

Our God is YHWH

A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy

A Clay Tablet and a Barber's Razor

Lesson 2

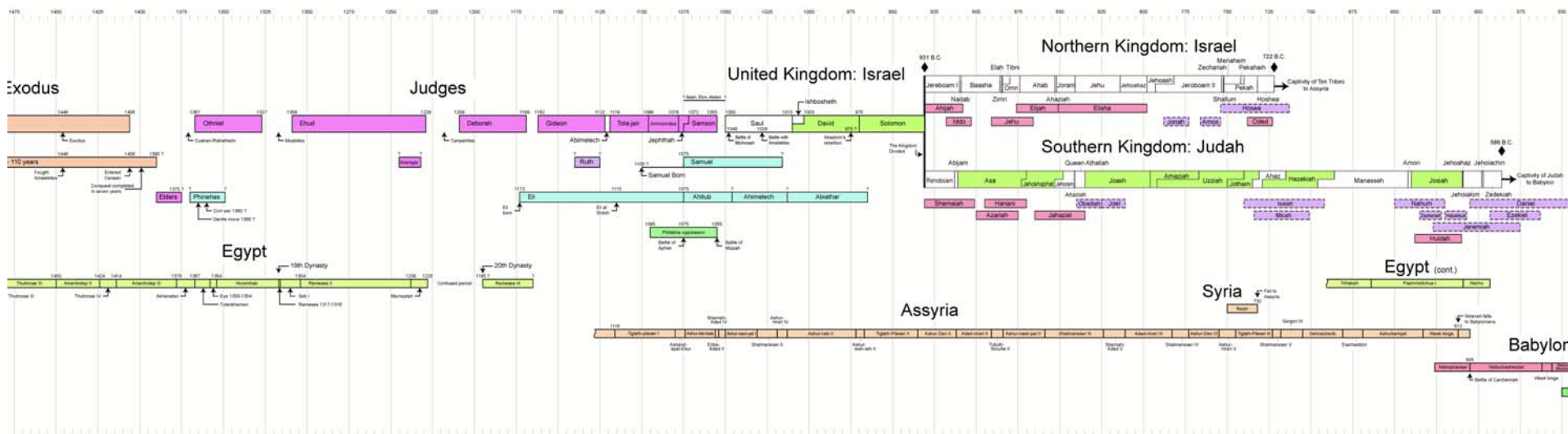
Ezekiel 4-5

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 2, 2019*

The History of the Nation Israel

- ▶ Nation formed at the Exodus (1446 B.C.)
- ▶ The Promised Land secured (1399 B.C.)
- ▶ Years of anarchy (1399 B.C. to 1000 B.C.)
- ▶ Israel ruled by David and Solomon (1000 B.C. to 931 B.C.)
- ▶ The Divided Kingdom (931 B.C. to 722 B.C.)
- ▶ The Kingdom of Judah (722 B.C. to 586 B.C.)

- ▶ Three final captivities by Nebuchadnezzar
 - 605 B.C. – Daniel and his 3 companions
 - 597 B.C. – King Jehoiachin with Ezekiel
 - 586 B.C. – All but the poor of the land, and Jeremiah



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

Dates in Ezekiel's ministry

Ref.	Event	Ezekiel's date (d/m/y)	Julian calendar (d/m/y)
Visions Before the Siege of Jerusalem			
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
Visions During the Siege of Jerusalem			
24:1	Woe to the bloody city	10 – 10 – 9	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' 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
Visions after the Fall of Jerusalem			
33:21	Night visions after the fall	05 – 10 – 12	19 Jan 586
40:1	Visions of the future in Israel: the temple, the land & the city	10 – 1 – 25	28 Apr 573

Governing Promises for Israel

- ▶ The promise of a great nation from Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)
- ▶ The Law of Moses (Exodus 20; Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28-32)
- ▶ The reality of the history of Israel – rebellious and faithless
- ▶ Ezekiel reveals God's plan to reconcile his faithfulness and justice

The Purpose of Ezekiel's Ministry

- ▶ God wants them to know that He is YHWH – stated 65 times
- ▶ The Lord YHWH declares or says – stated 212 times
- ▶ God is unknowable – none can see Him – in unapproachable light
 - YHWH presents a different aspect of God (Exodus 34:5-7)
 - YHWH is the God who stoops to lift us from the ash heap (Psalm 113)
 - His name tells us that He is unlike anything man imagines about God

Ezekiel – the Vision of YHWH (1:4-28)

- ▶ The heavens were opened – to see visions of God
 - The word of YHWH came to him
 - The hand of YHWH was upon him
- ▶ The vision of the glory of YHWH (1:28)
 - Incomprehensible vision
 - Coming to His people in Babylon
 - Moves straight forward (1:12)
 - An image on an exalted throne
 - The form of a man – anticipates the incarnation
 - The rainbow around Him – the reminder of the everlasting covenant
- ▶ The vision of God is foundational – the unknowable God comes to His people

Ezekiel's Call (2-3)

- ▶ Represents YHWH as a son of man – emphasizes his humanity (x93)
- ▶ Has the word of YHWH in his heart (1:10)
- ▶ Sent to a hard, rebellious people who will not listen
- ▶ The watchman of the house of Israel – solemn duty with divine enablement
- ▶ Confined to his house without ability to speak
- ▶ Visual aids, visions, messages – but no personal speech

Messages of Wrath (4-23)

- ▶ Enacting the the siege and fall of Jerusalem (4-5)
- ▶ The visual aid explained (6-7)
- ▶ The vision in Jerusalem (8-11)
- ▶ The imminence of judgment (12-14)
- ▶ The unfaithfulness of Israel (15-19)
- ▶ The closing argument against the nation (20-23)

The Siege of Jerusalem (4)

- ▶ The model of the siege (4:1-4)
 - A stone table with an engraving of the city of Jerusalem
 - Siege works around the city
 - The iron griddle (Leviticus 2:5; 6:21; 1 Chronicles 23:29)
 - A most holy offering
 - The son of man blocked from helping the city (Isaiah 59:2)
- ▶ The posture of Ezekiel (4:5-8)
 - Lay on left side for 390 days – bear the iniquity of Israel – a day for a year
 - Lay on right side for 40 days – bear the iniquity of Judah – a day for a year
 - Prophecy against the city
 - Restrained by ropes – symbol of submission

The Siege of Jerusalem (4)

- ▶ The diet for the siege (4:9-17)
 - Ezekiel bread
 - wheat, barley, lentils, millet, spelt
 - 8 oz of bread daily (440 calories)
 - Water – 22 ounces daily
 - Unclean – bread baked over human waste
 - Ezekiel permitted to avoid the uncleanness
 - Lord YHWH sends them into a situation of spiritual impurity and physical need
 - They will waste away in their iniquity
 - God judges sin with sin and physical suffering

The Fall of Jerusalem (5)

- ▶ The word of YHWH – use a sharp sword to shave your head and beard (5:1-4)
 - 1/3 to be burned with fire in the middle of the city after the siege
 - 1/3 to be chopped up with a sword around the city
 - 1/3 to be scattered to the wind
 - A few in number to be bound in the edges of his robe but burn some
- ▶ This is Jerusalem - set by Lord YHWH at the center of the nations (5:5-7)
 - A central position and central role intended – all nations to be blessed
 - The permanent dwelling place of Lord YHWH
 - Rebellion – worse than the nations
 - Rejected YHWH'S ordinances and statutes
 - Reject the civil order of the nations
 - Defiled YHWH'S Temple (5:11)
 - The root sin: unbelief

The Fall of Jerusalem (5)

- ▶ Lord YHWH is against Jerusalem (5:8-17)
 - In the sight of the nations – the blessed nation becomes the accursed nation
 - Wrath without parallel in history – before or ever again
 - I will execute judgments on you and scatter all your remnant to the wind (5:10)
 - YHWH will withdraw and have no pity and will not spare (5:11)
 - YHWH'S anger spent; His wrath satisfied; He will be appeased (5:13)
 - Divine judgments in anger, wrath, raging rebukes (5:15)
 - Judgments with zeal
 - Cannibalism in families (5:10)
 - 1/3 die by plague of famine (5:12)
 - 1/3 die by the sword (5:12)
 - 1/3 scattered through the earth but threatened by the sword (5:12)
 - They will be a desolation and reproach in the sight of all nations (5:14 Lamentations 2:15-16)
 - They will be reproach, a reviling, a warning, an object of horror to the nations (5:15)
 - Deadly arrows of famine against their enemies and the house of Israel (5:16)
 - Famine; wild beasts against your children; plague; bloodshed; the sword

The Divine Purpose

- ▶ They will know that I, YHWH, have spoken in My zeal (5:13)
- ▶ I, YHWH, have spoken (5:15)
- ▶ I, YHWH, have spoken (5:17)
- ▶ Our God is a consuming fire (Exodus 24:17; Deut 4:24; 9:3; Hebrews 12:29)
- ▶ The flame of unquenchable fire (Matthew 4:11-12)

Our God is YHWH

- ▶ He is angry against sin
- ▶ “He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”
- ▶ “YHWH, YHWH God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin.”
- ▶ Trust in Him for salvation from our sins
- ▶ Give thanks to YHWH, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.”
(1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 29; 136:1)
- ▶ Lovingkindness of God reconciled with Wrath of God in Jesus Christ