

## Ezekiel 7

**Read Ezekiel 7:1-4:** The last chapter was focused on the specific places of sin in Israel and Judah. They were mountaintop idol shrines, and valleys and other typical idolatry centers. The idea is that mountaintop locations make men feel closer to the heavens, and dark valleys offer concealment for shameful practices. God is turning over every rock as the cockroaches' scurry for cover. All of this stuff stops now.

Sin is compared to leaven, that starts with one individual's small indiscretion, and results in a complete societal contamination. Sin always effects the entire country. Personal freedom does not include sinning alone. It never stays that way. This chapter is about a cleansing that will come to every square inch of property in Israel. The term *four corners* is implying an extended area and it is all-inclusive. It is a little like Trump draining the swamp.

God used fire and salt to cleanse Sodom. God used water to drown all mankind, to wash away the violence in Noah's day. The holy crusaders have become infected with sin. The Jews have become worse than the Canaanites. The people they exterminated during Joshua's time are now better citizens than the Jews. Living without God leads to the same place for the genius and the simple man. They are literally all going out of their mind. We too can see the senseless damage that comes when your nation becomes a habitation of fools.

The point is that God's cleansing cannot be done in *half measures*. Playing with sin always leads to disaster. King Saul lost his job when he saved some livestock and Kings and women; instead of wiping out the crazed Canaanites. If we do not destroy sin it will destroy us. If you do not take on sin head on you are indirectly killing your own family.

*Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD.<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.<sup>3</sup> Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. ' " ... But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.... Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,<sup>11</sup> "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.<sup>12</sup> So when Samuel*

*rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.”* <sup>13</sup> *Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”* <sup>14</sup> *But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”* <sup>15</sup> *And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”* <sup>16</sup> *Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”* And he said to him, “Speak on.” <sup>17</sup> *So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?”* <sup>18</sup> *Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’* <sup>19</sup> *Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?”* <sup>20</sup> *And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.* <sup>21</sup> *But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”* <sup>22</sup> *So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.* <sup>23</sup> *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”* (1 Samuel 15)

Sin is not something that we can play with or ignore.

*Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.* (2 Timothy 2)

Unbelievers may call us dogmatic, legalistic, or bigoted, about certain things. As Christians we are free; but we need to stay within our limits. In my case, I tried to moderate alcohol my consumption. That is a battle that I had a losing record with; so I eventually stopped drinking altogether. That was easy. Moderation was not. I know that having a few cocktails or beers may be within my freedom of choice, but it would grieve my spirit...because I know where this road leads.

*I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.* (Romans 14)

Evil practices are extremely contagious. When you cut out cancer, you have to get it all out...or it can come back with a vengeance.

*“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, ... <sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. <sup>3</sup> Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. <sup>4</sup> For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. <sup>5</sup> But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. <sup>6</sup> “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup> but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; <sup>10</sup> and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. <sup>11</sup> Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them. (Deuteronomy 7)*

God is prescriptive in his corrections. He is prescribing that every inch of land needs to be cleansed of these practices. God is declaring that the degree of washing and disinfecting is what is truly required here.

We see how this works clearly in the USA today. We left the door open for drug experimentation in the 60's; even though the bible speaks against mind-altering abuses. There were 87,000 drug overdose deaths in the USA last year. Substance abuse cost us over \$510 billion last year. In other words, we are playing with our problems. Trump has declared that the drug lords are terrorists and will be dealt with accordingly. The same can be said for any sinful practice. During biblical times, drug lords and traffickers would have been killed. Amsterdam and New York have tried to minimize HIV and hepatitis with free needles and pipes, etc.. Those areas are now completely overrun with an exponentially larger problem. You cannot make friends with any type of sin. You cannot even declare the lesser of two evils to exist.



*<sup>46</sup> "For thus says the Lord GOD: 'Bring up an assembly against them, give them up to trouble and plunder. <sup>47</sup> The assembly shall stone them with stones and execute them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn their houses with fire. <sup>48</sup> Thus I will cause lewdness to cease from the land, that all women may be taught not to practice your lewdness. <sup>49</sup> They shall repay you for your lewdness, and you shall pay for your idolatrous sins. Then you shall know that I am the Lord GOD.' "* (Ezekiel 23)

**Read Ezekiel 7:5-9:** People think that it is cruel for God to get tough on sins. In reality, it is merciful. To continue down any path without God will result in depravity and tortured lives. We are to be merciful people; who rescue those who are at risk. Sinning for desperation is one thing. Sinning as a child of Jehovah is a completely different issue.

God has many names, based on his attributes. Jehovah Shalom means the Lord of Peace. Here God is self-described as *Jehovah Naka* (the God who strikes). The word for strike usually means to kill. There is a point where tough love has to stop yielding. Bad actors are like poison distributors.

**Read Ezekiel 7:10-12:** It seems like the bible has a lot of repetition when comes to repentance and coming judgement. Why is that? When it all comes to roost it's absolutely horrifying. Once it starts, there is no escape.

*<sup>10</sup> Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. <sup>11</sup> You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.* (Titus 3)

*Then the LORD said to me, "Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them*

*go forth. <sup>2</sup> And it shall be, if they say to you, ‘Where should we go?’ then you shall tell them, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Such as are for death, to death; And such as are for the sword, to the sword; And such as are for the famine, to the famine; And such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.”’ (Jeremiah 15)*

The fact of the matter is that certain people will not stop unless they are forcibly stopped.

A [study of federal offenders](#) found that almost half were rearrested after eight years, almost one-third were reconvicted, and one-quarter were reincarcerated. For state prisoners, the numbers are even higher. A [government survey](#) found that 70% were rearrested within five years and nearly half returned to prison for a new conviction or a parole or probation violation.

*Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them. (Proverbs 13)*

Read **Ezekiel 7:13-19**: Everyone who has been resisting God will die. There is no working through it. Those outside the city walls will be cut down. Everyone inside the fort will die of disease and starvation. Everyone will lose their composure; and be in a state of horror. Their knees will buckle and they will turn pale.

Money and gold will become trash. There is no buying and selling going on. Property is abandoned; because there is no tomorrow. They based their lives on money and pleasure. The pleasure is gone; and the money cannot save them.

Read **Ezekiel 7:20-27**: The Jews were very much into jewelry and figurines. Many of which were pornographic.



God is saying that these people are sold out on pornography and idolatry. God is sending in ruthless Gentiles from Babylon who will destroy it all with fire.