

EZEKIEL: JUSTICE FOR ALL

WEEK 4: CHAPTERS 25-32 (JUDGEMENT ON THE NATIONS)

WARM UP: Who is the most powerful leader in history? And in the world today?

Chapter 25 deals with God's judgement against the nations surrounding Judah.

1. Read Ezekiel 25, then take a few deep breaths. The nations surrounding Judah both harmed his people and delighted in their downfall. Who might this be true of today in their attitudes and actions towards Christians?

2. Now read Romans 12:17-21. How can Christians (as a group) live this out in relation to the people/groups/governments who cause them harm? How are you living this out personally in relation to the people who have harmed you?

Chapters 26-28 contain God's judgement against Tyre and Sidon, two wealthy and powerful cities north of Judah (note: they were both in ruins by 300BC).

3. Read Ezekiel 28:1-10 (or 11-19). The root cause of Tyre's sin is revealed to be pride: trusting in its own beauty, wealth and wisdom, rather than in God. Where do you see this today amongst the nations & corporations of our world?

4. Now read Luke 10:13-14. Jesus here shames the Israelite cities by saying that Tyre and Sidon would have repented if they had seen and heard Jesus' miracles, but God's own people refuse to. Why does pride stop people from believing in Jesus? Is pride stopping you from fully giving your life to him?

Chapters 29-32 deal with God's judgement against Egypt and Pharaoh.

5. Read Ezekiel 32:17-32. In this passage, God takes Ezekiel on a tour of Sheol (the realm of the dead), where he finds all the great nations and civilisations from history, e.g. Egypt, Assyria, Elam. The point is: every great and powerful civilisation that sets itself up against God ends up here, in ruin and disgrace. What comfort do you find knowing that God is a sovereign, righteous judge over all people and nations of the earth?

6. Finally, take a moment to share any other feelings or questions the reality of God's judgement brings up for you. **Then read 1 John 4:13-18** & reflect on it.

PRAY: That you would have an appropriate fear (honour, reverence, respect) for God and warn others of his judgement. Pray also that you would trust in the work of Jesus and God's love, and that you would not fear his judgement.