

The Abominations of a Bloody City

Ezek. 22:1-15

Introduction:

- A. Ezekiel explains why Jerusalem is about to be destroyed by Babylonians – about 600 BC.
 - 1. Babylon's 20 year campaign against Jerusalem. (606-586).
 - 2. Three great prophets of the period: Daniel, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.
- B. The conditions in Jerusalem are too close to conditions around us for comfort.

Discussion:

I. Violence.

- A. Jerusalem a bloody city (vv. 1-4, 6, 9, 12, 13).
- B. Violence becoming too common place in our society.
 - 1. Need to encourage attitudes and actions that prevent violence. (Matt. 5:21-26).
 - 2. Need to support authorities' efforts to punish violent offenders (cf. Rom. 13:1-5).

II. Lewdness.

- A. Jerusalem was overflowing with lewdness (vv. 9-10).
- B. Lewdness is becoming all too acceptable in our society.
 - 1. Need to understand that open nakedness is shameful (cf. Rev. 3:18).
 - 2. Need to create within our selves a deeper sense of modesty. (1 Tim. 2:9; Tit. 2:5).
 - 3. Need to understand seriousness of sexual promiscuity. (Mt. 5:28-30; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

III. Irreverence.

- A. Jerusalem's irreverence ran deep.
 - 1. Toward parents (v. 7).
 - 2. Toward holy things – nothing sacred (v. 8, 26).
- B. Irreverence in our society runs deep.
 - 1. No difference between parents or elderly and peers (cf. Lev. 19:32 [niv] 1 Tim 5:1-2).
 - 2. No difference between Lord's things and ordinary: His day, word, assemblies, etc.

IV. Greed.

- A. Jerusalem's greed showed several symptoms
 - 1. Oppression of orphans and widows (v.7).
 - 2. Dishonest profits (vv. 12,13).
 - 3. Involved in things listed above.
- B. Greed leads to many sins today. (Cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-10).

V. Idolatry.

- A. Jerusalem had turned from God to idols. (vv. 3-4).
- B. The further from God people get the more violent, lewd, irreverent, greedy they become.

Conclusion:

- A. "The bloody city" was severely punished. (vv. 15-16).
- B. Will that be the plight of our society?