Ezekiel 5-8

God’s Razor of Judgment

**5**“Now, son of man, take a sharp sword and use it as a barber’s razor to shaveyour head and your beard. Then take a set of scales and divide up the hair.**2**When the days of your siege come to an end, burn a third of the hair inside the city. Take a third and strike it with the sword all around the city. And scatter a third to the wind. For I will pursue them with drawn sword. **3**But take a few hairs and tuck them away in the folds of your garment. **4**Again, take a few of these and throw them into the fire and burn them up. A fire will spread from there to all Israel.

**5**“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her. **6**Yet in her wickedness she has rebelled against my laws and decrees more than the nations and countries around her. She has rejected my laws and has not followed my decrees.

**7**“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: You have been more unruly than the nations around you and have not followed my decrees or kept my laws. You have not even[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-20554a)] conformed to the standards of the nations around you.

**8**“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself am against you, Jerusalem, and I will inflict punishment on you in the sight of the nations.**9**Because of all your detestable idols, I will do to you what I have never done before and will never do again. **10**Therefore in your midst parents will eat their children, and children will eat their parents. I will inflict punishment on you and will scatter all your survivors to the winds. **11**Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your vile images and detestable practices, I myself will shave you; I will not look on you with pity or spare you. **12**A third of your people will die of the plague or perish by famine inside you; a third will fall by the sword outside your walls; and a third I will scatter to the winds and pursue with drawn sword.

**13**“Then my anger will cease and my wrath against them will subside, and I will be avenged. And when I have spent my wrath on them, they will know that I the Lord have spoken in my zeal.

**14**“I will make you a ruin and a reproach among the nations around you, in the sight of all who pass by. **15**You will be a reproach and a taunt, a warning and an object of horror to the nations around you when I inflict punishment on you in anger and in wrath and with stinging rebuke. I the Lord have spoken. **16**When I shoot at you with my deadly and destructive arrows of famine, I will shoot to destroy you. I will bring more and more famine upon you and cut off your supply of food. **17**I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and they will leave you childless. Plague and bloodshed will sweep through you, and I will bring the sword against you. I the Lord have spoken.”

Doom for the Mountains of Israel

**6**The word of the Lord came to me: **2**“Son of man, set your face against the mountains of Israel; prophesy against them **3**and say: ‘You mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord. This is what the Sovereign Lord says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys: I am about to bring a sword against you, and I will destroy your high places. **4**Your altars will be demolished and your incense altars will be smashed; and I will slay your people in front of your idols. **5**I will lay the dead bodies of the Israelites in front of their idols, and I will scatter your bones around your altars. **6**Wherever you live, the towns will be laid waste and the high places demolished, so that your altars will be laid waste and devastated, your idols smashed and ruined, your incense altars broken down, and what you have made wiped out. **7**Your people will fall slain among you, and you will know that I am the Lord.

**8**“‘But I will spare some, for some of you will escape the sword when you are scattered among the lands and nations. **9**Then in the nations where they have been carried captive, those who escape will remember me - how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols. They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices. **10**And they will know that I am the Lord; I did not threaten in vain to bring this calamity on them.

**11**“‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Strike your hands together and stamp your feet and cry out “Alas!” because of all the wicked and detestable practices of the people of Israel, for they will fall by the sword, famine and plague. **12**One who is far away will die of the plague, and one who is near will fall by the sword, and anyone who survives and is spared will die of famine. So will I pour out my wrath on them. **13**And they will know that I am the Lord, when their people lie slain among their idols around their altars, on every high hill and on all the mountaintops, under every spreading tree and every leafy oak - places where they offered fragrant incense to all their idols. **14**And I will stretch out my hand against them and make the land a desolate waste from the desert to Diblah - wherever they live. Then they will know that I am the Lord.’”

The End Has Come

**7**The word of the Lord came to me: **2**“Son of man, this is what the Sovereign Lord says to the land of Israel:

“‘The end! The end has come  
    upon the four corners of the land!  
**3**The end is now upon you,  
    and I will unleash my anger against you.  
I will judge you according to your conduct  
    and repay you for all your detestable practices.  
**4**I will not look on you with pity;  
    I will not spare you.  
I will surely repay you for your conduct  
    and for the detestable practices among you.

“‘Then you will know that I am the Lord.’

**5**“This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“‘Disaster! Unheard-of disaster!  
    See, it comes!  
**6**The end has come!  
    The end has come!  
It has roused itself against you.  
    See, it comes!  
**7**Doom has come upon you,  
    upon you who dwell in the land.  
The time has come! The day is near!  
    There is panic, not joy, on the mountains.  
**8**I am about to pour out my wrath on you  
    and spend my anger against you.  
I will judge you according to your conduct  
    and repay you for all your detestable practices.  
**9**I will not look on you with pity;  
    I will not spare you.  
I will repay you for your conduct  
    and for the detestable practices among you.

“‘Then you will know that it is I the Lord who strikes you.

**10**“‘See, the day! See, it comes!  
Doom has burst forth,  
    the rod has budded,  
    arrogance has blossomed!  
**11**Violence has arisen,[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-20589d)]  
    a rod to punish the wicked.  
None of the people will be left,  
    none of that crowd—  
none of their wealth,  
    nothing of value.  
**12**The time has come!  
    The day has arrived!  
Let not the buyer rejoice  
    nor the seller grieve,  
    for my wrath is on the whole crowd.  
**13**The seller will not recover  
    the property that was sold -   
    as long as both buyer and seller live.  
For the vision concerning the whole crowd  
    will not be reversed.  
Because of their sins, not one of them  
    will preserve their life.

**14**“‘They have blown the trumpet,  
    they have made all things ready,  
but no one will go into battle,  
    for my wrath is on the whole crowd.  
**15**Outside is the sword;  
    inside are plague and famine.  
Those in the country  
    will die by the sword;  
those in the city  
    will be devoured by famine and plague.  
**16**The fugitives who escape  
    will flee to the mountains.  
Like doves of the valleys,  
    they will all moan,  
    each for their own sins.  
**17**Every hand will go limp;  
    every leg will be wet with urine.  
**18**They will put on sackcloth  
    and be clothed with terror.  
Every face will be covered with shame,  
    and every head will be shaved.

**19**“‘They will throw their silver into the streets,  
    and their gold will be treated as a thing unclean.  
Their silver and gold  
    will not be able to deliver them  
    in the day of the Lord’s wrath.  
It will not satisfy their hunger  
    or fill their stomachs,  
    for it has caused them to stumble into sin.  
**20**They took pride in their beautiful jewelry  
    and used it to make their detestable idols.  
They made it into vile images;  
    therefore I will make it a thing unclean for them.  
**21**I will give their wealth as plunder to foreigners  
    and as loot to the wicked of the earth,  
    who will defile it.  
**22**I will turn my face away from the people,  
    and robbers will desecrate the place I treasure.  
They will enter it  
    and will defile it.

**23**“‘Prepare chains!  
    For the land is full of bloodshed,  
    and the city is full of violence.  
**24**I will bring the most wicked of nations  
    to take possession of their houses.  
I will put an end to the pride of the mighty,  
    and their sanctuaries will be desecrated.  
**25**When terror comes,  
    they will seek peace in vain.  
**26**Calamity upon calamity will come,  
    and rumor upon rumor.  
They will go searching for a vision from the prophet,  
    priestly instruction in the law will cease,  
    the counsel of the elders will come to an end.  
**27**The king will mourn,  
    the prince will be clothed with despair,  
    and the hands of the people of the land will tremble.  
I will deal with them according to their conduct,  
    and by their own standards I will judge them.

“‘Then they will know that I am the Lord.’”

Idolatry in the Temple

**8**In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign Lord came on me there. **2**I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ezekiel+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-20607e)] From what appeared to be his waist down he was like fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal. **3**He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood.**4**And there before me was the glory of the God of Israel, as in the vision I had seen in the plain.

**5**Then he said to me, “Son of man, look toward the north.” So I looked, and in the entrance north of the gate of the altar I saw this idol of jealousy.

**6**And he said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing—the utterly detestable things the Israelites are doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary? But you will see things that are even more detestable.”

**7**Then he brought me to the entrance to the court. I looked, and I saw a hole in the wall. **8**He said to me, “Son of man, now dig into the wall.” So I dug into the wall and saw a doorway there.

**9**And he said to me, “Go in and see the wicked and detestable things they are doing here.” **10**So I went in and looked, and I saw portrayed all over the walls all kinds of crawling things and unclean animals and all the idols of Israel. **11**In front of them stood seventy elders of Israel, and Jaazaniah son of Shaphan was standing among them. Each had a censer in his hand, and a fragrant cloud of incense was rising.

**12**He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, ‘The Lord does not see us; the Lord has forsaken the land.’” **13**Again, he said, “You will see them doing things that are even more detestable.”

**14**Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the Lord, and I saw women sitting there, mourning the god Tammuz. **15**He said to me, “Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this.”

**16**He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the Lord, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs toward the temple of the Lord and their faces toward the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.

**17**He said to me, “Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the people of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with violence and continually arouse my anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose! **18**Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.”