

Survey of Ezekiel

by
Duane L. Anderson

Survey of Ezekiel

**A study of the book of Ezekiel for
Small Group or Personal Bible Study**

**AIBI Resources
Box 511
Norwalk, California 90651-0511
www.aibi.org**

**Copyright © 1971, 2005, 2017 Duane L. Anderson, American Indian Bible Institute
This resource is available free of charge from aibi.org
ANY REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FOR RESALE OR PROFIT IS STRICTLY
PROHIBITED
Updated January 2017**

Survey of Ezekiel

Small Group or Personal Study Course

Introduction

This is a small group Bible study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Ezekiel. This study will be most effective as you get together with a small group to share the answers that each of you has written in your personal study. This can also be used as a personal study course to help you grow in your understanding of the book of Ezekiel. This course is designed to help you grow in three ways. Throughout the course you will read a paragraph to help you grow in your knowledge of the verses that you will be reading. After each paragraph you will usually have three questions. These three questions will focus on three things: Knowledge, Understanding and Application.

The first question will ask you to find the answer to some question in the verses that you are reading. This question is to help you pick out a key fact in those verses to help you grow in your knowledge of those verses. The answer to this question will usually be found in the verses as you read them.

The second question will ask you a question that will help you to think through the verses to understand the meaning of the group of verses being discussed. As you read this question, pray that the Lord will give you understanding of the passage as well as knowledge of the facts.

The third question will ask you a question that will help you to apply what you have learned from those verses both to your own life and to your service for Christ. It is as we understand and apply the Scripture to our lives that the Lord really begins to change and transform our lives.

At the end of each lesson there will be an opportunity to write down something that you have learned for your own life through the study of those verses. Our prayer is that as you work through these lessons that three things will happen in your life:

1. First, you will grow in your knowledge of the Bible.
2. Second, you will grow in your understanding of the verses that you have studied.
3. Third, you will learn how to apply the Word of God to your life.

The basic material in each of these lessons was originally written in one of six Bible Survey texts written between 1969 and 1974 that covered the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We are making this material available in this new form to help you grow in your knowledge, understanding and application of the Bible to your life. The Lord willing, we will continue to make other books available as we have time to prepare them in this new form.

May the Lord bless you as you learn His Word.

Survey of Ezekiel

	Page
Introduction	ii
1. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 1:1-2:10	1
2. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 3:1-5:17	5
3. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 6:1-7:27	10
4. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 8:1-10:22	15
5. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 11:1-12:28	20
6. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 13:1-14:23	25
7. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 15:1-16:63	33
8. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 17:1-19:14	35
9. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 20:1-21:32	39
10. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 22:1-23:49	43
11. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 24:1-26:21	48
12. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 27:1-29:21	53
13. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 30:1-32:32	58
14. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 33:1-34:31	62
15. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 35:1-37:28	66
16. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 38:1-39:29	70
17. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 40:1-41:26	75
18. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 42:1-43:27	79
19. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 44:1-46:24	84
20. Survey of Ezekiel - Ezekiel 47:1-48:35	88

Survey of Ezekiel

Lesson 1

Ezekiel 1:1-2:10

Ezekiel was one of the few priests who remained true to God when most of the Jews were serving false gods. He lived about the same time as Jeremiah. However, he did not remain in Judah until Jerusalem was destroyed. Instead he had been taken as a captive to Babylon. In this way the Lord protected his life when the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. Ezekiel wrote to the Jewish captives in foreign countries. He reminded the captives of the reason why they had been taken away from the city of Jerusalem. He also encouraged the captives by telling them how the Lord would bring them back into their own land in the future. Finally Ezekiel spoke of the great day when Christ will rule on the earth.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the four living creatures are.
- Explain what we learn from the wheels.
- Explain what we learn about the glory of the Lord.
- Explain what we learn about the call of Ezekiel by the Lord.

One day sometime after Ezekiel had been taken to the land of Babylon; he was given a vision of God. He was down by the river of Chebar when he received this vision from the Lord. The river of Chebar was a large canal between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. As Ezekiel was by this river, he received a vision of the glory of God. In this vision he saw that the glory of the Lord was much greater than any of the idols which the people around him worshiped. He saw a great cloud that looked as if fire was flashing out of it. There was a very bright light around it and the middle looked like a piece of shining metal. Here we see that the glory of the Lord is very bright.

1. Read Ezekiel 1:1-14 and write what the four living creatures in this shining light looked like.
2. Explain why the Lord gave this vision to Ezekiel when he was down by the river of Chebar.
3. Explain how you think that Ezekiel felt when he received this vision of the glory of the Lord.

When we come to chapter ten, we will see that these four living creatures are cherubim. The cherubim guard the holiness of God so that anyone who is unholy cannot come close to Him. Although the cherubim had a form that looked like that of a man, they were also very different in appearance for a person. They had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight and their feet were like the feet of a calf. They were very bright. They also had human hands under their wings. When the cherubim moved, they went forward and did not turn their faces. Their four faces were like the faces of a man, a lion, an ox (bull) and an eagle.

4. Read Ezekiel 1:1-14 and write how these living creatures ran.
5. Explain what you learn about the appearance of the cherubim.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord described the four faces that the cherubim had as a part of their appearance.

These cherubim moved so fast that they had the appearance like a flash of lightning. As we look at the four faces of the cherubim, we get a real picture of the way that the four Gospels present Christ in the New Testament. Matthew presents Christ as the King. Here one face is like the face of a lion because the eternal King is the One who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. An ox was used by the servants to do their work in the fields. Mark presents Christ as the Servant. In Luke Christ is presented as the Son of Man. Here we see that one face was the face of a man. John presents Christ as the Son of God. An eagle is the creature which can fly above every other creature.

7. Read Ezekiel 1:1-14 and write what the four wings of the cherubim did.
8. Explain what these verses teach us about the greatness of the glory of the Lord that Ezekiel saw.
9. Explain why you think that the four faces of the cherubim also give us a real picture of the four different ways that the Gospels present Christ.

We go on to read about some wheels. Many different suggestions have been given for the meaning of the wheels. I Chronicles 28:18 speaks of the chariot of the cherubim. Since there are four wheels pictured here, it seems natural that this would also be the chariot of the cherubim. We also read that the wheels moved together when they moved. Inside of each wheel is another wheel. This wheel moves at right angles to the first wheel. As a result, the chariot can move sideways as well as forward and backward so that it is able to go in any direction. The wheels also have large rims (rings) on them.

10. Read Ezekiel 1:15-25 and write what was on the rims.
11. Explain why the fact that I Chronicles 28:18 speaks of the chariot of the cherubim means that these are probably the wheels of the chariot of the cherubim.
12. Explain why you think that Ezekiel also chose to describe the wheels that he saw in his vision.

Proverbs 15:3 tells us, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.” In this chapter we see that there are many eyes on the wheels. This gives us a real picture of the fact that the Lord sees and knows everything that happens. This includes both the things that are good and the things that are evil. Nothing can be hidden from the Lord. We also read that the chariot goes everywhere the cherubim go. We know from other passages in Scripture that the cherubim surround the place where the glory of the Lord is. As a result, we see that this chariot is actually the place where the glory of the Lord is.

13. Read Ezekiel 1:15-25 and write what happened when the cherubim were lifted up from the earth.
14. Explain why it is important for every person to know that the Lord sees and knows everything.
15. Explain why you think that it is important that the Lord knows everything including all of the good and all of the evil.

We see that there is perfect unity between the movement of the wheels and the cherubim. This is a real picture of the perfection in the government of God. Everything in the entire universe moves according to the perfect plan of God. Every star follows a certain pattern that the Lord established. Although the stars move at a very great speed, they never move out of their pattern because they are controlled by the Lord. In addition, we see that the cherubim act under the control of the Holy Spirit. Just as it is necessary for the cherubim to act under the control of the Holy Spirit, it is equally important for us to yield to the Holy Spirit so that He guides and empowers our lives.

16. Read Ezekiel 1:15-25 and write what the cherubim did with their wings when a voice spoke.
17. Explain why it is important that God causes everything in the universe to move according to the perfect plan of God.
18. Explain why you realize that it is important for you in your own life to yield to the Holy Spirit so that He guides and empowers your life.

The cherubim have four wings. Usually they keep these wings straight. However, when they heard a great voice, they lowered their wings. We read that the voice is the voice of God. Here we learn an important lesson for our own lives. We need to be anxious to hear the voice of God. As a result, we want to make certain that there is no sin in our lives that would hinder or prevent us from hearing the voice of the Lord. As we study the Word of God we want the Lord to give us understanding. As we read His Word we want to focus on really listening to the

voice of the Lord so that we know what He wants us to do. Then once we know what He is saying to us we need to obey and do whatever the Lord tells us to do.

19. Read Ezekiel 1:15-25 and write how the voice of the Almighty sounded when the Lord spoke.

20. Explain what you learn from these verses about the importance of hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord as He speaks to us through His Word.

21. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to let the Lord speak to you through His Word.

We go on to read about the glory of the Lord. Above the chariot was something that looked like a throne. It was a very beautiful throne. On that throne sat One who looked like a man. Here we see that Ezekiel was given the opportunity to see Christ. God revealed Christ to Ezekiel in this vision. Christ was the One who became a man so that He could die to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind. Here we see Christ with the glory which He had before He came to this earth. His glory was very great. However, Christ was willing to leave all of that glory so that He could come and die to pay the penalty for our sins.

22. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and write what the glory of Christ looked like.

23. Explain what these verses teach about the glory that Christ had before He came to this earth to pay the penalty for our sins.

24. Explain why you think that Ezekiel was given the opportunity to see Christ as a part of his vision.

Here we see a real picture of the brightness of the glory of the Lord. That glory was so bright that it looked like a fire. This brightness covered the entire body of Christ. In fact it surrounded Him so that everything about Him was very bright. Here we see that the presence of Christ affects everything around Him. Nothing remains the same when Christ is present. When Christ came into our lives, He gave us new life. Now the new life that we have should reflect the glory of Christ so that everyone around us can tell that we are Christians. When people see how Christ has changed our lives, some of those people will also want Christ to change their lives. People can see the difference if we are yielding our lives to Christ so that He is leading and guiding us.

25. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and write what this brightness around Christ looked like.

26. Explain why the presence of Christ affects everything around Him.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life that your actions reflect the glory of Christ.

Here we see that the brightness around Christ looked like a rainbow. We know that a rainbow is very bright and beautiful. We read that this was the glory of the Lord. It must have been a wonderful thing for Ezekiel to see the glory of the Lord. We will have to wait until we get to heaven to see this glory in all of its beauty. When Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord, he fell on his face. He realized that the Lord is holy. When Ezekiel fell on his face before the Lord, the Lord spoke to him. Today the Lord also wants to speak to us. We need to be listening and allowing Him to speak to us through His Word as we study and meditate upon it.

28. Read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and write the color of the brightness of the glory that surrounded Christ.

29. Explain what you learn about the glory of the Lord from these verses.

30. Explain why you think that Ezekiel fell on his face before the Lord when he saw the glory of the Lord.

As the Lord spoke to Ezekiel, God told Ezekiel to stand on his feet so that the Lord could speak to him. As soon as the Lord spoke to Ezekiel, the Holy Spirit entered into Ezekiel. This is one of the real differences between the time of Ezekiel and today. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit had not yet come to live in the life of every person that followed the Lord. As a result,

the Holy Spirit only came on certain people when the Lord had a special ministry for them to do. Today at the moment we become Christians the Holy Spirit comes into our lives. That is our down payment and guarantee of the eternal life that the Lord has given to us.

31. Read Ezekiel 2:1-10 and write what the Holy Spirit did as soon as He entered into Ezekiel.

32. Explain why the Holy Spirit only came on people in the Old Testament when the Lord gave them a special ministry.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for us today to have the Holy Spirit come into our lives at the moment of salvation.

After the Holy Spirit had set Ezekiel on his feet, the Holy Spirit told Ezekiel about the people to whom Ezekiel was being sent. The nation of Israel was a very rebellious nation. The people had rebelled and turned against God. Their fathers had been very evil. Now God said that the Jews that were living in the time of Ezekiel were just like their fathers. The people were even continuing to rebel against God in a foreign land. That was the kind of people to whom Ezekiel was to speak. God was preparing Ezekiel for the fact that the people would not be anxious to listen to the message that God gave him to speak.

34. Read Ezekiel 2:1-10 and write what Ezekiel was to say to the people.

35. Explain why the Holy Spirit told Ezekiel in advance that the people would not listen to the message of the Lord.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord sent Ezekiel to speak to the people even though He warned Ezekiel that the people would not listen.

Here we learn an important lesson for our own lives. We are not to speak our own opinions and ideas. Instead we are to speak the Word of God. Our words have no power. They will not change the lives of others. However, the Word of God is very powerful. It will change people. Today many Christians are so busy sharing their own thoughts and opinions that they never share the Word of God with others. As a result, they have no power as they speak. They are not seeing lives changed and transformed through the Word of God.

37. Read Ezekiel 2:1-10 and write what the Lord told Ezekiel to do whether the people would listen to him or not.

38. Explain why we should speak the Word of God instead of speaking our own words when we speak to others.

39. Explain why you think that people will not be changed if we only share our ideas and opinions with them.

God told Ezekiel that even if the people would not listen, they would know that there had been a prophet among them who had spoken for God. The Lord also told Ezekiel not to be afraid of the people as he spoke for the Lord. The people might do evil to Ezekiel because of their rebellion against God. However, Ezekiel did not need to be afraid. The Lord was with him and would empower him as he spoke for the Lord. He was to speak the words of the Lord whether the people would listen or not. Although the people might not listen to what Ezekiel said, that was not to cause him to stop speaking. The important thing was to be obedient to the command of God.

40. Read Ezekiel 2:1-10 and write why Ezekiel was told to open his mouth.

41. Explain why God said that Ezekiel was to speak the Word of the Lord whether or not the people were willing to listen to him.

42. Explain why you think that the Lord told Ezekiel that he did not need to be afraid regardless of what the people might do to him.

Reread Ezekiel 1:1-2:10 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 2
Ezekiel 3:1-5:17

After the Lord called Ezekiel, the Lord gave Ezekiel a great responsibility. That responsibility is the same responsibility which Christ gives to each Christian. We are to warn the wicked so that they will have an opportunity to turn away from their wicked way. If we do not warn sinful individuals so that they can turn from their evil way, the Lord will hold us accountable. However, if we warn sinful individuals so that they can turn from their evil way, then they are responsible if they refuse to place their trust in Christ. Ezekiel wrote much of this prophecy before the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. As a result, we will also be learning about some of the prophecies that the Lord gave Ezekiel about Jerusalem.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what the Lord said about the people of Israel.
- Explain why Ezekiel was told to warn the people.
- Explain the meaning of the title.
- Explain why Ezekiel was told to cut off his hair and beard.

In our last lesson we learned how God called Ezekiel and told him to preach to the Jews that had been taken into captivity and warn them to turn from their sins. God told Ezekiel that the Jews were a very rebellious people. As we begin our study today, we see that Ezekiel was told to take a scroll and eat it. In this scroll were the words that God wanted Ezekiel to speak to the house of Israel. Here we see that we must have the Word of God in our mouths if we are going to be effective as we speak for the Lord. We cannot just speak our own words or give our own opinions. The Word of God has power to change lives while our words do not have any power.

1. Read Ezekiel 3:1-14 and write what the Word of God was like in the mouth of Ezekiel as he ate it.
2. Explain why the Lord told Ezekiel that he was to take the scroll and eat it before he went to speak to the Jews.
3. Explain why you think that it is very important for us to have the Word of God in our mouths if we are going to be effective in speaking for Christ.

Here we see that the Word of God is very wonderful when we really study what it says. Then God told Ezekiel about the people to whom he would speak. Ezekiel was not sent to a people that spoke a different language than he spoke. Instead he was sent to the people of his own language. God told Ezekiel that the people who spoke his language were very hard. They would not listen to Ezekiel because they refused to listen to God. They were rebellious and hard hearted. Because of this rebellion, God had set His face against them. He was going to continue to judge the Jews until the Jews finally returned to Him.

4. Read Ezekiel 3:1-14 and write how hard God had made the forehead of Ezekiel to prepare him to speak against them.
5. Explain why God warned Ezekiel that even though he was to speak to his own people that they had very hard hearts.
6. Explain why you think that God sometimes sends those who speak for Him to people that will not even listen because of their hard hearts.

God know that the people were very rebellious and so the Lord had given Ezekiel extra strength to stand and speak to the people. Today God will give us the strength that we need to speak if we will ask Him for that strength. God told Ezekiel all of the words that God gave him to speak. Today God says that the entire Bible is profitable. We are to teach the entire Word of

God and not just one little part. Ezekiel had been given a very difficult job. He was to preach to people that would not listen. However, God did not send him alone. Instead the Lord gave Ezekiel the Holy Spirit to give him the strength to speak. As Christians, Christ has also given us the Holy Spirit so that we can speak in the power of the Holy Spirit instead of speaking in our own strength.

7. Read Ezekiel 3:1-14 and write what Ezekiel was feeling within himself as the Holy Spirit took him to speak to his people.

8. Explain how the Lord gives us power to speak for Him so that we can speak the Word of God with power.

9. Explain why you know that the Lord will give you the strength that you need to share the message that the Lord has given you to speak.

After the Lord had spoken to Ezekiel, Ezekiel went to the area when the Jews in Babylon lived. The message that the Lord had given to Ezekiel was so terrible that he was afraid to speak that message. For seven days he sat among the people without saying a word. Then the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the second time. The Lord reminded Ezekiel that he was to warn the Jews of coming judgment. He was to give the people the warning that they would die if they did not turn from their sin and place their trust in the Lord. Many times we are like Ezekiel and are afraid to speak the Word of God because we are depending on our own strength to speak. In the New Testament we see several places that show us that we are to pray that the Lord will give us boldness to speak.

10. Read Ezekiel 3:15-27 and write what God said He would require of Ezekiel if Ezekiel did not warn the wicked to turn from their evil way.

11. Explain why Ezekiel was afraid to speak to the people as long as he depended on his own strength.

12. Explain why you think that Ezekiel sat for seven days among his people and did not speak one word to them of the message that God had given him.

Here we see an important lesson for our own lives. If we do not warn the wicked to turn from their evil ways and place their trust in Christ, we are responsible if they die in their sins. However, if we warn the wicked person about the coming judgment and the person does not place his trust in Christ, then the wicked person is responsible. That person has heard how to become a Christian and has chosen to reject Christ. Then that person will die in his sin and face the judgment of God. Here we see that we must warn people about their sins and at least give them the opportunity to turn from their sins. If we will warn people, some of them will turn from their sins and receive eternal life.

13. Read Ezekiel 3:15-27 and write why Ezekiel was told to go out into the plain.

14. Explain why the Lord said that our responsibility is to warn the wicked so that they have the choice either to accept or reject the message.

15. Explain why you think that God said that He will hold us accountable if we fail to warn the wicked to turn from their sinful way and turn to Christ.

Here we see that the Lord wanted to talk with Ezekiel and give him strength so that he could talk to the people and warn them to turn from their sins. When Ezekiel reached the plain, he saw the glory of the Lord. Then the Holy Spirit entered into him and gave him strength. He also spoke to Ezekiel and warned Ezekiel that the people would tie him up when he warned them of coming judgment. Here we see that the Lord will also prepare us and give us strength to face persecution. God also promised Ezekiel that He would give Ezekiel strength to speak the words that God wanted him to speak.

16. Read Ezekiel 3:15-27 and write what the Lord promised Ezekiel that He would do with the mouth of Ezekiel.

17. Explain what these verses teach about our personal responsibility to warn the wicked of coming judgment.

18. Explain why you think that as we yield the control of our lives to the Holy Spirit that He will also give us the strength to share the Word of God with others.

For the next several lessons we will be studying the warnings about coming judgment for the city of Jerusalem. Ezekiel gave these warnings to the Jews that were living in exile in Babylon at the same time that Jeremiah was giving these warnings to the Jews who lived in Jerusalem. However, we see that Ezekiel spoke in a very unique way. Ezekiel used several object lessons to give these warnings of judgment. This was due to the fact that God had closed his mouth. The first object that Ezekiel used was a piece of tile used for writing. On the piece of tile Ezekiel built a toy city that looked like Jerusalem. Then he surrounded it with soldiers and made battering rams to knock holes in the walls. Then he was told to lie on his left side for a certain number of days to show the number of years that Israel would be judged.

19. Read Ezekiel 4:1-17 and write the number of days that Ezekiel was told to lie on his left side.

20. Explain why the Lord told Ezekiel to speak to the Jews in exile and then closed his mouth so that he could not speak.

21. Explain why you think that Ezekiel used different objects to communicate his message since the Lord had closed his mouth.

The fact that Ezekiel laid on his left side was to be a real picture of the promised judgments of Israel and Judah. At this time, the nation of Israel had already been taken into captivity and the people were scattered in foreign lands. The judgment of Judah was coming very close. As Ezekiel pictured the judgment of Israel, he lay on his left side facing north. Then he lay on his right side facing south as he pictured the judgment of Judah. As Ezekiel lay on his right side, he looked at the tile which showed the armies surrounding the city of Jerusalem. He also had his arm uncovered to show that this destruction and judgment would soon come. Ezekiel was also told to take several kinds of grain and mix them together.

22. Read Ezekiel 4:1-17 and write what Ezekiel was told to make with this mixture of different kinds of grain.

23. Explain why God had Ezekiel lay on his left side to picture the number of years Israel would experience judgment.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord told Ezekiel to have his arm uncovered when he lay on his right side to show that the judgment of Judah would soon come.

This bread was a real picture of the lack of food that the people in Jerusalem would experience when Jerusalem was surrounded by its enemies. The people would mix together whatever they could find in order to try and have enough food to eat. Then Ezekiel was told to eat only a certain amount of this bread each day. The amount was about nine ounces of bread and less than a quart of water. This was to picture to the people that there would be a great lack of food and water in the city of Jerusalem during the time before the city was destroyed by its enemies. Ezekiel was also told to make his food and cook it in front of the people.

25. Read Ezekiel 4:1-17 and write what Ezekiel was told to use to cook his food.

26. Explain why Ezekiel was told to only eat a small amount of the food that he had each day.

27. Explain why you think that God wanted to warn the people that those living in Jerusalem would have very little food to eat.

According to the Jewish law, the Jews were not to eat any food that was defiled or unclean. Ezekiel had never eaten anything that was against the Jewish law. Here God was asking Ezekiel to eat bread that was unclean. God wanted Ezekiel to do this to show the Jews that they would be taken as captives to foreign lands where they would be forced to eat foods that were unclean. God also warned that there would be no food or water in Jerusalem. This was a warning that the people who lived in Jerusalem would slowly starve to death because of their sins.

28. Read Ezekiel 4:1-17 and write what kind of dung that God agreed that Ezekiel could use to

cook his food that he was going to eat.

29. Explain what you learn from the object lessons mentioned in this chapter that Ezekiel was to show the people.

30. Explain why you think that Ezekiel was told to eat food that was unclean even though he had never eaten unclean food before.

Next Ezekiel was told to take a sharp knife and use the knife to cut off his beard and the hair on his head. Then he was to take the hair and divide the hair into three parts. He was also told to take a few hairs and place them in his pocket. The three piles of hair were to show the Jews what would happen to the people who were in the city of Jerusalem. One part of the people would die by the sword. One part of the people would die by fire. One part of the people would be scattered among the nations. Those hairs that he put in his pocket pictured the fact that a few of the people would be left in the city of Jerusalem.

31. Read Ezekiel 5:1-17 and write what Ezekiel was told to do with the hair in his pocket.

32. Explain why God wanted to show that there would be a few people that would be allowed to remain in the city of Jerusalem.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord had Ezekiel use the hair that he cut from his head and his beard to teach the people about the coming judgment.

Even the small group of people who remained in Jerusalem received much judgment. They did not escape. They were also punished for their sins. The Jews had lived among nations that were very sinful. However, the Lord had warned the people to follow God and avoid getting involved in the sins of the people of the surrounding nations. Instead of following the Lord, the people became even more sinful than the nations around them. It was for this reason that God said that He was against them. That was the reason that God was going to judge them and punish them.

34. Read Ezekiel 5:1-17 and write what God said He would do to them because of all of their abominations (sins).

35. Explain why the people of Jerusalem chose to become even more sinful than the nations that were around them.

36. Explain why you think that God wanted to make it clear to the people of Jerusalem that the reason for their judgment was their own sin.

God said that He would bring a greater judgment on the land of Judah than He had ever brought before that time. That judgment would be so bad that the parents and children would eat each other. God said that those who were left would be scattered among all of the nations. Because the people of Judah had done so many evil things, God said that He would make His judgment a complete judgment. He would not spare the people as He brought judgment on the people. Instead the judgment of the Lord against Judah would be a complete judgment.

37. Read Ezekiel 5:1-17 and write what the Lord said that Jerusalem would become in their eyes of their neighbors around them.

38. Explain why it was necessary for God to bring a complete judgment on the nation of Judah.

39. Explain why you think that God warned the people in advance that He would not spare them when He brought judgment upon them.

In addition to judging the people, God also said that He would judge the land. The land would become an empty and waste land. People would look with horror at the land of Judah. God said that the judgment of Judah would be a warning and a source of instruction to the nations that surrounded Judah. God said that He had given His word and judgment would soon come. The people would soon become hungry and many of the people would starve to death because they could get no food. God also said that the people would be killed in several other ways.

40. Read Ezekiel 5:1-17 and write what God said He would do with the sword.

41. Explain why God warned that many of the people of Jerusalem would die of starvation when He brought judgment.

42. Explain why you think that God said that He would cause the land to become an empty and waste land.

Reread Ezekiel 3:1-5:17 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 3
Ezekiel 6:1-7:27

In our last lesson we started studying about the judgment of the nation of Judah. Today we will learn a few more things about that judgment. God said that He was going to bring judgment on those who were worshiping idols. God said that the people that were worshiping idols would be killed. God also said that the time of this judgment was very close. It would only be a short time until the nation of Babylon would come to fight against Jerusalem. Very few people would be left alive after this judgment came on the city of Jerusalem. The temple would also be destroyed.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the small group who would not be killed.
- Explain what God said about those who worshiped idols.
- Explain what God said about the coming invasion by Babylon.
- Explain what the Babylonians would do to the temple.

God told Ezekiel to turn and look toward the direction of Israel. Then Ezekiel was told that he was to speak and give the Word of the Lord about what would happen to those mountains, hills, rivers and valleys. God said that He would bring a sword against the entire land of Israel. In that day the high places where the people worshiped idols would be completely destroyed. Usually the people would plant a grove of trees on the top of the hill where they worshiped their false gods. However, God said that the groves would also be completely destroyed so that no one would be able to tell that idols had once been worshiped in that place.

1. Read Ezekiel 6:1-7 and write what God said would happen to the images that the people had worshiped.
2. Explain why God said that even the groves of trees that had been built around idols would be destroyed so no one would be able to tell that idols had been worshiped there.
3. Explain why you think that God told Ezekiel to look in the direction of the land of Israel as he warned what would happen to the land.

Here we see that the altars where the people had offered their sacrifices would be completely destroyed. The idols would also be broken. God said that the people who were worshiping the idols would also be killed. They would not escape when judgment came. Instead the dead bodies of the Jews would lie in front of their idols. As their bodies were eaten by the wild animals, the bones would be scattered around the altars. In addition to the idols and the high places being destroyed, God also said that He would destroy the towns and the cities. All of the towns and cities would become empty piles of sticks and rocks as God brought His judgment upon them.

4. Read Ezekiel 6:1-7 and write what God said would happen to all of their works that they had made.
5. Explain what God said that the bones of those who worshiped the idols would be scattered around the idols.
6. Explain why you think that God said that both the idols and the altars where sacrifices were offered to the idols would be completely destroyed.

The people had made their own idols. They had built the altars for the sacrifices which they had offered to those idols. They had planted the trees on the hills where they worshiped their idols. They were depending on their own works to please the false gods that they had made to worship. Now God said that all of their works would be destroyed. Here we see what happens

when people follow an empty religion instead of putting their trust in the Lord. They may work hard for their religion. They may do many things in their efforts to please their false gods. However, none of these things will help those people when the time of judgment comes.

7. Read Ezekiel 6:1-7 and write what God said would happen to the works of the people that lived in Judah.

8. Explain what will happen to the works of any group of people that have chosen to follow false gods.

9. Explain why you think that the people had chosen to depend on their own works to try and please their false gods.

Although God said that He would destroy all of the people who worshiped false gods, God also promised that He would protect and save a small group of Jews. This small group of Jews would not be killed by the sword as they were scattered among the nations. Instead God would remember that He had chosen the nation of Israel and He would protect a small group so that He could complete the promises that He had made to the nation of Israel. Among this small group who would escape judgment would be those who remembered the Lord and had placed their trust in Him. They would serve God in the foreign nations where they were taken as captives. It would be this group that would return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city in the future.

10. Read Ezekiel 6:8-14 and write what the Lord told Ezekiel that this group of people would know.

11. Explain why God said that the small group of people that trusted the Lord would be among those people who were preserved.

12. Explain why you think that God said that those who would return to rebuild Jerusalem in the future would come from the small group that worshiped the Lord.

Here we see that even though the nation of Judah was very sinful God had preserved a small group of people from that nation who were faithful to the Lord and served and worshiped Him. Sometimes in the history of the Jews that group was very small. However, there was never a time that all of the Jews rejected the Lord and turned against Him. Today God still has a group of Jews who serve Him. God has not forgotten His promises to the nation of Israel. God brought this great judgment on the nations of Israel and Judah to cause the people to place their trust in the Lord. After promising that He will protect a small group of the people, God spoke again about the judgment that He would bring on all those who worshiped idols.

13. Read Ezekiel 6:8-14 and write how God said that the people of Judah would be destroyed when judgment came on them.

14. Explain why God has preserved a small group of Jews throughout history that have been faithful to the Lord.

15. Explain why you think that God said that He would use the judgment of Israel and Judah to get the people to turn to the Lord.

God had been warning the nation of Judah for many years. Many prophets had spoken of the fact that God would judge the nation if the people continued to serve idols. Here we see that God said that He meant exactly what He had been saying. Judgment would come and those who had done evil would not escape that judgment. God had seen all of the evil things that the people had done. They would not escape even if they were far from Jerusalem. Those who were far from Jerusalem would die from disease or a plague. Those who tried to escape from Jerusalem would be killed by the sword. Those who remained in Jerusalem would starve to death.

16. Read Ezekiel 6:8-14 and write how the people Babylon would know that God is the Lord.

17. Explain why God said that the people would be judged whether they were in Jerusalem or far from Jerusalem.

18. Explain why you think that God says that no person who continues to practice evil will escape judgment.

God said that the proof that He was telling the truth was the fact that those who worshiped idols would be destroyed. Their bodies would be left by their idols. Other bodies would be left on the tops of the hills and the mountains. Some bodies would be under the trees and in the woods. Instead of the smell of incense which the people were offering to their idols, the air would be filled with the smell of dead bodies. The judgment of God would fall on the land of Judah. The land would become an empty wilderness. The small group of people that the Lord protected would know that He was the Lord.

19. Read Ezekiel 6:8-14 and write how desolate God said that He would make the land of Judah when He judged the people and the land.

20. Explain why God promised to protect a small group of people when He brought judgment on the rest of the nation.

21. Explain why you think that God said that the land would be filled with the smell of dead bodies instead of the smell of incense.

The Lord went on to tell Ezekiel that the judgment of the land of Judah would come very soon. God was not going to wait any longer to bring the promised judgment on the people. The time had come for the nation of Judah to receive payment for all of the evil that the people had done. When God brought this judgment, it would be a complete judgment. God said that He was going to bring a complete judgment so that the people would know that He is the Lord. Since the people refused to recognize God, He had to show His power as He brought judgment on the people of Judah. God said that the time of evil had come.

22. Read Ezekiel 7:1-15 and write what day God said was near for the people of Judah.

23. Explain why the judgment of the land of Judah reminds us that we will all reap what we sow.

24. Explain why you think that God said He would use His power to bring judgment on the people since the people refused to recognize God.

Here we see that the time that God had waited to bring judgment on Judah had now come to an end. There would be no more waiting. Instead the day of trouble would come very soon. That day of trouble would not be a day of happiness. There would be no shouts of joy on the mountains. The people would feel the anger of God against sin. God said that He would judge them according to the things that they had done. They could not blame anyone else for the judgment that they received. They were receiving judgment for their own sins and not for the sins of another nation. Here we also see a picture of the final judgment. In the final judgment everyone will be judged for their own sins.

25. Read Ezekiel 7:1-15 and write how many people God said would remain when the day of violence came.

26. Explain why God said that He would judge the people according to what they had done and not what anyone else had done.

27. Explain why you think that it is important to help each person that is not a Christian to realize that he or she will be judged for what he or she has done and not for the sins of others.

The judgment of the Lord was so complete on the land of Judah that there was no one to cry for the people who had been judged. Everyone in the land felt the judgment of God. The people that were not killed were taken as captives to foreign lands. Their riches and their wealth were also destroyed. Those who bought and sold lost everything that they had. No one could even find a way to escape by his own evil tricks. God said that they would blow their trumpets to cause the people to fight. However, no one would be able to fight because the Lord was against them. Men have no strength or power unless the Lord gives them strength.

28. Read Ezekiel 7:1-15 and write how God said that the people that were in the city would die.

29. Explain why people have no strength unless they turn to the Lord and ask Him to give them strength.

30. Explain why you think that the Lord did not allow people to use their own evil tricks to help

them escape.

There were a few people who did make it to escape. However, their escape was only a temporary escape. God said that even in the mountains where the people went to hide, there would be sorrow as the people received the judgment of the Lord for their sins. God said that their hands would be limp and have no strength. They would be full of fear and their knees would be like water. Here we see a real picture of the fear that the people would feel as they saw the Lord bring judgment upon them. God said that they would not even have the strength to stand. God said that even their faces would show their shame in the day when judgment came.

31. Read Ezekiel 7:16-27 and write what God said that the people would do with their silver.

32. Explain why people can become so fearful that they are without strength when they see judgment coming into their lives.

33. Explain why you think that it is important to understand why those who reject Christ will be filled with fear.

God said that the people would come to a point where they would realize that their money could not help them. It would only slow them down as they tried to escape from the enemy. As a result, God said that they would throw their money in the streets. Their money would not satisfy their hunger because there would be no food available for them to buy. That money would not help them when the time came to stand in judgment before the Lord. Because the people had turned from God to follow idols, God said that He would give the temple and the things in the temple to strangers from a foreign land. These strangers would pollute the temple and destroy it.

34. Read Ezekiel 7:16-27 and write what God said that He would do with His face.

35. Explain why God said that the people would throw their money away in their hurry to try and escape judgment.

36. Explain why you think that people need to understand that their money cannot help them in the Day of Judgment.

Here we see that God said that He was going to turn His face and let evil men do as they chose to the temple. They would even be allowed to go into the Holy of Holies. God said He would not stop the foreigners from going into the temple. He would not keep them from destroying the temple because of the sins of the people. God chose to turn His face so that the sinful people of other nations could do as they chose to the temple. Even though the people of other nations were very sinful, God was going to use them to judge the nation of Judah. Here we see that God will complete His purpose of judging sinful people.

37. Read Ezekiel 7:16-27 and write what kind of nation the Lord said that He would bring against the nation of Judah.

38. Explain why God said that He was going to turn His back on the soldiers from the nation of Babylon.

39. Explain why you think that God said that He would allow the enemies to pollute and destroy the temple.

God said that He would bring the worst of the nations to come and fight against Judah. God knew that the army of Babylon would show no kindness to the people of Judah. They would kill and destroy without any mercy. There would be destruction instead of peace. The people would look for someone who could help them and tell them what to do. There would be no prophets to give them a message from the Lord. The priests and the leaders would be destroyed so that they would not be able to help. God said that He was going to do all of these things to the people of Judah for one purpose.

40. Read Ezekiel 7:16-27 and write why God said that He would allow all of these things to happen to Judah.

41. Explain why the people would not have anyone to whom they could turn for a message from the Lord when the day of judgment came.

42. Explain why you think that some people today also cry to the Lord for help when they are in trouble but do not mean it from their hearts.

Reread Ezekiel 6:1-7:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 4
Ezekiel 8:1-10:22

Today we continue our study of the judgment that the Lord said that He would bring on the city of Jerusalem. In our last lesson, we learned a little about what the Babylonians would do to the temple. Today we will learn more about the destruction of the temple. We will learn what happened as the glory of the Lord left the temple. When the temple was built by Solomon several hundred years earlier, we read that the glory of the Lord filled the temple when it was completed. The glory of the Lord had been present in the temple from that time. However, we will see that God removed His glory from the temple so that the temple could be destroyed by the Babylonians.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain how the Jews had defiled the temple of the Lord.
- Explain about the terrible killing that happened in the city of Jerusalem.
- Explain why the glory of the Lord was taken from the temple.

One day the leaders of the Jews who were in Babylon came to talk to Ezekiel. They probably wanted to find out what was happening in Jerusalem because they hoped that they would soon be allowed to return to Jerusalem. The Lord gave Ezekiel a vision to show him what the situation was at that time in the city of Jerusalem. This vision gave Ezekiel another real picture of the glory of God. Ezekiel saw again that the glory of God is very bright. In fact that glory was so bright that it looked like a fire. Then the Holy Spirit lifted Ezekiel up by the hair and gave him a vision of the city of Jerusalem.

1. Read Ezekiel 8:1-12 and write what Ezekiel saw when he came to the door of the inner gate.
2. Explain why the Lord chose to give Ezekiel a vision of the glory of the Lord before He gave Him a vision of Jerusalem.
3. Explain why you think it is important for us to also realize that the glory of the Lord shows the brightness of the Lord.

God showed Ezekiel the image of jealousy. This image of jealousy was an idol that the people had placed very close to the temple. Instead of worshiping God, the people had chosen to worship this idol. It is called the image of jealousy because God is a holy God who tells us that we are not to worship any other gods. As Ezekiel saw this image of jealousy on one side of him, he saw the glory of God on the other side. There was a tremendous difference between the glory of God and the appearance of the image of jealousy. The Lord said that this evil near His temple was the reason that He must take His glory away from the temple. Ezekiel saw very quickly that the sins of the people were great. They were worshiping idols right in front of the temple of God.

4. Read Ezekiel 8:1-12 and write what the Lord told Ezekiel that he would see if he turned around.
5. Explain why the image of jealousy next to the temple meant that it was necessary for God to take His glory from the temple.
6. Explain why you think that the idol that the people had set up close to the temple was called the idol of jealousy.

Ezekiel thought that he had seen very great sin. However, the Lord told him that he would see things that were even worse than what he had already seen. The Lord then took Ezekiel to the door of the court of the temple. There Ezekiel saw a hole in the wall. Ezekiel was told by the Lord to find out where the hole in the wall went. When Ezekiel removed the dirt from the hole

in the wall, he found a door. God told Ezekiel to go through the door and see the very great evil that was on the other side of the door. Ezekiel opened the door and went into the room on the other side of the door to see what the Lord wanted to show him.

7. Read Ezekiel 8:1-12 and write what Ezekiel saw on the walls of that room as he entered into it.

8. Explain why God warned Ezekiel that he would see greater evil than the idol of jealousy that he had seen.

9. Explain why you think that God told Ezekiel to enter the temple through the door behind the hole in the wall.

The walls were covered with every form of creeping things, abominable beasts and all of the idols of the house of Israel. In Numbers 11:16 God had told Moses to choose seventy men who were the leaders of Israel to stand with him and help him lead the people. These seventy leaders were to keep the people from serving idols. Through the years as these leaders died, other men became a part of the seventy men. Here we see that the seventy men who were the leaders in the land of Judah at this time were standing in front of these pictures of snakes and unclean animals and offering incense to them. Here we see a real picture of the sinfulness of the religious and political leaders of Judah. They were the ones who were leading in the worship of things that crawl on the ground or are unclean animals.

10. Read Ezekiel 8:1-12 and write why these seventy men were doing what they did in the dark.

11. Explain what you learn about the sinfulness of the religious and political leaders that were in Judah at this time.

12. Explain why you think that the seventy men that were to help rule the people were offering incense to unclean animals.

In addition to worshipping together, their religious and political leaders were also worshipping alone in places where they thought that no one could see them. They were probably worshipping these animals in their homes and teaching their children to worship them. These leaders did not think that the Lord could see their evil actions as long as they did them secretly. Here we see that they failed to realize that God is everywhere and knows everything that people do. God went on to tell Ezekiel that he would see things that were even worse than the things that he had already seen.

13. Read Ezekiel 8:13-18 and write what Ezekiel saw when he looked out of the north door of the temple.

14. Explain why these evil leaders did not think that the Lord would know what they were doing as long as they did it secretly.

15. Explain why you think that many people today try to hide their sins from others and from the Lord.

Tammuz was another name for the Greek god, Adonis. This was the god that the people said would make their crops grow. However the worship of this god was very terrible. As the people worshiped Tammuz, they would commit all kinds of immoral sex acts. Here we see that the women were weeping for Tammuz. They were not afraid to show their desire to commit immorality. Throughout the history of the world, the worship of idols and acts of immorality have gone together. Here we see that the people had completely rejected what the Word of God said about the way to live. However, God told Ezekiel that he would see things that were even worse.

16. Read Ezekiel 8:13-18 and write what twenty-five men were worshipping in the inner court of the temple.

17. Explain why the fact that the women were weeping for Tammuz showed that they were not afraid to show their desire to commit immorality.

18. Explain why you think that the worship of idols and immorality have gone together throughout the history of the world.

Here we see the sins of the priests. Only the priests were allowed in the inner court of the temple. The priests were supposed to lead the people in their worship of the Lord. Instead we see that the priests were using the inner court of the temple for their worship of the sun. In addition to doing evil and worshipping false gods, the priests had brought their false gods right into the temple. As a result, the priests and the people had become more and more sinful. This was the reason that God said that He would soon bring a complete judgment on the land of Judah. The people had stirred up the anger of the Lord because of their sins.

19. Read Ezekiel 8:13-18 and write what the Lord said that His eye would not do when He brought judgment on this sin.

20. Explain what these verses teach us about the sins and idol worship of the people of Judah during this time.

21. Explain why you think that the priests were using the inner court of the temple as a place to worship the sun.

We have seen many reasons why God said that judgment must come on the nation of Judah. Now we go on to see that the Lord gave a picture of what that judgment would be like. God called for those who had charge of the city to prepare to bring judgment on the city. We read that six men came with weapons of destruction when God spoke. In addition to the six men who came to bring destruction on Jerusalem, there was also one who came with a pen and ink. The one with the pen was dressed white linen. We will see that this is one of the appearances of Christ in the Old Testament.

22. Read Ezekiel 9:1-11 and write what happened to the glory of the Lord when Christ came and stood by the altar.

23. Explain why God called for those in charge of the city to prepare to bring judgment on the city of Jerusalem.

24. Explain what you think was the purpose of the pen and ink that Christ had as we see Him in this Old Testament appearance.

God was ready to destroy the city of Jerusalem. As a result, it was necessary to remove His glory from the temple in Jerusalem before this judgment came. Here we see that the glory of the Lord moved from the Holy of Holies to the door of the temple. The temple was being prepared for the invasion of the enemy. As God prepared to destroy the city, God also showed His mercy to the small group of people who had not turned away from Him. We have already mentioned that Christ was the One who had the pen and ink. Now we see why He had the ink. The ink was to be used to place a mark on all those who had their trust in the Lord at this time. This was to keep them from being destroyed with the rest of the city.

25. Read Ezekiel 9:1-11 and write what the other six men were told to do as they followed Christ through the city.

26. Explain why Christ wanted a mark placed on all those who had their trust in the Lord at that time.

27. Explain why you think it was necessary for God to remove His glory from the temple before the temple was destroyed.

These six men were actually angels who God had appointed to guide the destruction of the evil people in the city of Jerusalem. God said that no one should be spared. The young children were to be destroyed along with their parents. The women were to be killed along with the men. Those who were the rulers were to be killed first. Their dead bodies were to be left in the temple to pollute the temple. As Ezekiel saw this vision of the judgment of his people, he asked the Lord if any could be left. The Lord said that the sins of the people were very great and must be judged.

28. Read Ezekiel 9:1-11 and write what God said that the city was full of after He said that the land was full of blood.

29. Explain what you learn from the fact that the Lord placed a mark on all those who had their

trust in the Lord.

30. Explain why you think that God said that the children would be killed along with their parents when this judgment came.

We have seen that the glory of the Lord moved to the door of the temple. As we come to chapter 10 we will learn about the glory of the Lord getting ready to leave the temple and the city of Jerusalem. We notice that everything was done slowly. The Lord loved His people and did not want to leave them. However, sin had made it necessary for God to remove His glory. Christ went into the chariot. There He filled His hand with coals of fire. These coals were scattered over the city of Jerusalem. Here we see that Ezekiel was given a vision by the Lord to show that the city of Jerusalem would soon be destroyed by fire.

31. Read Ezekiel 10:1-22 and write what the court of the temple looked like when the glory of the Lord stood over the threshold.

32. Explain why the Lord moved very slowly as He removed His glory from the temple and the city of Jerusalem.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord showed Ezekiel by a vision that Jerusalem would soon be destroyed by fire.

The glory of the Lord was very bright at that time. However that glory will not return to the temple until the time when Christ returns to rule on the earth. We will learn about the glory of the Lord returning to the temple in Ezekiel 43. We also see a little more about the way that the Lord scattered the coals of fire over the city of Jerusalem. The first time the Lord went through the city, it was to put a mark on those who had placed their trust in Him. The second time Christ went through the city to judge it. When Christ came to the earth the first time, it was to die for the sins of mankind. When Christ comes to the earth a second time, He will come as a Judge.

34. Read Ezekiel 10:1-22 and write where the glory of the Lord went when it moved off of the threshold of the temple.

35. Explain why the Lord went through the city first to put a mark on those who trusted Him before going through the city the second time to bring judgment.

36. Explain why you think that Christ came the first time to the earth to pay the penalty for sin but will come the second time as a judge.

As the glory of the Lord prepared to leave the temple, the cherubim prepared to go with their chariot. The wings, the wheels and all of the other parts of the chariot were in their proper places as the time came for the glory of the Lord to be removed from Jerusalem. When everything was ready, the glory of the Lord moved from the door of the court to the top of the chariot above the cherubim. God could not allow His glory to remain in Jerusalem any longer. It must be removed because of the sins of the people. Here we see again that God is a holy God and cannot live in the presence of sin.

37. Read Ezekiel 10:1-22 and write where the cherubim took the glory next when they left the temple.

38. Explain why it was necessary for the glory of the Lord to leave the temple in the city of Jerusalem.

39. Explain why you think that a holy God could no longer allow His glory to remain among a sinful people.

When the glory of the Lord moved from the door of the temple to the top of the chariot, the chariot began to move. First it was lifted up so that it stood above the temple. In our next lesson we will learn where the chariot went after it left the temple and before it disappeared. Here we see that it moved as far as the east gate. We also see that Ezekiel said that the cherubim in the chariot were the same cherubim whom we saw in the first chapter of this book. We also see that the direction that the chariot moved showed the desire of the cherubim to do

the will of God.

40. Read Ezekiel 10:1-22 and write how the cherubim moved.

41. Explain why the cherubim were obedient and eager to do the will of God as they moved the glory of the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that God gives us so many details about the removal of His glory from the temple and the city.

Reread Ezekiel 8:1-10:22 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 5
Ezekiel 11:1-12:28

We have been studying about the judgment of the nation of Judah. Today we will learn about the judgment of the leaders of Judah. We have seen that the leaders of Judah were very evil. They practiced all kind of sinful worship of idols. They caused the people to do evil and follow their sinful ways. Although God judged the people of Judah, He also promised to one day bring them back into their own land. In that day when God gathers all of the Jews back into the land of Israel, the Lord will also cause them to place their trust in Him. It will not be long until that day comes when God will cause the Jews to place their trust in Him. We see that the Jewish people are already beginning to return to the land of Israel.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the judgment of the Jewish leaders.
- Explain what God promises Israel about the future.
- Explain why Ezekiel was told to pack his belongings.
- Explain what Ezekiel said about the coming captivity.

In our last lesson, we learned that the twenty-five religious leaders of Judah had turned from worshipping the Lord and were worshipping the sun instead. As we begin this lesson, we see that these religious leaders were giving a false message to the people of Judah. These leaders told the people of Jerusalem that judgment would not come. Instead the people were told that they could live to satisfy themselves. Today there are many religious leaders who are teaching the same things. Instead of warning the people of the judgment that is coming soon, many religious leaders are only telling the people the things that the people want to hear. They are not telling them the truth about coming judgment.

1. Read Ezekiel 11:1-13 and write how Ezekiel was told to prophesy.
2. Explain why religious leaders that do not worship the Lord in their own hearts will always give a false message to others.
3. Explain why you think that many false religious leaders encourage people to live to satisfy themselves.

The Lord had a message for the Jews and He wanted Ezekiel to speak that message to the people. The Lord knew what the people were thinking. In fact God knows every one of the thoughts of mankind. Because of the rebellion of the people in Jerusalem, many people had already died. The streets were filled with the dead. Now God said that these dead were like the meat in a boiling pot. God said that He was going to bring an army against Jerusalem who would destroy the city with the sword. The people were afraid of the sword of their enemies. However, that sword was the very thing that God was going to use to bring judgment against the people.

4. Read Ezekiel 11:1-13 and write what God said that strangers would do to the people of Jerusalem.
5. Explain why God was going to use the very thing that the people feared to bring judgment on the people of Jerusalem.
6. Explain why you think that it is important for every person to realize that the Lord knows their thoughts.

God said that He would allow people from foreign nations to have victory over the nation of Judah. These foreigners would kill many Jews with the sword. There would be no protection in the city of Jerusalem. Instead God said that He would judge the people to the borders of the nation. God said that He would bring this judgment in order to cause the people to turn to the

Lord and serve Him instead of serving the false gods of the nations around them. In order to show that He would bring this judgment very quickly, God caused one of the religious leaders that had led the people the wrong way to die. Here we see that God began His judgment of Judah by judging one of the religious leaders first.

7. Read Ezekiel 11:1-13 and write the name of the religious leader that the Lord caused to die.
8. Explain why God said that it was necessary to bring judgment in order to cause the people to turn to the Lord and serve Him.
9. Explain why you think that God began His judgment of the nation of Judah with one of the religious leaders.

Although God was going to bring judgment on the land of Judah, God also had a promise for the Jews who were being scattered among the other nations. God promised that He would not forget His people even though they had gone far from Him and had served other gods. He would not forget them even though He had scattered them among the nations. God said that He would be a sanctuary (a place of safety and peace) for the people in the foreign lands where they were scattered. Even when people live among people that are very sinful, God makes Himself a place of safety and peace for all those people who place their trust in Him.

10. Read Ezekiel 11:14-25 and write what God promised to do for His people in the future.
11. Explain why God said that He would be a sanctuary (a place of peace and safety) for the people that were scattered in other lands.
12. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that the Lord is a place of safety and peace for you.

God gave His people that were scattered among the nations three wonderful promises. God said that He would keep them a separate people so that He could regather them from the nations where they had been scattered. God also promised that He would one day bring the people back together. God said that when He gathered them together that He would give them their own land again. In 1948 the nation of Israel became an independent nation for the first time in more than two thousand years. It is a land that the Jews can now call their own. The Jews are already returning to the land that God promised to them. However, they have not begun to worship the Lord yet. In fact they still face the time known as Jacob's trouble.

13. Read Ezekiel 11:14-25 and write what kind of a heart and spirit God promised that He will give His people in that day when they turn to Him.
14. Explain why it was important for God to keep the Jews a separate people so that He can regather them.
15. Explain why you think that God promised the people that when He regathered them that He would give them their own land again.

The hearts of the people were so hard toward God that He said that their hearts were like stone. However, God promised that He will make a great change in the people in the future. In that day their hearts will be controlled by Christ. The Holy Spirit will guide and direct their lives. In that day the Jews will obey the commandments of the Lord. Here we see that the Lord promises that the day is coming when He will transform the hearts of the Jews. Then they will know that they are the chosen people of God and that He has kept His promises.

16. Read Ezekiel 11:14-25 and write what God said that He will do to those who are evil and walk in evil ways.
17. Explain what God promises that He will do one day to the hearts of the Jews that are like stone.
18. Explain why you think that God promises that one day all of the Jews will be guided by the Holy Spirit and will obey the commandments of the Lord.

Here we see again that God emphasized the fact that He must bring judgment. We have already learned that it was necessary for God to remove His glory from the temple before He allowed

that judgment to come. As we come to the end of chapter eleven, we see that God completely removes His glory from the city of Jerusalem. The glory of God was taken from the middle of the city to the mountain on the east side of the city. This is the last mention of the glory of the Lord under we read about the return of that glory during the time that Christ will rule on the earth.

19. Read Ezekiel 11:14-25 and write where the Holy Spirit took Ezekiel after he saw this vision of the glory of the Lord leaving Jerusalem.

20. Explain why it was necessary for God to remove His glory from the temple until the time that Christ rules on the earth.

21. Explain why you think that God chose to show Ezekiel exactly how He removed His glory from the city of Jerusalem.

One day God spoke to Ezekiel and told him that he lived among a nation of people that was very sinful and rebellious. Although the people had eyes, they could not see because they lacked spiritual understanding. Although they had ears, they would not listen to the Lord because of their rebellion against God. In order to show that the judgment of God would soon come on the people, Ezekiel was told to pack his belongings. Then he was told to take his belongings out of his house in the sight of all of the people. Here we see that the Lord wanted to give the people one more opportunity to turn from their rebellion and turn to Him.

22. Read Ezekiel 12:1-16 and write where Ezekiel was told to make a hole to take his belongings out of his house.

23. Explain why God describes people as spiritually blind when they lack spiritual understanding.

24. Explain why you think that it is important for each person that trusts in the Lord to realize that the Lord wants us to have spiritual understanding.

Since Ezekiel was picturing the way that the king would be carried away into captivity, he probably did not take very many things with him. In order to show how desperate the people would be when the Babylonians came against them, he obeyed God and dug a hole in the wall to use as a way of escape. Then God told him to go out through this hole in the early evening. He was to cover his eyes as he went out. The reason for covering his eyes was also for a sign to the people. God wanted Ezekiel to show that the king would not be able to see as he was taken as a captive to Babylon. Before the Babylonians took King Zedekiah to Babylon, they put out his eyes so that he could not see where he was going.

25. Read Ezekiel 12:1-16 and write what Ezekiel did after God spoke to him and told him what to do.

26. Explain why God told Ezekiel to cover his eyes as he went out through the hole in the wall.

27. Explain why you think that God had Ezekiel use so many visual lessons to help the people understand what the Lord was trying to tell them.

Here we see a real picture of the obedience of Ezekiel to the Lord. Even though he was told to make a hole in the wall of his house, he was willing to obey God so that his actions would be a lesson to the people. After Ezekiel made the hole in the wall, he took a few belongings out through the hole in the wall just as the Lord had commanded. The people asked Ezekiel what he was doing. Since God had not yet explained the sign to Ezekiel, he could only say that it was a sign from the Lord. Here we see that Ezekiel was obedient even before he knew the meaning of his actions.

28. Read Ezekiel 12:1-16 and write where God said that He would scatter the people of Judah.

29. Explain what you learn about the importance of obedience from the example of Ezekiel in these verses.

30. Explain why you think that Ezekiel was obedient and made the hole in the wall of his house even before He understood why he was doing it.

After Ezekiel had obeyed the Lord, God explained the meaning of the sign to him. God said that He wanted to show that the prince and the people of Judah would go into captivity. The king would also be taken to Babylon but he would not see where he was going because he would be blind. Then God added that He would scatter the people among the nations and that He would kill many with the sword. However, God also promised that He would keep a small group of people who would be faithful to Him and would speak for Him in all of the places that they were taken. This small group would know that God was the Lord and they would speak for Him.

31. Read Ezekiel 12:17-28 and write how Ezekiel was told to eat his bread.

32. Explain why God promised that He would keep a small group of people who would remain faithful to Him and would also speak for Him.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to be faithful to the Lord and speak for Him to other people.

Ezekiel was to eat his bread and drink his water with fear and trembling. The Lord told him to also do this as a sign to nation of Judah. Soon the people of Judah would be filled with fear. They would see their land destroyed. They would see the walls of their cities torn down and their houses would become empty. The land would become an empty waste where no one lived. God said that He was going to do all of these things to cause the people to realize that He is the Lord. Here we see that the desire of the Lord was to see the people turn to Him even though He knew that they would choose not to turn to Him.

34. Read Ezekiel 12:17-28 and write the proverb that all of the people of Israel were speaking.

35. Explain why God told Ezekiel to eat his bread and drink his water with fear and trembling as a sign to the nation of Judah.

36. Explain why you think that it was the desire of the Lord for the people to turn to Him even though He knew that they would choose not to turn to Him.

God had waited a long time to bring judgment on the people of Judah. He had waited in order to give the people one more opportunity to turn from their sins. However, the people said that the Lord was not going to bring judgment on them because the judgment had not yet come. Here we see the attitude of many people today. They think that judgment will never come. God said that He would cause this proverb that the people were speaking to end. God said that judgment would come quickly. God was going to complete the promise that He had spoken about judgment. Since the people would not listen to God, He would not wait any longer to bring that judgment.

37. Read Ezekiel 12:17-28 and write when the group that did believe that God would bring judgment said that the judgment would come.

38. Explain why the people of Judah did not think that the judgment of the Lord would come upon them.

39. Explain why you think that many people have the attitude that judgment will never come on them in their lives.

We have seen that many of the people felt that judgment would never come on Judah. There was also a group of people who did believe the words that Ezekiel was speaking about judgment. However, this second group said that the judgment would not come for a long time. They felt that they could live as they chose because God would not judge them during their lives. Today we have many people who think that they do not need to worry about coming judgment. They think that they can prepare for death at the end of their lives. One day judgment will come on them suddenly and then it will be too late for such people.

40. Read Ezekiel 12:17-28 and write what God said about the things that He had spoken.

41. Explain why many people think that they can wait until the end of their lives to get ready for the judgment that will come from the Lord.

42. Explain why you think that many people who wait will wait until it is too late because judgment will suddenly come upon them.

Reread Ezekiel 11:1-12:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 6
Ezekiel 13:1-14:23

In this lesson we will be learning what God had to say about the religious leaders of Judah. God had given the religious leaders of Judah the responsibility of leading the people and teaching the people the Word of God. Instead of serving the Lord, we have seen how the religious leaders of Judah turned away from God. God had appointed true prophets to speak the messages that God gave them to speak to the people. However, the false prophets that were speaking to the people were speaking lies. They were telling the people the things that the people wanted to hear instead of giving the people the Word of God. The elders were also condemned because they led the people to serve idols instead of teaching the people about the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the lying prophets.
- Explain what God said about the elders of Judah.
- Explain why God said that Jerusalem would not be spared.

Today we are living in a day when many people do not want to hear the truth of the Word of God. Instead people desire to hear the things that are pleasing to their own ears. This was the way that the Jews felt during the time of Ezekiel. They did not want to hear the message of coming judgment that the true prophets were giving. Instead the people were anxious to listen to the false prophets who told them what they wanted to hear instead of listening to the Word of the Lord. These false prophets were speaking their own thoughts and giving their own opinions. They had not received a vision from the Lord. Here we are given a warning to false prophets who are following their own thoughts. God told the people in that day that the false prophets would be judged.

1. Read Ezekiel 13:1-9 and write what God said that the prophets of Israel and Judah were like.
2. Explain why people are often anxious to listen to false prophets who will tell them what they want to hear instead of telling the truth.
3. Explain why you think that many religious leaders speak their own thoughts and their own opinions instead of speaking the Word of God.

God said that these false prophets were like foxes in several ways. A fox tries to deceive and trick. A fox destroys crops and other things. A false prophet does these very same things. He deceives others by telling the people lies instead of speaking the truth. In fact false teachers often tell their lies so many times that they deceive themselves. False teachers destroy the lives of those who are led the wrong way by these false teachings. These false teachers have failed to fill the gaps. Instead of equipping the people to stand firm by teaching them the Word of God, they were teaching lies instead. As a result, the people were spiritually unprepared when the day of battle came.

4. Read Ezekiel 13:1-9 and write what God said about the false prophets because they had spoken lies to the people of Judah.
5. Explain why it is possible for false teachers to speak lies so often that they begin to believe their own lies.
6. Explain why you think that it is important for you to teach people the Word of God so that they will be equipped to stand firm when false teachers try to deceive them.

The Lord is against all those who speak lies and try to lead people the wrong way. The Lord had not spoken to these false prophets. However, they were claiming that they were speaking

the words given to them by the Lord. Since God had not spoken to these false prophets, we know that they were actually receiving their words from Satan. This was the reason why the false prophets were speaking lies. They were controlled by Satan and he was causing them to speak words that would lead people the wrong way because he is the father of lies. God said that these false prophets would no longer be a part of the nation because of their sin. Instead God would destroy them.

7. Read Ezekiel 13:1-9 and write what God said that these false teachers had spoken to the people.

8. Explain what these verses teach about false prophets and the dangers that they cause to the people who listen to them.

9. Explain why you think that false teachers have actually received their words from Satan instead of the Lord.

We also learn a little about the message that the false prophets were speaking to the people. They were saying that there would be peace when God was warning that there would be no peace. God compared these false prophets to the builders of a wall. Instead of using mortar or cement that would hold the rocks of the wall together, these false prophets were using mortar that would not hold stones together. Then they were covering their work so that no one would know that the stones would not hold together. God said that He would use three things to destroy this wall that had been created by the false prophets. These three things were the wind, the rain and great hailstones.

10. Read Ezekiel 13:10-23 and write what God said would happen to the false prophets when their wall failed.

11. Explain why God said that the false teachers were like a person building a wall that would not stand.

12. Explain why you think that false teachers try to cover their false teachings and try to make those teachings look like they are genuine.

These false prophets had built a false wall with their lies. This wall could not stand when judgment came because it had nothing to hold it together. Instead God said that the false prophets would be destroyed by their own wall of lies. God said that the prophets and their lies would be destroyed together. These false prophets had promised the people of the land that there would be peace. This is the same message which false prophets are speaking today. They are trying to help people find a false peace. As Christians, we know that no person can have real peace until that person places his or her trust in Christ. People are false teachers if they do not teach that the only way to have peace is through Jesus Christ.

13. Read Ezekiel 13:10-23 and write what Ezekiel was told about the daughters of the people.

14. Explain why God said that the false prophets would be destroyed by their own wall of lies.

15. Explain why false teachers usually promise the people that their teachings will give them peace in their lives.

In addition to the false prophets in Judah, there were also many women who were leading the people the wrong way. These women were fortune-tellers or sorceresses. They were using their magic to trick and deceive those who came to them. They received their power from Satan just as the false prophets received their power from Satan. This was the reason why Ezekiel was told to speak a message of judgment against these women. These women were being used by Satan to deceive the people and cause people to lose their lives. People would follow their false predictions. These would lead the people to death when the people thought that they would lead to life.

16. Read Ezekiel 13:10-23 and write how these women were making the hearts of the righteous sad.

17. Explain why it is important to understand that fortune-tellers and sorceresses as well as false teachers all get their teachings from Satan.

18. Explain why you think that God told Ezekiel to speak a message of judgment against the

women that were trying to deceive the people.

These women who were fortune-tellers were speaking lies. This is the way that all those who try to predict the future work. They tell some things that may be true. However, as soon as these fortune-tellers have gained control over a person, they begin to mix lies with the truth. Their purpose is to cause a person to become so fearful and afraid that the person will destroy himself or destroy others. Such people also tell people that they have a long time to live so that they will not prepare for death. Either way, the purpose of Satan is to cause these people to go to hell instead of heaven.

19. Read Ezekiel 13:10-23 and write what the lies of the false teachers made the righteous feel.
20. Explain what God said about fortune-tellers, sorcerers and others who try to predict the future.
21. Explain why you think that the goal of all false teachers and fortune-tellers is to cause people to be filled with fear.

The nation of Judah also had other leaders who were leading the people the wrong way. One day the elders who had been taken to Babylon as captives came to speak to Ezekiel. They were trying to make Ezekiel think that they were interested in hearing what God had to say to the people. However, God had prepared Ezekiel by telling him what the hearts of the elders were really like. God said that they had set up idols in their hearts. Even though these leaders had been forced to leave their idols in the land of Judah, they still had a desire to continue to follow these idols instead of choosing to follow the Lord and serve Him.

22. Read Ezekiel 14:1-11 and write what God told Ezekiel to say because these leaders were still worshiping idols in their hearts.
23. Explain why God said that the leaders had idols in their hearts even though they had left their idols in the land of Judah.
24. Explain why you think that many people that are living today also have idols in their hearts.

The people of Judah had departed from God because of their desire to worship idols. Now God encouraged these leaders to turn from their idols and turn back to Him. God said that He had a message for all of the Jews who were still serving idols in their hearts. This message would not come through a prophet. Instead God would answer those who still worshiped idols with judgment. God said that He would set His face against those who still worshiped idols in their hearts. Those people would not escape the judgment of the Lord when it came.

25. Read Ezekiel 14:1-11 and write what God said He would do to those whom He set His face against.
26. Explain why God said that He would set His face against those who worshiped idols in their hearts.
27. Explain why you think that it is important for you to understand that many of the people to whom you talk also have idols in their hearts.

God knew the hearts of the people just as He knows the hearts of all people today. Those who were only pretending to serve the Lord and were actually serving other things would be judged by the Lord. God said that they would be punished for their sins. They would not escape that judgment. God also said that the day will come when sinful people will no longer be able to lead the nation of Israel the wrong way. In that day God said that the people would know and serve the Lord. They will enjoy the blessings that He has promised to His people. In that day the hearts of the people will be right with God. They will no longer have hidden idols in their hearts.

28. Read Ezekiel 14:1-11 and write what God promised to be to the Jews when they turn their hearts to Him.
29. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of people having hidden idols in their hearts.

30. Explain why you think that God is looking forward to the day when the Jews will know and serve the Lord.

The priests, the prophets and the elders had all failed to lead the people of Judah in the right way. As a result, most of the people of Judah were living in rebellion against the Lord. God said that this rebellion would soon be punished with famine and starvation. God said that this would happen even if three great men like Noah, Daniel and Job prayed for the land. God said that if all three of those men were still alive and prayed for the land that they would be delivered and the land would still be destroyed. Here we see the great faith of Daniel. He was still a fairly young man but his faith was mentioned with the faith of Noah and Job.

31. Read Ezekiel 14:12-23 and write what God said the wild animals would do to the land as they passed through it.

32. Explain why these verses teach about the great faith of Daniel even though he was a fairly young man at this time.

33. Explain why you think that God said that even the prayers of these three men would not protect Judah from the judgment that was coming.

God spoke a second time of the fact that if Noah, Job and Daniel prayed for the land that their lives would be spared but the land would still be destroyed. In fact God said that even their families would not be spared. As we think of Noah, we realize that Noah also lived during a very sinful period of time. However, God protected Noah and his entire family because of the faith of Noah. Now we see that the people in Judah had become so sinful that God said that no one would be spared except these three men. Even their families would be destroyed.

34. Read Ezekiel 14:12-23 and write what God said would destroy the land in addition to the destruction that the wild beasts brought.

35. Explain how this passage actually compares the sins of the people of Judah to the sins of the people in the time of Noah.

36. Explain why you think that God wanted to make it clear why He must bring judgment upon the sins of Judah.

God said that the land of Judah would be destroyed in four different ways. It would be destroyed by the swords of the enemy. The wild animals would also cause great destruction. Many people would die because there was no food. There would also be many people who would die from disease. Even the faith of men like Noah, Daniel and Job could not stop this great judgment. Today as we look at the people around us, we see that they are committing the same sins which the people of Judah were committing. Judgment will soon come on the people of our day also unless we speak the Word of God so that people will return to the Lord.

37. Read Ezekiel 14:12-23 and write what God promised to bring out of the land of Judah when this judgment came on Judah.

38. Explain why God said that the prayers of Noah, Daniel and Job would not have stopped the judgment of Judah.

39. Explain why you think that it is important for us to speak the Word of God to warn the people living today of coming judgment.

Even though God warned that great judgment would come because of the sins of the people, God also gave His people a wonderful promise. God said that He would not completely destroy the Jews. Instead God said that He would bring a small group out of the land so that they would be protected. Here we see again that God had not forgotten His promise to Abraham. Even though the Jews turned away from the Lord, He has always kept a small group alive so that He could complete His promises to them. God also promised that the Jews who were already in Babylon would know something when they saw this group that God protected.

40. Read Ezekiel 14:12-23 and write what God said that the Jews in Babylon would know.

41. Explain why these verses remind us that God will never forget the promise that He made to

Abraham.

42. Explain why you think that God also included a wonderful promise along with this promise of the judgment of Judah.

Reread Ezekiel 13:1-14:23 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 7
Ezekiel 15:1-16:63

God gave Ezekiel a parable to show what the nation of Judah was like. God said that the nation of Judah was like a grape vine. The only thing for which a grape vine can be used is to produce fruit. The vine is not good for any other use. God said that the reason Judah was like a vine was due to the fact that it was failing to produce any fruit for the Lord. As a result, God said that the nation of Judah must be judged. God went on to give a short review of some of the ways that He had shown His love to Judah. However, Judah had not responded and returned that love. Instead the nation of Judah had turned and followed other gods.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the vine.
- Explain how God showed His mercy to Judah.
- Explain why God called Judah a harlot (prostitute).
- Explain why God still promises to complete His covenants.

One day God spoke to Ezekiel and explained how the people of Israel were like a grape vine. In fact the grape vine also gives us a picture of what all people without Christ are like. A grape vine is good for nothing when it does not produce fruit. A vine is no good for making furniture because it is small and crooked. There are no pieces large enough in a grape vine to be used in furniture. A grape vine is not strong enough to be used as a peg for hanging things. As soon as you hang something on it, the vine will break. A vine is not even good for firewood because it will burn very quickly and the fire will quickly go out.

1. Read Ezekiel 15:1-8 and write what kind of work a vine can do when it is whole but is not producing fruit.
2. Explain why God compared Israel to a grape vine and said that it was not good for anything since it did not bear any fruit for the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that all people who have not placed their trust in Christ could also be compared to a grape vine.

Here we see that a vine that does not produce fruit is completely useless. God said that the nation of Israel had become completely useless and must be destroyed. God had already brought judgment on the northern kingdom called Israel. Now God said that He was going to send the fires of judgment on the people of Jerusalem. God said that He had set His face against Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Nothing would stop His judgment. He would make the land an empty and desolate waste. The people of Jerusalem had been unfruitful and so God said that judgment would come upon them.

4. Read Ezekiel 15:1-8 and write why God said that He would make the land of Judah desolate.
5. Explain why God said that the time had come when the fires of judgment must come on Judah and the city of Jerusalem.
6. Explain why you think that God said that nothing can stop His judgment when He sets the time to bring judgment.

The people of Judah were being judged because of their sin. They had been unfruitful and had not produced any fruit for God. As Christians, this should also be a real warning to us today. In John 15:16 Christ tells us to go and bring forth fruit that remains. We know that the fruit of a Christian is other Christians. If we are not leading other people to Christ and teaching them the Word of God so that they can become strong Christians, we need to examine our own lives to see if we are being fruitful. The warning that the Lord gave to the people of Judah should be a

real warning to us if our lives are not bearing fruit for the Lord.

7. Read Ezekiel 15:1-8 and write what God said He would do to the land of Judah when He judged the people of Judah.

8. Explain why it should be the desire of every Christian to learn to bear fruit for the Lord in our lives.

9. Explain why you think that as Christians that we are told to go and bring forth fruit that remains.

God went on to tell what the nation of Israel was like when God chose them to be His people. As the time that God called Abraham, he did not even have a family so they were not a nation at all. Instead Abraham spent his life as a stranger in a foreign land. When God chose Abraham, there was no one else that was concerned about him. He had nothing to impress people. God called him to leave the land of his people. He and his early descendants were like a baby laying in an open field that had no one to care for it. This is also a picture of what we were like before we became Christians. The father of Abraham worshiped idols. He was polluted with the blood of idols and false gods.

10. Read Ezekiel 16:1-14 and write what God said to Abraham even though his family was polluted by the blood of false gods.

11. Explain why Israel was not even a nation at the time that God called Abraham to be the father of the nation.

12. Explain why you think that God said that the beginnings of the nation of Israel were like a baby laying in an open field with no one to care for it.

Here we see that God offers life to those who are dead in their sins. Abraham had nothing to offer to God but God chose him anyway. Then God caused Abraham to increase and become a great nation. God also showed His love to the nation of Israel. God chose the nation of Israel to be His wife. He covered the nakedness of Israel. Then God made a covenant with the nation of Israel. This covenant was an agreement that the nation of Israel would be His chosen nation forever. In Genesis 15 we that God walked between the animals to show that He would keep His promise to Israel forever. The nation of Israel became His chosen nation and no one could take the nation of Israel from Him.

13. Read Ezekiel 16:1-154 and write with what God washed Israel when Israel became His chosen nation.

14. Explain why God chose Israel to become a great nation at the time that it was not even a nation.

15. Explain why you think that God promised that He would keep His covenant with the nation of Israel forever.

In addition to choosing the nation of Israel, God also washed away the blood of her idol worship. Then God gave Israel a covering of beautiful clothes. He supplied her with the jewelry of a queen. God also caused the nation of Israel to eat wonderful food. In addition, God caused Israel to grow into a beautiful nation that became a great kingdom. The nation of Israel was known for its greatness and beauty among all of the other nations. God had done everything to make Israel a great and beautiful nation so that it could bring honor and glory to Him.

16. Read Ezekiel 16:1-14 and write what God said that He had put on the nation that He had chosen.

17. Explain what you learn about the love and mercy of God for the nation of Israel from these verses.

18. Explain why you think that God chose to make Israel such a great nation even though He knew that the people would turn to idols.

However, we see the way that the nation of Israel reacted to the love and mercy of God. Instead

of thanking God for making them a great nation, the people of Israel became proud. Instead of being faithful to God, the people began to worship idols. They committed spiritual fornication because they were unfaithful to God. They used the possessions that the Lord had given to them to worship idols on all of the hills. The food that God had provided for the people was offered to these idols. Israel was like an unfaithful wife that had become a prostitute.

19. Read Ezekiel 16:15-34 and write what the people of Israel had done with their sons and their daughters.

20. Explain why the pride of Israel caused the people to commit spiritual fornication and become unfaithful to God.

21. Explain why you think that the people took the things that the Lord had given to them and used those things to worship idols.

Here we see how far the people of Israel had gone away from the Lord in their sin. They were willing to offer their own children as sacrifices to their false gods. They also made their children walk through the fires that they had made to their gods. Here we see a real picture of how sinful people become when they turn from the Lord to follow idols. Their false gods become more important to them than their own children. This is also a real picture of the way that the devil works. His goal is always to destroy life rather than give life. The people also built high places where they could worship their idols and offer their sacrifices to them.

22. Read Ezekiel 16:15-34 and write what God said the heart of the people had become because they did these things.

23. Explain why people throughout history have often allowed their false gods to become more important to them than their own children.

24. Explain why you think that the people become so evil that they were willing to offer their own children as human sacrifices to their idols.

The people had been so eager to follow idols that they followed all of the idols of the surrounding nations. The sins of the people aroused the anger of God. As a result, God caused their crops to produce less food. Instead of returning to the Lord, the people continued to follow the gods of the surrounding countries. They turned from one god to another. God said that they were even worse than a prostitute. A prostitute is paid for her sin. However, the people of Israel were paying their gods so that they could sin. Here we see again that sin has a very high cost. Sin never pays. People cannot sin and expect to go free. If people continue to live in sin, the time will come when they will pay the penalty for their sin. They will not escape that penalty.

25. Read Ezekiel 16:15-24 and write what God said that the people had not remembered as they worshiped their idols and false gods.

26. Explain what you learn about the high cost of sin from these verses.

27. Explain why you think that the people chose to follow the idols of all of the surrounding nations.

Since Israel had become an unfaithful wife, God said that Israel must be judged. Since the people of Israel had followed the false gods of the surrounding nations, God said that the people of the surrounding nations would see the nakedness of Israel when Israel was judged. God said that He would take away all of the possessions that He had given to the nation of Israel. God also said that He would bring an army of people against Israel to judge it. In that day, God said that the houses of the people would be destroyed with fire. They would feel the judgment of God upon them until the time that they stopped following false gods.

28. Read Ezekiel 16:35-59 and write what God said He would be like after He had shown His anger and jealousy because of the sins of the people.

29. Explain why God said that the time had come when He would take away all of the possessions that He had given to the people.

30. Explain why you think that God compared the people of the nation of Israel to an unfaithful

wife.

Here we see the purpose for the judgment of God. God does not judge people just to get even with them. First, God is a holy God and must judge sin. Second, God judges people so that they will turn from their sin and turn back to Him. When people turn back to God, His anger against their sin is removed. God said that the people of Judah were not like the people of other nations. The people of those nations were sinful. However, the people of Judah were much more sinful. Even the city of Sodom which God had destroyed was not as sinful as the land of Judah. Even though Sodom was very proud, the people of Sodom still did not sin as much as the people of Judah. The people of Judah had pointed out the sins of the surrounding nations.

31. Read Ezekiel 16:35-59 and write what God said the people of Judah would bear because they had judged others.
32. Explain why it was the desire of the Lord to see the people turn from their sin and turn back to Him.
33. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Israel had become so sinful that they had become even worse than the city of Sodom.

Here we see what many people do today. They judge others when their own sins are worse than those people that they are judging. God said that every person will be judged for his own sins. No one will escape by pointing to the sins of another person. This is the reason why we should not judge others. When we judge others, we are only condemning ourselves. We need to examine our own lives so that it will not be necessary for God to judge us. God will act toward us as we have acted toward others. We will reap as we have sown.

34. Read Ezekiel 16:35-59 and write how God said that He would deal with the people because of their sins.
35. Explain what these verses teach about the danger of judging others.
36. Explain why you think that the people that are the quickest to judge and condemn others are often trying to cover their own sins.

As God spoke to the people of Judah about their coming judgment, God also promised His people future blessing. The covenant that God had made with Abraham is an everlasting covenant and it will not be destroyed. God made all of the promises in that covenant. Abraham did not make any of the promises in that covenant. Since Abraham did not make any of the promises in the covenant, Israel could not break that covenant. Since the Lord always keeps His Word, Israel does not need to worry about the Lord breaking any of His promises that He made to Abraham. Those promises have been sealed by the blood of Christ.

37. Read Ezekiel 16:60-63 and write what God promised that the people of Israel will remember in the future.
38. Explain why God made all of the promises in the covenant and Abraham did not make any of the promises.
39. Explain why you think that God made the covenant in such a way that Israel could not break the covenant that God had made.

Israel will be ashamed because they did not faithfully serve the Lord. God also promised that the day will come in the future when the entire nation of Israel will know that the Lord is their God. They will see that God has completed all of the promises that He made to the nation of Israel. Today we also know that the Lord has made many great and wonderful promises to us. Just as the Lord will keep His promises to the nation of Israel, He will also keep His promises to us. We can know that the Lord is faithful and will never break His promises.

40. Read Ezekiel 16:60-63 and write why the people who fail to believe the promises of God will not open their mouths.
41. Explain how the nation of Israel will respond when they see that God has completed all of the promises that He made to them.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to know that the Lord will also keep all of the promises that He has made to us.

Reread Ezekiel 15:1-16:63 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 8
Ezekiel 17:1-19:14

Today we will be learning more about the results of rebellion. Zedekiah had become the king of the nation of Judah. He had been warned by the Lord not to rebel against the king of Babylon. However, Zedekiah made the choice to rebel anyway. We will see what God said would be the results of that rebellion. The people had also rebelled against the Lord. Since God is a holy God, He must bring judgment on all those who sin. The people of Judah were going to receive punishment for their own sins and not for the sins of their fathers. Here we are reminded of the fact that every person is guilty before God because of their own sin.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the two eagles.
- Explain why it was right for God to judge the people of Judah.
- Explain why God said that the people were being judged for their own sin.
- Tell about the sorrow of Ezekiel for the princes of Judah.

One day the Lord gave Ezekiel a parable about two eagles. The first eagle was very great and powerful. He flew and landed on the top of a tall cedar tree. Then he bit off the very top of the tree and took it with him to a busy land. This eagle also caused the land around the cedar tree to become very fruitful. Instead of being thankful to the first eagle, this vine looked to another eagle that also looked powerful. The first eagle planted the vine to produce fruit for it. The first eagle gave the vine much tender care. Then the vine gave its fruit to the second eagle instead.

1. Read Ezekiel 17:1-24 and write what God said would happen when the eagle pulled up the vine.
2. Explain why the first eagle was much kinder than the second eagle to the cedar tree and the land around the tree.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord had Ezekiel speak to the Jews with parables to help the people understand.

The Lord went on to explain the meaning of the parable about the two eagles. The first eagle was the king of Babylon. He came and conquered the city of Jerusalem. However, he did not destroy Jerusalem. Instead he took the king and the other leaders of Judah to Babylon. Then he appointed Zedekiah to be the ruler of Jerusalem after Zedekiah made a covenant not to rebel against the king of Babylon. Instead of keeping his promise to the king of Babylon, Zedekiah asked the king of Egypt to come and help him fight against Babylon. The king of Egypt was the second eagle. Zedekiah thought that the horses of Egypt would help him to win a victory over the army of Babylon.

4. Read Ezekiel 17:1-24 and write what God said would happen to Zedekiah because he broke his covenant with the king of Babylon.
5. Explain why Zedekiah chose to rebel against Babylon even though he had made a covenant with the king of Babylon.
6. Explain why you think that Zedekiah thought that Egypt would be able to help him win a victory over Babylon.

Here we see why it is very dangerous to make an agreement and then break the agreement. Because Zedekiah broke the agreement that he had made with the king of Babylon, God said that Zedekiah would be judged. God will judge us if we break our word and fail to keep our promises. God said that the judgment of Zedekiah for his sin would be death in a foreign

country. The army of Egypt would not help him or protect him from Babylon. There would be no one who could help him because he had not kept his word. God had promised that judgment would come and nothing could stop that judgment.

7. Read Ezekiel 17:1-24 and write what God said He would do with the young tender twig from the tree.

8. Explain why God said that Zedekiah would be judged for breaking his promise with the king of Babylon.

9. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to keep any promises that you make with others.

God said that this tiny branch from the great tree would become a fruitful tree. This tree would provide shelter for the birds. This small branch which came from the great tree was Christ. He is the One who is completing the plan of God for the world by saving a group of people from every tribe and nation. We also see that God is the One who raises up men and nations. God is the One who has the power to put down those nations that rebel against Him. Here we see again that the Lord will only allow evil men to continue their evil works for a certain period of time. Then God will bring judgment upon them and there will be no escape.

10. Read Ezekiel 17:1-24 and write who God said would know that He brought down the high tree.

11. Explain the parable of the two eagles in your own words.

12. Explain why you think that the small branch that came from the great tree is actually talking about Christ.

The people started a proverb that they were repeating among the people. In this proverb the people were saying that they were innocent children who were suffering for the sins of their parents. Here we see that the people were claiming that they were innocent. They felt that they had done nothing wrong. They felt that they were innocent even though they were worshiping idols. They were also living in adultery with the wives of their neighbors. Instead of helping the needy, they were cheating the poor. They were doing evil all of the time. At the same time they felt that it was unfair for God to judge them which shows that they were so controlled by their sin that they did not even think that they were committing sin.

13. Read Ezekiel 18:1-18 and write what God said to the people about the soul that commits sin.

14. Explain why the people of Judah thought that they were innocent even though they were worshiping idols, committing adultery and taking advantage of the poor.

15. Explain why you think that many people today commit the same sins that the people of Judah were committing and also think that they are innocent.

Here we see that God was pointing out the fact that every person will be judged for the sins that they have committed. No one will pay the penalty for the sins of their parents. God promised that all of the people who had obeyed His commandments would receive life. They did not need to fear death because they were right with the Lord. He would care for them and protect them. Today this is also a wonderful promise for us. If we are right with the Lord, we do not need to fear judgment. God has given us eternal life and He will guide us and protect us. We do not need to fear or be afraid.

16. Read Ezekiel 18:1-18 and write what God promised to all those who did not follow the sins of their fathers.

17. Explain why God told the people of Judah that the people that were right with the Lord did not need to fear judgment.

18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to know that you do not need to be fearful or afraid.

God offers eternal life to all people. He does not hold the sins of our family against us. Even if

people come from very sinful families, the Lord still offers them eternal life. Even if they have lived very sinful lives themselves, the Lord is ready to forgive them. In contrast those persons who come from a family that is a Christian family but those persons fail to place their trust in Christ will also face judgment. Such individuals cannot think that they will have eternal life just because their parents are Christians. God will not ask a person if his or her parents are Christians when it comes time for that person to be judged. Instead the Lord will ask each person whether he or she has placed his trust in Christ.

19. Read Ezekiel 18:1-18 and write what God said about the son of a very sinful father than chose to do differently than his father had done.

20. Explain why people cannot think that they will have eternal life just because their parents are Christians.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord is ready to forgive even the most sinful person that will come to Him with a repentant attitude.

God went on to emphasize the fact that those people who turn from their sin would be given life. Here we see a real picture of the mercy of the Lord. The Lord offers life to all those who will call upon Him. God will forgive all of the sins that any person has committed if that person will come to the Lord in repentance and faith and ask the Lord to forgive them. The desire of God is to have people who will obey His Word. He wants people who will walk in the right way. Today the Lord still offers life to all those who turn to Him in repentance and walk in His ways. That life includes eternal life as well as physical life.

22. Read Ezekiel 18:19-32 and write what will not be mentioned again to those who place their trust in the Lord and walk in His ways.

23. Explain why God is eager to forgive the sins of all those who will come to Him in repentance for sin and place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ.

24. Explain why you think that that the Lord wants you to have both physical and spiritual life.

Here we see that God never mentions our sins to us again when He has forgiven them. God promises that our sins are removed as far as the east is from the west when they are forgiven. They are buried in the deepest sea. They are blotted out and they will be remembered no more. We also see that God does not punish people just to get even with them. Instead the desire of the Lord is to see people return to Him. God also gives a warning to those who claim to be righteous but are living in sin. They cannot expect God to forget their sin. A Christian who continues to live in sin may lose his physical life. A person who thinks that he is good but has never placed his trust in Christ will receive eternal judgment. Sin always leads to death.

25. Read Ezekiel 18:19-32 and write what the people were saying about the way of the Lord.

26. Explain why the Lord completely removes our sins and will never mention them to us again when He has forgiven them.

27. Explain why you think that a Christian who continues to live in sin may lose his or her physical life.

The people said that the Lord was not being fair in the way that He judged. Many people who are doing wrong and living in sin want to say that God is unfair. People do not like to face the fact that it is their own sins that condemn them. God was being very fair when He judged those who were doing evil. The Lord is never unfair. Every person that is judged deserves that judgment. Such people have failed to accept the free gift of eternal life which God has offered and which Christ made possible by paying that penalty for all who would accept His payment for them. The Lord wants to give life to all people. However, many people reject that free gift of life.

28. Read Ezekiel 18:19-32 and write what God told the people of Israel to make new in their lives.

29. Explain why these verses teach that God is not unfair when He brings judgment on people for their sin.

30. Explain why you think that God said that He has no pleasure in the death of one who rejects Him.

The Lord encouraged His people to have a new heart and a new spirit instead of continuing to live in rebellion against Him. Here we are reminded again that the Lord did not want to judge His people. His desire was to see His people return to Him so that He could give them life. Because the people refused to return to the Lord, God was filled with sorrow. Ezekiel also shared this sorrow of the Lord. We read that this sorrow was for the princes of Israel. These men were the men who became the kings. God said that their mother was like a lioness.

31. Read Ezekiel 19:1-14 and write what happened to the first young lion.

32. Explain why we should also have sorrow that will cause us to pray for those who continue to live in rebellion against the Lord.

33. Explain why you think that the desire of the Lord is always for people to return to Him so that He can give them life.

The first young lion was King Jehoahaz (Shallum). He was a very evil king. He would destroy other people so that he could get what he wanted. He was so evil that even the surrounding nations noticed his evil actions. They decided that they must stop him. They came to fight against him just as a town gathers together to destroy a lion. Jehoahaz was captured and taken to the land of Egypt. However, that did not stop evil men in the land of Judah. Before long another very evil king arose by the name of Jehoiachin. He was just as evil.

34. Read Ezekiel 19:1-14 and write where the second lion was taken because of his evil.

35. Explain why King Jehoahaz was so evil that the kings of the surrounding nations decided that they must stop him.

36. Explain why you think that the next king that arose did not learn from the judgment of Jehoahaz and chose to do even greater evil.

Jehoiachin was even more evil than Jehoahaz. He would also destroy other people to get what he wanted. However, he also destroyed cities and lands. As a result, God also brought judgment on Jehoiachin. This time the judgment came from the east. Several nations came with Babylon to fight against Judah. The king was captured and taken to Babylon. There he was treated like an animal. He was put into a cage. Many times the Babylonians would also put a ring in the nose of a captured king so that they could lead him around like an animal.

37. Read Ezekiel 19:1-14 and write what kind of a vine God said that the nation of Judah had been at one time.

38. Explain why God caused these two kings to be judged with such terrible judgment for their sins.

39. Explain why you think that God raised up a nation like Babylon to bring judgment on Jehoiachin.

We also learn a little about the nation which produced these evil kings. The land of Israel was like a vine that had been very fruitful. This had been true because the Lord had blessed the nation of Israel with great blessings. From this nation came many strong rulers. For a period of time, the nation of Israel was a great nation. However, the nation of Israel turned away from the Lord. As a result, it became necessary for God to bring judgment and show his anger against sin. Instead of a fruitful land, God said that the land of Israel would become a wilderness.

40. Read Ezekiel 19:1-14 and write what kind of ground God said would be in that wilderness.

41. Explain why God said that the nation of Israel had been like a very fruitful vine at one time.

42. Explain why you think that God said that the nation would become like a tree that had been planted in the wilderness.

Reread Ezekiel 17:1-19:14 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 9
Ezekiel 20:1-21:32

The Lord was preparing to bring judgment on the nation of Judah. However, even as God brought judgment, He showed His love and His kindness. He promised that the day would come in the future when He would bring the Jews back into the land of Israel. We have seen over and over again as we have studied the different prophets that God has promised that He will bring His chosen people back into their own land after He has judged them. Many people today think that God has forgotten the promises that He made to the nation of Israel. Since we know that the Word of God is true, we know that God will never forget His promises.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God was dealing with Israel the right way.
- Explain why God promised to bring Israel back into their land.
- Explain the parable of the sword of the Lord.
- Explain what we learn about the rule of Christ.

One day a group of the Jewish leaders in Babylon came to ask Ezekiel to give them a message from the Lord. God said that He had no new message for these Jewish leaders. The only thing that God said that He would tell these leaders would be to give them another review of the way that their fathers had turned away from the Lord to serve idols. Then God began to review the history of the nation of Israel from the time that they were slaves in the land of Egypt. When God gave a message to the people of Israel while they were in Egypt, God told them to turn from their idols because He was going to bring them out of the land of Egypt to a wonderful land.

1. Read Ezekiel 20:1-26 and write what God said that the land was like that He planned to give to them.
2. Explain why God told Ezekiel that He had no new message but would review the way the fathers had turned away from the Lord.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord said that He did not have a new message for the Jewish leaders in Babylon.

Instead of getting rid of their idols when the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt, the people rebelled against God. The nation of Israel took the idols of Egypt along with them as they traveled toward the land that God had promised to give to them. They even made a golden calf while they were in the wilderness. God was tempted to show His anger because of their sins and destroy them. However, God did not want the people of the other nations to say that God had taken the people out into the wilderness to kill them. Instead of killing the people in the wilderness, God gave them commandments so that they would know what to do.

4. Read Ezekiel 20:1-26 and write what God said would happen to each person that obeyed those commandments.
5. Explain why it was important that God gave the people commandments so that they would know what to do.
6. Explain why you think that it was important for the Lord not to destroy the people in the wilderness when they rebelled.

Instead of obeying the Lord, the people rebelled against Him again. God was again tempted to destroy them. However, the Lord allowed them to live for the sake of His own name. As a result of their sin, God allowed the adults to die in the wilderness but He protected their children. Then God spoke to the children. He told the children to turn from the idols of their

fathers and He would bless them. He said that they would be blessed if they would follow the commandments that the Lord had given them and do as He told them to do.

7. Read Ezekiel 20:1-26 and write what the children who grew up in the wilderness did when God spoke to them.

8. Explain why God allowed the adults to die in the wilderness but protected those who were children when they were in the wilderness.

9. Explain why you think that God promised the people He would bless them if they would keep His commandments.

Here we see that the children that grew up in the wilderness followed the sins that their parents had practiced in Egypt. They did not listen to the Word of God. They refused to obey the commandments of the Lord. As a result, God was tempted to scatter them among the nations. However, God spared them for the sake of His name. Then they continued to worship the idols of their fathers. They also caused their children to be burned as sacrifices to their idols. This was the reason why God said that He must bring judgment on the nation. At every opportunity the people turned to idols instead of turning to the Lord.

10. Read Ezekiel 20:1-26 and write what God said that His goal was for the people of Israel.

11. Explain why the people chose to follow idols just like their fathers had done instead of serving God.

12. Explain why you think that God said that one of the reasons that the people must be judged was due to the fact that they burned their children as sacrifices to idols.

When the people came into the land that God had promised them, they still did not turn from their idols. Instead they also began worshiping the idols of the people that lived in the land. They offered sacrifices on the top of every hill and mountain. They planted groves of trees around the houses of their idols. Then they used those groves of trees to try and hide their immorality and idol worship. They also caused their children to walk through fires as sacrifices. It was due to these sins that God refused to speak to the men who came to Ezekiel because they were continuing to practice the same sins.

13. Read Ezekiel 20:27-49 and write what God promised to do for the people when He will rule over them in the future.

14. Explain why the people planted groves of trees around the houses of their idols.

15. Explain why you think that God said that He was refusing to speak to the men who had come to Ezekiel.

Here we see that God still promised to remember His people even though they had been very sinful. First God said that He would judge them because of the sins that they had committed. The purpose of this judgment would be to judge those who had rebelled against God. They would be destroyed and would not be allowed to share the blessings that God would show to His people. The Lord also had a word for the people who were worshiping idols in Babylon. God told them to continue to serve their idols if they wanted to be judged. God said that only those people who served Him would be allowed to return to the land.

16. Read Ezekiel 20:27-49 and write what God said the people would know when He brought them back into their land.

17. Explain why God said that He would remember His people even though it was necessary to judge those who had rebelled.

18. Explain why you think that God told the people in Babylon to continue to worship idols if they wanted to be judged.

God said that in the day that the people recognized that God is the Lord that they would remember the things that they had done. Instead of being proud about their sins; they will suddenly realize that they have been very sinful. Here we see the thing that will happen in our own lives when we compare our lives with the life of Christ. As long as we look at the sinful

people around us, we can feel that we are living good lives. However, when we compare our life with the life of Christ, we see that our lives are filled with sin. In fact we are ashamed to think of all of the sinful things that we have done in our lives in the past.

19. Read Ezekiel 20:27-49 and write what God said that he would do to the forest to the south.

20. Explain why we should compare our lives with Christ instead of comparing our lives with other people.

21. Explain why it is important in your own life to compare your life with Christ instead of comparing your life with other people.

God also told Ezekiel to speak against the forests in the south part of the land of Israel. God said that these forests would be destroyed by a great fire which could not be stopped. This was another picture of the great judgment that would soon come on the city of Jerusalem. Ezekiel was told to look toward the city of Jerusalem as he spoke this prophecy against the land of Israel. This was a clear warning of the coming judgment of Jerusalem. As we read this prophecy, we see very clearly that God promised those Jews that He would soon bring great judgment on the land.

22. Read Ezekiel 21:1-17 and write what God promised to do when He took His sword out of its sheath.

23. Explain why God said that He would soon bring judgment on the land and the city of Jerusalem.

24. Explain why you think that God said that He was going to destroy the forests that were in the south part of the land of Israel.

We see that God warned very clearly that the judgment of the city of Jerusalem would be a very complete judgment. No people would be left in the city by the time God finished His judgment. The sword of the Lord would bring a complete destruction. God told Ezekiel that he was to show the sorrow of His heart to the Jews that were living in Babylon. When they saw his sadness, he was to tell them how everyone in Jerusalem would be filled with fear as they saw the judgment of the lord. Their spirits would faint within them and their knees would feel like water.

25. Read Ezekiel 21:1-17 and write what the Lord said that His sword was like.

26. Explain why God told Ezekiel to show the sorrow that was in his heart as he heard about the destruction of Jerusalem.

27. Explain why you think that we should also be sorrowful as we think about the judgment of those who have not placed their trust in Christ.

This chapter shows that the Lord was prepared to bring great destruction upon the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Many people would be killed. God said that the people would be filled with terror as they saw the sword of judgment come upon them. This judgment would come upon all of the princes. God said that none of the people would escape judgment because they were powerful or rich. This is the way that it is going to be at the final judgment also. Riches or power will mean nothing when people stand before the Lord at the final judgment.

28. Read Ezekiel 21:1-17 and write what God said that the princes would experience when judgment came on the city.

29. Explain what you learn about the sword of the Lord from this chapter.

30. Explain how you think that people will feel at the final judgment when they realize that their power or their money mean nothing.

Ezekiel was told to draw a picture to show how judgment would come on the city of Jerusalem. In the picture that he drew there was a road leading from Babylon toward Judah. Near the end of the road, the road divided and went to two different cities. One road led to the city of Jerusalem and the other road led to Rabbah which was the capital city of the land of Ammon. At the place where the road divided, Ezekiel drew a picture of the king of Babylon trying to decide which way to go. Instead of deciding on his own which way to go, the king of Babylon

used three types of fortune telling to help him decide which way he should go.

31. Read Ezekiel 21:18-32 and write to which city the king of Babylon decided to go in the picture.

32. Explain why even though the king of Babylon depended on fortune tellers to tell him which way to go that the Lord was the one who actually controlled that choice.

33. Explain why you think that God had Ezekiel draw this picture to show that the king of Babylon would have to make a decision about which city to destroy.

The city of Rabbah had rebelled against the king of Babylon just as the people of Jerusalem had rebelled against Babylon. That was the reason that the king of Babylon had to decide which city to destroy. Even though the king depended on the ways of the devil to help him decide which way to go, the Lord was still in control. God had said that Jerusalem would be judged and so God caused the king of Babylon to decide to go and destroy Jerusalem. Here we see that the Lord is in control of all things. No one will escape the judgment of the Lord by following the ways of the devil. God will remember the sins of evil people and will judge them.

34. Read Ezekiel 21:18-32 and write what God said would happen to the diadem and crown.

35. Explain why it is important to realize that God was using whatever happened to carry out His plan to destroy Jerusalem.

36. Explain why you think that it is important in your own life to realize that the Lord is the One who is in control of all things.

We see that the Lord was showing Ezekiel that the Jews were coming to the time that Scripture calls the times of the Gentiles. The headdress of the high priest and the crown of the king would both be removed. Instead of controlling their own land and having the glory of the Lord present in the temple, the Gentiles would control the entire nation of Israel. We are still living in the times of the Gentiles because the glory of the Lord has not yet returned to the temple in Jerusalem. That glory has not been in the temple at Jerusalem for nearly 2,600 years. It will not return to the temple until Christ comes to rule on the earth.

37. Read Ezekiel 21:18-32 and write what God said was drawn against the Ammonites.

38. Explain what it meant to the Jews to have their diadem and their crown removed from the high priest and the king.

39. Explain why it is important to you to understand that we are still in the times of Gentiles because the glory of the Lord has not yet returned to the temple in Jerusalem.

The people of Ammon may have thought that they would escape judgment when the king of Babylon decided to go and fight against the city of Jerusalem. However, the nation of Ammon was also a very evil nation. As a result, God said that the sword would also come against the nation of Ammon to destroy it. God said that He would judge the people of Ammon in their own land. He would pour out His anger against their sin. They would feel the fire of His anger. God said that He would use cruel men to destroy the people of Ammon. These cruel men would bring such a complete destruction on Ammon that no one would remain.

40. Read Ezekiel 21:18-32 and write what God said would happen to the blood of the people of Ammon.

41. Explain why God said that He would use cruel men to destroy the people of Ammon.

42. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Ammon would not escape judgment even though Babylon went against Jerusalem first.

Reread Ezekiel 20:1-21:32 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 10
Ezekiel 22:1-23:49

The Lord is always looking for people who will lead other people in the right way. In the time of Ezekiel there were no leaders in the country of Judah who were standing true to the Lord. All of the leaders of the land were serving the devil instead of serving God. There was not a single leader in the entire country that even had any desire to do what was right. As a result, the Lord gave a parable about Oholah (Israel) and Oholibah (Judah). This parable explained how the people of both Israel and Judah had turned away from the Lord. This was the reason why the leaders and people of both countries were judged by foreign nations.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what sins caused the judgment of Judah.
- Explain the kind of a man that God wants to speak for Him.
- Explain the parable of Oholah and Oholibah.
- Tell about the judgment of Judah.

In order to show the people of Judah that He was not being unfair in judging the people of Judah, the Lord gave a list of the sins of the people one more time. Here we see beyond doubt that the people of Judah deserved all of the punishment that God gave to them. The people had killed innocent men and had shed their blood in order to get what the people wanted for themselves. They had become guilty of bringing the idols that they had made right into the city. As a result, the Lord said that the people of other nations would talk about the great judgment that God would bring on the city of Jerusalem. People from near and far would make fun of the city of Jerusalem.

1. Read Ezekiel 22:1-16 and write what God said that the princes of Judah were doing wrong.
2. Explain why God reviewed one more time the sins which were the reason that it was necessary for God to judge Judah.
3. Explain why you think that God said that that people from near and far would talk about the judgment of Judah.

Instead of leading the rest of the people in the right way, the princes were leading the way in the killing of innocent people. The people were failing to show any respect for their parents. They were cheating and doing evil to strangers and to the families where the father had died. In addition to doing evil to other people, they were also rejecting the commandments of God. There were also men who told lies in order to get innocent people killed. They were committing much immorality in their feasts to their idols. Many were also committing immorality with their close relatives. Others were committing immorality with their neighbors. In addition, they were also cheating their neighbors.

4. Read Ezekiel 22:1-16 and write what God said that the people of Judah had done to Him.
5. Explain what this chapter teaches about the sins of the people of Judah that caused God to bring judgment on them.
6. Explain why you think that God said that the princes were the ones who were leading the rest of the people to do evil.

Here we see the real cause of all of the sins of the people. They had forgotten the Lord. When people forget God, they begin to sin more and more. God said that He had seen all of the evil things that the people had done. That was the reason why God knew that it was necessary to judge the people. Because of the sins of the people, God said that He would scatter them among the nations. Their judgment would last until the time when they would turn from their sins. That judgment is still going on because the Jews have not yet turned back to the Lord.

7. Read Ezekiel 22:1-16 and write what God said they would finally recognize after they were scattered among the nations for a long time.
8. Explain what you learn about the reasons why God said that He must judge the people of Judah for their sins.
9. Explain why you think that it is important for people to understand why they are being judged when they have sinned.

God said that the people of Judah had become like dross. The dross is the waste that is left when silver has been refined. That waste has very little value. A person would have to spend much time and use a very hot fire to burn this waste and get the tiny bit of silver that still remained. God said that He would soon cause His refining fire to burn. This refining fire would bring judgment on the people of the city of Jerusalem. God said that His fire would burn and destroy. The people would feel the great fury of the anger of the Lord. The people would be destroyed by the judgment that the Lord would soon bring on the city of Jerusalem.

10. Read Ezekiel 22:17-31 and write what God said that the land of Judah was like.
11. Explain why God said that it was time for the refining fire to come on the city of Jerusalem.
12. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Judah had become like dross because of their actions.

The land of Judah was filled with sin. There was no way that the land could become clean as long as the sinful people were allowed to remain in the land. The prophets and the priests were very evil. The false prophets had caused many women to become widows because their husbands had been killed in battle when the false prophets had promised victory. These prophets had spoken things that were false and many men had been killed as a result. The priests had broken the law of God instead of teaching the law to the people. These priests were so sinful that they did not know the difference between things that were holy and things that were evil.

13. Read Ezekiel 22:17-31 and write what God said the princes of the land were like.
14. Explain why God said that the false prophets had caused many people to be killed in battle.
15. Explain why you think that God said that the priests had become so sinful that they no longer knew the difference between holy things and things that were evil.

The princes were willing to kill innocent people in order to get what they wanted. They were willing to do anything to get more money and possessions for themselves. The prophets were telling lies and saying that they were speaking the Word of God. The people did evil and robbed others to get what they wanted. When God looked for a man to stand in the gap before Him, there was not a single man to stand before Him in the land. Today the Lord is still looking for people who will stand for Him. There are many places in the world where there is not a single church that is true to the Word of God. These are all gaps where people are needed who are willing to stand for the Lord. We are given the opportunity to stand in these gaps for the Lord.

16. Read Ezekiel 22:17-31 and write what God said that He would do because there was not a man to stand in the gap.
17. Explain why both the political and spiritual leaders were deceiving the people to get what they desired.
18. Explain why you need to be one of those who is willing to stand in a gap for the Lord and proclaim His Word.

The Lord compared the nations of Israel and Judah to unfaithful daughters of one woman. Both nations came from the same mother. However, both nations had become unfaithful to the Lord. This unfaithfulness began when the people that formed these two nations were still in the land of Egypt. This unfaithfulness continued when they came into the land that the Lord had given to them. They had been chosen by the Lord to be His chosen people. They were to be the

people of God and follow Him. However, they looked for other lovers instead. Oholah (Israel) was the first to look at her neighbors and lust after the things which her neighbors had.

19. Read Ezekiel 23:1-21 and write which nation Oholah chose to be her lover.

20. Explain why God said that the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel and Judah had begun while they were still in Egypt.

21. Explain why you think that the people chose to lust after the things of their neighbors instead of being the people of God.

The people of Assyria served false gods. These were the gods that the people of Israel decided to serve. Every one of the gods of the people of Assyria became the gods of the people of Israel. In addition, the people of Israel also continued to serve the false gods that they had begun to serve while they were in the land of Egypt. Here we see that idol worship in their youth only led to more idol worship as they grew older. This is something that is true about both idolatry and immorality. They both lead to more idolatry and immorality. However, neither idolatry nor immorality produces true love. The lover of Israel was a false lover. One day the Assyrians came and destroyed Israel. Many of the people of Israel were killed.

22. Read Ezekiel 23:1-21 and write what Oholibah (Judah) did when she saw how her sister was judged for her unfaithfulness.

23. Explain why Israel chose to serve the false gods of many different nations because of their desire to worship idols.

24. Explain why you think that the longer Israel was a nation the more idols they chose to serve.

The people of Judah did not learn from the judgment of Israel. Instead the people of Judah became even more sinful as they followed idols. The people of Judah also made an alliance with Assyria and began to follow the gods of the Assyrians. However, the people of Judah were not satisfied just to follow the gods of the Assyrians. They heard about the gods of the Babylonians and immediately sent messengers to Babylon to become acquainted with the gods of the people of Babylon. Idolatry always leads to more idolatry. When people put one thing ahead of the Lord, they will soon begin to put many things ahead of the Lord.

25. Read Ezekiel 23:1-21 and write what the Babylonians did when they came to Judah.

26. Explain why Judah followed even more idols even though they had seen the judgment that came on the land of Israel.

27. Explain why you think that the people of Judah even sent messengers to Babylon to learn about the idols of Babylon.

The Babylonians were glad to bring their idols into the land of Judah. They even pretended to be faithful lovers for a while. However, they only pretended to love Judah until the people of Judah had become polluted with the idols of Babylon. Soon the people of Judah were no longer satisfied with the idols of Babylon. As a result, they made an agreement with the nation of Egypt. This quickly caused them to begin to follow the false gods that they had followed when they were in Egypt. Just as idolatry and immorality lead to more idolatry and immorality, we also see that they can never satisfy those who seek them.

28. Read Ezekiel 23:1-21 and write what God said that Judah had done with her harlotries.

29. Explain what you learn about the idolatry and immorality of Israel and Judah from these verses.

30. Explain why you think that people who follow idols and immorality will never be satisfied but will always want more.

Just as Israel was judged by her false lover, God said that Judah would also be judged by her false lover. God said that Babylon and all of the other nations of the east whose gods Judah followed would come and fight against Judah. God said that they would fight hard against the people of Judah. As a result, God said that the nose and the ears of Judah would be cut off. This was the way that Babylon punished those who were guilty of adultery. Many would be

killed by the sword or by fire. God also said that the Babylonians would take the clothing and the possessions of the people of Judah.

31. Read Ezekiel 23:22-49 and write what God said He would cause to cease among the people of Judah.

32. Explain why God chose the nations whose idols Israel and Judah followed to bring judgment upon Israel and Judah.

33. Explain why you think that God said that the nations of Assyria and Babylon were like false lovers.

God said that He was going to cause the idolatry and other evil things that the people of Judah were doing to stop. God said that He would allow the enemy to take away everything from the nation of Judah. They would be left naked and bare. Because Judah had done the same evil things which Israel had done, God said that Judah would receive the same kind of punishment that Israel received. However, their judgment would be even greater because they had seen the judgment of Israel and had not turned from their sins. The people had forgotten the Lord and had turned their backs on Him. Now God said that they would receive the reward for their evil actions.

34. Read Ezekiel 23:22-49 and write what the people of Judah were causing their children to do.

35. Explain why God said that the judgment of Judah would be even greater than the judgment of Israel had been.

36. Explain what you think God meant when He said that Judah would be rewarded for her evil actions.

The people were killing their children as sacrifices to their gods. Then the same day they would go to the temple and worship God. Here we see that they were pretending to serve God while at the same time they were actually serving the devil. Today we have many people who are doing the same thing. They live in sin all week and then go to church on Sunday. God says that they are committing evil and will be judged. No person can serve two masters at the same time. If people are not serving God at all times, then they are actually serving the devil. This is the reason why some Christians are disciplined on this earth. It is also the reason why all people that are not Christians will be judged with eternal judgment.

37. Read Ezekiel 23:22-49 and write to what kind of women God compared Oholah and Oholibah.

38. Explain what these verses warn about those who are trying to serve God and serve the devil at the same time.

39. Explain why you think that the people had so deceived themselves that they thought that they could worship both God and idols at the same time.

We also read about the judgment that God said that He would bring on Israel and Judah. God said that the two nations would be judged the same way that judgment came on those who committed adultery. They had shed the blood of innocent children and now that blood was on their hands. As a result, God said that He would bring an army against them to destroy them. God said that they would be killed with stones and swords. Their houses would also be destroyed with fire. God said that He would cause all of their evil and idol worship in the land to stop.

40. Read Ezekiel 23:22-49 and write what God said that they would know because they were punished for worshipping idols.

41. Explain why God told the people of Judah that the blood of their own children was on their hands.

42. Explain why you think that God said that judgment of Judah would be so great that it would cause all evil to stop.

Reread Ezekiel 22:1-23:49 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 11
Ezekiel 24:1-26:21

For the past several lessons we have been studying what God said about the judgment of Judah. Today we will complete our study of the judgment of Judah. Then we will begin a study of the judgment of the nations which surrounded Judah. Many of these nations were also very sinful nations. Through the years they had done many evil things to the nations of Israel and Judah. Because of the evil that these nations had done to the chosen people of the Lord, God said that these nations must be judged. We will be studying the things that the Lord spoke against these nations for the next several lessons as we see the judgment that God promised to them.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the parable of the boiling pot.
- Explain how the death of the wife of Ezekiel was a sign.
- Explain what God said about the judgment of Ammon, Moab, Edom and Philistia.
- Explain what God said about the judgment of Tyre.

As we begin this chapter, we see that Ezekiel was very careful to tell the day that God gave him this prophecy. By comparing it with the history of Judah, we learn that this was the very day that the king of Babylon surrounded the city of Jerusalem as he prepared to destroy the city. Even though Ezekiel was several hundred miles away, God was showing him exactly what was happening at that very moment in the city of Jerusalem. God spoke a parable about a pot to show Ezekiel what would happen to Jerusalem. In this pot were placed all of the best pieces of meat. This is a picture of the leaders. Then the bones were to be used for the fire. This is a picture of the rest of the people that lived in the land of Judah.

1. Read Ezekiel 24:1-14 and write what kind of a city God promised would have woe.
2. Explain why God used a boiling pot to picture the judgment of both the leaders and the people of Judah.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord gave this prophecy about Jerusalem on the very day that Babylon surrounded the city of Jerusalem.

Instead of calling Jerusalem the city of God, it is called a bloody city. It is this city that God said would have woe (judgment). God said that the city was like a pot that was filled with rust. Here God said that all of the pieces of the pot would be judged piece by piece. Instead of having their blood covered when their judgment came, God said that the blood of the people would be left in the open just as they had left the blood of their false sacrifices on the tops of the rocks. God said that the judgment of the people would be very complete. God said that the fire under the pot would be great so that it would cause complete destruction.

4. Read Ezekiel 24:1-14 and write what God said was to be done with the pot after the pot became empty.
5. Explain why God said that the blood of the people would be left in the open when the people received their judgment.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to call Jerusalem a bloody city.

The judgment that we have seen is the judgment of the people. Now we turn to the judgment of the city. Here we see that the pot was to be burned until it melted. This was the only way that the rust in the pot could be removed. God had brought many small judgments on the city in the past to cause the people to turn back to Him. However, the people had continued to live in their sin. Now God said that He would bring a complete judgment on the city. The entire city was to be destroyed as God poured out His anger against sin. God said that He had spoken His word

about judgment and He would not change it.

7. Read Ezekiel 24:1-14 and write how God said that He would judge the people and city of Judah.

8. Explain what the parable of the boiling pot teaches both about the judgment of the people and the judgment of the city.

9. Explain why you think that God said that the entire city of Jerusalem would be completely destroyed.

Many of the people that heard the prophecies of Ezekiel probably felt that Ezekiel was not concerned about the people in Jerusalem. God wanted to show the people that Ezekiel had a great love and concern for his people. God told Ezekiel that his wife whom he loved very much would soon die. Ezekiel was told that when his wife died he was not to mourn or show great sorrow. That would be difficult for a man who had a great love for his wife. Even though Ezekiel knew that his wife would soon die, that did not stop him from doing what God wanted him to do. Here we see a real example of obedience to the Lord. That very evening the wife of Ezekiel died.

10. Read Ezekiel 24:15-27 and write what Ezekiel did in the morning.

11. Explain why God told Ezekiel not to mourn or show great sorrow when his wife that he greatly loved died.

12. Explain why you think that it was possible for Ezekiel to be obedient to the Lord and not show his sorrow when his wife died.

The people realized that Ezekiel was doing a very unusual thing when he did not make a great noise of mourning to show his sorrow at the death of his wife. Most of the people would even hire other people to come and cry as loud as they could when someone died. When the people spoke to Ezekiel, he used the opportunity to speak to the people about the Lord instead of complaining about his own need. Ezekiel told the people that just as his wife had died, their children who had been left in the land of Judah would soon die. They would not be able to escape the judgment of God. Ezekiel said that they would not even be able to cry in their sorrow.

13. Read Ezekiel 24:15-27 and write what God said Ezekiel was to be to the people by what he did.

14. Explain what made it possible for Ezekiel to speak to people about the Lord even at the very time that his wife had died.

15. Explain why you think that Ezekiel used the death of his wife to remind the people that their children would also soon die.

Here we see that Ezekiel was to be a sign to the people. The people would be forced to do what Ezekiel had just done. God said that when the judgment of Jerusalem came that the Jews living in Babylon would be left with no strength. There would be no joy in their lives. All of the hopes that they had for their children would be destroyed by the death of their children. God promised Ezekiel that when the day of judgment came on the people that the people would come to Ezekiel for help. God also promised Ezekiel that He would give Ezekiel the words to speak in the day of judgment. Today God also gives us the opportunity and responsibility to encourage those who are in sorrow.

16. Read Ezekiel 24:15-27 and write what God told the Jews that Ezekiel was to them.

17. Explain what these verses teach about our opportunity and responsibility to encourage those who are in sorrow.

18. Explain why you think that God said that the people in Babylon would be left with no strength when they heard that their children in Jerusalem had died.

Now we turn from the judgment of Judah to the judgment of the surrounding nations. The first country that is mentioned is Ammon. The people of Ammon were filled with joy as they saw

the judgment of Israel and Judah. In fact they had a great time of rejoicing. As a result, God said that Ammon would also be judged. God said that the armies of the east would come against the capital city of Ammon and destroy it. This enemy would take all of the food and the other possessions of the people of Ammon. God also promised that the people of Ammon would be destroyed. Their lives would be taken away from them.

19. Read Ezekiel 25:1-17 and write what country is promised judgment after the promise about judgment to Ammon.

20. Explain why God said that the nation of Ammon would be judged for showing great joy at the destruction of Jerusalem.

21. Explain why you think that the people of Ammon showed great joy when they heard about the judgment of Judah.

The people of Moab were promised judgment by the Lord because they said that the people of Israel and Judah were like the people of any other nation. The Moabites refused to recognize the promises of the Lord to the nation of Israel. This was a denial of the power and the promises of God. This rejection of God and His Word were the two reasons that God said was the cause why the nation of Moab would be judged. Here we see a real picture of the results of failing to believe the Word of God. Such a failure will always lead to judgment. God said that the people of Moab would be destroyed along with the people of Ammon.

22. Read Ezekiel 25:1-17 and write what country was promised judgment after Moab.

23. Explain why God said that the two reasons that Moab would be judged was their rejection of God and their rejection of the Word of God.

24. Explain why you think that many people are like the people of Moab and reject both God and the Word of God.

The nation of Edom had done great evil to the nation of Israel. They looked for every opportunity to take revenge against the Jews because they had once been controlled by Israel. As a result, God said that He would bring judgment on Edom. The animals as well as the people would be killed. The main cities of the land of Edom would be destroyed. God said that He was going to use Israel to bring this judgment on the nation of Edom. That was exactly what happened almost three hundred and sixty years after the destruction of Jerusalem. God showed His anger against the sins of Edom by this judgment.

25. Read Ezekiel 25:1-17 and write the final group of people that is promised judgment in these verses.

26. Explain why many people desire to take revenge for things that have happened between them and other people in the past.

27. Explain why you think that Edom looked for every opportunity to take revenge against the people of Judah.

The Philistines fought against Israel more times than any other nation in the Old Testament. Many times the Philistines had shown their great pride. Their desire was always to do evil and destroy the nation of Israel. The Philistines were filled with hate for the people of Israel. This was the reason why God said that He was going to judge the Philistines. God said that He would destroy the Philistines. Their judgment would be so complete that none of the people would be left in the land. God said that He would bring His judgment upon the Philistines in order to cause them to know that God is the Lord.

28. Read Ezekiel 25:1-17 and write who God said would be judged along with the Philistines.

29. Explain what lessons you learn about the consequences of sin from the judgment of these four nations.

30. Explain why you think that many people have their lives become completely controlled by their hatred.

The judgment of the city of Tyre is also emphasized in the book of Ezekiel. Three entire

chapters of this book speak about Tyre and its leaders. First we are given a description of the sins of Tyre. The people of Tyre were filled with joy when they heard that Jerusalem was destroyed. Jerusalem had part of the trade and business that Tyre wanted. Here the people of Tyre saw an opportunity to gain the riches that had gone to Jerusalem. God said that the place where the city of Tyre stood would become a bare rock. Men who made their living by fishing would dry their nets on the bare rock where the city of Tyre had once stood. Even today men still dry their nets on that bare rock.

31. Read Ezekiel 26:1-21 and write what God said would happen to the daughters of Tyre.

32. Explain why Tyre thought that the judgment of Judah would make it possible for them to gain the riches that had gone to Jerusalem.

33. Explain why you think that God said that the place where the city of Tyre had stood would become a bare rock.

The people of Tyre had started many other cities around the Mediterranean Sea. These cities were all considered the daughters of Tyre. God promised that these cities would also be destroyed. In addition, this could also refer to the children that lived right in the city of Tyre. God said that He would bring the armies of Babylon against the city of Tyre and destroy it. These armies would break down the walls and destroy the city. As the city was destroyed, God said that the people of the city would be killed by the sword. God said that the enemy would take all of the riches of the city.

34. Read Ezekiel 26:1-21 and write what God said would happen to the stones and timbers used to build the city.

35. Explain why many cities around the Mediterranean Sea were considered daughters of Tyre.

36. Explain why you think that God said that the Babylonians would break down the walls and destroy the city of Tyre.

When Babylon destroyed the city of Tyre, some of the people escaped. Later these people rebuilt the city of Tyre on a nearby island where they thought that no one could destroy them. Several hundred years later Alexander the Great, the ruler of Greece, came to fight against the city of Tyre. Since Alexander could not capture the city with boats, he took the stones and timbers of the old city of Tyre and dumped them into the Mediterranean Sea. In this way he made a road out to the island and captured the city of Tyre. As a result, the place where the old city had stood became a bare rock because everything on the rock had been pushed off into the sea.

37. Read Ezekiel 26:1-21 and write where God said that the people of Tyre would go when He brought judgment on them.

38. Explain how these verses show that the prophecies of God are fulfilled exactly as God has spoken them.

39. Explain why you think that God led Alexander to use the stones and timbers of the old city of Tyre to build a road out to the island and capture the rebuilt city.

When the cities which had been started by Tyre heard that Tyre had been destroyed, there was great sorrow in those cities. All of the people and rulers of those cities were filled with sorrow. They could not understand how a city that had been so great and powerful could be destroyed. However, we see the reason why the city was destroyed even though it was a great and powerful city. God had spoken His Word that the city would be destroyed and the remains of the city pushed into the sea. God caused that judgment to happen just as He had spoken it.

40. Read Ezekiel 26:1-21 and write how long God said it would be until the city of Tyre was established again.

41. Explain why people could not understand how a city as great and powerful as Tyre could be destroyed.

42. Explain why you think that God will always keep His promises and bring judgment to those who reject Him.

Reread Ezekiel 24:1-26:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters today.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 12
Ezekiel 27:1-29:21

In our last lesson we started to study about the judgment of the city of Tyre. In this lesson we will learn more about that judgment. The city of Tyre had many traders who traveled to different cities to buy and sell their products. As a result, the city of Tyre was known in many parts of the world. Tyre had also caused many other cities to become rich by trading with them. Now God said that these cities would be filled with sorrow when they heard that the city of Tyre had been destroyed. We will also learn what God had to say about the sinful ruler of the city of Tyre.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God said many cities would be sad because of the judgment of Tyre.
- Explain what God said about the ruler of Tyre.
- Explain what God said would happen to the city of Sidon.
- Explain what God said would happen to Egypt.

Tyre had become a very rich and powerful city by sending its ships to many other places to buy and sell. As a result, God compared the building of the city of Tyre to the building of a ship. The people had made Tyre very beautiful with their riches. Then they boasted of their riches and beauty. The builders of the city did everything possible to make this beauty even greater. They went to other places to get the most beautiful woods for the city. Much ivory was used in the buildings. The most expensive kinds of cloth were purchased from other countries for use in the city. The most skillful sailors were hired to sail her ships. Skillful men were also hired to repair her ships.

1. Read Ezekiel 27:1-36 and write what the city of Tyre sold to the traders that came from the city of Tyre.
2. Explain what had made it possible for the city of Tyre to become a very rich and powerful city.
3. Explain why you think that the people of Tyre did everything possible to make the city beautiful.

As we read the list of things that the other cities traded with Tyre, it is easy to see why the city of Tyre became a very rich city. They were trading with many cities for things that were worth large amounts of money. As a result, they were making large profits when they resold these things in other cities. Since the city of Tyre was so rich, the people of the city depended on those riches. Today there are many people like the people of Tyre. They are depending on their money or possessions. However, all of those things will be destroyed when those people stand before the Lord. Those things will mean nothing in that day.

4. Read Ezekiel 27:1-36 and write what God said would happen to the riches, sailors and traders in that day when God destroyed Tyre.
5. Explain why the riches of people will mean nothing when those people stand before the Lord in the Day of Judgment.
6. Explain why you think that many people that have great riches depend on their riches instead of placing their trust in the Lord.

Here we see the fact that God pointed out that the rocks and the timbers of the city of Tyre would be pushed into the sea emphasized again. There would be nothing left of the city except a pile of bare rocks. God said that this judgment would cause great sorrow in many different places. Other cities would be filled with sorrow as they saw the judgment of Tyre. However,

God said that there would also be cities that would be filled with joy as they saw that Tyre had been destroyed. The people of those cities would make fun and laugh at the judgment of the city of Tyre. Here we see that these other cities were just like the city of Tyre. They did not care what happened to others as long as they got what they wanted. Today we also have many people who think only of themselves.

7. Read Ezekiel 27:1-36 and write what the people had done for other kings by their trade with them.
8. Explain what these verses teach about the judgment of those who think only of themselves.
9. Explain why you think that many people are happy when they see judgment come on others.

We go on to read about the pride of the king of Tyre. The pride of the king is a picture of the pride of all of the people that lived in Tyre. The ruler of Tyre claimed that he was a god who had come from the gods of his people. He thought that he could speak as God would speak. The king of Tyre felt that he was even wiser than Daniel. He felt that the proof of his wisdom and knowledge was the fact that he was very rich. Here we see that people often measure their success by how much money they make. Such people feel that they have much understanding and knowledge. They are totally focused on what they have done.

10. Read Ezekiel 28:1-19 and write what had happened to the heart of the king of Tyre because of his riches.
11. Explain why the ruler of Tyre thought that he had such great understanding and knowledge that he could speak as God would speak.
12. Explain why you think that the pride of the king of Tyre caused him to boast that he was a god.

Here we see that riches can often lead to pride. The king of Tyre had become his own god. As a result, God said that He would bring other nations against the city of Tyre and it would be destroyed. These nations would use their swords to destroy the beauty and wisdom of the people of Tyre. Instead of remaining a proud nation any longer, God said that Tyre would be brought down and destroyed. The people of the city would die and be buried in the sea. Even though the king claimed that he was a god, the people who came to fight against him would not listen to his claim. Instead these enemies would kill him and he would be no more.

13. Read Ezekiel 28:1-19 and write where God said that the king had been.
14. Explain why God said that the pride of the people of Tyre would be brought down and destroyed.
15. Explain why you think that great riches will cause many people that possess those riches to become proud.

God said that the king had been in Eden, the garden of God, because the pride of the king of Tyre gave a real picture of the pride of Satan. The same pride which Satan showed when he rebelled against God was the kind of pride that the king of Tyre was showing at the time of Ezekiel. As a result, we see that the king of Tyre gives us a real picture of Satan. Satan had been the most beautiful of all of the angels. He had been given much wisdom. However, we have seen that Satan used this wisdom to do evil and cause others to do evil. This was the reason that mankind fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. Satan had been created as a perfect angel and he was perfect until the day that he chose to do evil and rebel against God.

16. Read Ezekiel 28:1-19 and write what God said that He would do to the king of Tyre and also to Satan because of their violence and sin.
17. Explain why the pride of the king of Tyre showed the pride that Satan had demonstrated in the garden of God.
18. Explain why you think that people that have great worldly wisdom will often use that worldly wisdom to do evil and cause others to do evil.

God promised that judgment would come on the king of Tyre because of his sin. He had

become proud of his beauty. He had twisted his wisdom and had used it for evil purposes. He had filled the temples of his false gods with sin. Now God promised that He would bring judgment on the king because of those sins. God said that He would cause the city of Tyre to be completely destroyed. This judgment would cause the people of the surrounding nations to be amazed. The city would never be built again. The judgment of the king also gives a picture of the future judgment of Satan.

19. Read Ezekiel 28:1-19 and write how people that knew about the city of Tyre would react when they heard of its judgment.

20. Explain how the pride of the king of Tyre gives us a picture of the pride that Satan showed when he rebelled against God.

21. Explain why you think that the pride of the king of Tyre caused him to fill the temples of his false gods with sin.

A city which was located near the city of Tyre was the city of Sidon. Sidon was located about twenty miles north of the city of Tyre. God said that Sidon would also be judged with a great judgment. The Lord said that He would bring this great judgment against the city of Sidon so that the people there would know that God is in control of all things. God said that Sidon would be judged in several different ways. There would be disease that would spread through the city. People would be killed in the streets. Enemies would come against Sidon and the people would see the sword from every side. God also said why He would bring this judgment.

22. Read Ezekiel 28:20-26 and write what God said that Sidon would not be to Israel any more.

23. Explain why God said that the judgment of Sidon would cause people to know that God is in control of all things.

24. Explain why you think that the only way that God can get the attention of many people is to bring judgment on them.

We see a real picture of the influence that Sidon had on the nation of Israel. It was in the city of Sidon that the worship of Baal first began. Baal was the idol that the people of Israel worshiped more than any other idol. That is the reason why Sidon is called a prickling brier and a thorn. The false gods of Sidon caused many of the people of Israel to turn from God to idols. This worship of idols was one reason for the judgment of both Israel and Judah. The people of Sidon had greatly influenced the people of Israel to worship idols. Now God said that He was going to cause the people to know that He was God.

25. Read Ezekiel 28:20-26 and write from where God said that He would gather the house of Israel.

26. Explain why one of the reasons that God said Sidon would be judged was due to the fact that they had introduced the worship of Baal to the Jews.

27. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Sidon had greatly influenced the people of Israel to worship idols.

The Lord turned from the judgment of Sidon to the future for Israel. We see that God gave a wonderful promise about the future for the nation of Israel. The people of Israel are scattered in different nations throughout the world today. One day the Lord will complete the promise given here by gathering all of the Jews from all of the nations where they have been scattered. God will bring them back into their own land in that day. God promised here that the people would then live in peace and safety in their own land. Then they will build their own houses and plant their own crops. They will not need to be afraid in that day.

28. Read Ezekiel 28:20-26 and write what will happen to the people of Israel when the Lord brings them back into their own land.

29. Explain in your own words what the Lord promises to do for the nation of Israel in the future.

30. Explain why it is important for you to know that the Lord will one day bring His people back into their own land.

God also told Ezekiel to prophecy about the judgment of Egypt. As we have seen in our study of the countries that are promised judgment, many of these countries were very proud. That was also true of the people of Egypt. The Pharaoh of Egypt boasted of the fact that he was like a great crocodile. He had complete control of his river. However, God said that this pride would be judged. God said that He would put hooks in the jaws of the king of Egypt. God also said that He would cause the fish to stick to the scales of the crocodile.

31. Read Ezekiel 29:1-21 and write what God said He would do with the crocodile and the fish that were hooked to the scales when God threw them out of the river.

32. Explain what God meant when He said that He would put hooks in the jaws of the king of Egypt.

33. Explain why you think that the Pharaoh of Egypt was so proud that he said that he was like a great crocodile.

Here God promised that He was going to judge the Egyptians by taking them out of their own land and causing them to die in the wilderness. There they would be eaten by the birds and the wild animals. We also see a second reason why God promised that Egypt would receive judgment. God said that Egypt had been like a walking stick made of reed which grew by the river. Many times Egypt had agreed to help Israel. Then Egypt broke those promises. Egypt was only working to help herself. When Israel leaned on the nation of Egypt for help, the only help that Israel received from Egypt was a broken reed which hurt Israel instead of helping Israel.

34. Read Ezekiel 29:1-21 and write what God said He would bring upon the nation of Egypt.

35. Explain why God said that Egypt would be judged because she was like a broken reed.

36. Explain why you think that God said that the nation of Egypt had been like a broken reed in its relationship with Judah.

The judgment of Egypt by the Lord was a great judgment. That judgment included the animals as well as the people. God said that He would destroy the land of Egypt and make it empty. God promised to show that He was the one that made the river upon which the people of Egypt depended. God said that He would show that the river belonged to Him. God said that the land of Egypt would be empty from one end of the land to the other. No one would live in the land of Egypt for forty years. During that period of forty years, the people of Egypt would be scattered among the people of the other nations.

37. Read Ezekiel 29:1-21 and write what God said that Nebuchadnezzar would use the riches of Egypt to do.

38. Explain why God said that the land of Egypt would be empty and desolate during the time that God brought judgment on that nation.

39. Explain why you think that God said that He would show that the river of Egypt belonged to Him.

God also promised that He would bring the people of Egypt back into their own land after they had been scattered for forty years in foreign countries. However, God said that the nation of Egypt would never again be as powerful as it once was. They would not rule over the other nations. As a result, the nation of Israel would not depend on the false promises of Egypt again. We also see how God caused the destruction of Egypt to happen. The king of Babylon took his armies against Tyre. By the time Tyre was destroyed, all of the riches had been removed. There was nothing left to pay the soldiers of Babylon. The king of Babylon decided to go and destroy Egypt so that he could pay his soldiers.

40. Read Ezekiel 29:1-21 and write why God said that He allowed the armies of Babylon to destroy Egypt.

41. Explain why God said that Egypt would never again become the powerful nation that it had once been.

42. Explain why you think that God allowed the riches of Tyre to be removed from that city

before Nebuchadnezzar conquered that city.

Reread Ezekiel 27:1-29:21 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 13
Ezekiel 30:1-32:32

In our last lesson we learned that God said that He would judge the country of Egypt. Today we will learn more about the judgment that the Lord promised to bring on the land of Egypt. God promised that Egypt would be destroyed by the armies of Babylon. The ruler of Egypt was very proud. As a result, God gave Ezekiel a parable to show how He felt about this pride of the ruler of Egypt. From this parable, we will see the way that the Lord feels about pride in the life of any person. It was due to this pride that God said that He would cause the Egyptians to be defeated by the armies of Babylon.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain why God promised that Babylon would defeat Egypt.
- Explain what God said about the pride of Pharaoh.
- Explain what God said that He would do to the people of Egypt.

As we begin this lesson, we see that God said that the day of the judgment of the nation of Egypt was near. That day when judgment would come is called the day of the Lord. Since we know that the day of the Lord refers future judgment, we see that the judgment of Egypt in the time of Ezekiel also gives us a real picture of the future judgment that will happen to all nations. God said that the people of Egypt would be destroyed. The foundations of her cities would be destroyed. God also said that Ethiopia would receive great judgment because the people of Ethiopia depended on Egypt for help. When Egypt was judged, there would be no one to help Ethiopia.

1. Read Ezekiel 30:1-26 and write what God said would happen to the pride of Egypt in the day that He brought judgment.
2. Explain why God said that the people of Egypt would have no one to help them because of the judgment of Egypt.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord called the day of the judgment of Egypt the day of the Lord.

God said that the pride and the power of the people of Egypt would be destroyed when He brought judgment upon them. The people and the cities would also be destroyed. This would happen from one end of the country all the way to the opposite end of the country. The judgment of Egypt would also cause the people of Ethiopia to be afraid. God said that King Nebuchadnezzar and the armies of Babylon would come and destroy the land of Egypt. God also said that He would bring judgment on the river that supplied water for the crops of Egypt. Here we see that the Lord was going to make a complete judgment on the land.

4. Read Ezekiel 30:1-26 and write what God said that He would do to the idols of Egypt in that day.
5. Explain why God said that He was going to bring judgment on the river of Egypt as well as the land.
6. Explain why you think that God said the judgment of Egypt would be complete and would be destroyed from one end of the land to the other.

We see that the Lord promised to bring a very complete judgment on the land of Egypt. Their idols would be destroyed so that the people could not worship those idols any longer. The princes and rulers of Egypt would also be destroyed. The land of Egypt would be filled with fear. Many of the cities of Egypt would be destroyed by fire. The leading cities of Egypt would all feel the anger of the Lord. The people would either be killed or they would be taken as captives to foreign lands. As a result, God said that the power of Egypt would be broken.

7. Read Ezekiel 30:1-26 and write what God said would be broken when destruction came on the land of Egypt.
8. Explain why God said that the judgment of Egypt would break the power of Egypt and fill the people with fear.
9. Explain why you think that God said that the people of Egypt would either be killed or taken as captives to foreign lands.

God said that He would use His power to break the arms of the ruler of Egypt. That would make it impossible for the ruler of Egypt to show any strength as he led his army against the army of Babylon. Instead his sword would fall from his hand. As a result, the Egyptians would be defeated and scattered among the nations. Just as the Lord promised to break the arms of Pharaoh, God also promised to strengthen the arms of the Babylonians. Here we are reminded of the fact that God is in complete control of every battlefield. No army can win a battle unless the Lord allows that army to win. God allows wars to happen because of sin and then He uses those wars to complete His purpose among the nations.

10. Read Ezekiel 30:1-26 and write what the Lord said would not happen to the arm of Pharaoh since the Lord had broken it.
11. Explain how the Lord is able to even use the conflicts between nations to complete His purposes.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord chose to strengthen the arms of the Babylonians even though Babylon was a very evil nation.

In order to show Pharaoh what his pride was like, God spoke a parable about a cedar tree. This cedar tree was actually a picture of the nation of Assyria. This tree became great and tall and powerful because it received plenty of water to help it grow. As a result, this tree became much greater than all of the trees that were around it. All of the birds made their nests in this great tree. The nations gathered around the tree. The animals raised their young under the tree. Here we see a real picture of the greatness and power of Assyria at one time. At that time in their history, no other nations could be compared to the nation of Assyria.

13. Read Ezekiel 31:1-18 and write how this great tree compared in beauty to the trees in the garden of God.
14. Explain why God compared the nation of Assyria to a great and powerful cedar tree.
15. Explain why you think that God compared the pride of the Pharaoh to the pride of the nation of Assyria.

As a result of becoming such a great and powerful nation, the nation of Assyria had become very proud. The people had lifted themselves up. As soon as people begin to think that they are great, they should prepare for the judgment of God. God did bring judgment on the nation of Assyria because of their pride. They were driven out of their land and destroyed because of their sin. God pointed out the fact that Egypt had been a great nation like Assyria. They had become proud like Assyria. Now God was warning the leaders of Egypt that they would be judged just as Assyria had been judged. We also see a real picture of the way that the king fell.

16. Read Ezekiel 31:1-18 and write what happened to the branches and the boughs of the great tree that pictured the nation of Assyria.
17. Explain why as soon as people begin to think that they are great that they need to prepare for the judgment of the Lord.
18. Explain why you think that the people who are the rulers of powerful nations often become proud.

God pointed out the fact that the king of Egypt would be cut down just as the king of Assyria had earlier been cut down. God said that the Pharaoh would be killed. Then he would go down to the lower parts of the earth. This is one of the references that cause many people to believe that it is possible that the place of torment where unbelievers are judged until the final judgment

is in the center of the earth. Regardless of where the place of torment (also called sheol or hell) is, God said that was the place where the king of Egypt would be sent. This is also the place where all of those who reject the Lord are sent at the time of their physical death.

19. Read Ezekiel 31:1-18 and write what the nations would do when they heard of the fall of the Pharaoh.

20. Explain the meaning of the parable of the cedar tree in your own words.

21. Explain why you think that the Lord mentioned several times that people would go to the lower parts of the earth.

The Pharaoh of Egypt was a very powerful ruler during the time of Ezekiel. We have seen a little of this power mentioned in other chapters of Ezekiel. Now God spoke again of the power of Pharaoh. God said that the Pharaoh was like a crocodile in the seas. The lion was the most powerful animal on the land and the crocodile was the strongest animal in the seas. As a result of the power of Pharaoh, he was able to cause much trouble on both the land and the sea. Now God said that He would spread His net over Pharaoh and catch him in the same way that people catch a lion.

22. Read Ezekiel 32:1-16 and write where God said that He would cast Pharaoh when God spread His net over Pharaoh.

23. Explain why God compared the Pharaoh of Egypt to a crocodile or a lion.

24. Explain why you think that God said that He would spread a net over Pharaoh and catch him like a lion.

God was planning to bring judgment on Pharaoh and the land of Egypt very soon. God said that both the land and Pharaoh would be thrown into an open field. There they would be eaten by the birds and the wild animals. The mountains and the valleys would be filled with their blood. God also said that He would cover the sun, moon and stars in the day when He brought judgment on the people of Egypt. This reminds us of the judgment that the Lord had brought on the land of Egypt earlier during the time of Moses. God also said that the judgment of Egypt would have a great affect on the other nations. The people of the other nations would be filled with fear as they saw the judgment that came on the land of Egypt.

25. Read Ezekiel 32:1-16 and write what God said that the people of the other nations would do when they saw the sword of the Lord come against Egypt.

26. Explain why God said that the mountains and the valleys would be filled with the blood of the Egyptians.

27. Explain why you think that God said that the judgment of Egypt would cause the other nations to be filled with fear.

Here we see that people are filled with fear as they see the judgment of others. People realize that judgment will also come on them one day because of the evil things that they have done. This is one reason why many people are filled with fear today. They are afraid of the judgment that will come upon them because of their sins. God said that the judgment of Egypt would be very complete. It would include the animals as well as the people. In fact God said that the land of Egypt would become empty and would have no people in it.

28. Read Ezekiel 32:1-16 and write like what God said that He would cause the rivers to flow.

29. Explain why the people of the other nations were filled with fear when they heard about the judgment of Egypt.

30. Explain why you think that many people today are controlled by fear because they are afraid that judgment will come on them one day.

God then turned from the judgment of Egypt and began to tell what will happen to the people of Egypt after they have been judged. This is also a real warning to all of the people who choose to reject Christ today. Here we see very clearly that there is life after death. Death does not end the existence of the unbeliever. Instead death is only the beginning because people will

continue to exist forever. If people have failed to place their trust in Christ, this existence will be a terrible existence because it will be a judgment that will last forever. That is the judgment that all people that reject Christ will experience.

31. Read Ezekiel 32:17-32 and write where God said that the people of Egypt and the other nations would go when they died.

32. Explain why it is important for people to understand that judgment is eternal and those who are judged will be judged forever.

33. Explain why you think that it is important for you to warn people about the fact that judgment is eternal.

Here we see that God emphasized the fact again that people go down into the lower parts of the earth when they die. The pit or place of torment is the place where all those who have not placed their trust in Christ wait for the final judgment. From Luke 16:19-31 we see that this is a place where people will be in terrible torment as they wait for the final judgment. We go on to read about some of the nations who had already died and were waiting for the people of Egypt to join them in the place of torment. The following nations are mentioned: Assyria, Elam, Meshech, Tubal, Edom the princes of the north and the Sidonians.

34. Read Ezekiel 32:17-32 and write how the people of all of these nations that are mentioned died.

35. Explain why the pit or the lower parts of the earth is another name for the place of torment.

36. Explain why you think that it is important to help people realize they have the choice to accept the payment of Christ for their sin or to prepare for eternal judgment.

We see why the Lord mentioned the judgment of these particular nations. These nations were all very evil nations who had done evil to the people of other nations. As a result, the people of these nations had died at the hands of other nations. God said that people will receive what they have sowed. Because these nations had killed the people of other nations, God said that they would be judged by the sword. As soon as they were killed by the sword, all of the people of these nations went immediately to the pit where they are in great torment. They will be in that place of torment until the time of the final judgment. After that final judgment, they will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

37. Read Ezekiel 32:17-32 and write what God said would happen to the kings and princes of Edom.

38. Explain what these verses teach will happen to all people when they die if they have not placed their trust in Christ.

39. Explain why you think that God said that all of these nations went to the pit where they are in great torment.

As we have read about those who were judged and sent to the pit, we see that all people will receive judgment if they fail to place their trust in Christ. God said that all of these people would be waiting in the place of torment when Pharaoh arrived. Here we see that once a person dies that it is too late for that person to change the place where he will spend eternity. Not a single one of these people can escape that judgment. Here we see the importance of encouraging people to place their trust in Christ right now. If they do not place their trust in Christ before they die, it will be too late for them after they die.

40. Read Ezekiel 32:17-32 and write what God said He caused to be in the land of the living.

41. Explain why it is important to understand that once a person dies that the choice has been made where that person will spend eternity.

42. Explain why you think that it is important to invite people to trust in Christ while they have the opportunity.

Reread Ezekiel 30:1-32:32 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 14
Ezekiel 33:1-34:31

For many lessons we have been studying about the judgment of Judah and the surrounding nations. All of these nations received the judgment that the Lord promised would come upon them. Today we will see that the Lord reminded Ezekiel to remember the responsibility that the Lord had given to him to warn the people of coming judgment. This is also the same responsibility which God has given to every Christian today. We are to warn people to turn to Christ. In that way they will receive life instead of death. We also have a real warning given to us if we fail to complete our responsibility to warn the wicked.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what we learn about our responsibility to warn the wicked.
- Explain what we learn about those who hear the Word of God but do not obey it.
- Explain what God said about the evil shepherds of Israel.
- Explain what God promised about the future of Israel.

In the time of Ezekiel, each city would have a man who stood on the wall of the city to watch for any enemies. If this watchman saw an enemy coming, it was his responsibility to blow the trumpet and warn the people. When the people heard the sound of the trumpet, that was their warning to get into the city immediately before the enemy came and destroyed them. If a watchman failed to blow the trumpet when he saw an enemy coming toward the city, then the watchman was responsible for the blood of all of the people that were killed.

1. Read Ezekiel 33:1-20 and write what God called Ezekiel to be.
2. Explain why the responsibility of the watchman in the time of Ezekiel was to warn the people when there was an enemy coming.
3. Explain why you think that God said that the watchman would be held responsible if he failed to warn the people.

Just as a watchman for a city was to warn the city about an enemy that was coming, Ezekiel was called to be a watchman to warn people about sin and the consequences of their sin. Ezekiel was told to hear the Word of the Lord and then tell that Word to the people. The message that the Lord gave to Ezekiel was a message which gave the people a choice. If the people continued to live in their sins, they would certainly die. However, the message of Ezekiel also offered life. When the wicked were warned about their evil ways, that gave them an opportunity to repent of their sin and turn to God and receive life from Him.

4. Read Ezekiel 33:1-20 and write what God said would happen if Ezekiel failed to warn the people about their sin.
5. Explain why Ezekiel was called to be a watchman to warn people about sin and the consequences of sin.
6. Explain why you think that God has also called each of us to be watchmen who warn people to repent of their sin and turn to Christ.

Just as Ezekiel had a responsibility to warn the wicked in his day, we also have a responsibility to warn the wicked in our day. If we do not warn people to turn from their sin, they will die and go to hell and later to the lake of fire and brimstone. However, we will be responsible because we failed to warn them to turn from their sin. We failed to tell them how they could have life through the blood of Christ. When we clearly help a person to realize what it means to follow Christ, then that person is faced with a decision. That person can either decide to accept or reject Christ. If that person decides to reject Christ after he has a clear understanding of what it

means to repent and place his trust in Christ, that person is responsible for himself.

7. Read Ezekiel 33:1-20 and write how many of the sins of the wicked will be mentioned if the person repents and turns from his ways.
8. Explain what these verses teach about our responsibility to warn the wicked so that they can make the choice to repent and trust Christ or reject Him.
9. Explain why you think that each person will be held responsible for their own choice once they know what their choices are.

God does not enjoy judging sinful people. This is the reason why God waits a long time to judge people. However, God is a holy God and must judge sin. This is why God gives people a choice. God says that a person who lives a good life but fails to place his trust in Christ will be judged for his sin. A very evil person who realizes that he is a sinner and places his trust in Christ will be given eternal life. Here we see that it is not the past life of a person that decides whether that person will have life. Instead the important thing is whether a person chooses to repent and accept the payment of Christ for his sin or reject that payment.

10. Read Ezekiel 33:1-20 and write how God said that He will judge all people.
11. Explain why God is both holy and just when He helps people understand their choices and then gives those people the freedom to either accept or reject eternal life.
12. Explain why you think that it is important to help every person understand that Christ will forgive their sin regardless of how sinful that person has been in the past.

As you remember, Ezekiel was made dumb in the early part of this book so that he could not speak. This was the reason why he had used various objects and pictures to show the people that judgment was coming. Today we will read about the Lord opening the mouth of Ezekiel and giving him back his voice again. This happened right after the city of Jerusalem was captured and destroyed. Since Ezekiel was in Babylon and not in Jerusalem, his responsibility was to warn the people in Babylon about coming judgment. God opened the mouth of Ezekiel so that he could continue to warn the people who were in Babylon.

13. Read Ezekiel 33:21-33 and write who the people were looking to instead of looking to the Lord.
14. Explain why God opened the mouth of Ezekiel so that he could warn the people and share with them their choice to accept or reject the Lord.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord also wants to open our mouths so that we can also explain to people the choices that they face.

The people were hearing the Word of the Lord. However, they were refusing to obey the Lord and follow His Word. The people were offering sacrifices to idols. They were killing those who were innocent. They were committing adultery with the wives of their neighbors. They were doing every kind of evil. This was the reason that the Lord said that judgment must come on the land. This was the reason that God said He would bring a sword against the land. The people would be killed by the sword, by wild animals and by disease. God said that He would cause the proud land to become empty and desolate. There would be nothing left in the land.

16. Read Ezekiel 33:21-33 and write what the people would know when God made the land waste and empty.
17. Explain why it is important for people to obey the Word of God and not just hear the Word of God.
18. Explain why you think that people often deceive themselves and think that they do not need to obey what they learn from the Word of God.

God said that the Jews in Babylon were talking about Ezekiel and the things that he said to them. In fact they were actually mocking Ezekiel. They would come to Ezekiel and say that they wanted to know what the Lord had to say to them. After the people heard the Word of the Lord, they said that they had a real love for God. However, their hearts were filled with sin.

Here we see that they were saying one thing and doing the opposite. They would hear the Word of God but they would not obey it. Today we also have many people who hear the Word of God but fail to obey it.

19. Read Ezekiel 33:21-33 and write the particular sin that the Jews in Babylon had in their hearts.

20. Explain what God says about those who hear the Word of God but choose not to obey the Word.

21. Explain why you think that many people claim to have a real love for God when their hearts are filled with sin.

God called the leaders of Israel shepherds. The responsibility of a shepherd is to feed the flock. However, God said that the shepherds of Israel had failed to fulfill their responsibility. Instead of leading and feeding the people, the leaders of Israel were only concerned about themselves. They did not feed the people. Instead they ate the fat. They took the possessions of the people and used them for themselves. They destroyed the people instead of feeding them. When there were those who were diseased by sin, the leaders did not strengthen them. They did not come with a message of healing for those who were sick.

22. Read Ezekiel 34:1-10 and write what the shepherds of Israel had not done for those who were broken.

23. Explain why God said that the shepherds of Israel were false shepherds because they used the people to feed themselves instead of feeding the people.

24. Explain why you think that God warned the shepherds of Israel that they had failed to fulfill their responsibility.

The false shepherds who were leading the people of God were not concerned about helping the people who were in need. Instead of finding the people when they were spiritually lost, the leaders showed no concern. Instead they allowed the people to be led the wrong way by false teachers. God said that these false teachers were actually like wild animals. They destroyed any who got within their reach. The false shepherds had also used force and other cruel measures to rule the people. As a result, God said that His chosen people were scattered all over the earth.

25. Read Ezekiel 34:1-10 and write who was searching for this scattered flock.

26. Explain why a true shepherd will not allow the people he leads to be led the wrong way.

27. Explain why you think that God mentioned that the false shepherds of Israel had no concern for the lost.

God had a warning for these false shepherds who had allowed the flock of God to become scattered and destroyed by false teachers. These shepherds had fed themselves instead of feeding the flock of God. As a result, God said that He was against these false shepherds. In the sight of God, they were responsible for leading the people away from God. God said that He would take away their joy as shepherds of the flock. They would not be allowed to lead the people the wrong way any longer. God said that He would take His flock out of the mouths of these shepherds so that they could not destroy the people any longer.

28. Read Ezekiel 34:1-10 and write what God told the shepherds of Israel to hear.

29. Explain what God teaches about shepherds who lead the people the wrong way.

30. Explain why you think that God said that He was going to take His flock out of the mouths of these shepherds so that they could not destroy them any longer.

Although the false shepherds of Israel had forgotten the flock of God, we see that God will never forget His people. God said that He will seek out His sheep in all of the places where they have been scattered. Then He will gather them and bring them back into their own land. There God promised to feed them in a good pasture. God also promised to give them protection in a safe fold or corral. God promised to do all of the things that the shepherds of Israel had

failed to do. The shepherds of Israel thought only of themselves. God thinks only of His flock. This reminds us of the fact that Christ is the Good Shepherd that lays down His life for the sheep.

31. Read Ezekiel 34:11-31 and write what God said He will do for the lost.

32. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ is called the Good Shepherd in the New Testament.

33. Explain why you think that the Lord also wants each spiritual leader today to be a faithful shepherd.

Here we see that a true shepherd is one who is willing to go out and look for the sheep in all of the places where they are lost. God promised to save all those who are in need. God also will judge all those who are depending on their own strength because they think that they are strong. God said that those shepherds who were depending on their own strength had filled His pasture with evil. However, God said that He would judge the flock. He would separate those who have done evil from those who had placed their trust in Him. God said that they were like two kinds of cattle.

34. Read Ezekiel 34:11-31 and write the two kinds of cattle which God said that He would judge between.

35. Explain why a true shepherd is willing to go out and look for the sheep in all of the places where they are lost.

36. Explain why you think that Christ wants us to be faithful under shepherds who seek the lost wherever they are.

God also promised to set up one shepherd over His sheep. We know that Christ is the One who is the Good Shepherd. He came from the family of David. We see that Christ will feed the flock of God. God also promised to make a covenant with His people. God said that then they would not need to be afraid any longer. God said that He will remove the evil beasts from the land. As a result, the people will live in safety. God also promised to send the rain so that the crops of His people would grow. These showers of rain are called showers of blessing. In that day the trees and the fields will also produce a rich harvest.

37. Read Ezekiel 34:11-31 and write what kind of a covenant God promised to make with His people.

38. Explain why you learn from these verses about the way that the Lord will bless the nation of Israel in the future.

39. Explain why you think that God told the people that the day would come when the Jews would not need to be afraid any longer.

God promised that He will one day make His people free. Here we see that the Lord is the One who makes people free. First, the Lord sets people free from the eternal consequences of their sins. In addition God also promised to set the nation of Israel free from the surrounding nations. God said that He will also make His people safe. They will no longer have any fear in their hearts in that day. They will no longer be hungry because the Lord will fill them. In that day the people of Israel will know that the Lord is with them. They will recognize the fact that they are the people of God.

40. Read Ezekiel 34:11-31 and write what God called His flock.

41. Explain why it is important to understand that when Christ sets people free that He sets them free from the eternal consequences for their sins.

42. Explain why you think that God promised that one day the people will no longer be hungry because He will fill them.

Reread Ezekiel 33:1-34:31 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 15
Ezekiel 35:1-37:28

Today we will be learning more about the promises of the Lord to the nation of Israel. When God judged Israel, the people were taken out of the land and the land became a desert. This happened because God stopped the rain. Here God gave the people the promise that one day He will bring his people back into their own land. In that day the land of Israel will again become a rich and fruitful land. God also gave Ezekiel a vision of what the people of Israel were like at the present time. God said that until the time that He brought them back into the land that they would be like a valley of dry bones. However, God promised to give life to those dry bones.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what God said about the judgment on Edom.
- Explain what God promised will happen in the land of Israel.
- Explain what Ezekiel teaches about the New Covenant.

God told Ezekiel to speak against Mount Seir. Mount Seir is another name for Edom. Edom was the nation that had come from the family of Esau. God said that He would stretch out His hand against Edom. God said that the cities of Edom would become nothing. God would judge and destroy those cities. We also see that God gave the reasons why He was going to judge Edom. The people of Edom had always had a hatred for the people of Israel. This hatred caused the people of Edom to kill and destroy the people of Israel whenever there was an opportunity for them to do so.

1. Read Ezekiel 35:1-15 and write what God said that He would prepare for the nation of Edom.
2. Explain why hatred will cause nations to have great conflict against other groups of people and will eventually bring judgment on them for their hatred.
3. Explain why you think that the people of Edom had always had a hatred for the people of Israel.

Here we see that the Lord said that He was planning to bring judgment on the nation of Edom. Just as the people of Edom had killed the people of Israel, now they would also be killed. Their blood would be shed because they had shed the blood of others. God said that the destruction of Edom would be very great. God said that He would fill the mountains, hills and valleys with the bodies of those who would be killed. This would be a permanent judgment. God said that the cities of Edom would never be rebuilt. The people of Edom had said that they were going to capture the lands of Israel and Judah and make them their own. However, they forgot that they were the people of the Lord.

4. Read Ezekiel 35:1-15 and write what God said that He had heard the people of Edom say.
5. Explain why God said that the mountains, the hills and the valleys would be filled with the bodies of the people of Edom.
6. Explain why you think that God said that the cities of Edom would never be rebuilt.

The people of Edom thought that they could speak against the people of God without being judged. However, we see that the Lord is the One who speaks the last word. God said that He would show His anger against Edom in the same way that the people of Edom showed their anger against the people of God. God had heard all of the words that the people of Edom had boasted against Him. Now God promised that the day would come when Edom would be judged while the other nations of the earth enjoyed blessing. The purpose of God in all of these

judgments is to cause people to know that He is the Lord.

7. Read Ezekiel 35:1-15 and write what God said that He would cause the people of Edom to know.

8. Explain what lessons you learn from the judgment that God promised to the nation of Edom.

9. Explain why you think that God said that He would show His anger against Edom in the same way that the people of Edom showed their anger against the people of God.

Once we finish the study of the judgment of Edom, we begin a study of the things that will happen to Israel in the future. The rest of the book of Ezekiel speaks of things that have not happened yet although we are beginning to see some of them starting to happen. The enemies said that they would destroy Israel. They came from every side to take parts of the land. Now God said that He would show His anger against those nations. They will receive the same kind of judgment that Edom received. They would bear the shame of their sins and their evil actions.

10. Read Ezekiel 36:1-24 and write what God promised will one day happen to the mountains of Israel.

11. Explain why it is important to understand that God promised a great future for the people of the nation of Israel.

12. Explain why you think that God said that the people of the nations would bear the shame of their sins and their evil actions.

Here we see that the Lord promised what He will do in the future for the nation of Israel. God promised that He will make the nation of Israel a fruitful nation. God said that He is for the nation of Israel. He will plant them and make them a good field. God also promised to multiply the men in Israel. Instead of cities that have been destroyed, God promised to build the cities again and bring the people into them. God also promised to multiply the animals of the people. God even promised to bless the people with greater blessings than they had ever been blessed with before.

13. Read Ezekiel 36:1-24 and write what the people of Israel had done when they lived in their land the first time.

14. Explain why the Lord will keep His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by rebuilding the cities of Israel and bring the people back into them.

15. Explain why you think that God promised the nation of Israel that He will one day make them a very fruitful nation.

We see again the reason why God brought judgment on the people of Israel. The people had filled the land with evil. The people had filled the land with their idols. They had sacrificed their animals and children to these idols. As a result, God scattered the people among the nations. This was the judgment of God for the things that the people had done. When the people of Israel came into these other nations, the people of the other nations mocked them and made fun of them. The people said that the Jews claimed to believe God but they did not live the way that God wanted them to live.

16. Read Ezekiel 36:1-24 and write why God had pity on the people of the nation of Israel.

17. Explain why God said that it had become necessary for Him to bring judgment on the people of Israel.

18. Explain why you think that the people of other nations said that the Jews claimed to believe in God but they did not live the way that God wanted them to live.

People spoke evil of the name of the Lord because He allowed His people to be taken as captives to foreign lands. Now God said that the reason He would bring His people back into their own land was for the sake of His holy name. God promised that He would lift up His name so that people would not be able to speak against it any more. Here we see why we know that God will keep His promises to the nation of Israel even though some of those promises are still for the future. God will keep these promises for the sake of His own name. That is one

reason that the nation of Israel does not need to be afraid that God will break His promises to Israel.

19. Read Ezekiel 36:1-24 and write what God said that He would do with His great name.

20. Explain why you know that the Lord will not break any of His promises to the nation of Israel.

21. Explain why you think that God said that when he restored Israel that the nations would not be able to speak against His name any longer.

God also told us what He will do when He brings His people back into their own land. God said that He will make His people clean. He will take away all of the filth that came on them because they worshiped idols. Then God promised to give them a new spirit and a new heart. When God took the people out of the land, the hearts of the people were like stone. They would not listen to Him. When God completes these promises to Israel, the people will have a new heart and will listen to the Lord. God promised to also send the Holy Spirit to live in His people. The Holy Spirit will give the people the power to obey the Lord.

22. Read Ezekiel 36:25-38 and write what God promised that the people will be when they are brought back into their own land.

23. Explain why it is important that God promised the people of Israel that He would send the Holy Spirit to live in His people.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord promised that He will give the people of Israel a new spirit and a new heart.

We see another way that the Jews will be changed when they all place their trust in Christ. In that day the people will remember the evil things that they have done. However, they will not be proud of those evil things any longer. Instead the people will be ashamed because of all the evil that they have done. Here we see an important lesson for our own lives. We should not be proud of the things that we have done wrong. Instead we should be ashamed. God also gave His people some wonderful promises. One day God says that He will cause His people to live in their own cities that He has given to them.

25. Read Ezekiel 36:25-38 and write what God said that their land will be like in that day.

26. Explain why people are no longer proud of the evil things that they have done once they place their trust in Christ.

27. Explain why you think that people are proud of the evil that they do until they place their trust in Christ.

Here we see the great change that the Lord will make in the land and in the cities. At one time the land was a rich land which produced wonderful crops. However, the people turned away from God. As a result, God stopped the rain and the land became a desert. Now God promised that He will start the rains again so that the land will become a wonderful land like the Garden of Eden. The cities will also be rebuilt. Then God promised that He will fill these cities with people. Those people will worship and serve the Lord.

28. Read Ezekiel 36:25-28 and write what God said that the people of the nations would know.

29. Explain how the people of Israel will be changed when the Lord gives the people a new heart.

30. Explain why you think that God brought judgment on the land of Israel by stopping the rain.

One day God gave Ezekiel a vision. In this vision Ezekiel was taken to a valley. This valley was filled with dry bones. In fact these bones had been in the sun for so long that they had become very dry. Then God asked Ezekiel if these bones could live. Ezekiel replied that God was the only one who knew whether those bones could live. We see that Ezekiel recognized that God has the power to do all things. He can do whatever He chooses. God told Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones and tell them to hear the Word of the Lord.

31. Read Ezekiel 37:1-28 and write what God said He would cause to enter into the bones.

32. Explain why God asked Ezekiel if the dry bones could ever live again.
33. Explain why you think that Ezekiel told the Lord that the Lord had the power to do all things and could do whatever He chose.

God gives us a wonderful picture here of what will happen to Israel in the future. God will take the dead bones of the people of Israel and give those bones life. God promised that He will add flesh and skin to these bones. Then God said that He would cause the breath of life to come into these bones. Ezekiel obeyed God and spoke what God told him to speak. As Ezekiel spoke the bones began to shake and rattle. The bones came together and formed bodies. Then God breathed the breath of life into those bodies. Then they stood in front of Ezekiel like a great army. God told Ezekiel that the vision he had just seen was a picture of what will happen to Israel in the future when God causes the people of Israel to return to Him.

34. Read Ezekiel 37:1-28 and write what two things God said would be joined together.
35. Explain why God said that He will one day take the dead bones of the people of Israel and give those bones life.
36. Explain why you think that the key to those bones coming to life is the promise that God will breathe the breath of life into those bones.

As we read this passage, we see two sticks that picture Israel and Judah. At one time they had been one nation. However, due to sin they had become two nations. Now God said that they will no longer be two nations. God said that He will join them together and they will become one nation again. God promised to hold that one nation in His hand in that day. God will gather the people together from all of the nations where they have been scattered. At that time the people will come together in their own land. Then God will make them one people.

37. Read Ezekiel 37:1-28 and write who God said would be the king over the people when He makes them one nation again.
38. Explain how the vision of the dry bones and the vision of the two sticks are related to each other.
39. Explain why you think that the Lord is able to take people that are divided and cause them to become one people again.

God also told what the nation will be like when the two nations are joined together. In that day the people will no longer worship idols. Instead the Lord will save the people and cleanse them from their sin. Christ will be their shepherd and will rule over them. In that day they will obey the Word of God. They will also live in the land that God has given to them. God promised that He will make a covenant of peace with them. This will be a covenant that will last forever. No one will be able to destroy the covenant that God has made with them.

40. Read Ezekiel 37:1-28 and write how long God said His sanctuary will be in the middle of them.
41. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ is the Shepherd that will rule over the people of Israel in the future.
42. Explain why you think that God promised that He will make a covenant of peace with the people of Israel in that day when Christ begins to rule over them.

Read Ezekiel 35:1-37:28 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 16
Ezekiel 38:1-39:29

Today we will look at another thing that will happen to the nation of Israel in the future. One day great nations from the north will decide that they are going to come down against the nation of Israel and destroy the land of Israel. They will gather great armies for this fight against the nation of Israel. The future survival of the nation of Israel will look very dark in that day. Although some of the countries will speak a word for Israel, none of the nations will be willing to fight to help protect Israel. However, the Lord says that in that day that He will fight for Israel. Since the Lord will fight for Israel, the nation of Israel will win the victory and these armies of the north will be destroyed.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain who will be fighting against Israel in that day.
- Explain what will happen when the Lord fights for Israel.
- Explain what will happen to the armies of the north.
- Explain what God promised will happen to Israel in that day.

As we begin this chapter, we are given a list of the nations that will gather themselves together and bring their armies to come and fight against the nation of Israel. We see that the leader of this great army will be Gog. He will be the ruler of the country that used to be called Magog. Magog is the country that is called Russia today. Russia of course is that great country which is far north of Israel. In that future day the ruler of Russia will think that it can destroy the land of Israel. The ruler of Gog will think that no one can stop him from his evil plans.

1. Read Ezekiel 38:1-13 and write what God said He will put in the jaws of Gog when he stops Gog.
2. Explain why it is important to understand that the nations of the north will join together with Gog to come and fight against Israel.
3. Explain why you think that the ruler of the north will think that no one can stop him from his evil plans.

We see again that the Lord is in complete control even when sinful people think that they are completing their evil purposes. God also said that the nation of Russia will not come against Israel by itself. Instead the armies of many other countries will also come with the army of Russia. These other armies include the armies of the east of Israel and the armies from the north part of Africa. In addition, there will also be other armies from the north. These include Gomer (this is the country that is called Germany today) and Togarmah (probably the southern part of Russia and Turkey). The armies of these countries will include large numbers of soldiers. They will come with all of the weapons needed to bring complete destruction to Israel.

4. Read Ezekiel 38:1-13 and write when God said that this great army will come against Israel.
5. Explain why there will be many nations from various directions that will join together to destroy the land of Israel.
6. Explain why you think that God will allow all of these countries to join together to come against the land of Israel.

The time mentioned in these verses when these armies will come against Israel will happen in the last days. The people of Israel will be scattered by the sword. God said that this battle will happen after the people have been gathered back from all of the nations where they have been scattered. The battle will happen on the mountains of Israel. God said that these mountains

have been an empty waste for a long time. However, God will bring His people back into the land and fill those mountains. In that day the people of Israel will feel that they are safe. Then suddenly this great army will come against Israel like a storm. The land will be covered with the people of this great army.

7. Read Ezekiel 38:1-13 and write what kind of thoughts these people will think as they think about Israel.

8. Explain why the people of Israel will finally feel that they are safe at the very time that this great army will suddenly come against them.

9. Explain why you think that God will bring the people back into the land and they will feel safe before these countries suddenly come against them.

Russia and the other armies that join with them will think that it will be easy to destroy the nation of Israel. We see that the other nations will not try to stop Russia and its allies. The nations of the west (called the young lions) will ask Russia and its followers what they are planning to do. No country will offer to help Israel. We also see why these nations of the north, the east and the south will come against Israel. People have discovered that there are many minerals in the land of Israel, particularly in the area around the Dead Sea. The nations will come against Israel to capture these riches.

10. Read Ezekiel 38:1-13 and write the questions that the nations of the west will ask these armies that will be gathered against Israel.

11. Explain what you learn about the time when the nations will come against Israel from these verses.

12. Explain why you think that none of the nations of the world will offer to try to help defend Israel against these nations.

The people of Israel will think that they have peace and safety when these nations are preparing to come against them. Suddenly these great armies of the north will come against the nation of Israel. They will be joined by the armies from the east and the south. It will be a very great army that will come against the land of Israel. This army will cover the land like a cloud. All of this will happen in the latter days when the Lord brings these nations against His people. In that day God will cause Gog and the nations to know and feel His power.

13. Read Ezekiel 38:14-23 and write what God promised to send at the same time that Gog will come against Israel.

14. Explain why Gog and the nations that come with Gog will feel the power of the Lord when they come against Israel.

15. Explain why you think that these armies that gather together against Israel will cover the land like a cloud.

The Lord will not forget His people in the day when the nations come against them. God is going to use His power to bring great destruction in the land. This power will show the anger of God against sin. The people of Israel as well as these foreign armies will feel the power of God when God shakes the earth. The fish, the birds and the animals will also feel the power of God in that day when He shakes the earth. The mountains and the hills will all move as the Lord brings His judgment on the enemies of the nations of Israel.

16. Read Ezekiel 38:14-23 and write what God will call to destroy these people when they come against Israel.

17. Explain why God will cause the earth to shake as the Lord brings His judgment on these armies.

18. Explain why you think that everything in the land including the fish, birds and animals will experience the power of God.

The Lord will bring a very complete judgment on the nations that come to fight against Israel. These armies will be so filled with fear that they will begin to fight and kill each other. In

addition to a great earthquake, God will use the weather to stop the armies that will come against Israel. The Lord will cause rain, hailstones, fire and brimstone to fall on these people. This great army that will come against Israel will be completely destroyed. As a result, the name of God will be raised up among the nations. Many will recognize that God has all power.

19. Read Ezekiel 38:14-23 and write what the nations will know when they see the way that the Lord judges these armies.

20. Explain what the Lord will use the weather to help judge the nations in that day when the nations gather together to come against Israel.

21. Explain why you think that the armies will be so filled with fear that they will begin to fight against each other.

The destruction of the armies that come against Israel will be very complete. Only one-sixth of the people in these armies will remain alive after this judgment is completed. All of the rest of the people will be killed. God will cause the armies to lose their weapons. Then the people will fall upon the mountains of Israel. Since so many people will be killed, there will not be enough people to bury them immediately. As a result, the birds and the wild animals will come and eat the flesh off the bones. Many people make many preparations so that they will be buried in a proper way. Those preparations will mean nothing in the day when the Lord brings judgment on the armies of the nations.

22. Read Ezekiel 39:1-10 and write what God will send on Magog in the day when God judges the armies of Magog.

23. Explain why the Lord will send the birds and the wild animals to eat the flesh off the bones of the people in these armies that are judged.

24. Explain why you think that the preparations that people have made for their burial will mean nothing when God brings His judgment.

The judgment of Magog will include the land the people in Magog as well as the armies of Magog. God will send fire to destroy the land. The people will think that their land is safe. However, God will also judge the land because of the sins of the people. One reason why God is judging these people is so that His holy name will be known among the people of Israel. God will not let the nations pollute His holy name any more. We see that God will cause the nations to know that He is the Lord. He is the One who chose the nation of Israel to be His people.

25. Read Ezekiel 39:1-10 and write what the people of Israel will do to the weapons of the armies of the nations that come against Israel.

26. Explain why God will judge the land and the people of Magog as well as their armies when the Lord brings His judgment.

27. Explain why you think that the people of the world will finally recognize that the Lord is over all things when they see the judgment that He brings.

Many people cannot understand how people could burn weapons of war. Recently people have learned to make weapons out of wood that are as strong as metal. However, they are much lighter than metal so it is much easier to use them. It is probable that the weapons which will be burned with fire will be made out of similar materials that people will continue to develop in the future. There will be so many weapons that it will take the people of Israel seven years to burn all of the weapons. During that entire seven years they will not need to cut any wood from their forests for their fires.

28. Read Ezekiel 39:11-29 and write what God will tell the birds and the animals of the field to do.

29. Explain why God is allowing people to develop weapons that are made out of wood in addition to metal weapons.

30. Explain why you think that there will be so many weapons to burn that it will take seven years to burn all of them.

Just as it will take a long time to burn the weapons of the armies that will come against Israel, it will also take a long time to bury the bones of those who will be killed. We read that there will be so many bones to bury that it will take seven months to bury them. It will take this long even though all of the people in the land will be involved in burying the dead. At the end of seven months, a group of men will be appointed to continue going through the land to gather the dead bones. It will be the desire of the people to remove every bone of the enemy so that the land will be clean again.

31. Read Ezekiel 39:11-29 and write what God will tell the birds and the animals of the field to do.

32. Explain why it will be necessary to have all of the people in the land become involved in the burying of bones.

33. Explain why you think that the people of Israel will want to make certain that they bury every bone of the enemy.

In that day God will tell the birds and the wild animals to come together because God has prepared a great feast for them. This feast will be spread out on the mountains of Israel for the birds and the animals. The birds and the animals will be invited to eat the flesh and drink the blood of those who have been killed. God said that the birds and the animals will eat until they are full. They will drink until they are filled with the blood of sinful men. Here we see again a picture of the great judgment that will come on those nations that try to destroy Israel. God will never forget His chosen people.

34. Read Ezekiel 39:11-29 and write how long the people of Israel will know that God is their Lord.

35. Explain why the Lord will tell the birds and the animals that He has prepared a great feast for them.

36. Explain why you think that the Lord gives so much detail about the destruction of this future army that will come against Israel.

When the people of Israel see the judgment of the Lord on the nations of the world, they will realize that God is their Lord and God. They will recognize the fact that it was God who kept them from being completely destroyed. For hundreds of years the Jews have failed to place their trust in God. They rejected Christ when He came to this earth. However, all this will be changed when God shows His power to the people in that day. The people will recognize God as their Lord. Then they will never turn away from Him again. From that day on they will serve the Lord.

37. Read Ezekiel 39:11-29 and write what the nations will know in that day about the judgment that the Lord brought on Israel.

38. Explain why the Jews will recognize and serve the Lord from that day on when they finally turn to Him.

39. Explain how you think that the Jews will feel when they see how the Lord has protected them by judging the armies that come against them.

God again reminded the people of Israel of the fact that He will bring great blessing on them in the future. In that day the Lord will bring them back from the lands where they have been scattered. God will have mercy on the whole house of Israel. The entire nation will turn to God for salvation. Then they will live in safety in their own land. They will not be afraid any more. Instead they will finally realize that the Lord has watched over them and kept them as a people all through the years. They will realize that He is the One that has brought them into their own land again.

40. Read Ezekiel 39:11-29 and write what God said He will pour out on his people in that day when they turn to Him.

41. Explain how the Jews will respond when they finally realize that the Lord has watched over the Jews all through the years.

42. Explain how you think the Jews will feel when it is no longer necessary for them to live in fear.

Reread Ezekiel 38:1-39:29 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 17
Ezekiel 40:1-41:26

Today we are going to begin a study of the temple that will be built in Jerusalem in the future when Christ rules on the earth. Early in our study of the book of Ezekiel, we read that the glory of the Lord was removed from the temple before the temple that was in Jerusalem at that time was destroyed. For more than 2500 years, the glory of the Lord has not been present in the city of Jerusalem. It will not return to Jerusalem until after the time of the judgment of the nations. However, the day will come when Christ will rule the earth. He will rule from the city of Jerusalem. In that day the temple of the Lord will be rebuilt and the glory of the Lord will again fill the temple.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what you learn about the wall around the temple at Jerusalem.
- Explain what you learn about the workers for the temple.
- Explain what you learn about the rooms and the buildings of the temple.

Many people think that God has forgotten the Jews. They do not believe that the Lord is going to keep all of the promises that He made to the Jews. Such people try to say that the picture of the temple described here is only a picture of the way that God blesses. However, all of the details point to the fact that God is going to rebuild the temple exactly as He said that He would rebuild it. We have just studied how the Lord will regather Israel and judge and destroy the nations that tried to destroy Israel. Now we see that God promised that He will rebuild the temple when Christ rules on the earth. That future temple will be different in several ways from the temple of Solomon. It will be different than the temple that was rebuilt during the time of the time of Ezra and was later rebuilt by Herod.

1. Read Ezekiel 40:1-16 and write how many years after the temple was destroyed that Ezekiel received this vision of a new temple.
2. Explain why we can trust the Lord to rebuild the temple in the city of Jerusalem exactly as He has promised.
3. Explain why you think that many people do not believe that the Lord will keep His promises to the nation of Israel.

God brought Ezekiel back to the city of Jerusalem through a vision. In the vision Ezekiel saw a man. This man was Christ. We have seen that Christ appeared to several men throughout the Old Testament. Here we see that He appeared to Ezekiel in a vision. Christ had a line of flax and a measuring reed in His hand. The line of flax was used in that day to measure long distances and the reed was used to measure short distances. In the vision that Ezekiel received from the Lord, we see that there was a wall around the temple. It was only a low wall and it was not built to keep people out of the temple. Instead the wall was for the purpose of separation to show that God is a holy God.

4. Read Ezekiel 40:1-16 and write how long the measuring reed was that Ezekiel saw in the vision.
5. Explain why it is important to understand that the purpose of the wall around the temple was for separation to show that God is a holy God.
6. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the man who does the measuring is Christ.

As we walk through the east gate of the temple in the vision that Ezekiel was given, we see many things about this great temple that will be built. Around the wall will be many rooms.

Each of these rooms will be twelve feet by twelve feet. There will also be a space between each room. These rooms will be for the priests who will minister in the temple during the time that Christ rules. Each of these rooms will have windows. Instead of having glass in the windows, the windows will have a decorated design made out of metal. The design will be a palm tree. The palm tree gives us a real picture of the glory of Christ. When Christ rode into Jerusalem, the people recognized that Christ was God. They spread palm branches in front of Him as He came into the city.

7. Read Ezekiel 40:1-16 and write the way that the windows were built in these small rooms.

8. Explain how the fact that these windows with decorated palm trees remind us of the glory of Christ.

9. Explain why you think that there will be many rooms for the priests who will minister in the temple when Christ returns to rule on the earth.

We go on to see what Ezekiel learned about the size of the future temple from the vision of Ezekiel. That temple will be a rather large temple. When we add all of the measurements together, we see that the temple will be a square. That square includes the outer court of the temple as well as the main temple. As we study this chapter, we see that there will be gates into the temple from the various sides of it. These gates will have three rooms on each side of the gate. The windows around the gates will also be decorated with palm trees.

10. Read Ezekiel 40:17-49 and write for what the tables in the porch of the gate will be used.

11. Explain why the future temple will be a rather large temple with the outer wall around the temple being a square.

12. Explain why you think that the Lord is going to decorate several different areas of the temple with palm trees.

Here we come to the most difficult part to understand of the book of Ezekiel. We see that there will be sacrifices in the temple when Christ rules on the earth. Many people say that it will be impossible for Christ to allow sacrifices to be offered in the future. They claim that this would be a rejection of the death of Christ on the cross. However, such a claim shows that the person does not have a clear understanding of the sacrifices in the Old Testament. The sacrifices in the Old Testament never provided salvation. People have always been saved by faith during any period of time.

13. Read Ezekiel 40:17-49 and write what the eight tables by the side of the gate will be used for.

14. Explain why it is important to understand that the sacrifices during the time of the Old Testament never provided salvation.

15. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that all those who were saved in Old Testament times were saved by faith and not by offering sacrifices.

In I Samuel 15 we see that the Lord is more concerned about obedience than He is about sacrifices. In Isaiah 1 we see that God said that he was sick of the sacrifices of the people because the hearts of the people were not right with God. Here we see that sacrifices never provided salvation. God always looked at the heart of man. The sacrifices were only an outward sign that the people had faith in the promises of God. If people did not have their faith and trust in the Lord, their sacrifices meant nothing.

16. Read Ezekiel 40:38-49 and write out of what these tables will be made.

17. Explain why the Old Testament sacrifices were to be an outward sign of the fact that the people had faith in the promises of God.

18. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the Lord has always looked at the heart of a person and not at the sacrifices of a person.

Today we have communion to remember the fact that Christ was our sacrifice who paid the penalty for our sins by shedding His blood on the cross. Communion does not save us. It only

shows that we are remembering the death and resurrection of Christ. We are saved by faith and not by taking communion. In the same way, the sacrifices when Christ rules on the earth will not be for the purpose of salvation. Instead the offering of sacrifices will be a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the fact that Christ was the great sacrifice that paid the penalty for our sin. It will be a memorial for what Christ did for us in the past.

19. Read Ezekiel 40:38-49 and write how long the court of the temple was when it was measured.

20. Explain in your own words why there will be sacrifices again during the time when Christ rules on the earth.

21. Explain why you think that it is important to understand that the future sacrifices are an expression of thanksgiving and a memorial of what Christ did in the past.

In the temple of Solomon, there was a strong emphasis on singing. This will also be true during the time when Christ rule on the earth. As a result, we read that there will be rooms in the temple for the singers. There will also be rooms for the priests who have charge of the offering of sacrifices on the altar. We see that in that temple that the priests will come from the tribe of Levi. Within the tribe of Levi, the priests will come from the family of Zadok. Zadok was the one who was chosen to be the high priest when the family of Eli was removed from the priesthood because of sin.

22. Read Ezekiel 41:1-11 and write where God took Ezekiel after He had shown Ezekiel all of the outside porches of the temple.

23. Explain why the high priest will come from the family of Zadok during the time when the temple is rebuilt.

24. Explain why you think that there will be a strong emphasis on singing during the time that Christ rules on the earth.

Ezekiel had seen all of the greatness of the court surrounding the temple in his vision. He had seen the rooms of those who served in the temple. Next in the vision God took Ezekiel into the temple. As we read the measurements of the temple, we see that the temple in the vision was larger than the temple of Solomon although the inner part of the temple was the same size as the temple of Solomon. After the first part of the temple had been measured, the Lord went into the inner part of the temple alone to measure it. Ezekiel remained outside even though he was a priest.

25. Read Ezekiel 41:1-11 and write what the inner part of the temple is called.

26. Explain why the Lord gave Ezekiel the measurements of the future temple that will be built in Jerusalem.

27. Explain why you think that God wanted Ezekiel to know the exact size of the future temple.

In the temple of Solomon, the most holy place was the place where the high priest went once a year to take the blood first for his own sin and then for the sin of the people. God is a holy God and cannot look at a man who has sin in his life. This was the reason why it was necessary for Christ to come and die for our sins. Now the blood of Christ has removed our sin. As God looks at us, God sees us without sin because the blood of Christ removed our sin. We stand before a holy God as holy people because the blood of Christ has made us holy.

28. Read Ezekiel 4:1-11 and write how thick the walls of the future temple will be.

29. Explain why you think that Ezekiel did not enter the most holy place.

30. Explain why you think it was necessary for the high priest in the Old Testament to offer blood as a covering for his own sin before he offered blood for the people.

After Christ had finished measuring the inner part of the temple, He measured the wall around the temple. In this wall there were storage rooms. These rooms were three stories high. The top rooms were larger than the bottom rooms. This was due to the fact that the walls were thicker at the bottom than the top. By varying the size of the storage rooms, from the outside the walls would look even from the top to the bottom. Here we see again the fact that the

details of this future temple were given very carefully. God wants us to realize again that Ezekiel is describing an actual temple that will be built in the future and not just a picture.

31. Read Ezekiel 41:12-26 and write what building Ezekiel saw next as he looked around.
32. Explain why it is important to understand that this is an actual temple that will be built in the future when Christ reigns on the earth.
33. Explain why you think that the Lord gave Ezekiel such a detailed description of what the future temple will look like.

Here we see that the purpose of the next building that the Lord showed Ezekiel was not given. We do see that it was a separate building from the actual temple. We see that this building will be the same size as the temple. We are also given a description of what the temple looked like in the vision that was given to Ezekiel. In the vision the walls were paneled with wood from the ground up to the windows. These windows had a covering similar to the windows that Ezekiel had seen in the vision of the outer court. However, there is one important difference. The windows of the outer court had palm trees. Here we see that there are cherubim separated by palm trees. Each of the cherubs had two faces.

34. Read Ezekiel 41:12-26 and write what these two faces look like.
35. Explain why the Lord included a description of the inside walls as he gave Ezekiel a description of the temple.
36. Explain why you think that the windows of the temple have cherubim separated by palm trees.

In the first chapter of the book of Ezekiel, we saw that the four living creatures had four faces. Now we see that the cherubim here have two faces. These faces are like two of the faces which the living creatures had. We also see that there is only one piece of furniture that is mentioned. That is the altar. The reason for this is that there will no longer be any need for the Ark of the Covenant because that was where the blood was placed as a covering for sin until the time that Christ came. In fact Jeremiah 3:16-17 said that the ark would be gone. Since Christ will be present, Christ will be where people will meet God in the future temple. There will be no need to show faith by bringing blood to the mercy seat.

37. Read Ezekiel 41:12-26 and write how many doors Ezekiel saw leading into the temple in his vision.
38. Explain why the only piece of furniture in the future temple will be the altar.
39. Explain why you think that it is important to understand why the Ark of the Covenant will not be in the future temple.

In the vision of Ezekiel we see that there were two doors leading into the temple. As we have studied the other parts of the future temple, we have seen that the windows of the temple had metal palm trees or palm trees and cherubim on them. Here we see that the two doors leading into the temple are also decorated with palm trees and cherubim. Here we see that everything that will be included in this future temple is built in such a way as to remind the people of the fact that God is a holy God. In the same way, we also need to remind people in our own day that God is a holy God.

40. Read Ezekiel 41:12-26 and write what covered the narrow windows on the sides of the porch.
41. Explain why it will be important in the future temple to have things in the temple that will remind people of the fact that God is a holy God.
42. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to be reminded of the fact that God is a holy God.

Reread Ezekiel 40:1-41:26 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 18
Ezekiel 42:1-43:27

As we studied the first part of the book of Ezekiel, we learned that God removed His glory from the temple a short time before the Babylonians came and destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the temple. We saw that God could not allow His glory to remain in a land that was filled with sin. Today we will learn about the glory of the Lord returning to the future temple that will be built in Jerusalem. As we have studied the book of Ezekiel, we have learned about the judgment of Israel. We have seen that God promised the Jewish people that they will one day return to their own land. Here we see that in that day that the glory of the Lord will again fill the tabernacle.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Tell what we learn about the final measurements of the temple.
- Explain what we learn about the glory of the Lord filling the temple.
- Explain what we learn about the throne where Christ will rule.
- Explain what we learn about sacrifices when Christ rules on this earth.

The Lord had showed Ezekiel what the inner part of the temple will be like in that future day when Christ rules on the earth. As Ezekiel came from the inner part of the temple, God showed him some more rooms. These rooms were different than the rooms that Ezekiel had seen in the main part of the temple. There were two sets of these rooms. One set of rooms was on the north side of the temple and the other set of rooms was on the south side of the temple. The entrance to these rooms was on the east. The entrance to these rooms was outside the temple but before a person reached the outer court of the temple.

1. Read Ezekiel 42:1-20 and write what God said that these rooms will be.
2. Explain why the Lord had showed Ezekiel what the inner part of the future temple will be like.
3. Explain why you think that it was important for the Lord to give Ezekiel a very complete description of the future temple.

Here we see the purpose for these rooms. God said that these rooms will be used for two things. These rooms will be the places where the priests will eat the holy things. It will also be the place where the priests will keep the clothes that they will wear as they perform their duties as priests. When the priests come out of the holy place, they are to change their clothes before they go out into the outer court. God says that these clothes are to be used only in the temple. They are not to be worn in the outer court around the temple.

4. Read Ezekiel 42:1-20 and write how long the east side of the outer court will be in the future temple.
5. Explain why God said that the clothing of the priests is to be worn only in the temple and not in the outer court.
6. Explain why you think that the priests will have special rooms where they will eat the holy things.

Here we are given a little picture of the great size of the future temple and the surrounding court. As we read the figures, we see that the outer court is the same distance on each side. Each side will be five hundred rods long. This means that the walls of the outer court will be approximately one mile on each side. In Zechariah chapter 14 we see that the Lord is going to change the way that the land of Israel will look when Christ rules the earth from Jerusalem. Since this temple is much larger than the original temple, part of this change will be increasing

the size of the place where the temple will be located.

7. Read Ezekiel 42:1-20 and write what this area of the temple court had around it.
8. Explain why the future temple will have such a large outer court around the future temple.
9. Explain why you think that God will increase the size where the future temple will be built to make room for such a large court.

Since each side of the temple outer court will be about a mile in length, the distance is larger than the amount of room that there is today in the place where the future temple will stand. Many people have said that it would be impossible to build a temple like the temple described in this chapter because there is not enough room on the temple mount. However, we must remember that nothing is impossible with the Lord. God says things that look impossible from human reasoning are easy for Him because He is the One who controls all things. Instead of saying that it is impossible because of the amount of room that is presently available, people should be asking the question, "What is the Lord planning to do in the area where Jerusalem is located to make this temple possible?"

10. Read Ezekiel 42:1-20 and write the reason that the Lord gave for this large outer court for the future temple.
11. Explain why human reasoning ignores the fact that the Lord is the Creator of all things and He can make changes at any time.
12. Explain how you know in your own life that God can always do the things that look impossible to mankind.

We saw the glory of the Lord leave the temple as we studied the earlier part of the book of Ezekiel. For more than twenty-five hundred years the glory of the Lord has not been seen in the city of Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord will not be seen again in Jerusalem until Christ comes back to rule on this earth. Here God describes the way that the glory of the Lord will come back to the city of Jerusalem to fill the temple in Jerusalem. God said that when the glory of the Lord returns to Jerusalem that it will come from the east. The voice of the Lord will sound with a great sound like the sound of much water going over a water fall.

13. Read Ezekiel 43:1-5 and write what will shine with the glory of the Lord in that day when the glory of the Lord returns.
14. Explain why the glory of the Lord will not return to the earth until the time comes for Christ to rule on the earth.
15. Explain why you think that when the glory of the Lord returns to Jerusalem and the temple that the glory of the Lord will come from the east.

We see that the earth will shine with the glory of the Lord in that day. This will be a complete change from the day that the glory of the Lord left the temple in Jerusalem. In that day the Lord was preparing to destroy the city and the temple. God gave Ezekiel a vision of the Lord coming to destroy the temple in Jerusalem. That had been a sad day for Ezekiel as he saw God preparing to destroy the city that He loved. In contrast, we see here that the Lord encouraged Ezekiel by giving him this vision of the glory of the Lord returning to the future temple.

16. Read Ezekiel 43:1-5 and write by which gate the glory of the Lord will return to the temple in Jerusalem.
17. Explain why Ezekiel was greatly encouraged by the fact that the glory of the Lord will one day fill the future temple.
18. Explain why you think that the Lord will rejoice also when He is able to return His glory to the temple in Jerusalem.

Today the east gate of the city of Jerusalem is closed. It has been closed for many hundreds of years. No one has been allowed to go in or out of that gate because that gate is the gate where the Lord promised Ezekiel that the glory of the Lord will return. As a result, the Jews have not opened that gate. Even though foreign countries had been in control of the city of Jerusalem

until 1948, God had caused that gate to remain closed. That gate will not be opened until the time when the glory of the Lord will return to the temple and come through that gate. As God continued the vision that He gave Ezekiel, Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord enter the temple in the vision.

19. Read Ezekiel 43:1-5 and write who took Ezekiel into the inner court after the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

20. Explain what you learn from these verses about the way that the glory of the Lord will return to fill the future temple.

21. Explain why you think that the eastern gate of the city of Jerusalem has been an important gate to the Jews for many hundreds of years.

As God looked at the completed temple in the vision that He gave Ezekiel, God showed His satisfaction when the temple was filled with His glory. God said that the temple is His throne and the place where He will rest His feet. God said that the time will come when He will live among the people of Israel. From that time on, He will live with them forever and will never turn His back on them. In that day the Jews will never again defile the holy name of God. Their lives will no longer be filled with immorality. They will no longer serve their false gods in the high places. They will no longer set their idols next to the wall of the temple.

22. Read Ezekiel 43:6-12 and write how the people living in the time of Ezekiel had defiled the holy name of God.

23. Explain why God will be filled with satisfaction when He is able to fill the temple with His glory.

24. Explain why you think that it is important that God promises that He will one day live among His people again.

Here we see that the sins that the Jews were committing in that day was the reason that the name of God was spoken against. However, we see that this will all be changed in the time when Christ comes back to rule His people. In that day all of the Jews will serve the Lord. They will have removed all of the idols that they had served in the past. Instead their only desire in that day will be to serve the Lord. Here we see the change that happens in our lives when we place Christ in the center of our lives. He gives us a desire to serve Him instead of serving ourselves or serving the devil. As Christians, our only desire should be to serve Christ.

25. Read Ezekiel 43:6-12 and write of what the people will be ashamed in that day when Christ comes back to live among them.

26. Explain what changes will happen in Jerusalem when all of the people there are serving the Lord.

27. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord has also made great changes in your life since you placed your trust in Christ.

Here we see the reason why God showed Ezekiel all of the plans that God had for the temple. God wanted to cause the people of Israel to be ashamed of their sins so that they would want to return to the Lord and enjoy fellowship with Him again. The desire of God was to cause the people to see what the future temple would be like so that they would want to worship the Lord and enjoy fellowship with Him in that temple. God is a holy God. God wants His people to be holy so that they can enjoy true fellowship with Him. Today as Christians our desire should be to live holy lives if we want to have real fellowship with Christ.

28. Read Ezekiel 43:6-12 and write what God said that the people will do in the future when the new temple is built.

29. Explain what these verses teach about the way to have true fellowship with a holy God.

30. Explain why you think that it is important for every follower of the Lord to want to enjoy true fellowship with Him.

Now we come to a question that we first introduced in our study in the previous lesson. That is

the question about the sacrifices that will be offered in the kingdom when Christ rules on the earth. Many people claim that it is impossible for sacrifices to be offered because Christ has already paid the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross. It is true that Christ has already paid the penalty for sin by His death on the cross. However, there is no mention that these sacrifices are to pay the penalty for sin or even to cover sin. In fact no sacrifice in history except the sacrifice of Christ for our sin ever paid any penalty for sin.

31. Read Ezekiel 43:13-27 and write how long and wide the altar will be on which sacrifices will be offered in the future.

32. Explain why it is important to realize that the sacrifices in the future temple will not be for sin.

33. Explain why you think that Christ will want sacrifices to be offered as a memorial to remember what Christ has already done on the cross.

We see that the altar of sacrifice will be a great altar. Each side of the altar will be about twenty feet. Since these sacrifices do not pay the penalty for sin, we need to understand the purpose of sacrifices. In the Old Testament, the purpose of sacrifices was to show the fact that people had faith in the promise of God that He would send Christ to take away the penalty for sin. This helps us to understand that all who were saved in the period of the Old Testament received salvation on the basis of their faith in the Lord and not their sacrifices. The Lord knew the attitudes in the heart of each person that offered sacrifices. Today we are also saved by faith.

34. Read Ezekiel 43:13-27 and write what kind of offerings will be offered on this altar.

35. Explain why it is important to understand that throughout the time of the Old Testament people saved by faith.

36. Explain why it is important for you to understand that Christ looked at the attitudes of the heart and not the sacrifice during the time of the Old Testament sacrifices.

Since people are only saved by faith, we need to clearly understand the purpose of these burnt offerings. Today we have communion to remember the death of Christ. We are looking back to His death and remembering the fact that Christ gave His life to pay the penalty for our sins. In the same way, the sacrifices in the kingdom will not be to pay for sin. Instead those sacrifices will be for the purpose of causing the people to remember that Christ already paid the penalty for sin. Every person needs to be reminded of the fact that Christ paid the penalty for our sins. During the kingdom when Christ rules on the earth, the people will offer sacrifices to remind them that Christ was the sacrifice who paid the penalty for their sins.

37. Read Ezekiel 43:13-27 and write from whose family the priests that serve in that day will come.

38. Explain the purpose of the sacrifices that will be offered in the kingdom when Christ rules on the earth.

39. Explain why you think that just as we remember the death of Christ by communion that the Jews in the kingdom will remember the death of Christ by offering sacrifices as a memorial.

We also read about the way that the priests are to cleanse the altar before they begin offering sacrifices on it. The priests are to take blood from a bull and from a kid of the goats and use the blood from those two animals to cleanse the altar. Then they are to offer sacrifices which are perfect and have no spots or blemishes on them. Here we see another reminder of the fact that Christ is perfect and without sin. That was the reason why it was possible for Christ to be our sacrifice. Because Christ had no sin in Himself, He could become sin for us so that He could then place the righteousness of God on us at the moment that we placed our trust in Christ.

40. Read Ezekiel 43:13-27 and write how many days they will offer sacrifices to cleanse and purify the altar before they begin to offer regular sacrifices on the altar.

41. Explain why it will be important for the priests to cleanse the altar before they begin offering sacrifices on it.

42. Explain why you think that it will be important for the priests to offer sacrifices that are

without any spots or blemishes as they cleanse the temple.

Reread Ezekiel 42:1-43:27 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 19
Ezekiel 44:1-46:24

The temple that will be built when Christ returns to rule on the earth will be the center of worship during the time that Christ rules on the earth. When Christ comes back to rule, His glory will fill the temple. Christ will also appoint priests who will work in the temple. During much of the time when Israel was a nation, the leaders of the people did not serve the Lord. Instead they were leading the people in the worship of idols. However, in the day when Christ rules on the earth, it will be the leaders of the people who will lead the people in their worship of the Lord.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what we learn about a gate that is closed in Jerusalem today.
- Explain what we learn about the priests for the future temple.
- Explain what we learn about the land for the Lord in that day.
- Explain how the leaders will lead the people in worship in that day.

In our last lesson we saw that the glory of the Lord will return to Jerusalem and the temple through the east gate. Here we see that once the glory of the Lord comes through the east gate that the gate will be closed and no one will go through that gate again. Today the east gate in Jerusalem is already closed and the Jews are already preventing people from using that gate. Although the Jews as a whole have not returned to Christ, they are still trying to worship God in their own way. When the glory of the Lord has come through that east gate, it will never be opened again. In the past, many cities would have a special gate for the king. Only the king was allowed to go through that gate. Here we see that this gate is reserved for the glory of the Lord.

1. Read Ezekiel 44:1-8 and write who will sit and eat with the Lord.
2. Explain why the east gate is reserved for the glory of the Lord and no one else has used it for hundreds of years.
3. Explain why you think that the Jews today are trying to worship God in their own way instead of worshiping the Lord according to truth.

Many people have different ideas about who this prince is that is mentioned here. We know that the prince is not Christ. In Ezekiel 46:16 we see that the prince has sons and of course we know that Christ never had children. The prince is probably a descendent of the family of David. He will probably be responsible for many things during the time that Christ rules on the earth. Here we see that he will eat with Christ. He will also sit and talk with Christ when Christ rules on the earth. After Ezekiel saw the prince who will serve with Christ, the Lord brought Ezekiel to the north gate of the temple.

4. Read Ezekiel 44:1-8 and write what Ezekiel saw when he looked into the temple.
5. Explain why the prince will be one who serves with Christ when Christ rules on the earth.
6. Explain why you think that it is probable that the prince will be a person that is a descendent of David.

When Ezekiel looked into the temple in the vision, he saw that the glory of the Lord had filled the temple. Then Ezekiel fell on his face before the Lord. God told Ezekiel to pay very close attention to the message that he was to give to the people. Ezekiel was told to remind the people of their rebellion against the Lord. They had allowed foreigners to come into the temple and serve in the temple. A stranger was allowed to come into the temple to offer a sacrifice. However, a stranger or foreigner was never allowed to serve in the temple. Here we see another

way that the Jews had broken the commandments that the Lord had given to them.

7. Read Ezekiel 44:1-8 and write why the people had not kept the commandments that God had commanded them to keep.
8. Explain why strangers were allowed to offer sacrifices in the temple but were not allowed to serve in the temple.
9. Explain why you think that Ezekiel fell on his face when he saw the glory of the Lord in the temple.

The priests of Israel and Judah had done evil in the past. Now the Lord told Ezekiel what the priests would be like in the future. In the future no foreigners would come into the temple. Although the Levites had sinned and worshiped idols in the past, God said that they had been punished for their sins. Now God promised that He will bring them back into the land so that they can begin again to minister in the temple. However, even these Levites will not be allowed to enter into the most holy place. Instead God said that the sons of Zadok will serve as His priests in the temple.

10. Read Ezekiel 44:9-31 and write why the sons of Zadok will be allowed to serve as the priests rather than any of the other Levites.
11. Explain why God said that because the Levites had been punished for their sin that they could now serve in the temple again.
12. Explain why you think that God said that only the sons of Zadok will go into the most holy place in the future temple.

Here we see one of the ways that God rewards those who are faithful in serving Him. The family of Zadok had remained faithful to the Lord when the other Levites had turned away from God. Because they had remained faithful, God said that the family of Zadok would have the privilege of serving as priests in the future temple. However, even none of the men of that family would be the high priest because Christ will be the great High Priest. We also see that the priests will be dressed in fine linen so that they will not sweat. According to Revelation 19:8 fine linen is a picture of righteousness. The priests are also told to change out of their linen garments when they went out of the temple and before they enter the outer court. They are also told to avoid very long or very short hair.

13. Read Ezekiel 44:9-31 and write what the future priests are told about wine.
14. Explain why it is important to understand that Christ will be the High Priest as well as the ruler when He rules on the earth.
15. Explain why you think that God always chooses to reward those who have been faithful in their service for Him.

In that future temple, the only women who the priests are to marry are those who are the widows of other priests or those who have never been married. Those priests are also given the responsibility to teach the people about the difference between holy things and common things. God said that they are not to come near a dead body except the body of a close relative. They are also to offer a sin offering if they touch the dead body of a close relative. Since Christ is their inheritance, the priests will be given no land of their own. Instead the people are to provide for the priests in that day.

16. Read Ezekiel 44:9-31 and write how long the cleansing period was for a priest that touched a dead body.
17. Explain what you learn from these verses about the priests who will serve in the future temple.
18. Explain why you think that the priests were told that Christ would be their inheritance.

God also gave instructions about the time when the people will divide the land in the future. In that time they are to set apart the part for the Lord first. That area will be an area which will be a rectangle around the temple. This is a reminder to us that we should give to the Lord first

before we take anything for ourselves. The part that was set apart for the Lord was to be used by the priests for their houses. We also see that the Levites will have a piece of land set aside where they will live. The city of Jerusalem will also be set aside for the whole nation of Israel. The city will not belong to just one tribe in that day.

19. Read Ezekiel 45:1-25 and write what person is also promised a special piece of land near the temple as an inheritance.

20. Explain why the people are told that they are to set apart the part for the Lord first around the future temple.

21. Explain why you think that it is important for you in your own life to make the Lord first in your life.

Here we see that the prince will be very close to the temple from which Christ will rule. Instead of doing evil to the people as many princes had done in the past, God said that this prince will do the things that are right. Ezekiel used this opportunity to warn the princes of his day to turn from their evil ways. The princes in that day were cheating the people and doing evil to get the things that they wanted. God said that the people should have good scales so that they will not cheat the people. We know that in the day when Christ rules that the prince will not try to cheat the people. Instead the prince will do what is right.

22. Read Ezekiel 45:1-25 and write what the prince will provide for the people in that day.

23. Explain why it is important to understand that the future prince will do what is right.

24. Explain why you think that many leaders in the past and the present have cheated the people to increase their own riches.

We read that all of the people in the land will provide what the prince needs. As a result, the prince will provide the burnt offerings for the people. He will also be responsible for preparing the offerings as well as providing them. Here we see that the prince will be providing the sacrifices for the cleansing of the temple. We are reminded of the sacrifices that Solomon provided when the first temple was dedicated. We see that the priest will use the blood of these sacrifices to cleanse the temple and the altar. The blood of the sin offering will be put on the door posts of the temple and also on the corners of the altar.

25. Read Ezekiel 45:1-25 and write what feast the people were to remember in the first month.

26. Explain why it will be important that the first sacrifices will be used to cleanse the temple.

27. Explain why you think that the prince will be responsible for preparing the sacrifices as well as providing them.

In this passage we see two of the feasts that will be celebrated during the time that Christ rules on the earth. The first feast will be the Passover. When the Lord brought the people out of Egypt, God told them that they were to continue to celebrate the Passover throughout their generations. We also read about the Feast of Tabernacles. This feast was to remind the people of Israel how the Lord had provided for them while they were in the wilderness. The Feast of Pentecost is not mentioned. This may be due to the fact that it is the middle feast or it may be due to the fact that Pentecost is important for Christians as well as for Jews.

28. Read Ezekiel 45:1-25 and write in what month they will celebrate the Feast of the Passover.

29. Explain why God will provide special pieces of land for the different groups that are mentioned.

30. Explain why you think that the Jews will continue to celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles when Christ rules on the earth.

We have already seen that there will be sacrifices offered at the temple in Jerusalem during the time that Christ rules on the earth. We see that the prince will lead the people in offering these sacrifices to the Lord. The priest will come in the east entrance when he brings his sacrifice.

After the prince has offered his sacrifice, then the people will bring their sacrifices as a memorial for what the Lord has done. In addition, we see that during the time that Christ rules

on the earth that the people will gather together to worship the Lord each Sabbath day and each new moon. The sacrifice that the prince will offer will be six lambs and a ram.

31. Read Ezekiel 46:1-24 and write what the sacrifices must not have when they are offered to the Lord.

32. Explain why it is important to understand that the prince will lead the people in the offering of the sacrifices.

33. Explain why you think that the sacrifices that will be offered when Christ rules will be offered as a memorial for what Christ has done.

The sacrifices give us a picture of Christ. When Christ came to offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sin, He could offer Himself because He is without sin. The fact that these sacrifices are to be without any blemishes is a reminder of the fact that Christ is the sinless One. We see that all of the people will come together on the Sabbaths and the new moons. As a result, God tells the people that in that day they are to enter the temple by the south gate and go out the north gate. God is a God of order and not confusion. Here we see that the Lord will make it possible for all of the people to enter and leave the temple without confusion.

34. Read Ezekiel 46:1-24 and write where the prince will be when the people come to worship.

35. Explain why it is important that the sacrifices picture the fact that Christ was without sin when He was our sacrifice for sin.

36. Explain why you think that on the Sabbaths the people will enter the temple through one gate and leave through another.

Here we see that the leader of the people will worship with the people. We also see that the sacrifices of the prince will be voluntary. The Lord also gives instructions about the inheritance that the prince is to receive. In the Old Testament law, the land was to return to the original owner or his family in the year of jubilee. This will also be true when Christ rules on the earth. The land which the prince will give to his sons will belong to his sons. However, the land that he gives to his servants will return to him in the year of jubilee. The prince is also told not to take land from others to give to his sons.

37. Read Ezekiel 46:1-24 and write where the priests were to boil the sacrifices.

38. Explain what you learn about the sacrifices that will be offered during the time that Christ rules on the earth.

39. Explain why you think that God said that the land will again return to the original owner in the year of jubilee.

We see that God also gave instructions about a special place where the sacrifices will be boiled during the time that Christ rules. There will also be a place where the meal offering will be baked. Here we see again that God is a God of order. Everything that the priests will do during the time that Christ reigns on the earth will be done in its proper place. Nothing will be done on the earth that will hinder the people or keep them from honoring the Lord in their worship of the Lord. We see that there will be rows of places for boiling the sacrifices that will be boiled during that period of time.

40. Read Ezekiel 46:1-24 and write who will boil the sacrifices of the people in that day when Christ rules on the earth.

41. Explain why it is important to understand that God is a God of order in all that He does.

42. Explain why you think that nothing will be done on earth that will hinder the people in their worship of the Lord.

Reread Ezekiel 44:1-46:24 and write down the three most important lessons that you learned from these chapters.

Survey of Ezekiel
Lesson 20
Ezekiel 47:1-48:35

When Christ rules in the land of Israel, there will be many changes in the land. One thing that we see is that there will be a river that will come from the east side of the temple. This will be such a great river that people will not be able to walk through the river. We will learn the purpose of this river as we study about it. We will also learn how the land of Israel will be divided during the time that Christ rules on the earth. It will not be divided the same way that the Lord divided the land in the Old Testament. Instead the Lord will divide the land in a different way.

As you study this lesson, you should use the following objectives to guide you in your study. By the time you complete this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain the purpose of the river that will come from the temple.
- Explain what the borders of the land of Israel will be in that day.
- Explain how the land will be divided when Christ rules on the earth.

As we come to the passage that we will be studying today, we see that there will be a great river coming from the east side of the temple. This will be such a great river that it will be necessary for the Lord to change the land. This great river of water will come out of the ground at the entrance of the temple. We see that this river is a river of blessing. God is the source of all blessings. Here we see that the river of blessing will come from the temple where Christ rules. The Lord tells us that there is a man to measure the size of the river.

1. Read Ezekiel 47:1-12 and write how deep the water was after that they had measured out one thousand cubits.
2. Explain why the Lord will change the land of Israel so that the land will look quite different when Christ rules from Jerusalem.
3. Explain why you think that the Lord will cause this great river to flow from the entrance of the temple when Christ rules on the earth.

We read that the man with the measuring rod kept walking into the river. When the man had walked out a thousand cubits into the river, the water was up to the ankles of the man. At two thousand cubits, the water was up to the knees. At three thousand cubits, the water was up to the waist. By the time that the man had gone four thousand cubits (a little over a mile) out into the river, the water was so deep that the man could not measure the river any further. Here we see that although the man had walked more than a mile into the river, he was not at the middle of the river yet. This is why we say that this river was a very wide river. The man with the measuring rod and Ezekiel then came back out of the river because they could not cross it. However, before they came out of the water, the man with the measuring rod checked to make sure that Ezekiel had seen the river clearly.

4. Read Ezekiel 47:1-12 and write what Ezekiel saw when he got back to the bank of the river.
5. Explain why the land will have to be enlarged to make room for such a large river.
6. Explain why you think that the Lord wanted Ezekiel to clearly understand the great size of the river that will flow from the temple.

Here we see a real picture of the blessings that the Lord will bring to the land of Israel when Christ comes to rule on the earth. The land of Israel will become a very rich land. However, it must have plenty of water in order to grow wonderful crops. Here we see that God is going to supply a great river of water for the land. As a result of this large supply of water, there will be many trees growing on each side of the river. This river will go through the desert area called the Arabah. The Arabah will become a beautiful garden instead of a dry desert. From the

Arabah, the river will continue to flow down into the Dead Sea.

7. Read Ezekiel 47:1-12 and write what will happen to the water of the Dead Sea because of this river.
8. Explain how the Lord will use this great river to change the land that has been a desert for many years into a beautiful garden.
9. Explain why you think that the Lord wants the people to grow wonderful crops during the time that He rules.

Today there is more than six times as much salt per unit of water in the Dead Sea as there is in the ocean. As a result, today nothing is able to live in the Dead Sea. Here we see that God will heal the water of the Dead Sea with the water that comes from the great river. Then the Dead Sea will come to life. It will be filled with fish. People will come to the Dead Sea to fish because there will be many kinds of fish in the sea. These people will be able to fish from one end of the sea to the other because the entire sea will be filled with fish. The only places which will still be salty will be the marshes because they supply some of the best salt available.

10. Read Ezekiel 47:1-12 and write how often the trees along the river will bear fruit.
11. Explain the purpose of the river that will come from the temple in the time when Christ rules on the earth.
12. Explain why you think that the Lord is going to heal the waters of the Dead Sea at the time when He comes to rule on the earth.

We also read about the trees that will be along the banks of the river in that day. They will be fruit trees. They will produce many different kinds of fruit. They will be different than most fruit trees because they will not lose their leaves. Their fruit will never run out. Instead God will cause these fruit trees to replace all of the fruit that is taken off of them. In addition, the leaves of these trees will also be useful. The leaves will be used to produce medicine. Here we see another picture of the great blessing that will come on the land because of the river that the Lord will cause to flow from the temple in that day.

13. Read Ezekiel 47:13-23 and write what part of the family of Jacob will receive a double amount of land when the land is divided.
14. Explain why the leaves of the fruit trees will be used in that day to produce medicine for the people.
15. Explain why you think that the Lord will cause these fruit trees to produce an endless supply of fruit.

In the book of Genesis we read that Jacob blessed Joseph and gave him the family blessing. The one who received the blessing was entitled to a double amount of the inheritance. Here we see this blessing of the family of Joseph will continue into the time when Christ rules on the earth. Joseph will have two tribes that will be his descendants just as was true throughout the Old Testament. Here we see that the Lord rewards those who are faithful to Him in their service. Joseph was faithful to the Lord regardless of what happened in his life. Here we see that the blessing that was given to him will not be forgotten by God.

16. Read Ezekiel 47:13-23 and write what will be the west boundary of the land when Christ rules the land.
17. Explain how the Lord will continue to bless the family of Joseph during the time that the Lord rules on the earth.
18. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to live a life of faithful service for the Lord.

One of the changes that we see from the earlier period of the history of Israel is that all twelve of the tribes of Israel will be on the west side of the Jordan River. When the people originally entered into the land after they came out of Egypt, two and a half tribes chose to remain on the east side of the Jordan River. They chose to be across the river from the land that God had

promised to His people. They chose that land because it looked good and they had not seen what God had planned for them. Today we also have many Christians who want to make their own choices instead of obeying the Word of the Lord. As a result, they miss many of the blessings that could have been theirs if they would have made the decision to obey the Lord.

19. Read Ezekiel 47:13-23 and write how the people will treat people of other nations that will live in the land of Israel when Christ rules.

20. Explain why the people of Israel will really be able to enjoy the great blessings of the Lord when they are all in the land.

21. Explain why you think that many Christians miss the blessings that the Lord has for them because they make their own choices instead of obeying the Lord.

We also see that the Lord will provide for the strangers who will choose to live in the land of Israel in that day. During the time of the Old Testament, strangers were not allowed to own land within the land of Israel. Here we see that there will be a change when Christ rules. A stranger will be allowed to receive land the same way that the Jews will receive their land in that day. These strangers will be considered equal with the Jews. The strangers will receive land along with the tribe with whom they are living at the time that the land is divided.

22. Read Ezekiel 48:1-20 and write which tribe will have the land that is farthest to the north.

23. Explain why the strangers that live in the land will receive their land the same way that the Jews receive their land when Christ rules.

24. Explain why you think that the Lord will allow strangers to own land as well as the Jews when Christ rules.

Here we see that the land will be divided quite differently from the way that the land was divided the first time that the nation of Israel came into the land. Each tribe will have a piece of land that will stretch from the Mediterranean Sea on the west to the eastern border. We also see that the land for the temple will be close to the center of the nation. Christ will be in the center of the land so that it will be easy for all of the people to come together to worship Him. Today we need to make certain that Christ is in the center of our personal life and also in the center of the life of our church.

25. Read Ezekiel 48:1-20 and write which priests kept the commandments of God when the rest of the Levites turned away from God.

26. Explain why the land where the temple will be located will be close to the center of the land when Christ rules.

27. Explain why it is important to you in your own life to make Christ the center of your personal life.

Around the land for the temple will be the land for the priests and the Levites. We see that the priests will be given the land closest to the temple. Then the Levites will be given land farther away from the temple. The reason why the priests will be given the land closest to the temple is also given. The sons of Zadok were faithful to the Lord even when the people and the Levites turned away from God. Because the sons of Zadok were faithful to God, He will also give them the privilege of being closest to the temple in the day when Christ rules.

28. Read Ezekiel 48:1-20 and write from what tribes the people will be that will serve the city of Jerusalem.

29. Explain how the reward for the sons of Zadok for being faithful to the Lord shows that the Lord rewards those who are faithful.

30. Explain why you think that even most of the religious leaders did not follow the Lord during the time of the Old Testament.

The Levites will also be given land in the day when Christ rules. When the people of Israel originally came into the land, the Levites were given forty-eight cities scattered among the various tribes. However, in the day when Christ rules, they will be given land that will be close

to the temple. They are instructed not to sell their land or exchange it because that land will be dedicated to the Lord. We also read about the great city that will be the city of Christ the King. This city will be on the south side of the temple. This city will not belong to any one tribe but will include people from all of the tribes of Israel.

31. Read Ezekiel 48:21-35 and write where the prince will have his land in that day.

32. Explain why the great city where Christ will rule will be located to the south of the temple site.

33. Explain why you think that the Levites are instructed not to sell or exchange the land that the Lord will give them when He rules.

The Lord told Ezekiel that the prince will also have his land located close to the temple. We have already seen that the prince will work for the Lord and help provide leadership for the nation. As a result, the land of the prince will also be located close to the temple so that it will be easy for him to work with the Lord in guiding the nation. Here we see that Christ will give various people opportunities to help provide leadership to the people of Israel during the time that Christ is the ruler. We also see that the land of the prince will touch the land of two of the tribes of Israel.

34. Read Ezekiel 48:21-35 and write which two tribes the land of the prince will touch in that day.

35. Explain why Christ will give various people the opportunity to help lead and guide the nation when Christ rules.

36. Explain why you are thankful that the Lord also gives you opportunities to serve Him during your life on the earth.

We have seen many times in our study that God rewards those who are faithful in their service for Him. Here we see another picture of the reward for faithfulness. The tribes of Benjamin and Judah were the two tribes which continued to worship God and serve Him when the nation of Israel was divided into two nations after the death of Solomon. As a result, God said that they will receive land which will be close to the temple. As we see that each of the twelve tribes will receive a part of the land when Christ rules, we realize again that God will never forget those promises that He made to the nation of Israel. God will always keep His promises to the people of Israel.

37. Read Ezekiel 48:21-35 and write how many gates there will be that enter the city where Christ rules.

38. Explain why the return of the Jews to their own land shows that God will never break a single one of His promises.

39. Explain why you think that the tribes of Benjamin and Judah will both be located close to the temple when Christ rules.

The Lord told Ezekiel that there will be twelve gates leading into the city during the time that Christ rules. Each of these twelve gates will be given a name. The various gates will be named after the twelve tribes of Israel. In the naming of the gates we see that Levi will be included as one of the tribes and Joseph will not be divided into two tribes. The city will also be given a new name. The new name of the city will be different than the name of any other city that has existed in any part of the world. The name of the city will tell the story of the city.

40. Read Ezekiel 48:21-35 and write the name that will be given to the city in that day when Christ rules.

41. Explain why the new name of the city where Christ rules will tell the story of the city.

42. Explain why you think that the new name of the city of Jerusalem will mean "The LORD IS THERE".

Reread Ezekiel 47:1-48:35 and write down the three most important lessons that you have learned from these chapters.