



# OUR CLAIM TO FAME

Studies in Ezekiel

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## No One Else to Blame

### Introduction to Ezekiel 18-24

It is a primary tendency of human nature to blame someone for our mistakes. While other people or things often have a part to play in our wrongs, we usually have no one else to blame but ourselves. The study in Ezekiel this week reveals this very thing about Israel. The first section depicts the opportunity wasted by them to live under the blessing of God. Some of them wanted to blame their fathers for their rebellious ways. God clearly showed them, though, that each person had the opportunity to live the right way regardless of how their parents had lived. God would not hold them responsible for others' sins, and in the same way would not give them benefit for others' righteousness. Another wasted opportunity was that of Israel's kings. Even

though a good foundation had been provided, they still abandoned God's ways and suffered the consequences. The entire nation also had been given many chances to walk in God's blessing, but had rebelled every time. In the next section we see their obstinacy revealed clearly. By God's design the sword of judgment would fall on them through Babylon because of their sins. They had shed innocent blood, made idols, dishonored parents, oppressed the alien, orphan and widows, desecrated God's holy things, committed gross sexual immorality, operated with bribes, and pursued dishonest gain. This was especially reprehensible for Judah because they had seen the cost of disobedience that Israel to the north had already paid. Because of



**Our claim to fame is found as we reflect the glory of God.**

these actions God declared an outcome of judgment. They would be like meat thrown into a boiling pot when Babylon overthrew them for God because of their bloody crimes, their immorality, and their child sacrifices. It would be so bad that they would not even be able to mourn, just as God told Ezekiel to be silent when his wife died. In the end, however, God would use the pot of judgment to purify them. While the final outcome would be good, they would suffer greatly to get there—yet they had no one else to blame but themselves.

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Daily Study Questions for Ezekiel 18-24

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

1. Look at Ezek 18. What false proverb was Israel saying (v1-2) and why was it wrong? How do we do this today? What was the truth (v3-4, 5-13, 14-18, 21-24)? Apply (v30-32).	
2. In Ezek 19 what "lament" was given for Israel's princes (v2-4, 5-9)? Why was this so sad (v10-14)?	
3. From Ezek 20:1-32 describe the times Israel rebelled against God (v5-8, 9-18, 18-26, 27-32). How did God respond in each case? What does this teach us about Him?	

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## Ezekiel 18-24 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Ezek 20:33-49 what will God's final response to Israel be (v40-44) and how will He accomplish this (v33-38)? What was soon to happen though (v45-49)?

5. From 21 what was the fire of 20:45-49 (v1-13) and how bad would it be (v14-17)? What 2 ways could Babylon have gone (v18-21) and where did they go (v22)? Why (v23-27)?

6. Looking at Ezek 22 list Israel's sins (v4, 7, 8, 9-10, 11, 12, 23-29). What did He look for (v30) and what would God do (v13-16, 17-22, 31)?

7. According to 23:1-44 how had Israel and Judah acted (v1-4)? Specifically how did this play out for each (v5-10, 11-21, 36-44)?

8. In 23:22-49 what would happen to Judah and Israel (v22-26, 28-35, 46-47) and what would result (v27, 48-49)? What does this teach?

9. Using 24:1-14 what caused the siege that Ezekiel prophesied (v6-8) and how bad would it be (v5)? How would God purify Judah (v9-13) and how certain was this (v14)?

10. Looking at 24:15-27 what was going to happen (v16) and how was Ezekiel to respond (v17)? What was this going to signify for Judah (v18-24)? How does this make sense?

11. Review Ezek 18-24. How did Israel waste their opportunities for God's blessing? How do you do that most often, and how can you change that?

### Scripture to Remember

*"Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul that sins will die."*

**Ezekiel 18:4 (NAS)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Sheep Need a Healer (Ps 23:3)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. If anyone has ever restored something old, share about that experience. Why does it feel so good to do that?
2. Read Psalm 23:3. Discuss why emotional experiences deplete us so much. How do you typically relate to emotions—do you celebrate them, ignore them, or fear them?
3. How would you define guilt? Do you tend to rationalize, minimize, compromise, or personalize it? How can you let God purify it instead?
4. What are some of the losses we go through in life and why is this so difficult? Discuss how to accept them, dedicate them, and focus on what is left, not lost.
5. Talk about people, places, or things that lead often to resentments for you. Which of these causes the deepest resentment? Why is releasing resentment an act of faith?
6. On a practical level how can we let the Shepherd restore us to one another?
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.