# 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

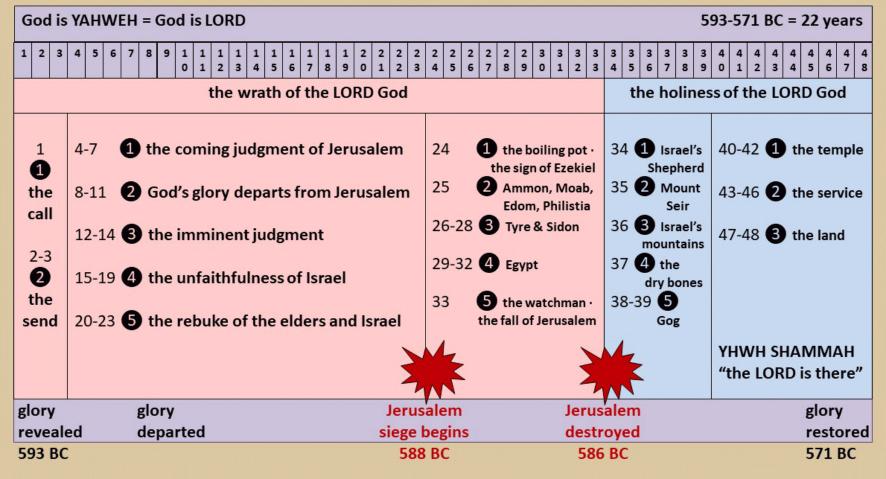
# **The Biblical Context of Ezekiel**

- "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
  - $-7\frac{1}{2}$  years before the nation is terminated Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed
  - A message given to the exiles in Babylon Israel under wrath

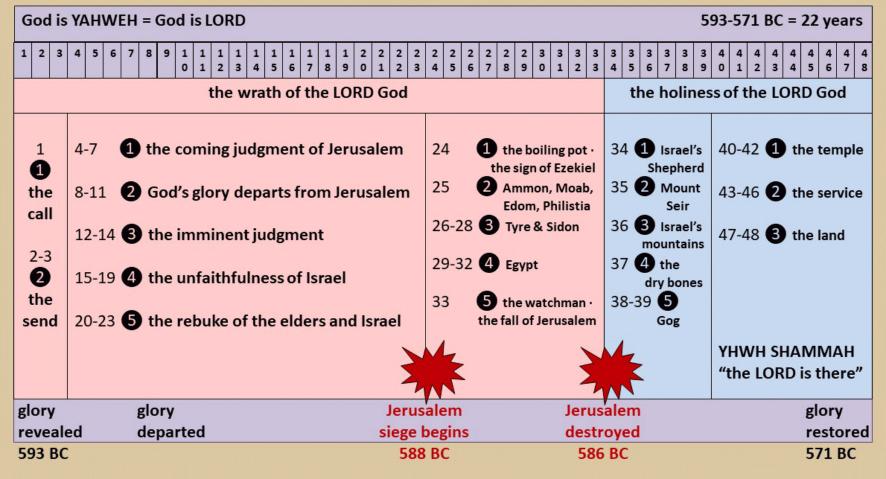
#### Ezekiel



## Main Point: Israel's God is YHWH

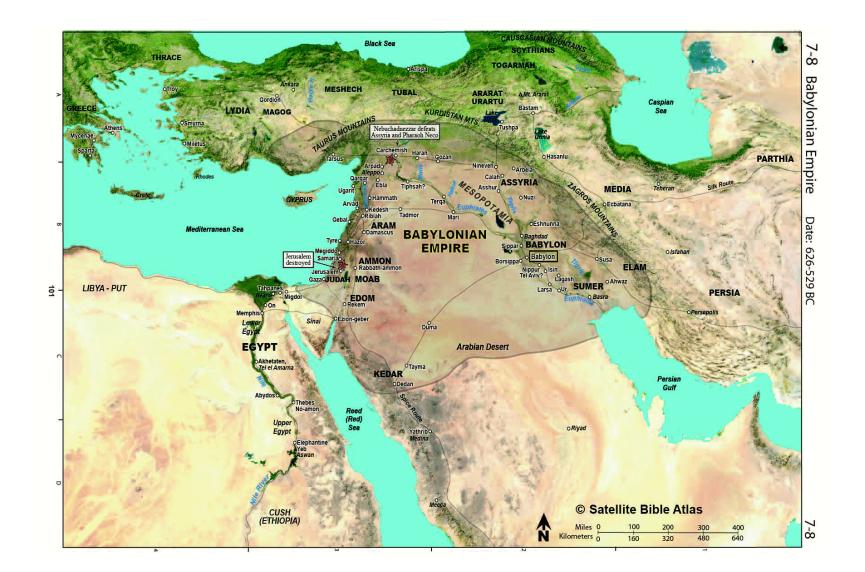
- Not a new name Genesis 2:4 "YHWH God"
- Not a new explanation Exodus 34:6-7 YHWH is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and faithfulness; keeping lovingkindness for thousands, forgives iniquity and transgressions and sin but "by no means" clear the guilty
- The strongest 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



### **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 destestable 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