

The Book of Ezekiel

8

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we continue our study of the book of **Ezekiel**, this time reading **chapters 18-24**.

In this section, Ezekiel begins to identify a major change coming in God's dealing with mankind. Up till this point, each new generation not only faced God's judgment for their own sin, but also bore the weight of the iniquity of preceding generations. All that, says Ezekiel, is going to change. From now on, no one will say: "The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."

From there, Ezekiel begins to describe two things:

- The sin of Jerusalem
- The pending judgment of God

Much of Ezekiel's description of Judah's sin is disgusting. But it shows clearly just how God viewed the iniquity of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel's message throughout **chapters 1-24** is clear. Any hopes of the exiles returning to an undamaged Jerusalem were false. God's judgment would surely come to the city and Jerusalem would fall.

Ezekiel was a very visual prophet. He often enacted out his prophecies to make them absolutely clear to his hearers. But God decided to enact out the prophecy of Jerusalem's fall in a very specific way. He took Ezekiel's wife, "the delight of [his] eyes," from him. This loss by Ezekiel, more than any words or actions in the book, spelt out the grief that God himself felt over the loss of his beloved, Zion. But God told Ezekiel not to mourn openly, just as the exiles were not to mourn openly for Jerusalem. It was only when news reached Ezekiel, in **33:22**, of the fall of Jerusalem that the message of the book changes from one of judgment to one of glorious hope.

Let's now read the second section of **Ezekiel – chapters 18-24**.

Memory Verse

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us
has turned to his own way; and the Lord has
laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

Your Fishing Kit

This is the eighth verse in your fishing kit. **Isaiah 53:6** follows on from **Isaiah 53:5** and presents the human problem in its stark reality. We have all – every single one of us – wandered off, like sheep, on our own paths.

Many people today speak of “many paths to God,” but God doesn’t view it that way. In God’s eyes, there is only one path, and people, in seeking their own paths, have gone astray. Without God’s intervention, we are not just “off track,” we are totally “lost.”

But this verse introduces God solution. The iniquity (or total load of sin) that caused us to wander off the path and turn to our own way has been laid upon Jesus himself. Jesus said: “I am the way [back to God]” (**John 14:6**).

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Proverbs 14:12	John 1:12	Matthew 10:32-33
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	1 Corinthians 10:13
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	1 John 5:10
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	1 John 5:11
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 10:10	1 John 5:12
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 10:28	Romans 2:4-5
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	Romans 10:9	Acts 17:30
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	Romans 10:13	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	2 Corinthians 5:17	John 16:33
Isaiah 54:6	1 John 1:10	2 Corinthians 5:21	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.