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Day 232 - August 20

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## Judah After Israel's Fall (725-585 BCE) Ezekiel's Denunciations of Judah

**Readings:** *Ezekiel 23:1-49; 2 Chronicles 36:13; 2 Kings 24:20; Jeremiah 52:3; 2 Kings 25:1; Jeremiah 39:1; 52:4*

### Reflections:

- Ezekiel 23 is probably the most sexually graphic content in Scriptures. It is a prophetic picture of two prostitutes (Israel and Judah) who are obsessed with sex. The imagery shocks the reader and it is meant to. It is a written form of shouting, as God attempts to get the attention of his people apparently hell bent on their own destruction. We see imbedded the clear indication that child sacrifices and ritualistic sexual worship was common in Israel, things that God abhors. Again, the worst forms of judgment are falling on Israel. What a sharp contrast we will see between Israel as a bride for God and how the Bride of Christ is ultimately portrayed.
- Finally Zedekiah rebels and Nebuchadnezzar marches against Jerusalem and begins to siege the city. The prophecies begin their fulfillment.
- These passages remind us of how hard the human heart can become. How could a nation that had received so much grace, so much direct teaching about God's truth and heart for people, be so brutal in their outright rejection of God even to the point of killing their own children? It is shocking how evil the human heart can become. Praise God for Jesus and his ability to change our hearts from the inside out.