

# EZEKIEL: JUSTICE FOR ALL

## WEEK 3: CHAPTERS 12-24 (JUDGEMENT ON GOD'S PEOPLE)

**WARM UP:** What forms of discipline did you experience as a child? How did you feel about it?

*Chapters 12 to 24 are all about God's judgement on his people, Israel. This section of Ezekiel is particularly vivid and shocking in its description of Israel's sin and God's coming judgement upon them. I'd encourage you to read and reflect on all thirteen chapters, but this study will just focus on chapter 16.*

**1. Read 16:1-7.** The nation of Israel was "born" when God called Abram in the land of Canaan and made a number of promises to him (see Genesis 12). The tribes in Canaan (e.g. Hittites and Amorites) were powerful and cared nothing about Abram and his descendants, but God spoke a nation into life. Do you believe your existence is more than the result of biological processes? (read Psalm 139:13-18) What difference does this make to you now?

**2. Read 16:8-14.** This is incredible love! God formed Israel into a great nation and its capital, Jerusalem, was called "the perfection of beauty, the joy of whole earth" (Lam 2:15) In what ways have you experienced God's extravagant love to make you the person and give you the life you have today?

**3. Read 16:15-34.** These verses contain God's graphic description of Israel's unfaithfulness. God's people had given themselves to idol worship, sexual immorality and even child sacrifice! Verse 15 reveals the heart of it. Why is pride such a powerful force? In what ways do you "trust in your own beauty"?

**4. Read 16:35-43.** God reveals his wrath and anger against his people for their sin. Many people today have a problem with this aspect of God's character. Do you? How can you reconcile it with the God who IS love?

**5. Read 16:44-58.** God's punishment for Israel was that she would be exposed and humiliated by her lovers (i.e. her pagan neighbours). We've seen this in recent years, as famous Christian leaders have been exposed for their sin. God will bring all sin into the light. What will be exposed from your life?

**6. Read 16:59-63.** Finally some good news! God is going to make a new covenant with his people and make atonement for their sin. For us today, we know this happened through Jesus. How thankful are you for what he did?

**PRAY:** That you would be thankful to God and not proud. Then confess your sin and rejoice that Jesus's blood saves you from God's judgement & wrath!