

“Someone to Stand in the Gap”
Ezekiel 22

General Problem

vv. 1-2 Q. What does God say to Ezekiel?

A.

1. God brings forth two questions relating to the same subject, i.e., the judgment of Jerusalem. This is not a true _____ but rather an _____ of divine calling. It is what he is called to do.
2. He is to _____ her for all her detestable practices.

vv. 3-4a Q. Beginning with the authoritative declaration, how does Ezekiel begin the confrontation?

A.

1. You are a city that sheds _____.
2. You are a city given over to defiling _____.

v. 4b Q. What does God say about this city?

A.

“You have brought your days to a _____, and the _____ of your years has come.” (Ezek. 22:4 NIV)

vv. 4c- 5 Q. What is the result of this?

A.

- 1.
- 2.

“In You” Allegations (Confirmed)

v. 6 Q. What is the first allegation?

A. _____ that _____ to the point of death.

v. 7a Q. What is the second allegation?

A. _____ for one's parents.

v. 7b Q. What are the third and fourth allegations?

A.

1. _____ the foreigner.

2. _____ the most vulnerable.

v. 8 Q. What are the fifth and sixth allegations?

A.

1. _____ things associated with God.

2. _____ divine times of community rest.

v. 9 Q. What are the seventh and eighth allegations?

A.

1. Those who _____ in order to bring about the death of others.

2. Those who _____ and are involved in _____ worship services of demonic entities.

v. 10 Q. What are the ninth and tenth allegations?

A.

1. Men who have sex with their _____.

2. Men who have sex with women while they are on their _____. But this is more about the utter disregard of ceremonial cleanness to _____ God. The man does not care about the _____ but only gratifying the _____.

v. 11 Q. What are the 11th, 12th, and 13th allegations?

A.

1. Men who commit _____ with their neighbor's wife.
2. Men who commit _____ with their daughter-in-law.
3. Men who commit _____ sin with their sisters.

v. 12 Q. What are the 14th, 15th, 16th, and last allegations?

A.

1. Those who are involved _____ in the killing of others.
2. Those who exact _____ (exorbitant interest) on those who cannot pay it back.
3. Those who _____ (under some sort of duress) from their neighbors.
4. The inhabitants of the city have _____ God.

Note: This is an allegation but also the _____ of all other allegations.

v. 13 Q. What does God do? Cf. 6:11, 21:14, 17
A. It is clear the striking or clapping or beating of the hands is an _____ action expressing the absolute _____ of the sinful actions [usury/murder] taking place in Jerusalem – the city that was to carry His name.

v. 14 Q. What convicting question does the Lord ask the Jerusalem residents? And God's response?

A.

1. Do you think you will have the _____ to stand against me?
2. I will _____ My word.

v. 15 Q. What is God intending to do?

A.

1. God will _____ them throughout the other nations.
2. God will put an end to their _____.

v. 16 Q. What will be a key indicator of God's prophetic fulfilled judgment?

A. When they appear ritually unclean (spiritually/physically _____) by the pagan nations around them.

The Smelting Process

vv. 17-18 Q. How does God describe the Jewish people?

A. _____ that separate from precious metals after they go through intense fire.

vv. 19-22 Q. What is God going to do in this metaphor?

A. God is going to melt them in the divine _____ of Jerusalem.

Note: I found this interesting from the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (3rd def.): Crucible

“A place, time, or situation in which different social forces or intellectual influences come together and cause _____ developments.”

vv. 23-24 Q. To whom and what is Ezekiel to prophesy?

Note: The Hebrew JPS Revised version says, “You are an _____ land, not to be washed with rain during the time of indignation.”

A. Ezekiel is called to speak to the _____ and convey that it will be a land of desolation/_____ during the time of God's wrath. An apt description of the spiritual condition of God's people.

Culprits Identified

v. 25 Q. What group of people are called out first?

A.

Q. What are their sins?

A.

1. They treat people like _____ to be used for their own personal _____/desires.
2. _____.
3. _____ [husbands].

v. 26 Q. What group is called out second?

A.

Q. What are their sins?

A.

1. They do _____ to my law.

Note: Rashi says, "It was incumbent upon them to reprove, to instruct, and to make known statutes and ordinances, but they did not do so. This is _____, for they robbed it from those who needed to learn."

Note: This "violence" might have also been the intentional _____ or _____ of the Law as we see with the Pharisees and Sadducees at the time of Jesus.

2. Dissolved the distinction between that _____ pleases God and that which does not. Or they dissolved the distinction between _____ pleases God and who does not.

Note: This supports the second above notation.

Note: In context, this applies to both _____ and _____ law codes.

3. _____ the Sabbath days – appointed days of the Lord. No priestly _____/teaching.

Note: Lev. 23 – not just the Sabbath _____ but Sabbath days of rest mandated by the Lord during His _____/_____ days.

4. With the result being, Lord's Name is _____.

v. 27 Q. What group is called out third?

A.

Q. What are their sins?

A. They kill people to _____ themselves.

v. 28 Q. What group is called out fourth?

A.

Q. What were their sins?

A. They _____ or make the unrighteous acts of the officials (or all the above) somehow _____ for their own personal interests by _____ claiming to speak on behalf of God.

v. 29 Q. What group is last?

A.

Q. What were their sins?

A.

1. They practice _____.
2. They commit _____.
3. They _____ the poor and needy.
4. They _____ the foreigner by denying them _____.

v. 30 Q. What was God looking for?

A.

1. God was looking for someone to _____ the broken wall – to desire to _____ things.

Note: This could be in juxtaposition with the prophets simply wanting to _____ over things – to give them an _____ of something finished/complete but would have easily been washed away by a simple rain.

Q. Who did God find?

A.

v. 31 Q. What will be God's response?

A.

Application Questions:

Q. How does our sin individually and collectively as the Church bring about external ridicule and loss of witness to unbelievers/nations?

A.

Q. What hope is there when a society at every level seems to be rebellious against the Lord?

A.