



RECORDING THIS SESSION



Bible Study

- Year 3

Ezekiel 5-11

Ezekiel, as depicted by Michelangelo on the Sistine Chapel ceiling

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

Collect

O God, who willed that, when your Son was lifted high on the Cross, his Mother should stand close by and share his suffering, grant that your Church, participating with the Virgin Mary in the Passion of Christ, may merit a share in his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



CATECHISM
of the
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

SECOND EDITION

revised in accordance with the official Latin text
promulgated by Pope John Paul II

contains glossary and analytical index



LINGUA LATINA VATICANA

God chooses Abraham

§59, In order to gather together scattered humanity God calls Abram from his country, his kindred and his father's house, and makes him Abraham, that is, "the father of a multitude of nations." "In you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."

§60, The people descended from Abraham would be the trustee of the promise made to the patriarchs, the chosen people, called to prepare for that day when God would gather all his children into the unity of the Church. They would be the root on to which the Gentiles would be grafted, once they came to believe.

§61, The patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures have been and always will be honored as saints in all the Church's liturgical traditions.

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§61, The patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures have been and always will be honored as saints in all the Church's liturgical traditions.

Saints

- ✿ *Prior* - the popularity of a person's story of faith and courage
 - ✿ Initially: those who were martyred for the faith,
 - ✿ By the 4th century the category included a larger group of holy men and women.
 - ✿ These individuals were then given certain "feast days"
- ✿ Formal canonization process: 16th century that a formal canonization process was developed.
 - ✿ Die
 - ✿ Servant of God
 - ✿ Venerable
 - ✿ Blessed
 - ✿ Saint

Saints

- ✦ By the 16th century - **Roman Martyrology**
 - ✦ list of all the “official” saints who could be celebrated on specific days of the year.
 - ✦ included several Old Testament figures: Habakkuk (Jan. 15); Isaiah (July 6); Daniel and Elias/Elijah (July 20 and 21); the seven Maccabees and their mother (Aug. 17); Abraham (Oct. 9); and King David (Dec. 29);
 - ✦ Ezekiel (April 10 → July 23)
- ✦ NOTE: the traditional Litany of Saints includes an invocation to, “All you Holy Patriarchs and Prophets, pray for us.”

Saints

- ✦ Again, **CCC §61**- “The patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures have been and always will be honored as saints in all the Church’s liturgical traditions”
- ✦ The Eastern Orthodox tradition very clear about the holy men and women of the Hebrew Scriptures, and has always referred to them as “saints”
- ✦ **CCC §632 - 637** - teaches that after Jesus’ death and before his resurrection, he “descended into Hell” and brought the righteous ones up to him in heaven
 - ✦ Previously the gates to heaven were closed, but by Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, he opened up the doors to all the just, regardless of when they died.
 - ✦ We know Moses and Elijah were with him at the Transfiguration *prior* to his death

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Hebrew 11 - *'Hall of Faith'*

LRB p. 2500-2502

Book of Ezekiel



Ezekiel, as depicted by Michelangelo on the Sistine Chapel ceiling

Chapter 5

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **A Sword against Jerusalem**
- ♦ “Mortal,” Cut your hair/beard:
 - ♦ Hair is sign of strength (Jud 16:17)
 - ♦ and dignity (2 Sam 10:4-5)
- ♦ **cf.** - Lev 26:33, Is 7:20
 - ♦ 1/3 - burn in city at end of siege;
 - ♦ 1/3 - strike sword around city
 - ♦ 1/3 - scatter in wind
 - ♦ Tie some to your robe, and burn



Chapter 5

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **A Sword against Jerusalem**
 - ♦ v5, **Interpretation** - hair = Jerusalem - chosen to be center of the world,
 - ♦ but bc of its rebelliousness, will bring judgment against it — will be annihilated
 - ♦ In his jealousy, God will release his fury - they will be a mockery, and be taunted:
 - ♦ ***Haircutting = killing in battle*
 - ♦ *Also, humiliating (2 Samuel 10:4)*
 - ♦ God will use sword to bring Israel to ruin;
 - ♦ He will use foreign powers to shave Israel;
 - ♦ Israel will be under siege and sent into exile



READ v 9



Chapter 5

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **A Sword against Jerusalem**
 - ♦ v13- God's anger and satisfaction of vindication (anthropomorphic)
 - ♦ vv16-17, Passing punishment via Plague, famine, and sword →
 - ♦ Weapons God employs



Chapter 6

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Against the Mountains of Israel**
- ♦ *Note: “Mountains of Israel” in contrast to “mountains of Zion”*
 - ♦ *The high places in Israel = idolatrous worship*
 - ♦ *Shrines = represent abandonment of monotheism (READ Deut 12:2; 1Kings 14:23; Hosea 4:13; Jeremiah 2:20)*
- ♦ v3, “Mortal,” look to ***Mountains of Israel*** and PROPHECY AGAINST THEM -
- ♦ v4-5, I will bring you down - your pagan altars and kill the idolaters will destroy altars, idols, and worshipers
- ♦ v8, **But I will save some** - and scatter you among the nations - and they will see how far they have fallen bc of their sins
- ♦ v9, then exiles will remember the Lord, call on him
- ♦ v11, “clap your hands and stamp your feet...” - many in exile will die by “sword, by famine, and by pestilence”
- ♦ **And they will know I am the Lord (v10, 13, 14b)**

Chapter 7

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **The End Has Come**
- ♦ Second announcement of punishment for Judah and Jerusalem
- ♦ Theme: Day of the Lord (Is 13, Amos 5)
- ♦ “Mortal,”...the wrath of the Lord will be unleashed and all will “know that I am the Lord” (x3 in this chapter)
 - ♦ v2, four corners = all of Palestine will be affected
 - ♦ Will be total calamity, total devastation - God is pouring out all of his wrath - READ v8 and v10
 - ♦ v15- sword, disease, famine
- ♦ v18, Silver and gold cannot save them
- ♦ READ v26-27
- ♦ RECALL Deut 28 - Blessings for obedience; Curses for Infidelity

Chapter 8

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Vision of Abominations in the Temple**
- ♦ v1, While sitting in his house with elders, Lord's hand came upon him...
- ♦ v2, Vision: like a man,
- ♦ v3, grabbed him by hair - lifted Ez between earth and heaven
 - ♦ Cf Revelation 1:9-10, 17
- ♦ ...to Jerusalem — READ v3b - seat of image of jealousy - pagan statue



Lions' Gate, Jerusalem,
<https://www.gpsmycity.com/attractions/lions-gate-21250.html>



East Gate
<https://smoothstone.org/through-the-eastern-gate/>

Chapter 8

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

♦ Vision of Abominations in the Temple

- ♦ v5, “Mortal,”...look north, do you see what they are doing? The abominations that causes God to vacate my sanctuary?
 - ♦ ...‘But you will see worst abominations’
- ♦ v7, dig through the hole in wall, — saw idols Israel had worshiped — what the **elders** had been doing
 - ♦ v9, animal worship (Egyptian practice)
 - ♦ v11, 70 **elders** caught in the act - offering incense to Egyptian gods



Note animal/
beast heads

Chapter 8

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Vision of Abominations in the Temple**
 - ♦ Elders were leaders in the Israelite community,
 - ♦ Were to be examples, and leaders of the community, working with God's anointed leaders (Moses, kings, prophets, etc)
 - ♦ READ:
 - ♦ Exodus 24:1 — *70 elders*
 - ♦ Numbers 11:16 — *70 elders*
 - ♦ *But, instead, they were devoted to pagan worship: so of course the people would be influenced by them*

Chapter 8

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Vision of Abominations in the Temple**
 - ♦ v14, women crying for Tammuz -
 - ♦ **Tammuz**, Sumerian/Babylonian god, in Mesopotamian religion, god of fertility embodying the powers for new life in nature in the spring.
 - ♦ v16, @25 men worshiping the sun - with their backs to the Temple



Tammuz, alabaster relief from
Ashur, c. 1500 BC;
in the Staatliche Museen zu
Berlin, Germany



[http://
balkhandshambhala.blogspot.c
om/2013/02/shambhala-sun-
worship.html](http://balkhandshambhala.blogspot.com/2013/02/shambhala-sun-worship.html)

Chapter 8

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Vision of Abominations in the Temple**

- ♦ ***v17, 'Ezekiel, do you see this?!?!?!?!' -***



- ♦ 'They are putting the 'branch to my nose' — '

- ♦ **v18, Therefore I will act... READ**

Chapter 9

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Slaughter of the Idolaters**
- ♦ vv1-2, 6 Executioners + a **scribe** (dressed in linen with a case) called (=7, number of completeness) are coming!
- ♦ to slaughter the idolaters
- ♦ NOTE v4 - put a mark (Hebrew letter **tau/taw** = **x** or **t**, last letter of the Hebrew alphabet) on the forehead to identify the faithful;
 - ♦ Like blood of lamb at Passover in Egypt
- ♦ kill the rest / personal responsibility - only the guilty will die
- ♦ v6b, Start at **my** sanctuary.
- ♦ And they did
- ♦ v8, Ezekiel asks — READ vv8-10
- ♦ v10, God will not spare the wicked
- ♦ v11, scribe made his report
- ♦ Cf. Rev 7:2-8 - seal of living God (?prob a cross?)
 - ♦ *[Cf. Revelation 13:16-17, 14:9-11, 16:2, 20:4 - theology developed, 666-mark of beast - more on this in Revelation]*

Chapter 10

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Slaughter of the Idolaters / God's glory leaves Jerusalem**
- ♦ We see the glory of the Lord....though not a complete image/vision
- ♦ v1, like a throne; v2, man in linen
 - ♦ v2, foretells destruction of Jerusalem by fire
- ♦ Scatter coals over the city
- ♦ v4, READ
- ♦ v14, living creatures, each with 4 faces of: **cherub, a human being, a lion, an eagle** = (ALOE / Tetramorph) - v21, similar to what he saw at river Chebar in chapter 1 (but no ox)
 - ♦ Each also had 4 wings
- ♦ God returns to the chariot, which then leaves the temple via east Gate
 - ♦ Acc. to St. Jerome: departure of the glory of God from Temple in Jerusalem leads to the foundation for the Church in Christ

Chapter 11

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Death for the Remnant in Jerusalem**
- ♦ v1, Spirit lifted and carried Ezekiel
- ♦ v2, public officials (25), these are the men planning evil...
 - ♦ saying: [pot/meat] = we will be protected by being within Jerusalem, like a pot protects the meat inside
 - ♦ But they lie, tell them...
- ♦ I have seen what you have done. You have killed people (who are the meat) and the pot is the city.
- ♦ I will remove you from the city and judge you
- ♦ READ vv11-12
- ♦ v13, city official Pelatiah fell dead at those words
- ♦ Ez is shocked — ‘Lord, you are killing the remnant..’

Chapter 11

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Restoration for the Exiles**
- ♦ Remnants in Judah believe the exiles no longer have rights to the land - since they are *'far away'*
 - ♦ Those in Jerusalem had false security
 - ♦ And they had contempt for the exiles
- ♦ But the Lord will gather them, and return them to Israel,
- ♦ He will remove their sins
- ♦ And READ vv19-21 (the new covenant - heart of stone → heart of flesh)
 - ♦ Cf Jeremiah 31:31-34
- ♦ Those who remain devoted to abominations will be destroyed

Chapter 11

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Restoration for the Exiles**
- ♦ vv22-25, Ezekiel lifted and flown back to the exiles in Babylon, and told them all the Lord had shown him
- ♦ v23, glory of Lord leaves Jerusalem — came to rest on Mt. Olivet/ Mount of Olives (east of the city) — where Christ would later ascend to heaven (per St. Jerome)
- ♦ Final hope: people will be restored to their land in order to be God's people in the right way



Chapter 12

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Acts Symbolic of the Exile**
- ♦ v2 - people are rebellious and blind and deaf to words of prophecy from God
- ♦ With this command, God is making Ez a sign for Israel
 - ♦ He is to 'put on a show' for the exiles:
 - ♦ Pack a bag during day
 - ♦ At night, go out - like going into exile
 - ♦ Dig a hole through a wall, and go through it - into the darkness
 - ♦ Cover your face so you cannot see the land you are going
- ♦ So Ezekiel did

Chapter 12

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Acts Symbolic of the Exile**
- ♦ Next morning: they ask: what are you doing?
 - ♦ Bag = prince (Zedekiah) + all Israel
 - ♦ I am a sign for you
 - ♦ vv11-16m You will be exiled to Babylon
 - ♦ v11b, simulating blindness - possibly Zedekiah?
 - ♦ Jerusalem will fall, name killed
 - ♦ v16, Some will survive to tell of what happened
- ♦ v17, show them. Starvation. Consume your bread and water in fear — while in Babylon, they will consume their meals in fear

Chapter 12

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Prophecy Ridiculed**
- ♦ Popular sayings about prophecy:
- ♦ The Lord questions proverb - “The days drag on, and every vision fails”? — scoffing at prophecy of the prophets
- ♦ Lord: I will disprove that proverb
- ♦ Instead, say: “The days are at hand and every vision fulfilled.”
- ♦ Whatever the Lord speaks will come to fruition

Chapter 12

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Prophecy Ridiculed**
- ♦ Second proverb: “The vision he sees is a long time off; he prophesies for distant times!”
- ♦ Tell them, there will be no more delays. What I have spoken will come to fruition: the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem
- ♦ Compare: 2 Peter 3:8-10 - **[READ 1 - 10]**

Chapter 12

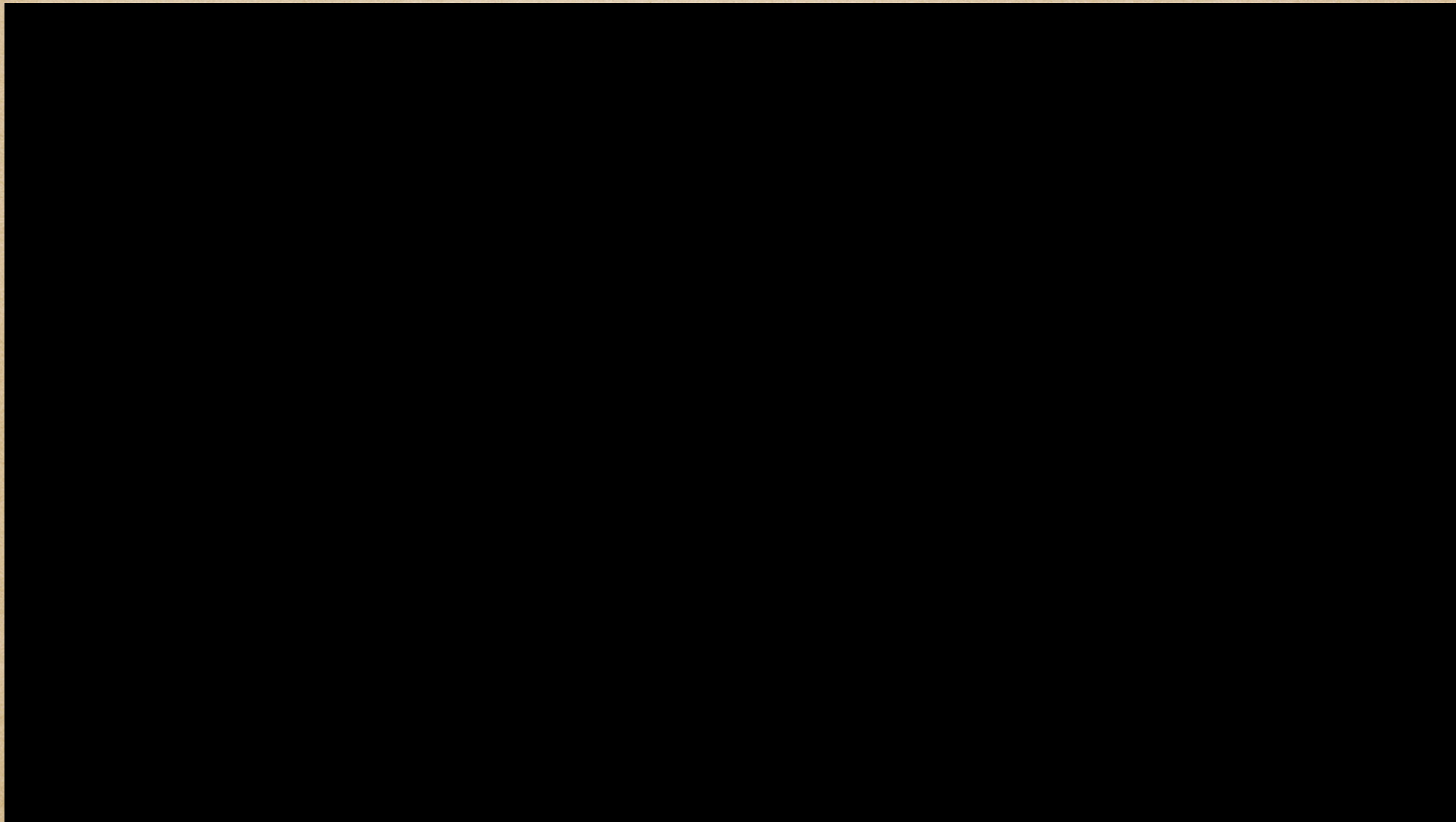
II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Against the Prophets of Peace**
- ♦ v2, prophets who speak their *own* mind — not God's **[they are false prophets]**
- ♦ Note vv3-7
- ♦ v8, Therefore, says the Lord ...(*not going to be good...*) because you have spoken falsehood... God's hand will be against them
- ♦ v9b, He will remove them from Israel - no trace of them in the records of Israel
- ♦ READ v10 - bc whitewashed the truth

Next Week:

- Ezekiel 13 - 19
 - 2 Kings 17: 24 - 25
 - Jeremiah 38 - 44

Litany of the Saints



Created by: Freddie Juance, SFAC

Music by: Veronica Morrissey

Composed by: John Becker (1987)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsnHCi2kDFA>