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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: October 15, 2017**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 22:1-31**

**Text: Ezekiel 22:1-31**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – The sins of Israel  
enumerated**

Let us remember that the prophet Ezekiel was among those who were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar and his army. He was among the princes, and the might men of valor taken to Babylon by the King of Babylon. Now he is in the land where he was given the words of this book by the LORD GOD. You will recall that he was rightly named as one sent to prophesy to the WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL. The northern kingdom of Israel, whose capital was Samaria, was taken captive and carried away by the king of Assyria, Shalmaneser, in about the year 721 BC. This was more than 120 years before Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came and besieged Judah and Jerusalem.

Having studied chapter 22 last time, we now move into the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter of this great prophecy. Before the sharpened sword of justice and retribution does its dreadful work, the Lord publicly shows the guilt and vileness of the city and lays bare the corruption of her prophets, priests, and princes, as well as of the people. The violence and abomination of Jerusalem are revealed in verses 1-16; the smelting furnace in verses 17-23 is the symbol of Jehovah's fiery indignation against Jerusalem and its inhabitants. The corruption of the prophets, priests, and princes is fully uncovered in the closing section of chapter 22 (verses 23-31).

It is said three times in this 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter that “the word of the LORD (JEHOVAH) came unto me, saying.”

- **WILT THOU JUDGE THE BLOODY CITY AND SHEW HER ALL HER ABOMINATIONS? (Verses 1-16).**

**1 ¶ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.**

Jerusalem is called the bloody city because of the murders perpetrated in her, and sacrifices of children to Molech. Let us consider verses 3 and 4 in this regard and this verse from the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Ezekiel 24:6** Wherefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the bloody city, to the pot whose scum is therein, and whose scum is not gone out of it! bring it out piece by piece; let no lot fall upon it.

**3 Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself. 4 Thou art become guilty in thy blood that thou hast shed; and hast defiled thyself in thine idols which thou hast made; and thou hast caused thy days to draw near, and art come even unto thy years: therefore have I made thee a reproach unto the heathen, and a mocking to all countries.**

**5 Those that be near, and those that be far from thee, shall**

***mock thee, which art infamous and much vexed.***

***Mock thee*** -- The neighboring nations, as the Edomites, Philistines, Moabites, and Ammonites; and ones far away from you, as the Babylonians, Medes, and Persians; all that either hear of, or see their misery, shall rejoice at it.

***Infamous and much vexed.*** -- They will say that you have gained for yourself a most infamous name. You are afflicted, impoverished, and ruined above anything that ever has been done to any city.

***6 Behold, the princes of Israel, every one were in thee to their power to shed blood.***

The princes . . . each according to his power, were in thee, to shed blood" as if this was the only object of their existence. These princes of Israel – the leaders of the nation ought to have been patterns of justice, but instead they made their own arm of might their only law.

***7 In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.***

In these things, the LORD had commanded them again and again to be sure they understood! Yea, as far back as their time near the Tabernacle in the wilderness.

**Exodus 20:12** *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God*

*giveth thee.*

**Deuteronomy 27:16** *Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.*

**Exodus 22:21-22** *Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.*  
**22** *Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.*

***8 Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths.***

You have despised things, people, and places which I have set aside unto myself – the temple, the priests, the offerings, the feasts of each year.

You have profaned my sabbaths! The sabbath is a sign between you and me forever, and you have not only violated those Sabbaths, but have treated them with irreverence and contempt.

***9 In thee are men that carry tales to shed blood: and in thee they eat upon the mountains: in the midst of thee they commit lewdness.***

**men that carry tales**--*informers*, who by their misrepresentations cause innocent blood to be shed. Literally, "one who goes to and fro as a *merchant*."

**Leviticus 19:16** *Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand*

*against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.*

***Eat upon the mountains*** – a reference to the fact that they served idols on the mountains where they ate of the sacrifices of devils!

***And in the midst of thee committed lewdness.*** --

Undoubtedly speaking of the things enumerated in verses 10 and 11. Instead of this being judged, it was condoned among them.

***10 In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness: in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution.***

***In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness:*** --

This is a sin not so much as named among men, as for a man to lie with his father's wife as the fornicator did in the city of Corinth in 1Co. chapter 5. It is the sin which Reuben committed, [Ge 35:22](#)

**Genesis 35:22** *And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:*

This particular sin is expressly forbidden; and is mentioned first as the capital sin of uncleanness in the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Leviticus.

**Leviticus 18:6-8** *None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD. 7 The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother;*

*thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. 8 The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.*

***11 And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter.***

In this verse, we read of the sin of Adultery – taking one's neighbor's wife. Moreover, the defiling of one's daughter in law and one's sister is the same kind of sin as before – as that with kindred.

***12 In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD. 13 Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee.***

The LORD has ordained that man should eat bread by the work of his hands, but these have used devil like means to get gain – and that from others. Dishonest gain! That is the opposite of honest! God has smitten his hand at their dishonest gain! He hates it and despises it! Brethren, all these things are written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the age have come! Let us take it to heart!

***14 Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee? I the LORD have spoken it, and will do it. 15 And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and***

***disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee. 16 And thou shalt take thine inheritance in thyself in the sight of the heathen, and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.***

Do you believe your heart can endure and you continue to be strong when I deal with you? You will be scattered among the heathen, away from this land which is a land flowing with milk and honey, the glory of all lands. You will be scattered among the heathen and in the various countries where I will consume your filthiness out of you!

And when you leave, your inheritance shall be carried in your hands in the sight of the heathen. You cannot take your house, your land, the desires of your eyes, or anything that you cannot carry on your back! What judgment! You shall know that the LORD is doing this! He who cared for you and brought you out of the iron furnace and gave you this good land, has turned to be your enemy! He will now watch over you for evil because of all these things which he has cataloged to you!

- **The House of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, tin, and iron, and lead... (Verses 17-22)**

***17 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 18 Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they are brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are even the dross of silver.***

What does the expression mean that the house of Israel is to me

become dross? The Hebrew word for dross appears eight times in the OT and is always translated dross. What does that mean? It means “a moving back or away.” The OED defines the noun dross as “The scum, recement (the superfluous or useless portion of any substance), or extraneous matter thrown off from metals in the process of melting.” The Israelites have become unto God as brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; even the dross of silver. Their scum floats to the top in the furnace!

***19 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. 20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you. 21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof. 22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.***

Because Israel had become dross - as the offscouring of metals, the LORD gathered them into the midst of Jerusalem, where they thought to be safe, and blew on the fire to melt them. He was angry with their sins!

- **Israel is a land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. (Verses 23-31).**

***23 ¶ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 24 Son***



***of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.***

***Not cleansed, ...*** Not cleansed from filthiness, by the fire of divine judgments; or reformed from sins, by the preaching and exhortations of the prophets. No, none of these things had any effect upon her to make her wiser and better.

***nor rained upon*** --- There is no cooling shower to quench the fire of divine wrath; nothing to avert or stop the judgments of God; no refreshment and comfort from the doctrines of the prophets, which fell like rain: it is a judgment upon a people to have no rain, either in a temporal or spiritual sense.

***25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.***

**A conspiracy** -- a contrivance, or framing among themselves a design, to speak all alike flattering, smooth words, and give out promises of peace and safety, when there was no peace; they would have the Jews believe in little time the vessels of the Lord's house, and the Lord's people in Babylon, should be brought back. Consider this passage:

**Jeremiah 28:1-4** *And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests*

*and of all the people, saying, **2** Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. **3** Within two full years will I bring again into this place all the vessels of the LORD'S house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place, and carried them to Babylon: **4** And I will bring again to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah, that went into Babylon, saith the LORD: for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.*

The Prophet Jeremiah, who prophesied in the land before the deportation, faithfully told them that it would be no such thing, but that the rest of the vessels, and King Zedekiah, and the people should be carried away into Babylon. So, they conspired against him and those of the same mind, and persecuted them with one consent and mind.

**Jeremiah 20:2** *Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.*

**Jeremiah 26:8** *Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die.*

Later, in chapter 38, King Zedekiah gave Jeremiah over to these false prophets who put him in the dungeon of Malchiah and he sank down in the mire. How terrible was the hatred toward the

man who spake God's words! It is always that way with the true preachers of the word of God!

These false prophets in Jerusalem in the midst of the land, principally in Jerusalem were like a roaring lion. They devoured souls - ate them up, impoverished them, and sucked them dry, and swallowed down whole the persons that disbelieved and opposed their lies. They took their treasure - drained the people of their wealth. If they had no money, they would take other precious things. Such persecutions cut off husbands from their wives and left them widows who were desolate in the land.

***26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.***

The priests who were to minister in the holy things of the LORD, violated his law. They profaned his holy things - things which were set apart unto the LORD. Their view can be explained as those who call clean things dirty and filthy things clean; they called good evil and evil good!

***27 Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.***

Their princes who ought to have been leaders and examples in right things were anything but honest and upright! Wolves they were shedding blood and destroying the people in order to get

dishonest gain. More money at any price was their cry!

**28** *And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.*

This verse refers to the false assurances of peace with which the prophets flattered the people. To what end? - that they should not submit to the king of Babylon.

**Ezekiel 21:29** *Whiles they see vanity unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of them that are slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity shall have an end.*

**Jeremiah 6:14** *They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.*

**Jeremiah 23:16** *Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.*

**Jeremiah 27:9-10** *Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: **10** For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.*

**29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.**

Having spoken about the corruption of the prophets, the priests, and the princes, the Lord turns to **The people**—who are put last, after the mention of those in office. Corruption had spread downwards through the whole land. The people walked on the poor and the strangers in the land. The LORD has given special charges regarding the poor of the land.

**Exodus 22:21** *Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

**Exodus 23:9** *Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

**30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.**

**I sought**, -- very earnestly and diligently; spoken of God after the manner of man.

**A man**; any one. **Amongst them**; among princes, prophets, priests, or people.

**That should make up the hedge**; -- to repair the breach, and prevent further mischief.

**Stand in the gap**; that might interpose between a sinful, suffering people and their offended God, and entreat for mercy, that the land might not be destroyed.

**But I found none;** all were corrupted, not one could be found but all went on obstinately to sin and provoke me.

***31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.***

Indignation from the LORD consumed them because of their own evil ways. As they had sowed, now they reaped – MORE of the same thing they had sown; AFTER they had sown. Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, THAT shall he also reap!

**Proverbs 1:31** *Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.*

**Isaiah 3:11** *Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.*

**Jeremiah 6:19** *Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.*

In this chapter, regarding Judah and Jerusalem, we have seen every conceivable work of the flesh. While this prophecy is not spoken to us as gentiles – we are to understand these words as ensamples for us.

**Galatians 5:19-21** *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance,*

*emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, **21** Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**1 Corinthians 10:6-11** *Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. **7** Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. **8** Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. **9** Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. **10** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. **11** Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*