in verses one and two of this chapter?

How did Ezekiel describe the return of the glory of God to the temple in vv. 3-4?

Where was Ezekiel transported after his initial vision of the glory of God approaching from the east in verse five?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What did the voice from within the temple say in verses six and seven of this book?

How had Israel angered God and brought on, their own destruction in Ezek 43:8-9?

What response did God hope to produce in the people when Ezekiel related his vision of the temple in Ezek 43:10-11?

How was Ezekiel instructed to preserve the details and dimensions of the temple God showed him in verse eleven? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

How much ground was to be dedicated as holy ground in verse twelve?

How was the altar in the new temple to be constructed, according to Ezek 43:13-17?

What specific instructions were given for a week-long dedication of the altar in Ezek 43:18-26?

How did God promise to respond after the eighth day of sacrifices and offerings in Ezek 43:27? What lessons do you learn from this chapter?

4. Read Ezekiel Chapters 44-46. What special instructions did the guide in Ezekiel's vision have for the east gate to the sanctuary in Ezek 44:1-3?

How did Ezekiel react when he saw the glory of the Lord in Ezek 44:4?

To what instructions did God tell Ezekiel to pay particular attention, in order to correct God's people? (Ezek 44:5-6)

What practice would God not tolerate in the restored temple in verses seven through nine of chapter 44?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

Why were the Levites to be limited only to certain duties within the temple in Ezek 44:10-14?

What group did God designate to serve as priests in the inner court in Ezek 44:15-16?

What were some ways in which the priests were expected to maintain a greater degree of purity in their life than were the common people? (Ezek 44:17-27)

What provisions did God make for the sustenance of the priests in Ezek 44:28-31?

How did God redraw the map of Jerusalem to provide for the temple, the priests, and the prince in an equitable way, according to Ezek 45:1-8?

What abuses of power by prior rulers did God want to eliminate in the restored kingdom in Ezek 45:9-12?

What sorts of offerings did God specify for special days on the Jewish calendar in Ezek 45:13-25?

How was the opening and closing of certain gates to be a part of the temple ceremonies in Ezek 46:1-12?

What were the required daily offerings, according to these verses of Ezek 46:13-15?

How did God's laws on inheritance insure separateness for His people and justice among them in Ezek 46:16-18?

What practical provision was made in the temple since most of the sacrifices were followed by feasts in Ezek 46:19-24? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

EZEKIEL 47-48 & HOSEA 1-14

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- a. *The Bible reading plan for Week 45: Ezek. 47-48; Hos. 1-14*
b. *The following questions may be used for personal reflection or cell group discussion. You do not need to attempt all questions at cell meetings.*

1. Read Ezekiel Chapters 47-48. What did Ezekiel see coming out of the temple at the end of his tour of restoring the temple of God in Ezek 47:1-2?

What happened to the stream of water as it got farther away from the temple in Ezek 47:3-6?

What good effects did the river in Ezekiel's vision have along its route in Ezek 47:7-12?

What were God's instructions for the division of the land among the tribes in Ezek 47:13-21?

How did God instruct His people to regard aliens who had settled among them for legal purposes in Ezek 47:22-23?

How specific were God's instructions about which tribe was to receive which piece of land, according to Ezek 48:1-7 23-29?

What purposes did God set aside the "special gift" of land at the center of the country for in Ezek 48:8-22?

What different groups were specifically provided for within the special sector of land in Ezek 48:8-22?

How were the gates of the city of Jerusalem to be named in Ezek 48:30-34?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

How did the name of the city reflect its reason for being in Ezek 48:35? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

2. Read Hosea Chapters 1-2. Who was Hosea, according to verse one of chap 1? When did the Lord speak to the prophet Hosea in verse one?

What did the Lord instruct Hosea to do in Hos 1:2, Hos 2:1? What was the symbolism of Hosea's family, according to these verses?

How did Hosea feel about Gomer in Hos 2:2-13?

What did God say to Israel through Hosea's words in Hos 2:2-13?

What did the Lord plan to do to win Israel back to himself in verses fourteen and fifteen of chapter 2?

What name would renewed Israel, acknowledge her Lord by in Hos 2:16?

What would God prohibit in verse seventeen of chapter 2?

What would accompany Israel's return to the land in verse eighteen?

What would mark the new relationship between the Lord and Israel, according to Hos 2:19-23? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

3. Read Hosea Chapters 3-4. What commands did the Lord give Hosea in Hos 3:1?

How did Hosea respond to the Lord in verses two and three of chapter 3?

What did Gomer's lengthy probation portray in verse four of chapter 3?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What would happen after Israel's period of isolation in verse five?

What charge did God bring against Israel in Hos 4:1-2?

What would result from Israel's sin, according to verse three?

How were the priests implicated in God's indictment, according to Hos 4:4-11?

How had God's people sinned, according to Hos 4:11-14?

What warning did God give Judah in verse fifteen?

What had hindered God from shepherding Israel, according to Hos 4:16-19? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

4. Read Hosea Chapters 5-7. Who was God's pronouncement of guilt addressed to in these first five verses of chapter 5?

What would God withdraw because of Israel's unfaithfulness in verses six and seven?

Why would the sound of battle be heard among God's people in verses eight and nine?

What was God's charge against Judah, according to verse ten?

How had the process of judgment against Israel already started in Hos 5:11-14?

What was the ultimate purpose of the Lord's judgment on His people in Hos 5:15?

How would a penitent Israel respond to the Lord, according to verses one through three of chapter 6?

What was the Lord's answer to Israel, according to Hos 6:4-11?

What did God want from His people in verse six of Hos 6:6?

What were Israel's crimes against the Lord, according to these verses: Hos 6:11, Hos 7:16? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

5. Read Hosea Chapters 8-10. How did God's people show that they had forgotten Him in verses one through fourteen of chapter 8?

How was Israel's hostility punished, according to verses one through nine of chapter 9?

What were the consequences of Israel's idolatry, according to Hos 9:10-17?

What was at the heart of affluent Israel's religion, according to Hos 10:1-8?

How severe was God's judgment against His people in Hos 10:9-15?

Why did God hold out the possibility of repentance and blessing in verse twelve of chapter 12? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

6. Read Hosea Chapters 11-12. How did God express His love for Israel in these first four verses of chapter 11?

Why did the nation not deserve mercy, according to Hos 1:5-7?

How did God show that He was torn between love and justice in Hos 11:8-11?

What did God say in chastising His prodigal people in verse twelve of chapter 11?

OCTOBER YEAR 1

What lessons from history did God mention in the Hos 12:3-

What lessons from history did God mention in Hos 12:12-13?
What lessons do you learn from these chapters?

7. Read Hosea Chapters 13-14. What fierce doom did Israel face, according to Hos 13:1-16?

What did God say in chastising His prodigal people in verse sixteen of chapter 13?

How could Israel avoid the fire of judgment in Hos 14:1-3?

What was the promise of restoration, according to Hos 14:4-6?

How would the Lord protect and prosper His people in verses seven and eight of chapter 14?

What was Hosea's concluding word of wisdom in verse nine of chapter 14?

What final challenge did Hosea leave the people, according to Hos 14:9? What lessons do you learn from these chapters?