



The
FLOWERS
appear on the earth
the time of the *singing*
of **birds** is come
and the *voice*
of the **turtle**
is *heard*
in our **land**.

Song of Solomon 2:12

SENIOR HIGH BIBLE CLASS

FOR TEENS AGES 15-17

SPRING QUARTER | MARCH | APRIL | MAY 2026

Senior High Bible Class

SPRING QUARTER

God's Wrath Satisfied in Christ

UNIT 1: God's Wrath on Sin

Mar. 1—The Dross of Unrighteousness	2
Mar. 8—The Way of the Lord Is Just	6
Mar. 15—God's Wrath Revealed.....	10

UNIT 2: God's Wrath Poured Out

Mar. 22—Jesus Prepares for Death.....	14
Mar. 29—Jesus Bears God's Wrath.....	18
Apr. 5—Jesus Overcomes the Grave (Easter).....	22
Apr. 12—The Destruction of False Teachers	25
Apr. 19—The Deception of False Teachers	28

UNIT 3: God's Wrath Satisfied

Apr. 26—God's Righteous Judgment.....	31
May 3—Righteousness through Faith	34
May 10—Saved from Wrath	37
May 17—The Second Adam	40
May 24—The End of the Law	43
May 31—Christ's Sacrifice Once for All	46

LOOKING AHEAD

People reject and replace God, turning from His perfect plan, choosing to idolize themselves or other things. God responds by handing them over to their chosen path and eventually justly punishing them.

In lessons 1 through 3, we see God's wrath against sin. Lessons 4 through 8 demonstrate God's wrath as it is poured out, first on Jesus at the cross and then on unrepentant sinners at the final judgment. Lessons 9 through 14 explain how God's wrath was satisfied by Jesus. Paul walks through the gospel message clearly in Romans, so we will look mainly at his account for clarity on this important theological topic.

Throughout our study, we will see that God remains just, righteous, and holy. Despite their constant sin, God loved people enough to send His Son to provide salvation from the punishment we deserved.

Vol. 95

March, April, May 2026

No. 2


LifeStone



Editor in Chief: James M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Managing Editor: Michelle Birtasevic

Writer: Allyson Presswood Nance

Edited and published quarterly by

**LIFESTONE MINISTRIES
UNION GOSPEL PRESS**

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

ISBN 978-1-64495-837-7

This material is part of the "Christian Life Series," copyright © 2026 by Union Gospel Press, part of the LifeStone Ministries family. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission from Union Gospel Press, except as permitted by United States copyright law. Edited and published quarterly by LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. Mailing address: P.O. Box 301055, Cleveland, Ohio 44130-0915. Phone: 800-638-9988. www.uniongospelpress.com

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

EZEK. 22:17 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

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

19 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

20 As they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt it; so will I gather you in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave you there, and melt you.

21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof.

22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.

23 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

24 Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.

25 *There is* a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things;

they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

27 Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

28 And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord God, when the LORD hath not spoken.

29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

PLEASE NOTE: Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of LifeStone Ministries, Union Gospel Press. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and willingness to submit to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

The Dross of Unrighteousness

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 22:17-31

Related Scriptures: Isaiah 1:21-26; 59:14-20; Malachi 3:1-5;
Matthew 25:31-46; Zephaniah 3:1-8

TIME: between 593 and 571 B.C.

PLACE: Babylon

GOLDEN TEXT—"As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you" (Ezekiel 22:22).

ANALYZING

1. Dross in the smelter (Ezek. 22:17-22). Dross is the leftover metal substance produced by smelting metal. To purify a metal, it is heated up until it melts and then the useful metal is separated from the substances that make it impure. A smelter is a furnace tool which metal workers use to complete that process.

Ezekiel compared Israel to dross: the useless, discarded portions left after purifying precious metals. When gold or silver went through a smelter, it emerged purer, more radiant, and more useful for a specific purpose. But when dross went through a smelter, it was separated from those useful metals and discarded, so it gained nothing from the purification process.

God said that He was going to gather the Israelites together into the smelter to "melt" them with the heat of His judgment and wrath. Ezekiel explained that Jerusalem would be the smelter because the Babylonians were going to come and destroy the

city (Ezek. 24). If Israel had been silver or gold, this time of suffering and trial would have purified them, and they would have emerged holier and more devoted to God. But since they were dross, they would simply melt away and be discarded when the destruction came.

God's wrath was poured out because of Israel's faithlessness, idolatry, and bloodshed. Especially during the time of the divided kingdom (931-586 B.C.), the people committed blatant sins, rejecting and replacing God with idols, murdering innocent people because of their greed and lust for power, and never wholly worshipping the Lord or living as the people He intended them to be. God had given them time to repent, but they had refused. Now Jerusalem would be the epicenter of God's wrath poured out on sin as Nebuchadnezzar and the armies of Babylon marched in to destroy Jerusalem and the temple and carry more people into exile.

2. Everyone was corrupted (Ezek. 22:23-31). God spoke to His people through Ezekiel and told them that

they had not been “cleansed” despite the many warnings through the prophets and previous judgments. Now as the day of indignation (another way to refer to the day of wrath and judgment) approached, they would not even receive the mercy of rain. In a desert land like Israel, rain was critically important for life, and lack of rain led to almost immediate famine throughout the land.

God saw the evil actions of each group of Israelite leaders and the people themselves. First, the prophets conspired to devour people and caused the death of many men, creating widows throughout the land. Instead of preaching the true message of the Lord, they cared only about treasure.

Second, priests, whose job was to lead in the worship of God by implementing His holiness codes, failed in every aspect. They broke the law instead of walking by it, they made things unholy and unclean, and they even broke the Sabbath, the special day of rest, peace, and focus on Yahweh.

Third, the princes shed blood—referring to physically destroying people—and destroyed souls, referring to spiritually corrupting people. The princes were like wolves, tearing and destroying, caring only for satisfying their own greed.

Fourth, the prophets did not correctly proclaim God’s words and warnings to the people. “Untempered mortar” is a white-washing substance made of clay instead of lime: it looked the same when it was first put onto Israelite stone houses to smooth the outsides, but it would quickly crumble, leading to the decay and perhaps destruction of the house. The prophets’ words were like this clay mortar. They sound-

ed and looked good at first, but they were ultimately lies that led to ruin.

Finally, the people themselves succumbed to the lying words of the prophets, unholiness of the priests, and greed of the princes. They oppressed, robbed, and stole from others instead of helping them. They hurt three groups of people specifically protected by the law: the poor, the needy, and the stranger (cf. Lev. 19:9-10, 33-34).

God searched in vain for a righteous person to stand in the gap and serve as a mediator for Israel as Moses had. All the leaders and people of Israel had fallen away. Because no one came to intercede on behalf of the people, God would now pour out His wrath upon them. They would receive justice instead of mercy, the correct penalty for their actions instead of salvation from the consequences.

We see here God’s wrath and anger poured out on people, and that can make some Christians uncomfortable. Is God not a God of love? Does He not provide mercy and forgiveness? The answer to both is yes, but He also acts with justice and upholds truth. When people destroy and distort His creation, He acts justly to bring consequences. When Israelite kings murdered people, prophets spoke lies, priests stole offerings, and people turned to idols, God was right to bring punishment upon them.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- M — The Unrighteous City. Isa. 1:21-26.
- T — Final Judgment Coming. Zeph. 3:1-8.
- W — Like a Refiner’s Fire. Mal. 3:1-5.
- T — Unrighteous Teachers. Matt. 23:13-14, 23-33.
- F — Gathering for Judgment. Matt. 25:31-46.
- S — Hope in the Lord. Ps. 119:113-120.
- S — God Pours Out Wrath. Ezek. 22:17-31.

APPLYING

Sometimes when we hear about the wickedness of the Israelites, it can seem very foreign to us. After all, most likely none of us have ever set up a statue of Baal in our home. We have all, however, rejected God by choosing sin at some point or another. One easy way to see our sin is to walk through the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17) and ask ourselves if we have broken any of them, even a little. Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever failed to honor your parents? Have you ever put something in the place of God and treated it as more important than Him (idolatry)?

When we move to the New Testament, we see Jesus go even further to the heart of these commandments. Jesus says that even if we hate people, we have murdered them in our hearts (Matt. 5:21-22). When we stop to think about it, we realize that we are guilty of sin and that we deserve the wrath of God to be poured out on us. We should not skip too quickly to the grace and forgiveness that Jesus offers (and praise the Lord that He does!) without taking seriously the punishment we should receive for our sins.

We should remember that sin is hurtful not just for us but also for those around us. Idolatry puts something or someone else in place of God. It usually leads to great selfishness and sometimes even to unintentional cruelty as we seek that idol (a sports dream, a particular relationship, an academic achievement) no matter the cost to those around us. Lying and deception damage relationships. Our sin may seem like not a big deal, but it can have far-reaching

effects. Remember the story of the little boy who cried wolf, where his lie, intended as a joke, led to the destruction of his whole flock of sheep? In the same way, our “small” sins always cause problems in the long run.

A few days before its maiden voyage, one of the officers on the *Titanic* was replaced, and when he left the ship, it is said that he accidentally took the key to a locker in the crew's nest of the ship. Because of the missing key, the crew was unable to access the ship's binoculars, and so the lookout did not see the iceberg in time to avoid ramming into it. One small key may have been a large factor in the destruction of an enormous ship and the loss of hundreds of lives. In the same way, small sins cause major problems, for us and for others. We should never underestimate the importance of making decisions that are in line with God's instructions, because we often have no idea of the dreadful consequences that can result from sinful decisions.

ASKING

1. What is the dross of silver and what do smelters usually do with it?
2. God tells the Israelites through Ezekiel that they will be gathered in Jerusalem and melted because of His anger (Ezek. 22:19). What historical event does Ezekiel prophesy here?
3. What are the specific groups within Israel that had fallen away from God (Ezek. 22:23-28)?
4. Who did God look for in Ezekiel 22:30? Did He find a person like this?