

Ezekiel 6v1-14—Sin Breaks God’s Heart And Destroys Us

Memory Verse

Ezekiel 36:26-27 NKJV

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Revision

Last week in Ezekiel chapter 5 we saw that God had predicted that the unrepentant people remaining in Jerusalem would be judged or disciplined in three different ways: one third would die in battle, one third would die by famine and disease, and one third would be scattered and persecuted. God also hinted at one of the big reasons that Israel was ripe for judgement—spiritual adultery.

This week in chapter 6 we will see God reveal or expose His heart as He shares how sin—spiritual adultery—affects Him personally; God’s heart is crushed or broken by our sin, which is us being unfaithful to Him. *Idolatry*: we are guilty of idolatry when our affections or love for other things is greater or stronger than our affections or love for God; we allow our love and affections for other things to replace or supersede our love for God—God is no longer our first love, our first priority. We will discover that one of the main sins or temptations that was powerful enough to lure the Israelites’ affections or heart away from God and cause them to start worshiping, loving, and submitting to idols was the powerful draw of sexual immorality or sexual sin.

Judgment on Idolatrous Israel

Ezekiel 6:1-14 NKJV

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ² “Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, ³ and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God! Thus says the Lord God to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: “Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. ⁴ Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. ⁵ And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars. ⁶ In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. ⁷ The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

⁸ “Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries. ⁹ Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. ¹⁰ And they shall know that I am the Lord; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them.”

¹¹ ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, ‘Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. ¹² He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them. ¹³ Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols. ¹⁴ So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward [Riblah], in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.’ ” ’ ”

Judgement against the places of idol worship (1-3)

Ezekiel 6:1-3 NKJV

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ² “Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them, ³ and say, ‘O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord God! Thus says the Lord God to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, and to the valleys: “Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places.

v ² **Set your face against the mountains of Israel:** The tops of hills and **mountains** were centres of idol worship, and were often called “**high places**” in the Old Testament. “Probably in any part of [Israel] at this time you would have found some mountain or hill crowned with an altar, one or two standing stones, a wooden pillar, and a clump of evergreen trees (Jeremiah 3:6–9); They were flourishing centres of the old Canaanite religion which should have been destroyed [when Israel conquered the Canaanites] (Deuteronomy 7:5).” (Wright)

Deuteronomy 7:5 NLT paraphrase (*God’s instructions to destroy all idols in the land*)

This is what you must do. You must break down their pagan altars and shatter their sacred pillars. Cut down their Asherah [Ashtoreth] poles and burn their idols.

Of course we know that the Israelites never did completely (or permanently) destroy the high places, the places for pagan or idol worship. As a result, throughout their history they were a snare and a curse. Because they never fully destroyed this temptation to sin—the sin is now destroying them. Think of Sampson’s example in the Scriptures where he didn’t deal with his sin or seek God’s help to overcome temptation—the sin which he thought he had control over (lust, Delilah) ended up destroying him (Judges 16). Always remember that if we don’t take the opportunity to completely deal with our sin, it will eventually destroy us. We will talk more about this next week.

v ³ **To the ravines, and to the valleys:** The Israelites also continued the ancient Canaanite practice of child sacrifice and the worship of other pagan idols in valleys and ravines. Of course, murdering children (today we call it abortion) is the byproduct or result of sexual immorality.

Isaiah 57:5-8 NLT paraphrase (*child sacrifice in the valleys, worship of mother earth*)

You worship your idols with great passion beneath the oaks and under every green tree. **You sacrifice your children down in the valleys**, among the jagged rocks in the cliffs. ⁶ Your gods are the smooth stones in the valleys [mother earth/new age]. You worship them with liquid offerings and grain offerings. **They, not I, are your inheritance [If you belong to this evil world system, you will have nothing waiting**

for you on the other side]. *Do you think all this makes me happy? [Sin grieves God —Ephesians 4:30]* ⁷ You have committed adultery on every high mountain. There you have worshiped idols and have been unfaithful to me. ⁸ You have put pagan symbols on your doorposts and behind your doors. You have left me and climbed into bed with these detestable gods. You have committed yourselves to them. You love to look at their naked bodies.

The people were attracted to these pagan gods because they were opportunities to satisfy the lusts of the flesh, of the sinful nature. There was often literal sexual adultery that went along with the spiritual adultery. A part of this cultic or idol worship was to have sex with a ritual prostitute. Also, pornography (images) was a part of their religion —“you love to look at their naked bodies”.

Hosea 4:11-14 NKJV (*worshipping idols included sexual sin and drunkenness*)

¹¹ “Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart [alcohol/substance abuse].

¹² My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, and their staff informs them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to stray, and they have played the harlot against their God. ¹³ They offer sacrifices on the mountaintops, and burn incense on the hills, under oaks, poplars, and terebinths, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters commit harlotry, and your brides commit adultery.

¹⁴ “I will not punish your daughters when they commit harlotry, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go apart with harlots, **and offer sacrifices with a ritual harlot.** Therefore people who do not understand will be trampled.

Jeremiah 7:30-34 NLT paraphrase (*child sacrifice*)

“The people of Judah have sinned before my very eyes,” says the Lord. “They have set up their abominable idols right in the Temple that bears my name, defiling it. ³¹ They have built pagan shrines at Topheth, ...in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, and there they burn their sons and daughters in the fire. I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind to command such a thing! ³² So beware, for the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when [it] will no longer be called Topheth or the valley of Ben-Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. They will bury the bodies in Topheth until there is no more room for them. ³³ The bodies of my people will be food for the vultures and wild animals, and no one will be left to scare them away. ³⁴ I will put an end to the happy singing and laughter in the streets of Jerusalem. The joyful voices of bridegrooms and brides will no longer be heard in the towns of Judah. The land will lie in complete desolation [as a result of the coming judgement].

Application: has anything really changed? Why hasn't the western world been judged yet?

In our western culture, we still have many idols. We may not worship on the tops of hills, having sex with the ritual prostitutes that worked at these high places (places for pagan worship), but today many continue to worship idols by continuing to love to look at pornography (naked bodies—Isaiah 57:8) on the internet and social media, and many indulge their sinful nature by ignoring God's command to save physical intimacy until marriage (ritual harlots). Also, many continue the practice of child sacrifice, but today we call it abortion. Now, if God judged the Israelites back then for these sins, should He not judge us today as well? Should not our depraved western culture be fearing God's judgement? Yes! It's coming—it's called the Tribulation. The whole world is truly ripe for judgement. You think the Israelites had it bad, you study the book of revelation and you will be terrified by the suffering that will come upon the world as God judges it—praise God that the true believers will be raptured beforehand.

v 3 **“Indeed I, even I, will bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places”**: Ezekiel was fulfilling his role as a watchman by warning of the coming judgement. Ezekiel warned them that God had seen their sins and was about to Judge them. We also must be faithful to warn our generation of the coming judgement.

The complete destruction to come (4–7)

Ezekiel 6:4-7 NKJV

Then your altars shall be desolate, your incense altars shall be broken, and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. ⁵ And I will lay the corpses of the children of Israel before their idols, and I will scatter your bones all around your altars. ⁶ In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate, so that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, your idols may be broken and made to cease, your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. ⁷ The slain shall fall in your midst, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

Application—v 4 I will cast down your slain men before your idols: Isn't this the truth—what they trusted in to protect and prosper them, and to bring satisfaction, will do nothing for them; *in fact it will kill them*. Remember that “sin when it is full grown brings forth death” (James 1:15). Our idols offer us false security, false hope, and only temporary satisfaction. These men trusted in and worshipped their idols right to the end, and ended up dead before them—it was all for nothing.

v 5 **And I will scatter your bones all around your altars**: This was a way of defiling or desecrating the altars so that they could never be used again.

“This oracle announces that the time has come for Yahweh to clean house, to rid the land of its pagan worship once and for all.” (Block)

“This was literally fulfilled by the Chaldeans. According to *Baruch*, Bar 2:24, 25, they opened the sepulchres of the principal people, and threw the bones about on every side.” (Clarke) Once again, every detail was exactly fulfilled as foretold by God.

Application—v 4 Your altars: In contrast, God has *His altar*, which we are invited to come to and lay our lives down as a living sacrifice to God, dying to self, and not being conformed to this world, but allowing God to transform our minds so we know what His good and perfect will is (Romans 12:1-2). But, if we refuse God's altar, then we end up sacrificing (or destroying) ourselves *on our own altars* of pleasure and selfish ambition as we chase the fleshly desires that we think will make us happy (See Romans 6:16).

v 6 **The cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate**: The Babylonian army would destroy both the **cities** and the country regions. The whole land would be destroyed.

v 6 **Your idols may be broken and made to cease**: God was successful in ridding the land of idol worship. When the Jews returned from Babylon to the land of Israel after the 70 years was complete, they never worshipped idols again.

“Because the land had been defiled by idols, the idols themselves would now be defiled by the corpses of the worshipers, a retribution in kind. This would be the height of desecration, replacing the fragrance of incense with the odour of putrefaction.” (Feinberg)

v 7 **You shall know that I am the Lord:** This the first of about 60 times that this phrase is used in the book of Ezekiel. *It reveals that God's purpose in His judgements and restorations was that both Israel and the nations would know that He is the Only True God.* God wants to make Himself known so that people will turn to Him and be saved.

The promise of a remnant—God's grace (8)

Ezekiel 6:8 NKJV

8 "Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations, when you are scattered through the countries.

v 8 **Yet I will leave a remnant:** "The remnant was illustrated in the acted out parable of the cut hair (Ezekiel 5:3–4). Here God specifically promised to **leave a remnant** that would be the basis of a later restoration." (David Guzik) This shows God's mercy, and that when God disciplines us, He always has a plan which includes our restoration back to fellowship with Himself.

Ezra 9:13b NLT paraphrase (*spoken by Ezra the priest after the return to the land*)
But we have actually been punished far less than we deserve, for you, our God, have allowed some of us to survive as a remnant.

Application: There is always a new beginning for us after God has disciplined us

Lamentations 3:21-25 NKJV

²¹ This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. ²² Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" ²⁵ The Lord is good to those who wait for [trust] Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

This is what Jeremiah wrote after the destruction of Jerusalem. The city was in ruins, smoke was rising, Solomon's temple was completely destroyed, and the people enslaved; but Jeremiah knew that God still had a glorious future for His chosen people. Many of us didn't have a great start in life, but that's not the end of the story. I want to encourage you that it's not so important how you start, but very important how you finish. If we finish well, we will be rewarded. If we don't, we will lose our reward. Your life might be in tatters now because of the sinful choices you've made, but once God is finished disciplining you, your life will never be the same.

2 John 8 NLT paraphrase

Watch out that you do not lose what [you] have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

Philippians 3:12-14 NLT paraphrase

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

The spiritual renewal (repentance) of the remnant (9–10)

Ezekiel 6:9-10 NKJV

Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. ¹⁰ And they shall know that I am the Lord; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them.”

v 9 **Those of you who escape will remember Me:** Up till now, the nation of Israel had been doing their best to purposefully forget God, but here God promises that there would be a change of heart—they would **remember** God and call upon His name.

v 9 **Will remember me:** “My precepts which they violated, my mercies which they abused, my threats which they despised, my promises which they refused, my prophets whom they persecuted, my judgments which have [been] executed; and shall consider and return, and seek me in their affliction.” (Poole)

v 9 **Because I was crushed by their adulterous heart:** **Crushed** means; to be broken, shattered, smashed, destroyed, smash into fragments, break into peaces, be crushed, to tear, to break down, brought to ruin. It’s hard to imagine God describing His heart as being so completely broken by our sin, yet it’s true.

This verse always puts a knife through my heart as I read through the Bible. Yes, my sin really does affect God. God is not a stone idol which has no feelings. Understand that because God’s capacity to love is infinitely greater than ours, then so also is His capacity to be hurt. It should be obvious to us that the more we love someone, the more they can hurt us. Why? Because we have made ourselves more open and vulnerable to them. Think of it this way, if a casual acquaintance tells me that they hate me and will never talk to me again, it won’t affect me much. However, if my wife tells me the same thing, I will be crushed. Remember that because God has chosen to love each of us with His infinite, never-ending, overflowing, sacrificial love, He has made His heart wide open and vulnerable to being hurt or grieved (Ephesians 4:30—*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit*).

“Using a human analogy, God expressed the depth of the grief He felt over Israel’s idolatry by likening Himself to a husband with a constantly unfaithful wife.” (David Guzik)

“The strongest figure possible is used to portray the Divine suffering. God is represented as broken.” (Morgan)

“The amazing truth is most vividly brought out in the prophecy of Hosea, a man who was brought into an understanding of the suffering of God, by his own domestic tragedy. That is the force of these words.” (Morgan)

“Our sin can give God the heartbreak, because He loves us so. Indeed, on the Cross the Lord died of a broken heart; of this the issuing stream of blood and water was the sign. O heart of stone, you too must break and loathe yourself, when you see your Lord broken by your sin!” (Meyer)

Application: Loving others will necessarily make us vulnerable to being hurt by them.

Jesus in John 13:34 commands believers to love each other as He loved us (based on His example while here on earth). This applies both in the church, and in our families. What did Jesus love towards us look like? Jesus made Himself completely vulnerable to His disciples. He washed their feet with just a towel about Him while they were arguing about who was the greatest (John 13:1-17), and He also knew that they would soon all fall asleep when He needed their support the most (Matthew 26:36-46), and then they would all forsake Him (Matthew 26:55-56). Even when hanging on the cross, Jesus made sure that His mother Mary would be looked after (John 19:26). He was always thinking about other people. A verse that sums up Jesus love for us is this:

John 13:1 NKJV

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, **having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.**

In other words, while Jesus was on earth, as long as He had breath in His lungs, He was loving others by humbly considering them more important than Himself and giving sacrificially to them. He was a true servant, and it didn't matter how many times the disciples messed up, Jesus just kept on forgiving them and giving them second, and third, and fourth, and fifth, etc chances.

How could Jesus do this? Only because He was secure and fulfilled in His relationship with His Father. If our relationship with God is strong, we will be able to continue to love and forgive others when they hurt us. This is essential for unity among believers in the church, and also for successful marriages. This is the kind of love that we need to have toward each other—a sacrificial, patient, and forgiving love. Of course, this kind of love only comes from God, and will only come from being in relationship with God. How do we grow deeper in our relationship with God so we can love and forgive others more? *Read the Word of God and obey it*—we can't love someone we don't know, and we won't experience His love if we choose not to obey.

1 Peter 1:22-25 NLT paraphrase

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth*, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.

²³ For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because **it comes from the eternal, living word of God**. ²⁴ As the Scriptures say,

“People are like grass;
their beauty is like a flower in the field.
The grass withers and the flower fades.

²⁵ **But the word of the Lord remains forever.**”

And that word is the Good News [gospel] that was preached to you.

***You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth:** If we focus on the sin we will continue to sin. If we focus on what we should be doing instead (e.g. purity), we can have victory over the sin.

v 9 **After their idols:** This is what Israel forsook the Living God for—idols—dumb, useless, lifeless, empty, filthy, and disgusting idols. Ezekiel’s homemade word that he used for idols is very descriptive.

“The word for *idols* (Hebrew: *gullulim*) is a favourite with Ezekiel, occurring no less than thirty-eight times, as against nine times in the rest of the Old Testament. Its derivation is uncertain but it is quite likely that it is a home-made word consisting of the vowels of Hebrew *siqqus*, for which the dictionaries give the polite translation of ‘detested thing’, and the consonants of a noun meaning ‘a pellet of dung’. The final combination carries about as much disdain and revulsion as any word could do.” (Taylor)

This word for idol (a detestable, utterly disgusting piece of dung) is an accurate picture of sin. When we leave or forsake God to pursue sin, we are leaving:

- what is good for what is evil
- what brings blessing (true and lasting happiness) for what brings pain
- what brings true satisfaction and contentment for what eventually results in emptiness
- what brings light and revelation for what brings darkness, despair and depression
- what brings joy for what brings sorrow
- what brings life for what brings death

When we see sin in this light, as we will more and more if we continue to read and obey the Word of God, it becomes easier and easier to say no to it. After all, who in their right mind would willingly and deliberately push aside a plate with a perfectly cooked, melt in your mouth, eye fillet steak on it, complete with delicious roasted vegetables and gravy, and instead reach for a plate with dog dung covered with wriggling maggots and consume that? Actually, all of us, and we do it all the time. James 1:17 tells us that every good and perfect gift comes from our Heavenly Father, and so when we reject God’s will for us, we are then choosing to receive what satan wants for us—and his gifts are never good—what satan offers us will always be in line with his life’s ambition, which is to kill, steal, and destroy us (John 10:10).

v 9 **They will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed:** Notice the order of events here. First they would remember the Lord and begin to seek Him. Then they would realise how evil they were and understand how badly their sin had hurt Him. This resulted in them loathing themselves (experience deep shame and mourning) because of their sin—**this is when sin loses its power in our lives**.

“Understanding the grief expressed by “**I was crushed by their adulterous heart**” is connected to **they will loathe themselves**. On both a divine and human level, it could be said, one day you will realize how your sin broke the heart of those who loved you the most and you will hate yourself for it.” (David Guzik)

v 9 **They will loathe themselves:** “They shall bleed inwardly, and blush outwardly, deeply detesting their former abominations, and not waiting till others condemn them, they shall condemn themselves.” (Trapp)

v 9 They would **loathe themselves** for **all their abominations**, not merely *some* of them. “It is a hypocrite’s repentance which is but for some; this of the reserved remnant shall be sound, it is for all abominations, for all kinds of their abominations.” (Poole)

This is so important. If we are not sorry for *all* of our sins, then we are not really sorry for any—it's fake repentance. All sins break God's heart, so all sins need to be repented of.

v 10 **They shall know that I am the Lord; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them:** Here again we see the purpose of God's discipline—it's never in vain, but always brings about the fruit of righteousness to those who are willing to submit to it. *God's purpose in disciplining us is to bring us to repentance so our fellowship with God is restored.* God's discipline is corrective, not punitive.

Here are the three stages of repentance as outlined in chapter 6

- Remembrance of God [begin to seek God again]
- Repentance from sin [loathe themselves because of how their sin hurt God]
- Relationship restored [they shall know that I am the Lord]

“Those that escape the sword, the pestilence, and the famine, and shall be led into captivity, shall plainly see that it is God who has done this, and shall humble themselves on account of their abominations, leave their idolatry, and worship me alone. And this they have done from the Babylonish captivity to the present day.” (Clarke)

A call to anger and mourning over Israel's great sins (11–14)

Ezekiel 6:11-14 NKJV

'Thus says the Lord God: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, 'Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. ¹² He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them. ¹³ Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols. ¹⁴ So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.' " " "

v 11 **Pound your fists and stamp your feet:** These were strong gestures that were to go along with the words of judgement that Ezekiel spoke (v 11-14). Why? Because they didn't see their abominations (idols, sins) as abominable. It's like the modern church's view of homosexuality, or any sin for that matter—it doesn't matter what God says about it, let's just enjoy and embrace it. God here is trying to get the people's attention and show them that He does indeed regard their sin of idolatry (physical and spiritual adultery) as being very serious.

v 11 **They shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence:** As described in chapter 5, the coming judgment would be complete and devastating, and that He would **spend** (exhaust, completely pour out) His **fury** on them.

v 13, 14 **Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when their slain are among their idols:** As we learned earlier today, this prophecy was literally fulfilled, and these fulfilled prophecies did cause the Jewish people to recognise that God is God and so they did repent of their sins. The judgements had God's desired effect—the people rejected their idols and returned to Him. God saved the nation from death by spiritual decay.

Application: v 14 “So I will stretch out My hand”

This reminds me of when I used to get the strap at home when I was a kid—I’d done something wrong, and I knew that I had it coming. Just remember that the motive of our Heavenly Father when he disciplines us is always love, and He always does what is best for us in the long run—God’s discipline has eternal benefits. Some of us didn’t have good fathers growing up, and they may not have disciplined us in love, or at all. From my own experience with a poor example of a father (he was easily angered and aggressive), we must be careful that we don’t see our Heavenly Father as being the same as our earthly fathers, like I initially did. We must be in the Word of God to discover the true nature of our Heavenly Father—God is perfect and God is good.

v 14 **More desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah:** “Some Hebrew manuscripts read ‘Riblah,’ a city in Syria, and this seems to fit. God promised to devastate the land ‘from the desert to Riblah [Diblah]’ (niv), that is, from the south to the north. It’s like saying ‘from Dan to Beersheba,’ from the north to the south.” (Wiersbe)

Conclusion

1. Here are the three stages of repentance as outlined in chapter 6
 - Begin to seek God again [remembrance of God—“They shall remember Me”]
 - Repentance from sin [loathe themselves because of how their sin hurt God]
 - Relationship restored [they shall know that I am the Lord]
2. Sexual immorality is a major stumbling block for people of all ages (cultures). Our modern, sexualised world is actually very similar to what it was like in the nation of Israel. We have porn freely available, but they had the pressure of being expected to partake of ritual harlots and the like as they worshipped their idols.
3. Abortion is not a new thing. The battle for the lives of babies, born or unborn continues. Let us take a stand and do what we can to save the lives of the unborn.
4. Judgement is coming! Just as the nation of Israel rebelled against God and was deserving of judgement, so are we. The Tribulation will be the how God judges this evil world.
5. To the extent that a believer invests in, partakes of, enjoys or finds fulfilment in this world, will be the extent that they lose their reward in Heaven.
6. Sin breaks God’s heart. Don’t forget that. It’s not about us, but about God who loves us and gave Himself for us.

Ezekiel 6:9-10 NKJV

Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations where they are carried captive, because I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me, and by their eyes which play the harlot after their idols; they will loathe themselves for the evils which they committed in all their abominations. ¹⁰ And they shall know that I am the Lord; I have not said in vain that I would bring this calamity upon them.”