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on the judgment of Judah to the judgment of the nations surrounding Judah. Tyre and Egypt are the prime focus of Ezekiel's prophecies of judgment.

Isaiah and Jeremiah had already delivered oracles of judgment against the pagan nations (Isa. 13-23; Jer. 46-51). Along with Ezekiel's prophecies, we find the striking fulfillment of these prophecies on the pages of history.

An excellent work entitled **Has God Spoken?** by A. O. Schnabel details the particular fulfillments of these ancient prophecies. This book is now available as a free ebook (PDF) and can be downloaded at <http://www.hasgodspoken.com>.

Ezekiel 33:21 And it came to pass in the twelfth year of our captivity, in the tenth month, on the fifth day of the month, that one who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me and said, "The city has been captured!"

For seven years Ezekiel prophesied the sack of Jerusalem and the judgment of the nations. The central verse of the book, Ezekiel 33:21, in a very matter of fact way, informs the reader that God's judgment has been realized—Jerusalem is a heap of ruins. God's fourfold judgment—famine, sword, pestilence and wild beasts, has become a reality (Ezek. 14).

The tenor and focus of Ezekiel's prophecy for the *next fifteen years* changes to one of hope and promise of restoration. Further judgments pronounced against pharaoh, Egypt and Edom are within the context of God's restoration of blessing and favor to Judah.

Ezekiel 34 is a beautiful chapter of encouragement (see study guide #70) as it reveals that God will shepherd His people—a prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Jn. 10). **Ezekiel 36** is another beautiful chapter revealing God's commitment to restore His people. This chapter is ultimately fulfilled in the Gospel Dispensation.

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



Ezekiel 25-36 Judgment has Come



Reading Schedule

Monday: Ezekiel 25-27

Tuesday: Ezekiel 28-29

Wednesday: Ezekiel 30-32

Thursday: Ezekiel 33-34

Friday: Ezekiel 35-36

In Ezekiel 24:1-2, God reveals to Ezekiel that the final judgment of Jerusalem has begun—the armies of Nebuchadnezzar have begun the siege. Shortly thereafter, Ezekiel 24:15-27 records the death of Ezekiel's wife. The Lord warned Ezekiel of the impending death of "the desire of his eyes." Ezekiel was instructed to make no outward display of mourning. As with previous actions, Ezekiel's behavior got the people's attention — "Will you not tell us what these things signify to us, that you behave so?" (24:19). Ezekiel responds that God is going to do the very same to Jerusalem very soon. The city's destruction would mean the death of many of their loved ones. Tragically, they would finally understand that Ezekiel was a true prophet — he had been right all along! And they would know that the Lord, He was God, and His commands and judgments were to be taken seriously.

עֶזְקֵאל Ezekiel

Being a prophet for Jehovah is not easy work. Severe sacrifices were made by these faithful servants. Some lost their lives (Mt. 23:35; Jer. 26:20-23). Ezekiel made tremendous sacrifices to faithfully teach and warn God's people, not least of which was the loss of his wife.

When called by God, Ezekiel, whose name means "God strengthens," was promised that difficulty awaited: "The house of Israel will not listen to you,

because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted. Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads (Ezek. 3:7-8). This hard-headed prophet of God declared God's message as a faithful watchman to the house of Israel (Ezek. 33). Ezekiel sets a wonderful example of fidelity in proclaiming God's Word for all spiritual leaders. Doubtless, it was Ezekiel 33 that Paul alludes to in Acts 20:26-27.



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