

**** Ezekiel 21 contains a prophecy of judgment against Jerusalem and its people, using the sword metaphor.**

Key points of the chapter:

1. ****The Sword of the Lord's Judgment (Verses 1-7): ****

God instructs Ezekiel to prophesy against Jerusalem and the sanctuary, declaring that a sword (symbolizing divine judgment) will be drawn against the land. The sword will not return to its sheath once it has accomplished its purpose, bringing destruction to both the righteous and the wicked. This passage emphasizes that the coming judgment will be severe and indiscriminate, affecting all in its path, and it is a matter of when not if.

2. ****The Sharpened and Polished Sword (Verses 8-17): ****

Ezekiel is commanded to cry out and wail because the sword is sharpened and polished, ready for slaughter. The sword is portrayed as a powerful and relentless weapon that will kill people without mercy. God challenges the people to be prepared for this judgment, which is imminent and unavoidable.

3. ****The Sword of the King of Babylon (Verses 18-27): ****

God tells Ezekiel to use a symbolic act to show the two roads by which the sword (judgment) will come. One road led to the Ammonites and the other to Jerusalem. God explains that He has given the sword (Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon) the authority to judge Jerusalem and the Ammonites. This section highlights the sovereignty of God over nations, using Babylon as an instrument of His judgment.

4. ****Judgment on the Ammonites (Verses 28-32): ****

The final chapter focuses on the Ammonites, who will face God's judgment. Even though they rejoiced at Israel's downfall, they, too, will suffer the consequences of their actions. The sword of judgment will not spare them, demonstrating that God's justice is comprehensive and reaches all who oppose Him. Overall, Ezekiel 21 is a sobering reminder of God's righteous judgment. It calls for repentance and humility before God, acknowledging His sovereignty and the seriousness of turning away from His commands.