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
Ezekiel – Structure

- Important dates in Ezekiel
  - Beginning of Ezekiel’s ministry (593 B.C. - 5th year) – Ezekiel 1:2
  - Beginning of the siege of Jerusalem (588 B.C. - 9th year) – Ezekiel 24:1-2
  - Fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C. - 12th year) – Ezekiel 33:21
  - Final vision of the restored nation (573 B.C. - 25th 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

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