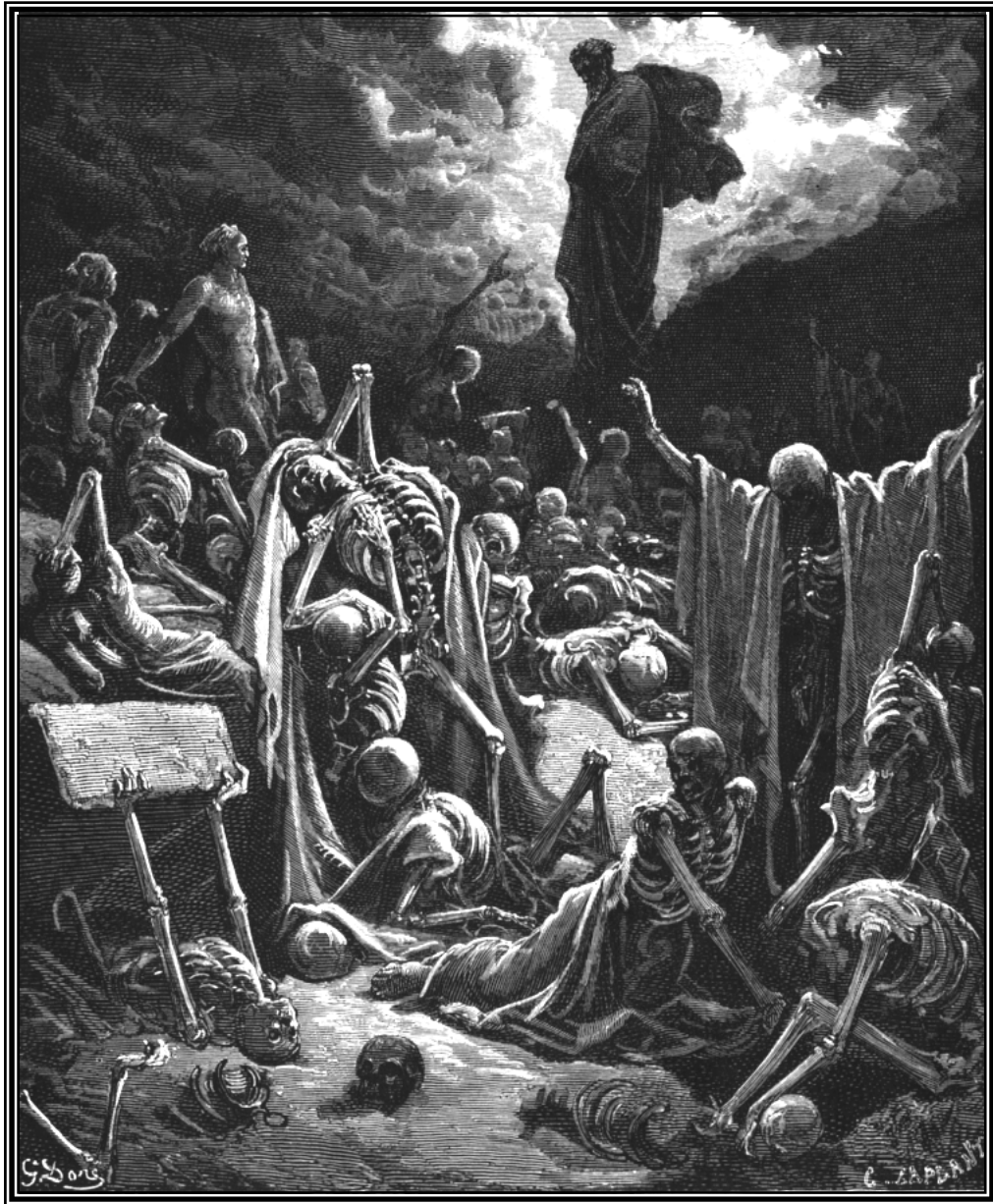


The Prophet Ezekiel



The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37)

Ezekiel was carried away captive to Babylon at the age of twenty-five—one of 10,000 captives. In the fifth year of his captivity God called the young priest to prophesy to “a rebellious nation, impudent and stubborn.” For more than twenty-five years Ezekiel faithfully carried Jehovah’s message of recompense upon a rebellious house and the restoration of a holy remnant, to a captive nation in a distant and foreign land. In this study the book will be analyzed in twenty-six lessons placing emphasis on understanding the prophet’s presentation of Messiah as the Second David.

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson One: *The Vision of Jehovah*

Lesson Aim: Determine who and what Ezekiel saw on the banks of the River Chebar and their significance to the message of the prophet.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 1:1–28

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 1:26–28

Background Texts: 2 Kings 24:5–16; 2 Chronicles 36:5–10; Jeremiah 22:24–30; 24:1–10; 29:1–7; Ezekiel 10:1–22; Psalm 18:1–13; 1 Chronicles 28:18

Questions for Discussion

1. Who was Ezekiel? (1:3; cf. 2 Kings 24:15–16; 2 Chronicles. 36:5–10)
2. In what year did Ezekiel begin to prophesy? Where was he when called? (1:1, 2)
3. What does the expression “the hand of the Lord was upon him” mean? (1:3; 1 Kings 18:46; 2 Kings 3:15, 16; cf. Ezekiel 3:14, 22; 8:1; 33:22; 37:1; 40:1)
4. Of what and whom does Ezekiel see a vision?
5. What did Ezekiel first see? (1:4) From what direction did it come? What might this signify? (cf. Jeremiah 1:14; 6:1; 10:22; 46:20; 47:2; 50:3)
6. With what are clouds and lightening often associated? (cf. Deuteronomy 4:11; Psalm 104:3; 144:6; Matthew 24:30; Luke 10:18)
7. What are the four “living creatures”? Describe them. What might their “four faces” signify? (1:5–15)
8. What was beside each of the four living creatures? How many of these were there associated with each creature? Describe them. (1:16–21)
9. What was upon the heads of the four living creatures? What could be heard from there and when? (1:22–25)
10. What was above the crystal firmament? Describe the One seated there? (1:26–28)

Question for Thought

What do you think this vision is intended to represent to Ezekiel?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Two: *The Prophet's Call to Preach*

Lesson Aim: Understand Ezekiel's commission and Jehovah's expectations of him.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 2:1–3:27

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 3:18, 19

Background Texts: Jeremiah 3:20–25; 5:1–6; Isaiah 48:1–8; Revelation 10:1–11

Questions for Discussion

1. Why was Ezekiel prostrate when Jehovah spoke to him? (2:1; cf. Ezekiel 1:28; 3:23)
2. What "spirit" entered into Ezekiel that caused him to stand up? (2:2; cf. 3:12, 14; 37:1; 1 Corinthians 14:2; Revelation 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)
3. By what name or designation does Jehovah call Ezekiel? (2:1) What does it signify? (cf. 2:6; 8; 3:1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17, 25) Who else is also known as "Son of Man"?
4. What kind of nation was Judah? (2:3, 4)?
5. What expectation did Jehovah have concerning Judah? (2:5; 3:4–8)
6. What did Jehovah command Ezekiel when faced with opposition? (2:6–7; 3:8–11)
7. What warning does Jehovah give to Ezekiel concerning his duty? (2:8; 3:17–21)
8. What command does Jehovah now give? (2:8a) What does Ezekiel receive from Jehovah? (2:9–3:1) What is he told to do with it? (2:8b) What does this signify?
9. Where does Jehovah send Ezekiel? (3:22) Why? What does he see there? (3:23)
10. What is Ezekiel commanded to do? (3:23, 24) How would God use Ezekiel as a prophet? (3:25–27; cf. 4:8)

Question for Thought

Compare and contrast Ezekiel's duty as a prophet with that of a gospel preacher.

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Three: *The Judgment on Jerusalem*

Lesson Aim: Determine the meaning of several object lessons used by Jehovah in announcing His determination to judge Jerusalem.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 4:1–5:17

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 5:7, 8

Background Texts: Jeremiah 27:1–29:32; 40:1–44:30

Questions for Discussion

1. How does Ezekiel portray the Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem to the captives in Babylon? (4:1–3)
2. What was the significance of Ezekiel's lying on his left side 390 days and, then, on his right side for 40 days? (4:4–8)
3. Of what did Jehovah have Ezekiel make bread and how was it prepared? (4:9–12) What did this signify to the captives in Babylon? (4:13–17).
4. After the 430 days what did Jehovah have Ezekiel do? (5:1, 2) What did this represent to the captives in Babylon? (5:12)
5. What did Ezekiel bind in the hem of his garment? (5:3) What would become of these later? (5:4) What do you think these represented? (cf. Jeremiah 40–44)
6. Why did Jehovah bring these terrible judgments upon Judah and Jerusalem? (5:5–13)
7. What purpose would these judgments upon Jerusalem serve respecting the nations surrounding Judah? (5:14–17)

Question for Thought

Three times in this reading Ezekiel used the expression "I the Lord have spoken it." What do these words signify about Ezekiel's prophecy concerning Jerusalem?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Four: *Judgment upon Israel's Idolatry*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the day of the Lord cannot be avoided or averted.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 6:1–7:27

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 6:9

Background Texts: Numbers 17:1–10; Hebrews 9:4; Jeremiah 32:1–15; Romans 2:1–11

Questions for Discussion

1. What does Jehovah command Ezekiel to decree to the Mountains of Israel? (6:1–7)
2. What hope does Ezekiel give to Israel in this evil decree? (6:8) To whom is this promise limited? (6:9–10)
3. What is the significance of Ezekiel clapping his hands and stomping his feet at the announcement of judgment? (6:11; cf. Ezekiel 21:14, 17; 25:6; Numbers 24:10)
4. What would replace the sweet smell of incense upon every high hill and mountain top of Israel? (6:13) Who would accomplish this? (6:12, 14)
5. What kind of day is “the day of the Lord” as described by Ezekiel? (7:1–8)
6. How is Judah’s worthiness of judgment reflected in the prophet’s description of them as a rod that has blossomed and budded? (7:9–11; cf. Numbers 17:8–10; Hebrews 9:4)
7. Who are the buyer and the seller in Ezekiel 7:12–13? Cf. Jeremiah 32:6–15) Why should the buyer not rejoice and the seller not mourn in the day of the Lord?
8. What will be the condition of the military in the day of the Lord? (7:14–18)
9. How will the men of Jerusalem regard gold and silver in the day of the Lord? (7:19) Why had Jehovah appointed this? (7:20–22)
10. What will be the state of the government in the day of the Lord? (7:23–27)

Question for Thought

What principle of justice does God apply in all His judgments? (7:27; cf. Romans 2:6)

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Five: *Ezekiel's Second Vision of the Glory of God*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God will not dwell where sin abides.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 8:1–9:11

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 8:6

Background Texts: 2 Kings 16:1–16; 21:1–18; 23:4–24:9; Revelation 7:1–17

Questions for Discussion

1. When does Ezekiel receive his second vision of Jehovah? (Calculate the approximate date) Where is he and with whom is he? (8:1–4; see: Ezekiel 1:27, 28; 3:22, 23)
2. Where does the Spirit of God bring Ezekiel in this vision? (8:3) What had stood there during earlier? (2 Kings 16:14; 21:7) Who was standing there in the vision? (8:4)
3. Where does Ezekiel see the “Image of Jealousy” standing in the vision? (8:5, 6)
4. What other abominations are shown to Ezekiel? (8:7–16)
5. What have these abominations effectively done? (Look at the diagram of the Temple and sketch Ezekiel’s movements and the placement of the elements of the vision.)
6. What effect do these abominations have upon Judah? (8:17, 18) (Consider 7:10–11 as you contemplate “they put the branch to their nose.”)
7. How does God respond to the abominations of Judah in the vision? (9:1–7)
8. When the slayers go forth into Jerusalem what petition does Ezekiel make for the “residue of Israel”? (9:8) Who is this “residue” and of what character are they?
9. What does God’s unwillingness to show mercy indicate about Him? (9:9, 10)
10. What does the man clothed in linen report to Jehovah? (9:11) What does this indicate concerning God’s judgment and the fate of the “residue of Israel”?

Question for Thought

Compare Ezekiel 9 and Revelation 7. In both chapters, who are the men that are marked or sealed by the servant of God? How is this important to each of us today?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Six: *Ezekiel's Second Vision of the Glory of God (Cont'd.)*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God will not countenance the wicked surely recompensing their evil upon them, but He keeps covenant with the righteous.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 10:1–11:25

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 11:19, 20

Background Texts: Jeremiah 4:27; 5:18; 29:24–29; 52:24–27; Ezekiel 1:4–28; 3:22–27

Questions for Discussion

1. Where does each of the following stand in Ezekiel's vision?
 - (a) "the man clothed with linen"–
 - (b) the cherubims (apart from Jehovah)–
 - (c) the cloud–
 - (d) "the glory of the Lord"(apart from the chariot)–
 - (e) Ezekiel–
 - (f) the cherubims and "the glory of the Lord" (together)–
 - (g) the whirling wheels (ASV) or "the wheel" (KJV)–
2. What is the significance of the scattering of the "coals of fire" and the removal of the glory of the Lord from the threshold of the Temple? (11:2, 6–7, 18–19, 23)
3. What significant differences, omissions or additions did you notice in Ezekiel's description of the cherubims in this chapter compared to the earlier description?
4. Who are Jaazaniah and Pelatiah? (11:1–3, cf. Jeremiah 29:25–29) What would become of them according to Ezekiel? (11:9, 10; cf. Jeremiah 52:24–27)
5. Explain the figure of the caldron and the flesh? (11:3–13)
6. What wrong conclusion had the survivors in Jerusalem reached regarding those in captivity? (11:14–16) What promise did God make concerning them? (11:17–21)

Question for Thought

Contrast the "heart of stone" and the "heart of flesh" in Ezekiel 11:19–20.

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Seven: *Zedekiah's Captivity Pre-figured*

Lesson Aim: Learn that God keeps His word and will expose the folly of false prophets.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 12:1-13:23

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 12:28

Background Texts: 2 Kings 25:1-7; Jeremiah 14:113-22; 28:1-11; 34:17-22; 39:1-7; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:2-22

Questions for Discussion

1. How was Ezekiel to illustrate Zedekiah's impending captivity? (12:1-4)
2. What would become of the citizens of Jerusalem? (12:15) For what purpose would God spare a few? (12:16)
3. What did eating bread & drinking water signify concerning Judah? (12:17-20)
4. What does "the days are prolonged and every vision faileth" mean? (12:21-22) What would God do to this proverb? (12:23-25) How would he accomplish this?
5. What other erroneous saying had Israel begun to utter? (12:26-27) What was Ezekiel to respond to this error? (12:28)
6. How were Israel's prophets like "foxes in the desert"? (13:1-5)
7. What was the effect the lying prophets had upon the House of Israel? (13:6-10)
8. What would God do to these lying prophets? (13:8-9)
9. What is the significance of the wall "daubed with un-tempered mortar"? (13:11-16)
10. What were the pillows and kerchiefs of "the daughters of thy people"? (13:17-21) What were these women doing that God abhorred? (13:22-23)

Question for Thought

Why is it important to protect the people of God from false prophets? How does God protect us from false prophets today?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Eight: *God's Judgment on Idolatry*

Lesson Aim: Understand the nature and consequences of idolatry as exemplified by Israel.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 14:1-15:8

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 14:27

Background Texts: Ephesians 5:1-5; Colossians 3:1-10; Revelation 9:17-21; Genesis 6:1-8; Job 1:1-5; Daniel 1:1-8; Exodus 20:1-6

Questions for Discussion

1. Who are these "elders" that appear before Ezekiel? (8:1; 14:1; 20:3, 16; 33:31) Why is God displeased with them? (14:1-3)
2. What does Ezekiel mean when he says of them, "these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumbling-block of iniquity before their face? (14:3) What was the effect of their action? (14:5)
3. What does the prophet mean when he says, "God will answer them according to the multitude of their idols"? (14:4, 7, 11)
4. What must Israel turn in order to repent of their idolatry? (14:6; Revelation 9:20-21).
5. What would God cause to come upon Jerusalem if they continued to regard the idols in their hearts? (14:13, 15, 17, 19, 21)
6. Why mention Daniel, Noah and Job as examples of righteous men? (14:14, 16, 18, 20)
7. Even though God would severely judge Jerusalem what hope did He give to the captives concerning Israel? (14:22, 23)
8. Who does the vine in Ezekiel's parable represent? (15:1-6) What is it good for, either whole or broken? (15:5)
10. What would Jehovah do with the vine? (15:6-8)

Question for Thought

Where does Ezekiel say the idol is set up? What does that say about the sin of idolatry?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Nine: *Israel Is an Imperious, Whorish Woman*

Lesson Aim: Learn the depth of God's extraordinary love for Israel and, necessarily, all mankind through the mercy shown to her.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 16:1-63

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 16:60

Background Texts: Deuteronomy 7:1-11; Exodus 3:7-10; Jeremiah 2:1-13; Psalms 106:36-48; 2 Kings 16:1-4; Isaiah 1:10-20; Galatians 3:7-24; John 8:31-44

Questions for Discussion

1. Why did the prophet say that Jerusalem's father was an Amorite and her mother was a Hittite? (16:3, 45; cf. John 8:39, 44)
2. In what condition did Jehovah find Israel? (16:4-5) What did He do for her? (v. 6)
3. How did Jehovah further care for her? (16:7-14)
4. What was her response to Jehovah's overtures of love? (16:15-34)
5. How would He chastise Israel for her harlotry? (16:35-43)
6. To whom was Israel related? (16:44-46) How did she compare to them in wickedness? (16:47-51)
7. How did Israel "justify" her sisters? (16:52)
8. When and why would Israel be a comfort to Sodom and Samaria? (16:53-55)
9. How would God deal with them in their chastisement? (16:59a) Why? (v. 59b)
10. To what three covenants does Ezekiel refer in 16:60-63? When would the third covenant be made? What effect would it have?

Question for Thought

Compare Ezekiel 16:60-63 with Jeremiah 31:31-33, Galatians 3:6-29 and Ephesians 2:1-22. How are these passages related to one another?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Ten: *The Soul that Sins It Shall Die*

Lesson Aim: Learn that each man is accountable before God for his own sins and that God is just to forgive the penitent man.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 17:1–18:32

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 18:20

Background Texts: 2 Chronicles 36:11–13; 2 Kings 24:6–20; Jeremiah 24:1–10; 29:1–14; 37:1–10

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the significance of Ezekiel's vine parable? Who is the vine and why does it wither? (17:1–10)?
2. State the facts about Zedekiah's oath to Nebuchadnezzar. (2 Chronicles 36:11–13; 2 Kings 24:20) Why was Jehovah angry with Zedekiah for breaking his covenant with Nebuchadnezzar? (17:11–21)
3. Why is Zedekiah's covenant with Nebuchadnezzar called Jehovah's oath and covenant? (17:18; cf. Ecclesiastes 5:4; Deuteronomy 23:21–23; Matthew 23:16–22)
4. Who is the tender twig planted on the height of Israel? (17:23) Who are the fowls that dwell under it and the trees of the field? What would these trees know? (17:24)
5. Explain the following proverb: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge." (18:2)
6. Why would Israel no longer have occasion to use this proverb? (18:1–4)
7. How does the prophet prove the proposition he set forth in 18:4? (See: 18:5–24)
8. What false accusation did Israel make against Jehovah? (18:25) Why make such a false accusation? (18:26–29)
9. According to what principle would God judge Israel? (18:30)
10. What does the prophet urge Israel to do once that they know the truth? (18:31–32)

Question for Thought

"The soul that sins, it shall die." Is this physical, spiritual or eternal death? (Ezekiel 18:20)

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Eleven: *A Lament for the Kings of Israel*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the salvation of the people of God is to the glory of His name.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 19:1–20:44

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 20:44

Background Texts: 2 Kings 23:31–24:16; 2 Chronicles 36:1–10; Jeremiah 22:10–30; Acts 7:51–53; Exodus 32:7–14; Deuteronomy 9:7–29

Questions for Discussion

1. Which two kings of Judah do the lion's whelps represent? (19:1–9; see: 2 Kings 23:31–33; 2 Chronicles 36:1–10; Jeremiah 22:10–19)
2. Who or what is represented by the lush and fruitful vine? (19:10–11)
3. Who is the "East Wind" that plucked up the vine? Where is it re-planted? (19:12–13)
4. What became of the vine? (19:14) To what does this correspond in the history of Judah? (see: Jeremiah 22:24–30)
5. Who came to inquire of God? (20:1–4) Why did He not speak to them? (cf. Ezekiel 8:1; 14:1)
6. How does Ezekiel "judge" the elders of Judah? (20:5–32; cf. Acts 7:51–53)
7. What does God mean when He says, "But I wrought for My name's sake that it should not be polluted before the heathen?" (20:9, 14, 22, 44; cf. Exodus 32:7–14; Deuteronomy 9:7–29)
8. What did these elders desire concerning themselves and the people in captivity? (20:30–32)
9. How would God deal with Judah in restraining their desire? (20:33–41)
10. What character would Israel possess when returned to God's holy mountain? (20:42–44)

Question for Thought

What is God's Holy Mountain and when was Israel returned there?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Twelve: *Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem*

Lesson Aim: Learn that Jehovah would complete His judgment of the nation Israel because there was no redeeming value left in them.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 20:45–22:31

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 22:30

Background Texts: Jeremiah 26:8–24; 27:19–22; 28:5–17

Questions for Discussion

1. Who or what is the “forest of the South” and what would become of it? (20:45–47)
2. What is true of any fire which the Lord kindles? (20:48)
3. Who or what is the “sword of the Lord” in this context? (21:1–7)
4. What precept is learned from Ezekiel’s announcement that Judah would be bereaved of both the wicked and the righteous? (21:3; cf. 1 Peter 4:18)
5. Who is the “rod” against whom “the sword of the Lord” is drawn? (21:12–13)
6. Why is Nebuchadnezzar’s advance toward Jerusalem perceived as a “false divination” by the lying prophets in Jerusalem? (21:18–24)
7. Who is the “wicked prince of Israel”? (21:25) Who is the one “Whose right it is”? (21:27) What will Jehovah give to Him?
8. Where is Rabbah? Did it escape the “sword of the Lord”? (21:20, 28–32)
9. Catalogue the sins with which Ezekiel charges the “bloody city” (22:1–12) Who is this “bloody city”?
10. What is “dross”? (22:13–22) How had the house of Israel become “dross”? (22:23–29) What was it that God could not find among them? (22:30–31)

Question for Thought

What does it mean to be “daubed with un-tempered mortar”? How can the people of God today be deceived through the application of “un-tempered mortar”?

The Prophet Ezekiel

Lesson Thirteen: *A Parable of Two Sisters*

Lesson Aim: Learn the meaning and significance of spiritual adultery from Judah and Samaria.

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 23:1–49

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 23:35

Background Texts: Ezekiel 16:1–48; 2 Kings 17:5

Questions for Discussion

1. Who do these two sisters represent? (23:14) What do their figurative names signify?
2. How long had these sisters committed whoredom? (23:3, 8) With whom had Aholah last committed adultery? (23:7, 9) How did this affair end? (23:9–10)
3. What did Aholibah do when she saw how Aholah fared with her lovers? (23:11–21)
4. What did God cause her lovers to do? (23:22–28) How did they deal with her? (23:29) Why did Jehovah do this to Aholibah? (23:30–35)
5. In general terms, how does the prophet define this spiritual whoredom of which Jerusalem was guilty? (23:35)
6. Why was there blood on the hands of Jerusalem? (23:37) When had they committed these horrible acts of violence? (23:38) Where did they go afterward? (v. 39)
7. What is the significance of having Ezekiel judge both Aholah and Aholibah? (23:36–44)
8. Who are the righteous men that judge these sisters to be adulteresses and murderers? (v. 45)
9. Who is the company that God brings to stone Aholah and Aholibah? (23:46–47)
10. What effect would God’s judgment of these two sisters have upon the nations? (23:48–49)

Question for Thought

Consider Revelation 3:4. How do these few saints at Sardis compare to the “righteous men” of verse 45? What principle concerning God’s judgment do you learn from these texts?