



**The Book of EZEKIEL**  
**Chapters 21 – 23**  
**“The Word of the LORD!”**

*Go for God!* > **Chapter 21- “The Word of the LORD”**

- This chapter continues to emphasize the coming judgment of God against Judah, which Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon fulfilled in 588 – 585 BC

(v1-8) Ezekiel the “sighing” prophet (meaning to “groan”, because of the coming judgment from Babylon upon Judah, Jerusalem and the temple).

(v9-17) Choose your sword, the sword of slaughter or the sword of salvation!

- **Observe the sword in the New Testament:**

(1) Mary’s sword - Luke 2:25-33;

(2) Jesus’ sword - Matthew 10:34-39; Luke 21:20-24;

(3) Peter’s sword – John 18:10-11;

(4) Sword of the Spirit - Ephesians 6:10-20; Hebrews 4:12-13 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

(5) A sword for **self-defense** - Luke 22:36-38 - *Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."*

- Barnes, the Bible commentator writes, “Self-defense is lawful. Men encompassed with danger may lawfully "defend" their lives. It does not prove that it is lawful to make "offensive" war on a nation or an individual.)

(6) There is also a “sword of warning” to the church – Revelation 2:12-17.

(v18-24) The King of Babylon to destroy Jerusalem

**(v25-27) The rightful king to come**

**(v28-32) A word of judgment to the Ammonites (The Babylonian armies were to conquer this people in 582 - 581B.C.)**

**> Chapter 22- “Show & Tell the Sins of Israel”**

**(v1-16) The ripening sins for judgment – Warren Wiersbe writes, “How easy it is for us today to pass judgment on God's ancient people, but what about God's contemporary people? Sexual sins in the church and in so-called Christian homes have ripped churches and families apart, and many churches close their eyes to these offenses. Pornography — in print, on video, and on the Internet is a common thing these days, and it is getting more and more daring on television. Unmarried people living together, "trial marriages," "gay marriages," and even "mate-swapping" have shown up in evangelical churches, and when faithful pastors have attempted to deal with such sin, they were told to mind their own business. The offenders simply left and started attending other churches where they could live as they pleased. As Ruth Bell Graham said. "If God doesn't judge America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.””**

**(v17-22) The meltdown parable**

**(v23-31) Sins of the Prophets & the Princes (leaders)**

**- Paul and Peter warn of the same false teachers in Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter Ch. 2.**

**> Chapter 23- “A Parable of Israel & Judah”**

**(v1-10) A parable for Israel (Samaria)**

**(v11-21) A parable for Judah (Jerusalem)**

**(v22-35) Babylon will devour Judah**

**(v36-49) Reasons for judgment**