

# **Our God is YHWH**

*A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy*

## **Visions of God**

**Lesson 1**

**Ezekiel 1-3**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
September 1, 2019*

# A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy

- ▶ A closed book and a neglected book
- ▶ Study book – questions and chapter summaries
- ▶ Ezekiel (commentary) by Ralph Alexander
- ▶ Wednesday night discussion

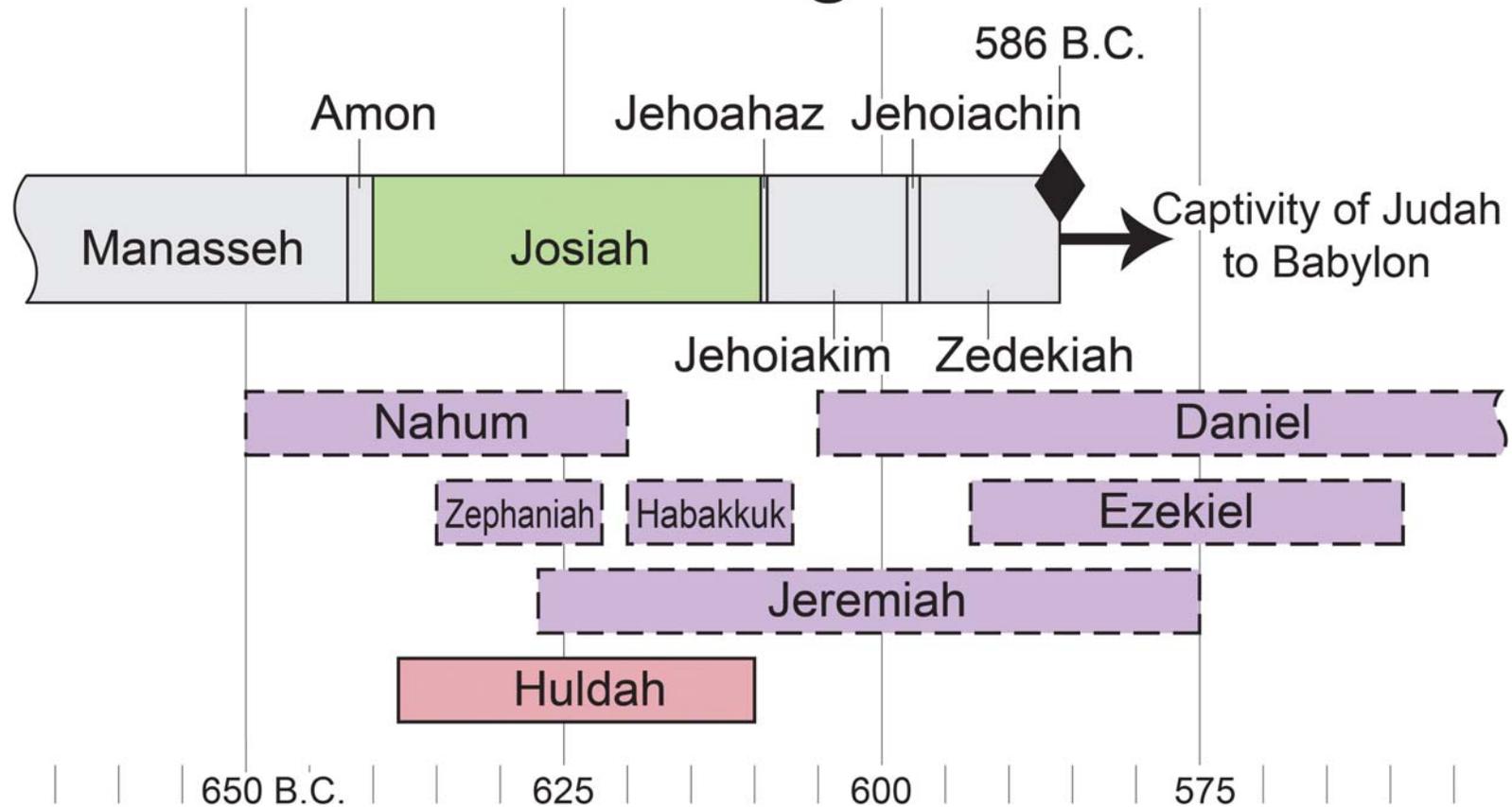
# The Purpose of Ezekiel's Prophecy

- ▶ Names of God:
  - ELOHIM: God – incommunicable attributes; incomprehensible (1 Timothy 6:15-16)
  - ADONAI: Lord – sovereign
  - YHWH (Yahweh) GOD or LORD – the stoopingness of God (Psalm 113:5-9)
  - Different aspects of the One True God revealed in these 3 names
- ▶ Ezekiel's purpose:
  - “. . . you will know that I am YHWH” or “ that I, YHWH, have . . .” – x76
  - Exodus (x14) and Ezekiel emphasize the message that God is YHWH
- ▶ YHWH reveals God as the Savior (Exodus 34:5-7; Romans 3:26)
  - Compassion, grace, longsuffering, lovingkindness, faithfulness, forgiving, justice, wrath
- ▶ “YHWH” not found in the N.T. Jesus is YHWH in the flesh (Matthew 1:21 – YHWH is salvation)
- ▶ Read Ezekiel to learn what it means that “God is YHWH”

# Historical Setting

- ▶ The promise of great nation ruled by a Son of David (Gen. 12; 1 Sam 7)
- ▶ 860 years of national existence characterized by rebellion
- ▶ 10 tribes already taken out of the land for their sin
- ▶ The remaining nation of Judah in its final 7½ years of existence
- ▶ The final good king, Josiah followed by 3 wicked sons and a grandson
  - Jehoahaz (#2), Jehoiakim (#1), Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (#3)
- ▶ Jerusalem defeated 3 times by Nebuchadnezzar
  - 605 B.C. - Daniel and others taken into exile
  - 597 B.C. - King Jehoiachin taken into exile . . . and Ezekiel
  - 586 B.C. - Fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple

# The Final Kings of Judah



# Ezekiel – Structure

- ▶ Important dates in Ezekiel
  - Beginning of Ezekiel's ministry (593 B.C. - 5<sup>th</sup> year) – Ezekiel 1:2
  - Beginning of the siege of Jerusalem (588 B.C. - 9<sup>th</sup> year) – Ezekiel 24:1-2
  - Fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C. - 12<sup>th</sup> year) – Ezekiel 33:21
  - Final vision of the restored nation (573 B.C. - 25<sup>th</sup> year) – Ezekiel 40:1
- ▶ 2 major messages
  - A message of wrath (Ezekiel 1-33) - 11 visions in 7½ years
  - A message of hope (Ezekiel 34-48) - 2 visions in 586 B.C. and 573 B.C.

## Dates in Ezekiel's Ministry

Ref.	Event	Ezekiel's date (d/m/y)	Julian calendar (d/m/y)
<b>Visions Before the Siege of Jerusalem</b>			
1:1	Ezekiel's age at his call	5 - 4 - 30	31 July 593
1:2	Ezekiel's call and message	5 - (4) - 5	31 July 593
8:1	The case against Israel	5 - 6 - 6	17 Sept 592
20:1	The justice of the Lord GOD	10 - 5 - 7	9 Aug 591
<b>Visions During the Siege of Jerusalem</b>			
24:1	Woe to the bloody city	10 - 10 - 10	15 Jan 588
26:1	Oracle against Tyre	1 - (11) - 11	12 Feb 586
29:1	Oracle against Egypt	12 - 10 - 10	7 Jan 587
29:17	The message to Egypt	1 - 1 - 27	26 Apr 571
30:20	Babylon's victory over Egypt	7 - 1 - 11	29 Apr 587
31:1	Warning to Pharaoh	1 - 3 - 11	21 Jun 587
32:1	Lament over Pharaoh	1 - 12 - 12	3 Mar 585
32:17	Pharaoh in the grave A reminder to the watchman	15 - (12) - 12	17 Mar 585
<b>Visions after the Fall of Jerusalem</b>			
33:21	Night visions after the fall	05 - 10 - 12	19 Jan 586
40:1	Vision of New Jerusalem	10 - 1 - 25	28 Apr 573

# Outline of Ezekiel

- ▶ The wrath of the Lord GOD (1-33)
  - The call of Ezekiel (1-3)
  - Messages of wrath for Jerusalem (4-23)
  - Message of wrath during the siege of Jerusalem (23-33)
- ▶ The holiness of the Lord GOD (34-48)
  - The restoration of the nation Israel (34-39)
  - The presence of the LORD restored in Jerusalem (40-48)

# Lesson 1: Visions of God

- ▶ Introduction to the book (1:1-3)
- ▶ A vision of the LORD (1:4-28)
- ▶ The call of Ezekiel (2-3)

# Introduction (1:1-3)

- ▶ Ezekiel's 30th birthday
- ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> year of the exile of king Jehoiachin (593 B.C.)
- ▶ Heavens opened and he saw visions of God
  - The word of the LORD came to him
  - The hand of the LORD was upon Him

# The Vision of God (1:4-28)

- ▶ First of 5 visions (1:4-28; 3:23; 8:4; 10:4, 18-19; 43:2-5)
- ▶ 4 living creatures – cherubim (1:5-14; 10:20)
  - 4 faces; 4 wings; 4 hands; legs like a man; calves' hoofs
  - Fire in the midst of the cherubim
- ▶ 4 wheels – rims of eyes and a wheel within a wheel (1:15-21)
  - Movement straight forward
- ▶ A platform/firmament above the cherubim (1:22-25)
- ▶ A throne and a figure like a man on the throne (1:26-27)
  - Appearance like a rainbow in the clouds
- ▶ The appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD (1:28)
- ▶ The foundation of Ezekiel's ministry, not mere drama

# The Call of Ezekiel (2:1-3:11)

- ▶ His title – son of man (x93) – human instrument to reveal YHWH
- ▶ To the sons of Israel; to the exiles (2:3; 3:11)
  - Nations of rebels against YHWH (2:3, 5, 6, 7, 8; 3:9)
  - Hard face and strong/stiff heart; not a language problem (2:4; 3:5, 6, 8)
  - Opposition to Ezekiel because they oppose YHWH (2:3)
  - Repeated warning that they will not listen (2:5, 7; 3:7, 11)
  - They will know that a prophet of YHWH was there (2:5)
- ▶ Speak the word of YHWH (2:4, 7; 3:1, 4, 11)
  - The double sided scroll – lamentations, mourning, woe (2:10)
  - Do not be afraid of their words or personal injury (2:6)
  - Eat the scroll – internalize the Word (2:8; 3:3, 10)
  - Do not stop speaking even if they will not hear

## Seven Days at Tel-abib (3:12-15)

- ▶ The Spirit lifted him up and took him from before the vision of God
- ▶ “Blessed be the glory of the LORD in His place” (3:12)
- ▶ Embittered in the rage of his spirit (3:14)
- ▶ The hand of the LORD was upon him (3:14)
- ▶ Ezekiel was astonished – desolation caused by judgment (3:15)

# The Work of a Watchman (3:16-21)

- ▶ The word of the LORD came to him after 7 days
- ▶ Appointment to be a watchman: “You will surely die.”
- ▶ Solemn obligation – “His blood will be required at your hand.”
- ▶ It is required of a steward to be faithful (1 Cor 4:2)
- ▶ A new emphasis: personal not collective responsibility

# The Silent Prophet (3:22-27)

- ▶ The vision of God on the plain
- ▶ Shut yourself up in your house
- ▶ The LORD made him mute – only able to speak the word of the LORD
- ▶ The result rested purely upon the spoken word of the LORD

# The Lesson of Ezekiel's Call

- ▶ YHWH is revealing Himself to His people as the Savior – the Divine pursuit
- ▶ The people of His pleasure are beyond human help
- ▶ YHWH sends help by a son of man with the Spirit of YHWH, the hand of YHWH and the Word of YHWH
- ▶ Ezekiel's ministry – a type of the incarnation of Son of God: the Son of man, endowed with the Spirit of God and always and only the Word of God reveals and accomplishes the work of the salvation of God.
- ▶ Ezekiel is a type of the believer today: proclaim the word of Christ