

Ezekiel 21

Disturbing News

Read Ezekiel 21:1-7: National pride can be a good thing or a bad thing. If we are blessed to be under God's protection that is good. If we are satisfied in ourselves, without God, that is bad. Israel was blessed in so many ways, as are we. We can live under the guidelines for blessings; but that is not automatic. Israel was to be a light to the nations, as are we.

Sometimes God lets seemingly good things get destroyed. God is telling us here that he will be destroying Jerusalem; along with both its righteous and its wicked people. That should scare us as Americans. Not that God is in anyway capricious. It is more about when we are no longer truly a country of God's people. Blessings and curses seem simple when you clearly have bad guys and good guys. This is a story of when we as a people go from being good guys and transform into bad guys.

The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. ¹³ And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. ¹⁴ So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them. ¹⁵ "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: (Deuteronomy 27)

Much of the Bible is about Israel verses the surrounding evil nations. This chapter is more about when the good guys become evil. This chapter is not an obscure history of Israel. I believe that it has application to America right now. We have been blessed above the nations with freedom and resources and beauty. We have a growing number of discontent citizens who are essentially committing treason to force their individual agendas.



Historically, there have been trouble making nations. Assyria was famous for conquest, torture and intimidation. Babylon and Egypt were unstoppable idolatrous powerhouses. God does not approve of their world view, but he used them to correct his out-of-control people.

In this chapter, God is empowering Babylon to destroy his own people; along with nations all over the globe. This seems counter-intuitive to a loving God to smash his own people. God has done this kind of thing more than once. Similarly, God strengthened the godless Roman Empire to crush nations around the world,

including Israel. How can these things be if God is good and loving? As Christians, we need to dig deeply into the facts to see what is happening. We find that God is bending over backwards to prevent the collapse of his people.

In the 7th century BC, the prophet Habakkuk prayed to God about how Judah had become so violent and so corrupt and so sinful that life had become dangerous and sickening. This was similar to the quality of life just before the flood.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6)

I feel similarly as I watch the LA riots, and I listen to the weak government leaders; essentially committing treason. Our own people are selling us down the river. There is no commitment to our country or to God.

O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds. (Habakkuk 1:1-4)

What would you do if you were God? Let things go, and watch it unwind? Would you call down lightning on the people throwing concrete blocks off of the overpasses?

and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village. (Luke 9)

treason /trē'zən/ 

noun

1. The betrayal of allegiance toward one's own country, especially by committing hostile acts against it or aiding its enemies in committing such acts.
2. The betrayal of someone's trust or confidence.
3. The offense of attempting to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance, or of betraying the state into the hands of a foreign power; disloyalty; treachery.

Similar: **disloyalty** **treachery**

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God answered Habakkuk's prayer by creating an unstoppable nation (Babylon) to evict his people from his land for 70 years to sanitize it and clean up the minds of his people.

“Look among the nations and watch— Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you. For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. (Habakkuk 1:5-7)

God does not want to kill anyone. He will cut out the cancers in our societies so that we can all live to see another day.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Today, some Jews regret being God's people. They tie it to having a history of misery. The Romans crushed the Jews over and over. How could this be? God's people were no longer acting like his people. God is committed to restore them; but they were just not having it.

But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.” (Romans 9)

For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. (Matthew 27:18-20)

Israel was called to be the light of the world. People mistakenly have concluded that the church has symbolically replaced Israel. Not so. We have some things in common; but we are not Israel. If God used tough love to clean house with his own people (Israel), he will surely do the same things with us.

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. (Romans 11)

The USA has some solid bible-believing churches today. The USA is also an ally of Israel. These two things are providing grace from God. The USA is providing support to foreign nations in need around the world as well. Alternatively, the USA has fallen quickly to antichristian ideas such as transgenderism, woke ideology, uncalled for entitlements, and all kinds of related crazy things. Our once-great universities were famous for training missionaries and pastors. Today, they have clipped off any reference to God, and they have become complicit with Hamas and antisemitism. How can these trends not bring us into harm's way?

If God judged Jerusalem, his own capital on earth, then what about us? The USA was originally called the New Zion by the congregation on the Mayflower. We were supposed to also become a city on the hill (after the Jerusalem ideal).

God has a history of shutting down once-good places, after they fall to the inventions of mankind. The Garden of Eden was a paradise, that turned into a place of shame. God shut down the Tower of Babel and central city project in Babylon as it became a place of self-glorification and idolatry. How much longer will we be recipients of God's grace considering so many failed societies?

Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: ²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I say

to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.” (Matthew 11)

Here some interesting trends:

Canada was 77% Christian in 2001. In 2023 that dropped to 53%. Australia was 52% Christian in 2016. In 2023 that dropped to 43%. The UK is now 70% no-religion. Europe ranges from 70% to 91% no religion (depending on the country). South America ranges from 30% to 74% Catholic/Christian, depending on the country. We are seeing individual rights and basic Christian freedoms falling to laws and incarcerations. The USA was 78% Christian in 2007. In 2024 had dropped to 62%.

God tried instant messaging, and time outs and famines for centuries. That did not work. A time came when he had to destroy the contagion.

Read Ezekiel 21:8-17: God is outfitting Babylon to do a job in Judah. He is sharpening their swords. He is raising up a massive army against them. Their leadership class has been hijacked. Their judges have sold them out to the highest bidders. The country is surrounded by terror.

How many disputes are we away from a missile exchange with the CCP? We have transferred 90,000 factories to outsourcing countries as we have lost our ability to even convert our resources into goods. They have told us that they can take out all of our aircraft carriers in 20 minutes. The CCP is currently producing 235 million tons of ships each year. The US is producing 100,000 tons of ships per year. In fact, we are retiring warships faster than the new ones can be built. The CCP makes about 2,000 cyber-attacks on the US government computers every day around 2:00 AM. It takes 10 years and 13 billion dollars just to build an aircraft carrier. The issue is not how to counter the Chinese. The idea in Judah was not how to control the Babylonians. It is much more basic than that. It is only about drawing near to God and honoring him in our lives. That's it. That is not a naive or superficial analysis. God has clearly told us so.

Read Ezekiel 21:18-27: Not only does God reveal that he raised up Babylon to evict his out-of-control family. He also sees (in advance) the moment that the Babylonian army turned towards Jerusalem. The Babylonian general is using dark arts and witchcraft to get direction for military success. God is laughing, as he hides behind all of this prognostication. He sent them to do a job. They don't even know they are working for him.

God here foreshows his prophet, that when the king of Babylon should come with his army into Syria, and find the Ammonites had entered into a confederacy with Egypt as well as Zedekiah, he would be in doubt against which of the two people he should first make war, and would commit the decision of the matter to his arts of divination, described [Ezekiel 21:21](#); and that God should direct the divination to be for taking the road that leads to Jerusalem. The words, **Let both go forth out of one land**, seem to mean, that the single way should divide itself into two, leading to different places. This, as appears from what follows, was the road coming out of Arabia, which afterward parted into two, one leading to Rabbath, and the other to Jerusalem.

God is dispatching a wrecking crew to Ammon and Jerusalem at the same time. This is being described as if it was in real time; but God played it out long before that.

Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, That they might enlarge their territory. But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, And it shall devour its palaces, Amid shouting in the day of battle, And a tempest in the day of the whirlwind. Their king shall go into captivity, He and his princes together,” Says the LORD. (Amos 1)

Read Ezekiel 21:28-32: A time comes when people are beyond repentance. A toxic society is a cancer to the world. God help us if we become that.

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. 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)