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EZEKIEL 22: 1 Moreover the LORD's word came to me, saying,

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This chapter contains a recital of the sins of Jerusalem, Eze 22:1-12; for which God threatens it with severe judgments, Eze 22:13-16, in order to purify it from the dross, Eze 22:17-22. And as the corruption is general, pervading prophets, priests, princes, and people; so, it is declared, shall be the punishment, Eze 22:23-31.

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EZEKIEL 22: 2 You, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? then cause her to know all her abominations.

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Verse 2

Wilt thou judge the bloody city - Pronounce the sentence of death against the murderers.

Show her all her abominations - And a most revolting and dreadful catalogue of these is in consequence exhibited.

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EZEKIEL 22: 3 You shall say, Thus says the Lord GOD: A city that sheds blood in the midst of her, that her time may come, and that makes idols against herself to defile her!

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Verse 3

Her time may come - Till now, it was my long-suffering; she has fulfilled her days - completed the time of her probation; has not mended, but is daily worse; therefore her judgment can linger no longer.

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EZEKIEL 22: 4 You have become guilty in your blood that you have shed, and are defiled in your idols which you have made; and you have caused your days to draw near, and have come even to your years: therefore have I made you a reproach to the nations, and a mocking to all the countries.

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Verse 4

Thou art become guilty in thy blood - Thou art guilty of blood.

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EZEKIEL 22: 5 Those who are near, and those who are far from you, shall mock you, you infamous one, full of tumult.

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Verse 5

Those that be near - Both distant as well as neighboring provinces consider thee the most abandoned of characters; and through thee many have been involved in distress and ruin.

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EZEKIEL 22: 6 Behold, the princes of Israel, everyone according to his power, have been in you to shed blood.

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Verse 6

Behold, the princes - Ye are a vile and murderous people, and your princes have been of the same character. Like people, like prince.

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EZEKIEL 22: 7 In you have they set light by father and mother; in your midst have they dealt by oppression with the foreigner; in you have they wronged the fatherless and the widow.

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Verse 7

In thee have they set light - The children do not reverence their parents. Parental affection and filial respect do not exist among you. The stranger is not only not succoured, but he is oppressed. The widows and fatherless are vexed by wrongs and exactions.

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EZEKIEL 22: 8 You have despised my holy things, and have profaned my Sabbaths.

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Verse 8

Thou hast despised - All my ordinances are not only neglected, but treated with contempt; and my Sabbaths profaned. There is not only no power of godliness among you, but there is no form.

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EZEKIEL 22: 9 Slandrous men have been in you to shed blood; and in you they have eaten on the mountains: in your midst they have committed lewdness.

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Verse 9

In thee are men that carry tales - Witnesses that will swear any thing, even where life is concerned. They eat upon the mountains - Sacrifice to idols, and celebrate their festivals.

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EZEKIEL 22: 10 In you have they uncovered their fathers' nakedness; in you have they humbled her who was unclean in her impurity.

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Verse 10

In thee have they discovered - They are guilty of the most abominable incest and unnatural lust.

On thee have they humbled - In their unholy and unnatural connexions, they have not abstained from those set apart because of their infirmities. The catalogue of crimes that follow is too plain to require comment.

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EZEKIEL 22: 11 One has committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another has lewdly defiled his daughter-in-law; and another in you has humbled his sister, his father's daughter.

EZEKIEL 22: 12 In you have they taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and increase, and you have greedily gained of your neighbours by oppression, and have forgotten me, says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 22: 13 Behold, therefore, I have struck my hand at your dishonest gain which you have made, and at your blood which has been in your midst.

EZEKIEL 22: 14 Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken it, and will do it.

EZEKIEL 22: 15 I will scatter you among the nations, and disperse you through the countries; and I will consume your filthiness out of you.

EZEKIEL 22: 16 You shall be profaned in yourself, in the sight of the nations; and you shall know that I am the LORD.

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Verse 16

Thou shalt know that I am the Lord - I shall so deal with and punish thee, that thou shalt be obliged to own the vindictive hand of a sin-avenging God.

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EZEKIEL 22: 17 the LORD's word came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 22: 18 Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me: all of them are brass and tin and iron and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are the dross of silver.

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Verse 18

The house of Israel is to me become dross - They are all like base metal - brass, tin, iron, and lead alloyed together with silver. Ye must be put in the furnace, and subjected to the most intense fire, till your impurities are consumed away. No ordinary means will avail any thing; the most violent must be resorted to.

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EZEKIEL 22: 19 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

Verse 19

I will gather you - Jerusalem is represented here as the refining pot; all the people are to be gathered together in it, and the Chaldean fire is to melt the whole. And God will increase thy sufferings: as the refiner blows the fire with his bellows, so God will blow upon you with the fire of his wrath, Eze 22:21.

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EZEKIEL 22: 20 As they gather silver and brass and iron and lead and tin into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire on it, to melt it; so will I gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will lay you there, and melt you.

EZEKIEL 22: 21 Yes, I will gather you, and blow on you with the fire of my wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst.

EZEKIEL 22: 22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so you will be melted in its midst; and you will know that I, the LORD, have poured out my wrath on you.

EZEKIEL 22: 23 the LORD's word came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 22: 24 Son of man, tell her, You are a land that is not cleansed, nor rained on in the day of indignation.

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Verse 24

Thou art the land that is not cleansed - Thou art like a country where there is no rain, either to cleanse the garments, or fertilize the ground.

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EZEKIEL 22: 25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in its midst, like a roaring lion ravaging the prey: they have devoured souls; they take treasure and precious things; they have made her widows many in its midst.

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Verse 25

There is a conspiracy - The false prophets have united together to say and support the same things; and have been the cause of the destruction of souls, and the death of many, so that widows, through their means, are multiplied in thee.

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EZEKIEL 22: 26 Her priests have done violence to my law, and have profaned my holy things: they have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they caused men to discern between the unclean and the clean, and have hidden their eyes from my Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

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Verse 26

Her priests - Even they whose lips should preserve knowledge, have not instructed the people: they have violated my law, not only in their private conduct, but in their careless and corrupt manner of serving in my temple.

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EZEKIEL 22: 27 Her princes in its midst are like wolves ravaging the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, that they may get dishonest gain.

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Verse 27

Her princes - Are as bad as her priests; they are rapacious, and grievously oppress the people by unjust impositions in order to increase their revenues.

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EZEKIEL 22: 28 Her prophets have plastered for them with whitewash, seeing false visions, and divining lies to them, saying, Thus says the Lord GOD, when the LORD has not spoken.

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Verse 28

Her prophets - Even those who profess themselves to be my prophets, have been unfaithful in the discharge of their office; have soothed the people in their sins, and pretended to have oracles of peace and safety when I had not spoken to them.

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EZEKIEL 22: 29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery; yes, they have troubled the poor and needy, and have oppressed the foreigner wrongfully.

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Verse 29

The people - All that have power or authority have abused it; vexed and oppressed the poor, the needy, and the stranger.

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EZEKIEL 22: 30 I sought for a man among them, who should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

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Verse 30

I sought for a man - I saw that there was a grievous breach made in the moral state and feeling of the people, and I sought for a man that would stand in the gap; that would faithfully exhort, reprove and counsel with all long-suffering and doctrine. But none was to be found!

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EZEKIEL 22: 31 Therefore have I poured out my indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I brought on their heads, says the Lord GOD.

Verse 31

Therefore - Because of the profligacies already mentioned; because of the false worship so generally practiced; because of the false prophets tolerated; because of the unholy and profane priesthood; because of the oppressive princes; because of the unfaithful and deceiving prophets; because of the oppressions of petty officers; and because of the total corruption of manners in all ranks, places, offices, etc.: -

Have I poured out mine indignation - consumed them with the fire of my wrath - Considering the above, has there not been sufficient reason why I should abandon such a people, and pour out upon them such a destructive storm of calamities?