

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

PROSTITUTES AND BONES

By Nina Atcheson

 For use in *Animated/Engaged Learning*.

Ezekiel is another Old Testament prophet who lived amongst one of the darkest times of Israel's history: the 70-year period of captivity in Babylon. God's people hadn't listened to Hosea's (and other) warnings. They still didn't get it. Yet these warning from Ezekiel (as with many of the other prophets) included oracles of judgment against other nations too - not just against Judah (see Ezekiel 25-32). It shows that God is the God of the whole earth, of all the

nations. He cares about them too and that they are also responsible before Him. (Jonah being sent to Nineveh illustrates this principle. Jonah 1:9). It also shows that ultimately ignorance will not save people (Luke 12:48; Rom. 1:20).

Ezekiel is quite dramatic and (from God's instruction) gets God's messages across by using symbols and parables. Let's explore two of his dramatic messages for Israel.

Read Ezekiel 23.

1. We meet two sisters in this chapter. What are their names, and whom do they represent?



2. What happened to these sisters?



3. If you had a boyfriend or girlfriend and he/she acted like this, how would you feel? How would you respond?



4. What specifically did these sisters do to step outside the covenant relationship with God? (Ezek. 22)



5. How did God respond? (Ezek. 22:15, 16; 23:36–49)



6. When did this actually happen?



7. What would you think of a God who did nothing in response to all of this?
Of a God who just stepped back and let this broken covenant go unnoticed?



8. So what does God's response to this situation tell you about Him? (See Ezek. 22:16)



9. What does Ezekiel 24:24 tell us about God?



Ezekiel had another message for Israel. Let's read about it in Ezekiel 37.

10. Where did God take Ezekiel and what did he see?



11. Why do you think God asked Ezekiel if the bones could live?



12. What did the bones need to live again?



13. Was it easy to bring them back to life?



14. What was the result?



15. Who did the bones symbolize? What was the problem with the bones? (v. 11)



16. What did God offer these dry bones?



17. In what ways are your “bones” dry? What has taken the life out of you lately?



18. Who has been speaking into your life, calling you to “hear the word of the Lord”?



19. What do you think it really means for God to put His Spirit on you?



20. In looking at both of these metaphors, what is common to them both?



21. What message can you take, personally, from these two stories?

