### Ezekiel

## Chapter 21

1And the Lord replied to me saying:  
  
 2‘Because of these things, O son of man,  
 [You must speak against them] this prophecy…  
 Towards JeruSalem, you must now set your face  
 And look towards its Most Holy place;  
 Then to IsraEl, you must prophesy this…  
 3Tell IsraEl that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m the One who is coming against you;  
 So I’ll pull My sword from its sheath  
 And destroy your unrighteous and lawless.  
  
 4‘I’ll pull My sword out of its sheath  
 [That is, men] from the north and the east;  
 5And after I pull them out of the sheath,  
 I won’t be putting them back,  
 So all will then know that I am Jehovah!’  
  
 6‘And you, O son of man,  
  
 ‘Groan as if you’ve broken your hips…  
 Before their eyes, you must groan in grief.  
 7And when they ask why you’re groaning,  
 This is what you must tell them:  
  
 ‘The message that comes will break [all your] hearts  
 And all your hands will grow feeble.  
 For all flesh and all that are breathing  
 Will soon come to an end  
 And all [bottoms] will be tainted by wetness.  
  
 8‘Look… It’s coming and now it will happen,’ says Jehovah, [your] God.’  
  
  
9And thereafter, the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 ‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘Now you must prophesy this…  
 You must tell them that thus says Jehovah:  
  
 ‘O broadsword, O broadsword, be angry and sharp,  
 10Then slay the victims for slaughter.  
 Be sharpened until you are shiny,  
 Then prepare for numbing and slay!  
 Treat [them all] with contempt,  
 And chop down all of their trees!  
  
 11‘For He’s readied the sword that He holds in his hand...  
 This sword which He has just sharpened...  
 And prepared it for use by the one who stabs through.  
  
 12‘So, cry out and shriek, O sons of men,  
 For upon my people, it’s coming,  
 And upon all of IsraEl’s guides…  
 Yes this sword [is coming to them]!  
  
 13‘It will come to all of my people,  
 And because of this, clap your hands;  
 For, this is justice that’s due.’  
  
So I asked him:  
  
 ‘But then, won’t my tribe be totally thrown away?’  
  
And the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Don’t worry, that just will not happen.’  
  
 14‘But you, O son of man, must now prophesy…  
 Clap one hand on the other  
 To summon another broadsword against them.  
 For this third one will be a sword of great slaughter…  
 It’s one that will truly amaze.  
  
 15‘It will break all their hearts, as many grow weak,  
 When, at their gates, it arrives…  
 And all will be killed by this sword.  
  
 ‘Well done, O sharp one that slaughters.  
 Well done, O great shining one.  
 Now like lightning, you must go forth and slay!  
  
 16‘Sharpen both sides, the right and the left,  
 Then swing it wherever your face is aroused.  
  
 17‘But after that, I will clap my hands,  
 And then I will slacken My rage…  
 For I Jehovah, have spoken.’  
  
  
18Then the Word of Jehovah came to me again, and said:  
  
 19‘And you, O son of man,  
  
 ‘Prepare two ways for the sword to arrive  
 So that Babylon’s king may now enter.  
  
 ‘Two [armies] will come from one place;  
 One will come from the right,  
 And the other from the city’s top street…  
 So, ready the corner of that street!  
  
 20‘The broadsword [will first enter] RabBah;  
 And then, from the direction of AmMon’s sons  
 An attack will be launched on JeruSalem.  
 21Then, on those most ancient roads,  
 The king of Babylon will stand.  
  
 ‘On the corner, between the two streets, [he will stand],  
 Looking to his diviners for signs…  
 [He’ll ask them] to stir with the rod  
 And to question their idols,  
 Then to look into the liver.  
  
 22‘So, an oracle will give him instructions  
 And tell him to throw up a siege mound  
 On JeruSalem’s right.  
  
 ‘Then he’ll open his mouth and he’ll yell:  
  
 ‘Raise your voices and shout,  
 And against her gates, erect siege mounds!  
 Yes, build the mounds all around them,  
 And create more weapons of war!’  
  
 23‘For he’ll serve as an omen against them…  
 He’ll provide divination concerning [their end].  
 He’ll remind them that they will be led off as captives  
 Because they have been so unrighteous.  
  
 24‘And he’ll also help them to remember,’ said the Lord…  
 ‘That he came because of their unrighteous ways,  
 And to reveal their irreverent condition.  
  
 ‘He will then show them their sins,  
 As well as the laws that they’ve broken,  
 Which they’ll think of after they’re captured.  
  
 25‘And then [say to] that lawless profane one…  
 Upon the one who is IsraEl’s guide:  
  
 ‘Your unrighteous days have now ended!’  
  
 26‘For [the Lord] Jehovah said this [about him]:  
  
 ‘Remove the turban and take off the crown,  
 Because they’ll no longer be yours.  
 For, from your high place, you will be cut down,  
 And then, what is low will be raised!  
  
 27‘For, to the unrighteous, I’ll bring what’s unrighteous…  
 And that’s all there’ll be ‘til the time  
 That the one who is worthy arrives…  
 And to him, I will give it all back.’  
  
 28‘So now, prophesy now, O son of man…  
 And to the sons of AmMon, you must say  
 That Jehovah said this concerning their scorn:  
  
 ‘O broadsword, O broadsword, now be unsheathed…  
 Be unsheathed for the victims of slaughter  
 Arise and shine to consume them!  
  
 29‘For, all their visions are worthless,  
 And your oracles are just telling lies…  
 So they won’t be able to save you.  
 For your lawless ways, [I’ll bring swords to] your necks,  
 And your unrighteous days will have ended.  
  
 30‘Then return, [O sword], to your sheath!  
 For, in this place where you were once born  
 I’ll judge these [people] in their own land  
 31And I’ll pour My rage out upon them.  
  
 ‘Against them, I’ll breathe the fire of My rage,  
 And to barbarians, I will hand them over…  
 To those contriving corruption for them.  
  
 32‘By fire, they will then be devoured,  
 And blood will be flowing throughout their land.  
 And thereafter, they’ll just be forgotten…  
 For I Jehovah, have spoken.’