

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

06-11-2023 // WEEK 23 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Ezekiel 18 - Ezekiel 36**. Here are a few highlights:

- **Ezekiel Chapter 18:** The entire chapter is God's **reminder of the moral responsibility of all people**. Each person must make a decision whether to follow God's will or not. Those who do are protected. Those who don't are not (Ezekiel gives two case studies to make the point). The people naturally object. Ezekiel reminds them that their attitude should not be to object to his words, but to repent.
- **Chapter 19:** It's a chapter of lamenting, using the examples of a lioness losing her cubs and a stripped bare vine. These are **two examples of what is about to happen** to Judah in God's judgment.
- **Chapters 20 - 21:** God gives them a history lesson. They look back at all the ways He had been faithful to them. Yet their **unthinkable idolatry** is shown. God calls them now to look at their future. Though Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar will be used by God as his instruments of judgment upon them, **there is still a future and hope**.
- **Chapter 22:** Provides a description of Jerusalem, bloodied and bowed, under God's judgment.
- **Chapter 23:** God uses two examples of two sisters regarding Judah and Israel: both under God's hand of judgment. Both not practicing religion as God planned.
- **Chapter 24:** The **destruction of Jerusalem** again shown. God shares that Ezekiel will lose his wife and he is not to mourn, thus as an example to Jerusalem of its loss but not to mourn as well. The judgment is deserved.
- **Chapters 25 - 32:** The **judgment of the nations** is given again. **Chapter 25** points to Ammon,

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Moab, Edom, and Philistia – Israel’s neighbors. Then there is Tyre (**Chapter 26-27**). Sidon (**Chapter 28**). Egypt and the Pharaoh (**Chapter 29**). These chapters **describe the fall of the pharaoh in Egypt**, the lament of his fall, and Egypt’s descent into the pit. The pit is called “**Sheol**” there, the place of the dead. It is a description of Egypt’s utter destruction by God, using Babylon as his instrument against the pharaoh and the nation itself.

- **Chapter 33:** A call to Ezekiel (and all prophets/pastors/teachers) to **be like a watchman walking the walls of the city**. He/they must properly warn the people of impending danger. And God’s judgment. If they don’t, the blood of judgment is on the prophet. If he properly does, the blood of judgment is on the people. THEIR moral responsibility. **It’s a reminder to me to always preach truth**. I’m held to a stricter accountability (**James 3:1**). The chapter ends with the fall of Jerusalem and its culpability. Yet still **a word of hope (verses 23-29)** for those who stay behind and those taken into the captivity. And a warning to the exiles too (**verses 30-33**).
- **Ezekiel 34:** A **condemnation of the shepherds**, those who were called by God to spiritually “pastor” the people, but used their position of authority to abuse the people. Their condemnation by God is certain.
- **Ezekiel 35-36:** Edom will be judged by God. These are the descendants of Esau but were always looking for ways to hurt Israel. The **promise from God that one day he will restore the mountains and Israel, all for God’s glory alone**.

Prophets, priests, and ministers must give people warnings of impending danger (hell/consequences) if they are faithful. We too should heed warnings about God’s judgment. The reality of hell (simply where God is not present). But praise be to him that he has given us his Son, Jesus, who has paid the penalty for our judgment. All taken on him. He has paid the price for our sin. It is such wonderful news.

David