

"The Sword"  
Ezekiel 21

Note: In \_\_\_\_\_, chapter 21 is a continuation of chapter 20:45, not a separate section as the English translation following the Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate translations. In Hebrew, chapter 20 ends with verse 44. Chapter 21 begins with verse 45.

Note: This is historically located around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., and Nebuchadnezzar's efforts to quell the uprisings in Tyre, Judah, and Ammon. Remember that the total destruction of Jerusalem happened in \_\_\_\_\_ B.C., so this is once again a prophetic warning.

Note: It has become known as the "Sword \_\_\_\_\_" for apparent reasons (vv. 8-17).

**The Sword Unsheathed**

vv. 1-2 Q. What/who was the focus of this word to Ezekiel?

- A.
1. Set your face against \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Preach against the \_\_\_\_\_(s) [It is plural in form]. This may be referring to the high places of chapters 6 and 7.
  3. Prophecy against the \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Ultimately speaking to \_\_\_\_\_of the Israelites.

v. 3 Q. What does the Lord say to the land, i.e., to the Israelites?

- A.
1. "I am against you." This is \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: We saw this phrase in 13:8, here, and it will be said another \_\_\_\_\_ times.

2. The judgment action \_\_\_\_\_.

3. It will affect both the \_\_\_\_\_ and unrighteous.

Note: There were several translators that thought this was a copying \_\_\_\_\_ given what we learned in chapter three about the \_\_\_\_\_ not paying for the sin of the unrighteous. But this is not talking about \_\_\_\_\_ judgment but a \_\_\_\_\_ judgment where the innocent often get caught up in the larger declarative wrath of God, e.g., the Prophet Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc,...

v. 4 Q. What will be the geographical extent of his wrath?

A. From top to bottom; all \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 5 Q. What is the intent of such inclusive calamity?

A. Individual and collective \_\_\_\_\_ of the source of their calamity: the Lord.

Note: This phrase, beginning in Ezekiel 2:5, is found in some form \_\_\_\_\_ times indicating its major focus.

v. 6 Q. What is Ezekiel to do in response?

A. Ezekiel is to \_\_\_\_\_ experience the internal pain of what is to come \_\_\_\_\_ it happens. \_\_\_\_\_ pain.

v. 7 Q. What is to be Ezekiel's response to their inquiry about such grief?

A.

1. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ calamity.
2. It will be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It will be \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Sword Song

vv. 8-10a Q. How is the sword described?

A.

1. Sharpened for the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Polished to flash like \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 10b Q. What does this verse mean?

A. As you can see this is a very \_\_\_\_\_ verse. And to be honest, there is no certainty of meaning among scholars.

Those who take the word, "*shebet*," to mean "scepter" believe that it is an \_\_\_\_\_ to Genesis 49 and Jacob's prophesy concerning Judah – "the scepter shall not depart from you."

v. 11 Q. What is the focus of this verse?

A. It is a divinely \_\_\_\_\_ judgment.

v. 12 Q. What does the song exhort Ezekiel to do?

A. Deeply \_\_\_\_\_ for what is coming.

v. 13 Q. What question is being asked?

A. What will happen if the Jews have no \_\_\_\_\_ (prince)?

v. 14 Q. What is Ezekiel told to do next in the song?

A.

- 1.
2. Strike your \_\_\_\_\_ together (as an act of prophesying)

Notice how his \_\_\_\_\_ action is connecting to how many times the sword comes against the people.

v. 15 Q. What does God do to ensure the divine outcome?

A. He is going to \_\_\_\_\_ all the exits.

vv. 16-17 Q. What do these last two verses picture?

A. The language is of a \_\_\_\_\_ calling forth specific commands to fight.

The clapping of hands is connected to verse 14 and calls for the slaughter until his wrath is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Sword's Destination**

vv. 18-19 Q. What was Ezekiel to do next?

A.

1. Mark out (probably in the dirt), two \_\_\_\_\_ that have a \_\_\_\_\_ beginning point but diverge.

2. Make a \_\_\_\_\_ signpost at the road that leads to the \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 20 Q. What was he to do next?

A. Ezekiel was to identify the two roads as one going to \_\_\_\_\_ and the other to Judah and \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 21 Q. What is this historically speaking of?

A.

1. This is either looking \_\_\_\_\_ (historically what Nebuchadnezzar did) or looking to a \_\_\_\_\_ event (what he will do).
2. Nebuchadnezzar is going to stop at a critical \_\_\_\_\_ and seek pagan \_\_\_\_\_ to decide where he is to go.

Note: First, he *has shaken the arrows*, a practice known as \_\_\_\_\_ or rhabdomancy. The action consisted of shaking two inscribed arrows and then \_\_\_\_\_ one as one draws a lot, on the assumption that the gods had determined which one was selected." (Block)

Note: The next way of divining was by asking counsel of his \_\_\_\_\_, or image, which being made artificially by the skill of their juggling priests and conjurers, with little help they could give answers, and the image spake aloud what the \_\_\_\_\_ spake more softly, somewhat like the artificial whispering places which convey the voice, from unseen persons." (Poole) [likened to ventriloquism]

Note: "Here we have a truly authentic Babylonian \_\_\_\_\_ process, which had come into Canaan. A 'science' had grown up around this divinatory technique. It also spawned a professional priesthood that confidently predicted a proper course of action by examining the \_\_\_\_\_ and the internal

\_\_\_\_\_ of the livers of newly slaughtered animals."  
(Vawter and Hoppe)

v. 22 Q. What is the verdict?

A. The lot fell to \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: God can even use \_\_\_\_\_ divination to direct the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of men.

v. 23 Q. Who is this written to?

A. This is addressing those who aligned themselves with  
Nebuchadnezzar before the invasion: \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Their guilt was that although they promised Nebuchadnezzar their  
allegiance, they did not keep their \_\_\_\_\_. They did so out of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and selfish motives.

v. 24 Q. What does the Lord say about this?

A. God is actually \_\_\_\_\_ with Nebuchadnezzar on their  
personal betrayal.

v. 25 Q. Who is this written to?

A. The current prince of Israel: \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 26 Q. What was said?

A. The king was called to remove his \_\_\_\_\_. Those who are  
\_\_\_\_\_ will be exalted and those who are \_\_\_\_\_  
will be humbled.

v. 27a Q. What is the first declaration?

A. The kingship will be \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 27b Q. Who is this speaking about?

A.

1. Rashi claims that this is \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Kings 25:22-23) but this cannot be true because he was established only as a \_\_\_\_\_ not a King/Prince.

2. He then states this this will only be temporary until \_\_\_\_\_ of Nethaniah kills him.

3. A more accurate interpretation would be the long-awaited \_\_\_\_\_. "To whom it rightly belongs..."

Sitting in contrast to \_\_\_\_\_, the last king/prince over Judah. So, it cannot be Nebuchadnezzar as well.

### **A Sword Song Toward Ammon and Babylon**

v. 28a Q. Who is the song first addressed to and why?

A.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Present day Jordan; ancestors of Lot's youngest daughter's incestuous relationship with him.)

2. Ammonite \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 28b Q. What common statement is made for them as for those in Jerusalem?

A. "A sword, a sword, drawn for the \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ to consume and to \_\_\_\_\_ like lightning!"

v. 29 Q. What was the deception that led to their downfall?

- A.
1. They were deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_ concerning you (Ammon).
  2. They were deceived by lying \_\_\_\_\_ about you (Ammon).
  3. They did not \_\_\_\_\_ Nebuchadnezzar to turn on them.

v. 30 Q. What does the Lord say to Nebuchadnezzar?

- A.
1. At some point, Nebuchadnezzar's \_\_\_\_\_ will stop, and he will return home.
  2. At some point, his kingdom would be judged for their overly \_\_\_\_\_ and wicked treatment of others.

v. 31 Q. How will the Lord do this?

A. God is going to bring his wrath, His divine anger, upon the Babylonians through the invading \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_.



v. 32 Q. Who gets the last word?

A.

Q. How do we reconcile God bringing judgment upon the righteous and the unrighteous, especially with texts like Genesis 19 (Sodom and Gomorrah)?

A. It is the difference between \_\_\_\_\_ judgment and \_\_\_\_\_ judgment where the righteous are \_\_\_\_\_ by the judgment of the group.

Q. What is the consistent point of God collectively bringing calamity upon His people (the righteous and the unrighteous)[Cp. Chpt. 11 – Recognition Formula]

A. That we might \_\_\_\_\_ it is the Lord who is doing this. A \_\_\_\_\_ reminder of the sovereignty of God.

Q. In the midst of all this tragedy, there was/is hope? What was it? For us?

A. The coming of the true, wrathful, and yet beneficent King – \_\_\_\_\_.