

## **Ezekiel 7:1-14—Yahweh *makkeh*: The Lord who strikes the blow**

### ***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. <sup>27</sup> 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 6 we saw God reveal or expose His heart as He shared how sin—spiritual adultery—affects Him personally; God’s heart is crushed or broken by our sin (our unfaithfulness and idolatry). We commit idolatry when our affections or love for other things are stronger than our affections or love for God; when someone or something becomes more important to us than God. We are guilty of idolatry when 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. In the case of the Israelites, one of the main things, the idol, that caused their hearts to turn away from God was sexual immorality. If we look around at today’s world it’s easy to see that the desires of our sinful nature haven’t changed since Adam sinned and switched to Satan’s side and took on Satan’s nature. We still struggle with the same sins and temptations today.

We also realised that true repentance starts with understanding how our sin affects God, that it breaks His heart. If we are wanting to change primarily because of how our sin affects or hurts us, then it’s a selfish motive; I’m trying to change my life so I feel better. We know that our motive is selfish if we are only wanting to repent of some sin or sins, and not all sin, because all sin breaks God’s heart—all sin is as equally offensive to God, and all sins resulted in Jesus dying on the cross for them. ***If we have the right motive for repentance—because we love God and therefore loathe ourselves for all our sins because they cause the heart of God to be broken—then we will want to repent of all sin, and change as quickly as possible; this is genuine repentance.***

This week, we will learn that:

1. The purpose of God’s discipline is always to bring us back into relationship with Himself.
2. God reveals more of His character to us when He reveals Himself to us by a new name, Yahweh *makkeh*—The Lord who strikes the blow. God will always judge sin.
3. God’s patience has limits—God will not always strive with man (see Genesis 6:3). Therefore repent while you still can, before judgement or discipline comes.
4. If I refuse to surrender even just *one* part of my life to God, then I will not be successful in fighting temptation in *any* area of my life.

**Ezekiel 7:1-14 NKJV**

**Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup>“And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel:**

**‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. <sup>3</sup> Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. <sup>4</sup> My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst; then you shall know that I am the Lord!’**

**5 “Thus says the Lord God: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster; behold, it has come! 6 An end has come, the end has come; it has dawned for you; behold, it has come! 7 Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble is near, and not of rejoicing in the mountains. 8 Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, and spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations.**

**9 ‘My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst. Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes.**

**10 ‘Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; the rod has blossomed, pride has budded. 11 Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain, none of their multitude, none of them; nor shall there be wailing for them. 12 The time has come, the day draws near.**

**‘Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for wrath is on their whole multitude. 13 For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, though he may still be alive; for the vision concerns the whole multitude, and it shall not turn back; no one will strengthen himself who lives in iniquity.**

**14 ‘They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, but no one goes to battle; for My wrath is on all their multitude. 15 The sword is outside, and the pestilence and famine within. Whoever is in the field will die by the sword; and whoever is in the city, famine and pestilence will devour him. 16 ‘Those who survive will escape and be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, each for his iniquity. 17 Every hand will be feeble, and every knee will be as weak as water. 18 They will also be girded with sackcloth; horror will cover them; shame will be on every face, baldness on all their heads.**

## **Then You Shall Know that I Am the Lord**

Before we start at verse 1, it’s important to get the context of the whole chapter. The key theme in chapter 7, which gives context to the rest of the chapter, is in verses 4, 9, and 27. Verse 27 says, **“I will do to them according to their way, and according to what they deserve I will judge them; then they shall know that I am the Lord!”** Last week we saw that, **“then they shall know that I am the Lord”** means more than just that they will know that God exists, it means that they will seek God again, repent of their sins, and be restored to fellowship with God. It’s so important that we understand the heart of God here—God is doing all of this for two reasons:

1. Concerning the nations, God is making a name for Himself, so that all people will know that He is the only God and can therefore, if they choose, come to Him to be saved.
2. Concerning the nation of Israel, God is doing all of this for the singular purpose of bringing them back into fellowship with Himself—*then they shall know that I am the Lord.*

## **God disciplines us to bring us back into fellowship with Himself**

**Ezekiel 7:1-4 NKJV**

**Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “And you, son of man, thus says the Lord God to the land of Israel:**

**‘An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land. 3 Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations. 4 My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity; but I will repay your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst; then you shall know that I am the Lord!’**

v 1 **The word of the Lord came to me:** Ezekiel was a prophet, therefore when he received God's message, **The word of the Lord**, he was responsible to share it with the people. Remember that we are God's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). We too have been given a message to share with the world, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

v 2 **To the land of Israel:** Ezekiel was in Babylon living among fellow exiles who had been deported from Judah in the first two deportations. At the time he spoke this, Jerusalem had not yet been destroyed and Judah had not yet been completely conquered. Therefore, this was a message **to the land of Israel**, to announce coming judgment upon them.

**Application: Today is the day of salvation... tomorrow may be too late!**

v 2-3 **An End! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.** <sup>3</sup> **Now the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you:** *It's the end!* This should send shivers down our spines... God's patience does have limits, and God's judgement upon the Israelites was soon to come. Like the pre-flood world of Noah's day, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, the generation of the Israelites who died in the wilderness, the nations in the land of Canaan, and like those who take the mark of the beast in the last half of the tribulation, those today who continually refuse to repent will find that God's patience does have limits. God is a holy God and cannot let sin go unpunished. If we allow sin to harden our hearts because of continued unbelief, God's judgement for unbelievers or God's discipline for believers is the only remedy.

Hebrews 3:12-15 NKJV

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; <sup>13</sup> but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, <sup>15</sup> while it is said:

*"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

This is such an important message for us to heed. Continued sin (rebellion against God) will harden our hearts against God and result in God having to discipline us severely. It's even worse for the unbeliever who repeatedly rejects the Holy Spirit's conviction of their sin (John 16:8-11)—they will suffer eternal judgement.

v 2 **The end has come upon the four corners of the land:** Simply put, the entire nation would be judged and would come under the control of Babylon.

"It has been said, *if something can't go on forever, it won't.* It is wise to consider **the end before** it actually comes upon you. Ezekiel hoped to bring this wisdom to rebellious Israel." (David Guzik)

This is good advice. Consider where your sin will lead you before you continue in it. One day the consequences of your sin *will* catch up with you (see Numbers 32:23).

v 3 **I will judge you according to your ways:** God's justice is fair. The penalty would match the crime.

v 4 **My eye will not spare you, nor will I have pity:** The judgement would be severe and complete.

v 4 **Then you shall know that I am the Lord:** Again, the judgement had a good purpose; it was the means by which God's people would return to a true relationship with God.

Romans 8:28-29 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to **His purpose**.<sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined **to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

As believers we may wonder why God allows certain things to happen or withholds things from us. Well, these verses give us the answer; God's purpose is to conform us into the image of His Son (Jesus), so anything that doesn't suit that eternal purpose is not a part of God's plan for us, while anything that does is allowed or given.

### **Yahweh *makkeh*—The Lord who strikes the blow (5-9)**

Ezekiel 7:5-9 NKJV

**“Thus says the Lord God: ‘A disaster, a singular disaster; behold, it has come! <sup>6</sup> An end has come, the end has come; it has dawned for you; behold, it has come! <sup>7</sup> Doom has come to you, you who dwell in the land; the time has come, a day of trouble is near, and not of rejoicing in the mountains. <sup>8</sup> Now upon you I will soon pour out My fury, and spend My anger upon you; I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your abominations.**

**<sup>9</sup> ‘My eye will not spare, nor will I have pity; I will repay you according to your ways, and your abominations will be in your midst. Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes.**

The time of judgement is very near and it's like Ezekiel can actually see the Babylonians attacking Jerusalem. Can you sense the urgency in his voice? We too are living in the last days before God's judgement—the Tribulation and Second Coming of Christ. *Is there the same sense of urgency in our voices and hearts as we seek to reach the lost for the kingdom of God?*

v 6 **It has dawned for you:** “In a beautiful play on words, impossible to reproduce in English, Ezekiel pictured the end as though it had been quiescent or asleep, but would be awakened and aroused to come against the people of the land of Israel.” (Feinberg)

“Thus the prophet told the exiles in Babylon, what Jeremiah was telling them in Jerusalem, that the opportunity for recovery was past, that the nation had overstepped the boundaries of the forbearance and waiting of God.” (Morgan)

Acts 17:30-31 NKJV

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,<sup>31</sup> because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man [Jesus] whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

We could say that this day of judgement is about to dawn on this world, considering all the fulfilled prophecies concerning Israel, the apostate state of the church, and the way sin is flourishing in the world. There can't be much time left.

v 9 **I will repay you for all your abominations:** The word **abominations** means something detestable, offensive, an abhorrence or something abominable, and refers to their idols.

### **Application: All sin is disgusting to God**

We must remember that God sees all of our sins as abhorrent. We often justify our sin and think that it's not so bad, but this is just another example of our hearts deceiving us. Never trust or follow your heart (feelings and emotions—walking by sight), instead walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), by trusting the Word of God to be the lamp to our feet and the light to our path (Psalm 119:105), and allowing it to discern our true motives (Hebrews 4:12). *Remember that just because something might “feel” right, it doesn't mean that it is right.* A good example of this is the lie often used to justify fornication (sex outside of marriage) and same sex marriage—“it's love, how can love be wrong?”

Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

<sup>10</sup> I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

**For we walk by faith** [truth as determined by the Word of God], **not by sight** [our feelings and emotions, following our sinful and deceived heart].

### **Application: God will judge sin**

v 9 **Then you shall know that I am the Lord who strikes:** “The message closed by stunning the exiles with a new name for God: ‘The Lord who strikes the blow’ (*YHWH makkeh*), the One who would now judge Judah.” (Alexander)

This is a reality check for those who have invented a false god or idol in their heads, a god who would never send anyone to hell. Here we have it in black and white; a part of who God is, a part of His nature or character is to judge sin. Why? *Because God by nature is perfect or holy, therefore He must judge sin.*

### **Application: Why is God's discipline so painful?**

*Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful... (Hebrews 12:11)*

“Once again, ultimate restoration is in mind. The severe judgment for their idolatry would show that their idols were powerless to save them. In destroying their reliance on idols, they could come back to true relationship with Yahweh.” (David Guzik)

This explains why God's judgement or discipline is so painful—God is taking away the things we love and depend on so we will learn to love and depend upon Him *alone*. God is in the business of removing *anything* in our lives (even “good” things) that we rely on instead of God. This is therefore a warning for us to not make idols of anything in our lives; if we do then God will most likely take it away from us because it is harming our relationship with Him. As someone once said:

*“We will never know that God is all we need until God is all we have”*

It's only when we come to the place where we understand that God is all we need—*because God has taken away all the things that we thought we needed*—that the following verses in John will be true for us and we will experience the fullness of joy that Jesus promised:

John 15:9-11 NKJV

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide [remain] in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

<sup>11</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Hebrew 12:11 NKJV

*Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

## **Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death (10-13)**

**Ezekiel 7:10-13 NKJV**

**‘Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Doom has gone out; the rod has blossomed, pride has budded. <sup>11</sup> Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain, none of their multitude, none of them; nor shall there be wailing for them. <sup>12</sup> The time has come, the day draws near.**

**‘Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn, for wrath is on their whole multitude. <sup>13</sup> For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, though he may still be alive; for the vision concerns the whole multitude, and it shall not turn back; no one will strengthen himself who lives in iniquity.**

v 10 **Behold the day! Behold, it has come!**: Remember that Ezekiel was in competition with the false prophets. Ezekiel was predicting that judgement would come, while the false prophets were predicting that God would defeat the Babylonians and bring all the exiles back into the land. This had been going on for a few years now, and you can imagine that the people are starting to wonder about Ezekiel's message—where is this judgement that you keep talking about. Well, here it comes!

v 10 **The rod has blossomed, pride has budded**: This is a reference to Aaron's rod that budded (see Numbers 17). Simply put, there was an insurrection against God's chosen leaders, Moses and Aaron. It was the pride of the people that caused them to reject God and therefore challenge the God appointed leadership and authority of Moses and Aaron. Back then God had threatened to wipe them all out because of their rebellion against Him, but Moses had prayed for them and God spared the majority of the congregation.

Numbers 17:8, 10 NKJV

Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die.”

Here in Ezekiel the symbol of Aaron's rod that budded is used to show that the people were again rebelling against divine authority, refusing to submit to God and His chosen messengers or prophets. Also, like then, the proud people (rebels) were close to being judged.

v 11 **Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness:** This was another characteristic of the nation of Israel, another one of their sins—violence. Again, we see that our culture or society today is no different to back then, being full of violence—violent crime, violent TV shows and movies, violent computer games, and so forth.

v 11 **None ... none ... none of them:** None of the wicked would escape judgement. Every person who deserves to be judged will be judged, which means all of us. The only way to avoid being under God's wrath (see John 3:36) is to receive the forgiveness offered by God through Jesus' death on the cross.

v 12 **Let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn:** There would be no-one left to buy or sell once the Babylonians had destroyed the country and city.

v 13 **For the seller shall not return to what has been sold, though he may still be alive:** The Jewish law states that property that was sold goes back to the original family every 50 years, on the year of Jubilee. Ezekiel is making this real for them—the year of Jubilee would be, in effect, cancelled. They would not be able to return to their family homes because they will all be in Babylon.

v 13 **It shall not turn back:** "Most of the time in the Scriptures, when God announces judgment it is an implied invitation for repentance, whereupon God will relent from the announced judgment. With this prophecy of Ezekiel, this was not the case. The judgment was coming; **it shall not turn back.**" (David Guzik) Remember, today is the day of salvation, tomorrow may be too late.

### **Application: Sin corrupts and eventually destroys us**

v 13 **No one will strengthen himself who lives in iniquity:** "Ezekiel indicated the foolishness of the man who thought he could strengthen himself in the very iniquity [sin] which called down the wrath of God. Hardening oneself in sin would not accomplish immunity from punishment. On the contrary, it would assure it all the more." (Feinberg)

How foolish is it to think that we can sin and still be strong. Sin is like rusting metal or rotting wood. Both grow weak and will eventually collapse. Similarly sin corrupts our character—we will eventually destroy ourselves. We will eventually destroy our lives because sin will cause us to do what we thought that we never would. Consider the words from this Casting Crowns song, "Slow fade":

*It's a slow fade when you give yourself away  
It's a slow fade when black and white have turned to gray  
And thoughts invade, choices are made, a price will be paid  
When you give yourself away  
People never crumble in a day  
Daddies never crumble in a day  
Families never crumble in a day*

## One of the effects of sin—a weak and defeated life (14)

### Ezekiel 7:14 NKJV

**14 ‘They have blown the trumpet and made everyone ready, but no one goes to battle; for My wrath is on all their multitude.**

v 14 **No one goes to battle:** “[sins] first manifestation would be the paralysis of the people, so that when the trumpet was blown for the battle, and all was ready, none would move forward, being overcome by terror and grief.” (Morgan)

No doubt the people were confident that God was with them and would help them to fight bravely against the Babylonians, after all they were feeling good because they were filled with false hope given by the false prophets. But just like Samson felt good when he allowed Delilah to put him to sleep on her lap and then cut off his hair—he didn’t feel so good when he was captured by the Philistines without a fight.

### Judges 16:18-21 NKJV

When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart.” So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand. <sup>19</sup> Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. <sup>20</sup> And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” **So he awoke from his sleep, and said, “I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!” But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.**

<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

So too the Israelites had figuratively lain down with their idols and given up their strength—and also, like Sampson, too late would they realise that they had no fight or strength left in them to battle the Babylonians, and they too would end up in bronze fetters or shackles. Ezekiel accurately predicted that they would have no strength to fight the Babylonians. Sin had corrupted them and their God-given strength and courage had left them. The same can happen to us.

**Application: Submit to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

As believers in Christ, we are in a battle:

### 1 Peter 2:11 NKJV

Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul

*We must remember that it’s only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can overcome and win this battle against sin.*

### Romans 8:12-13 NLT paraphrase

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. <sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But **if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature**, you will live.



What's important is that to be led by the Spirit means that we must be completely submitted to the Spirit—I must give God control of every part of me if I am to be able to resist the devil and have him flee from me (James 4:7). If I choose to hold on to some sin that I'm not willing to give up, then it necessarily means that I am not submitted to the Holy Spirit, because God demands 100% submission.

Romans 8:5-6 NLT paraphrase

<sup>5</sup> Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

Can you see that it's either/or, and not both/and. We can't have our cake and eat it too. I either choose to completely surrender every part of my life to God, or, in reality, I have surrendered none of my life to God—I'm either doing what I want or what God wants. I can't pick and choose what areas of my life I am willing to surrender. Like the song says, "I surrender all". If I choose to hold onto a sin, be it bitterness, unforgiveness, an addiction, an ungodly relationship, or simply worldly things or pleasures (e.g. entertainment) that the Spirit is convicting me of but I'm not willing to give up yet, then I'm not submitted to the Spirit, and I will be weak in every area of my life. *If I'm going to be effective in the kingdom of God, I must be pure and holy in every part of my life.*

Here's an example. Consider the Israelites when they entered the promised land. They fully obeyed what God said were therefore able to defeat the large and strong city of Jericho, but afterward Achan stole some of the valuables from Jericho that were dedicated to the Lord and hid them in his tent. Listen to what happened next.

Joshua 7:1-13 NLT paraphrase (*Achan steals items dedicated to God*)

But Israel violated the instructions about the things set apart for the Lord. A man named Achan had stolen some of these dedicated things, so *the Lord was very angry with the Israelites*. Achan was the son of Carmi, a descendant of Zimri son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua sent some of his men from Jericho to spy out the town of Ai, east of Bethel, near Beth-aven. <sup>3</sup> When they returned, they told Joshua, "There's no need for all of us to go up there; it won't take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since there are so few of them, don't make all our people struggle to go up there."

[*Like with Sampson, notice their confidence in their own abilities and complete lack of understanding that God had departed from them*]

<sup>4</sup> So approximately 3,000 warriors were sent, *but they were soundly defeated*. The men of Ai <sup>5</sup> chased the Israelites from the town gate as far as the quarries, and they killed about thirty-six who were retreating down the slope. **The Israelites were paralysed with fear at this turn of events, and their courage melted away.**

[Not surprisingly, unconfessed or hidden sin in one area lead to failure in another area]

<sup>6</sup> Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down to the ground before the Ark of the Lord until evening.

<sup>7</sup> Then Joshua cried out, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side! <sup>8</sup> Lord, what can I say now that Israel has fled from its enemies? <sup>9</sup> For when the Canaanites and all the other people living in the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe our name off the face of the earth. And then what will happen to the honour of your great name?"

<sup>10</sup> But the Lord said to Joshua, “Get up! Why are you lying on your face like this?  
<sup>11</sup> Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them but have lied about it and hidden the things among their own belongings. <sup>12</sup> That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. For now Israel itself has been set apart for destruction. I will not remain with you any longer unless you destroy the things among you that were set apart for destruction.  
<sup>13</sup> “Get up! Command the people to purify themselves in preparation for tomorrow. For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Hidden among you, O Israel, are things set apart for the Lord. You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things from among you.

You see the principle here, it’s all or nothing—we are completely submitted to God, meaning every area of our lives, or we are not submitted. Remember what James said, we can’t resist satan unless we are first fully submitted or surrendered to God.

James 5:7 NKJV

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

We can’t justify a sin in one area of our lives by doing well in others. Also, we can’t rely on past victories. It just doesn’t work like that. This applies to us both personally, and as a church. ***In the kingdom of God, purity = power.*** All it took for satan to defeat the Israelites was to corrupt one man, and the nation was doomed. Consider the effects of this one sin by one man:

1. It only took one man’s sin to bring the whole nation to their knees (v 1).
2. Their courage turned to fear (v 5).
3. They went from being victorious to being defeated (v 12).
4. They were set apart for destruction—all sin will be judged (v 12).
5. They would not experience the power of God until they repented of their sin—“*I will not remain with you any longer unless you destroy the things among you that were set apart for destruction.*” (v 12).
6. We will not be able to overcome any sin until we are willing to give up all sin, even the pet sins that we enjoy and we think that we have under our control—“You will never defeat your enemies until you remove the accursed things from among you” (v 13)

## Conclusion

What I choose today will affect me tomorrow. It’s the law of cause and effect, or sowing and reaping.

Galatians 6:7-9 NLT paraphrase

Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. <sup>8</sup> Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.