

Woe to the Bloody City!**Ezekiel 22:1–16**

Veritas Adult Community

February 16, 2020

The Text**1. The Call for Jerusalem's Arraignment**

¹The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Now you, human, arraign them! Arraign the city of bloody crimes! Make known to her all her abominations!

2. The Summons to Jerusalem

³Say, "Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: O city that spills blood within herself, bringing on her time, and that manufactures dung pellets for herself, defiling herself.

3. The Announcement of the Charges

⁴For the blood you have shed you are guilty;
and for the dung pellets you have manufactured you are defiled,
bringing your days nearer,
and reaching your years.

Therefore, I will make you a disgrace to the nations, and a mockery to all the countries.

⁵Those nearby and those far away from you will mock you,
famous for defilement
and outstanding for commotion.

4. The Presentation of the Evidence

⁶Look! Princes of Israel! Each one present in you has been intent on spilling blood with all his might ("each to his own arm").

⁷Fathers and mothers are treated with contempt **in your midst**.

Aliens are exploited **in your midst**;

Orphans and the widows are oppressed **in your midst**.

⁸That which is sacred to me you have despised,

And my sabbaths you have profaned.

⁹Slanderers intent on shedding blood are present **in your midst**;

They eat on the mountains **in your midst**.

Lewd acts they commit **in your midst**.

¹⁰They uncover their fathers' nakedness **in your midst**.

They rape women during their menstrual uncleanness **in your midst**.

¹¹Men commit abominable acts with their neighbors' wives.

Men lewdly defile their daughters-in-law.

Men rape their half-sisters, their father's daughters, **in your midst**.

¹²They take bribes **in your midst**, intent on shedding blood.

You have demanded interest and profit;
 You have extorted your neighbor for illicit profit.
 And you have forgotten me!

The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

5. The Announcement of the Sentence

¹³Now look! I have clapped my hands over the illicit profit you have made, and over your bloodshed that is found within you, ¹⁴Will you remain firm, and your courage hold at the time I deal with you? I am YHWH; I have spoken, and I will act. ¹⁵I will scatter you among the nations, and disperse you throughout the countries. I will rid you of your uncleanness, ¹⁶and you will be profaned in the sight of the nations. Then you will know that I am YHWH.

Exposition

A. Introduction

1. The Structure of Ezekiel 22
 - a. The Indictment of Jerusalem (22:1–16)
 - b. The Judgment of Jerusalem (22:17–22)
 - c. The Rationale for the Judgment upon the Land (22:23–31).
2. Special Features of Ezekiel 22:1–16
 - a. The Keyword: *dām*, “blood)
 - b. Repetition: The Twinning and Tripling of Words and Phrases

B. Exposition

1. The Call for Jerusalem’s Arraignment (vv. 1–2) [Nahum 3:1–7]
2. The Summons to Jerusalem (v. 3)
3. The Formal Announcement of the Charges (vv. 4–5)
4. The Presentation of the Evidence (vv. 6–12)
 - a. An Opening Thesis-type Statement (v. 6)
 - b. A List of Specific Crimes (vv. 7–12a)
 - (1) They violate the fifth article of covenant relationship (7a).
 - (2) They violate the Torah’s guarantees for the well-being of the most vulnerable (7b)
 - (3) They violate the sanctity of the Sabbaths and the cult (v. 8).
 - (4) They violate the sanctity of human life by spilling blood within the city (v. 9a).
 - (5) They participate in pagan ritual meals at cult centers on the hilltops (9b)
 - (6) They violate all sorts of sexual taboos. (9c–11)
 - (8) They violate the people’s right to justice by accepting bribes for murder. (12a)
 - (9) They violate the people’s trust by using positions of power for their own advantage. (12b).
 - c. A Concluding Summary Statement: They have forgotten YHWH (12b).
5. **YHWH’s Announcement of the Sentence (vv. 13–16)**
 - a. The Non-verbal Gesture (13a)
 - b. The Verbal Warning (13b–14)
 - c. The Announcement of the Judgment (v. 15–16)

C. Lessons from Ezekiel 22:1–16

1. A society that thrives on violence self-destructs and have to deal with God’s destructive judgment.
2. Community leaders bear a special responsibility for the maintenance of justice and the welfare of its citizenry.
3. Knowledge of the will of God is no substitute for obedience to that will.
4. Humans may renege on their covenant commitments God will not.