

Read Ezekiel 24:1-14. Years before this action parable the corrupt leaders of Judah used a metaphor to describe themselves and Jerusalem (11:1-13). They thought of themselves like meat protected inside a strong cooking pot. The walls of Jerusalem and the presence of the Temple were, in their minds, like thick iron shielding them from the “fire” of enemy attack. But their confidence was tragically misplaced. Their security did not come from walls or buildings, but from God alone.

Now in chapter 24, God tells Ezekiel to act out a sobering parable. A pot of meat is set on the fire. The chunks of meat represent the people of Jerusalem, from the powerful and wealthy to the ordinary citizens. When Babylon’s army surrounds the city, all will experience the boiling turmoil of siege and suffering. Some pieces are removed, symbolizing those carried away into captivity. The pot itself is covered in rust, representing the corruption, injustice, and immorality that had stained the nation. Even the bloodshed of the people had been shamelessly exposed (v.7). By the end of the vision the contents are burned to a carbonized crisp and the pot itself is melted down. It is a bleak picture of judgment.

Yet even here a quiet thread of hope runs through the passage. The destruction of Jerusalem is not merely the triumph of a stronger empire. Babylon is only an instrument. The sovereign Lord is the One overseeing this moment of discipline. And if the Lord is the One who allows the refining fire, then He is also the One who can restore His people when their hearts return to Him. Scripture often uses the imagery of refining to describe God’s work in His people. Read Proverbs 17:3; Psalm 66:10-12; 1 Peter 1:7.

God’s discipline is never meaningless cruelty; it is purposeful refinement. He removes the rust that clings to our hearts and burns away what cannot endure. Though the process can be painful, the goal is restoration and holiness. Through the sanctifying work of Holy Spirit, God shapes His people into vessels fit for His purposes. When we humbly respond to His correction, the very fires that once threatened to consume us become the fires that purify our faith.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: Are there areas in your life where God may be exposing “rust” – habits or attitudes that are distancing you from Him? How have seasons of difficulty or discipline strengthened and refined your faith in the past? In what ways can you respond more quickly to God’s correction so that His refining work produces deeper trust and obedience in your life?

Weekly Memory Verse:

“Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.”

Ezekiel 37:13

Weekly Affirmation:

**LORD, WHAT ARE YOU
WANTING ME TO LEARN
FROM THIS?**

MARCH 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of Ezekiel
- Watch the Bible Project video on Ezekiel (available on the website).
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Listen to or sign a hymn or praise song as part of your daily devotion time this week.