

# **Our God is YHWH**

*A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy*

## **Fury Without Pity**

**Lesson 4**

**Ezekiel 8-9**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
September 22, 2019*

# The Biblical Context of Ezekiel

- ▶ “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40, NASB95)
- ▶ The story-line of the Bible: the revelation of the Son of God and His work of salvation
- ▶ The end point: the rule of Jesus Christ over a holy people in the new heaven and earth
- ▶ The Bible is the book of the Gospel – good news
- ▶ It is a *wonderful* plan – only possible by the Triune God
- ▶ The plan of salvation is gradually revealed through all of Scripture – two key points:
  - The incarnation, death and resurrection of the Son of God
  - Justification by faith the Son of God/Savior

# Israel and the Gospel

- ▶ A surprising key to the Gospel – the great nation (Gen 12:2)
  - First statements in the promise to Abraham: a great nation and a blessing
  - The entire Old Testament is about the nation Israel
  - 2500 years before, and 2600 years (and counting) after Israel's 860 year history
  - Existence of Israel characterized by anarchy and rebellion
  - The New Testament speaks of the nation as rejected by God
  - Paul speaks of their casting away as the cause of world wide Gospel blessing
  - A true and essential feature of the Gospel (Rom 11:12-15)
- ▶ Ezekiel addresses the place of Israel in the plan of God at their lowest point in history
  - 7½ years before the nation is terminated – Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed
  - A message given to the exiles in Babylon – Israel under wrath

# Ezekiel

God is YAHWEH = God is LORD																												593-571 BC = 22 years																			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
the wrath of the LORD God																								the holiness of the LORD God																							
<b>1</b> the call  <b>2</b> the send		4-7 <b>1</b> the coming judgment of Jerusalem 8-11 <b>2</b> God's glory departs from Jerusalem 12-14 <b>3</b> the imminent judgment 15-19 <b>4</b> the unfaithfulness of Israel 20-23 <b>5</b> the rebuke of the elders and Israel																24 <b>1</b> the boiling pot · the sign of Ezekiel 25 <b>2</b> Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia 26-28 <b>3</b> Tyre & Sidon 29-32 <b>4</b> Egypt 33 <b>5</b> the watchman · the fall of Jerusalem												34 <b>1</b> Israel's Shepherd 35 <b>2</b> Mount Seir 36 <b>3</b> Israel's mountains 37 <b>4</b> the dry bones 38-39 <b>5</b> Gog						40-42 <b>1</b> the temple 43-46 <b>2</b> the service 47-48 <b>3</b> the land  YHWH SHAMMAH "the LORD is there"											
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		glory revealed								glory departed								glory restored																													
		593 BC								588 BC								586 BC												571 BC																	

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**the holiness of the LORD God**

<p>1 ① the call</p> <p>2-3 ② the send</p>	<p>4-7 ① the coming judgment of Jerusalem</p> <p>8-11 ② God's glory departs from Jerusalem</p> <p>12-14 ③ the imminent judgment</p> <p>15-19 ④ the unfaithfulness of Israel</p> <p>20-23 ⑤ the rebuke of the elders and Israel</p>	<p>24 ① the boiling pot · the sign of Ezekiel</p> <p>25 ② Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia</p> <p>26-28 ③ Tyre &amp; Sidon</p> <p>29-32 ④ Egypt</p> <p>33 ⑤ the watchman · the fall of Jerusalem</p>	<p>34 ① Israel's Shepherd</p> <p>35 ② Mount Seir</p> <p>36 ③ Israel's mountains</p> <p>37 ④ the dry bones</p> <p>38-39 ⑤ Gog</p>	<p>40-42 ① the temple</p> <p>43-46 ② the service</p> <p>47-48 ③ the land</p> <p><b>YHWH SHAMMAH</b> "the LORD is there"</p>
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glory revealed	glory departed	Jerusalem siege begins	Jerusalem destroyed	glory restored
593 BC		588 BC	586 BC	571 BC



# Main Point: Israel's God is YHWH

- ▶ Not a new name – Genesis 2:4 – “YHWH God”
- ▶ Not a new explanation – Exodus 34:6-7 – YHWH is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and faithfulness; keeping lovingkindness for thousands, forgives iniquity and transgressions and sin but “by no means” clear the guilty
- ▶ The strongest statement in the Bible linking the character of God with history
- ▶ They, or you, “will know that I am YHWH” (x72)
- ▶ LORD (x200) or Lord GOD (x218) in English Bibles
- ▶ Ezekiel begins: “Visions of God” (1:1), and ends: “YHWH is there” (in Jerusalem)
- ▶ Study question: What is the message or act of God that shows He is YHWH? How?
- ▶ Jesus came to reveal God as YHWH – the Savior

# Ezekiel

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# Ezekiel 8 – Abominations in the Temple

- ▶ 6<sup>th</sup> year, 6<sup>th</sup> month, 5<sup>th</sup> day - 420 days after the first vision (8:1-4)
- ▶ Sitting/dwelling in his house
- ▶ A vision of God – compare 1:27 (“a man”) with 8:2 (“a fire”)
- ▶ God is a consuming fire (Exodus 24:17; Hebrews 12:29)
- ▶ Form of a hand caught Ezekiel by a lock of his hair
- ▶ Holy Spirit transported him to Jerusalem at the north gate of the temple
- ▶ The seat of the idol of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy
  - Zeal for another’s property = envy
  - Zeal for one’s own property = jealousy (Ps 69:9; John 2:17; James 4:4-5)
- ▶ The glory of the God of Israel – YHWH (1:18 and 8:4)







# Ezekiel 8 – Abominations in the Temple

- ▶ Greater and still greater abominations in the temple (8:5-17)
- ▶ Unnamed idol of jealousy, north of the altar gate
- ▶ Every form of beasts and detestable things carved on the wall – all idols of Israel
  - 70 elders and Jaazaniah, the son of Shaphan worshiping (Exodus 20:1-8)
  - Committing sin in the dark
  - YHWH does not see us; YHWH has forsaken us – willful sin (Rom 1:21-23)
- ▶ Women weeping for Tammuz
- ▶ 25 men worshiping the sun with their backs to the Temple (Deut 4:19)

# Ezekiel 8 – Abominations in the Temple

- ▶ The sins of the nation
  - Abominations in the house of YHWH – without concern
  - Violence fills the land
  - Repeated provocation of YHWH
- ▶ The wages of sin
  - “I indeed will deal in wrath”
  - “My eye will have no pity”
  - “I will not spare”
  - “I will not hear their cries . . . I will not listen to them”
- ▶ Sins in defiance of the character of YHWH will experience the character of YHWH
- ▶ This is God’s assessment of the conduct of the nation Israel

# Ezekiel 9 – Fury Without Pity

- ▶ YHWH calls the executioners with weapons of destruction
  - They assemble by the bronze altar (Exodus 25:40)
  - 6 men with weapons of destruction
  - 1 man dressed in linen with a writing case
- ▶ The glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub - to the front of the temple
- ▶ The man in linen – preservation of the righteous
- ▶ Executioners – heavenly watchmen execute judgment
- ▶ A call to defile the temple with dead bodies
- ▶ Ezekiel feared for the remnant because of wrath on Jerusalem



# Ezekiel 9 – Fury Without Pity

- ▶ YHWH . . . “will by no means clear the guilty”
  - The iniquity of the house of Israel was very, very great
    - Violence/murder through the land
    - Perversion in the Temple (Jerusalem)
    - Accusing YHWH of leaving them
- ▶ YHWH’S eye will show no pity but bring the consequences of their action upon them
- ▶ The man in linen completed his task
- ▶ “in wrath, remember mercy” (Hab 3:2)

# Our God is YHWH

- ▶ What do these chapters say to our generation of Gentile believers?
  - They show God's view of sinful man
  - They show the wrath of God against sin – “fury without pity”
  - They show a protected people
- ▶ The story of Israel requires their survival because their God is YHWH
- ▶ The full meaning of Lord YHWH is seen in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ