### Ezekiel

## Chapter 22

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 2‘And you, O son of man,  
 Must now judge that city because of its blood…  
 You must make an example of her  
 For all of her lawless deeds!  
  
 3‘You must say that the Lord Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘O city of so much shed blood  
 The one who has made herself dirty...  
 4You’ve fallen into the blood that you’ve shed  
 And defiled yourself with your thoughts.  
 So the end of your days has drawn near…  
 You’ve reached the end of your years!  
  
 ‘You are given to be scorned by the nations,  
 And for every region to mock you…  
 5You’ll be mocked by those who are living nearby  
 And by those who live far away.  
 Yes, you unclean one, they’ll mock you,  
 For your lawless ways are now famous.  
  
 6‘Then, look at what IsraEl’s guides have been doing…  
 They’ve joined with all their relations  
 In order to spill innocent blood!  
 7Look also at your fathers and mothers…  
 All they talk about doing is evil!  
  
 ‘They treat foreign peoples unjustly,  
 And tyrannize orphans and widows.  
 8My holy things, they treat with contempt,  
 And they are profaning My Sabbaths!  
  
 9‘The men among you are robbers,  
 And they are shedding innocent blood.  
 Then, in the mountains, they feast to their idols…  
 Such unholy things are now done in your midst!  
  
 10‘You’ve uncovered the shame of your fathers,  
 And you have defiled many women  
 Who were sitting apart as unclean.  
  
 11‘You’ve [had sex] with the wives of your neighbors…  
 You’ve each defiled your daughters-in-law  
 And done ungodly things to your sisters…  
 You’ve debased the daughters of your parents!  
  
 12‘You also take bribes and shed blood…  
 Interest and rent, you require!  
 So you’ve reached the end of your evil…  
 In your tyranny, you have overlooked Me,’ says Jehovah.  
  
 13‘Now, if I clap hand against hand  
 Against all the evils you’re doing...  
 Yes, against all those bad things,  
 And the blood that’s been shed in your midst...  
 14Will your heart be able to stand [what I’ll do],  
 And will your hands [still be strong] when I do it?  
 For, I Jehovah, have spoken…  
 Yes [I’ve spoken] and now I will act!  
  
 15‘For I’ll spread you among all the nations…  
 I’ll scatter you to many regions,  
 And then your uncleanness will be wiped away.  
 16I’ll assign other nations to watch over you,  
 And you’ll know that I am Jehovah.’  
  
  
17Then the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 18‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘{Look!} Before me, the house of IsraEl’s become  
 Like brass that’s mixed in with iron,  
 Or like tin and lead mixed with silver.  
  
 19‘So because of their [wicked condition],  
 You must tell them that thus says [Jehovah]:  
  
 ‘Since you are all mixed together;  
 I’ll bring you into JeruSalem’s midst  
 20As though you’re inside of a furnace.  
  
 ‘Then, just as silver that’s become mixed  
 With brass, tin, iron, and lead,  
 And air is blown in to refine it…  
 That’s what I’ll do to you in My rage.  
  
 ‘In My anger, I’ll gather you all  
 And throw you into a furnace.  
 21Then I’ll blow on you with the fire of My rage,  
 And you’ll be refined in its midst.  
  
 22‘Yes, as silver is refined in a furnace;  
 I’ll throw you into an oven.  
 Then you’ll know that I am Jehovah  
 When I pour My rage out upon you.’  
  
  
23Well after that, the Word of Jehovah came to me and said:  
  
 24‘O son of man,  
  
 ‘You must tell them [that Jehovah said] this:  
  
 At that time, they’ll call yours the land…  
 The land without any rain…  
 For there’ll be no rain in the day of [My] rage.  
  
 25‘Since the leaders in your midst are like lions  
 Who roar and seize prey by force…  
 Since they dominate, destroy, and consume,  
 And take whatever has value…  
 The numbers of widows will grow in your midst.  
  
 26‘For your priests have annulled all My Laws,  
 And My holy things, they’ve profaned…  
 They can’t tell the holy from the profane  
 Or what’s clean from the unclean.  
 27From My Sabbaths, they’ve hidden their eyes,  
 And I’ve been profaned in their midst.  
  
 28‘So her prophets that do the anointing  
 Will soon all be cut down…  
 Yes, those who can see only vain things  
 And omens that really aren’t true,  
 But who say that Jehovah has spoken to them  
 When He hasn’t spoken at all.  
  
 29‘And even the land’s [common] people  
 Call for what is unrighteous  
 And [ask for their share] of the loot.  
 They are tyrants to the needy and poor,  
 And they treat foreign peoples unfairly!  
  
 30‘Then I searched among them for one righteous man…  
 One who’ll stand firm in the day of My rage,  
 So I wouldn’t have to bring her conclusion  
 And totally wipe her away…  
 But, no such man could I find.  
  
 31So, I will pour out My anger  
 And send the fire of My rage  
 In order to finish them off…  
 I’m bringing their blame upon their own heads,’ said Jehovah.’