

Our God is YHWH

A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy

A Clay Tablet and a Barber's Razor

Lesson 2

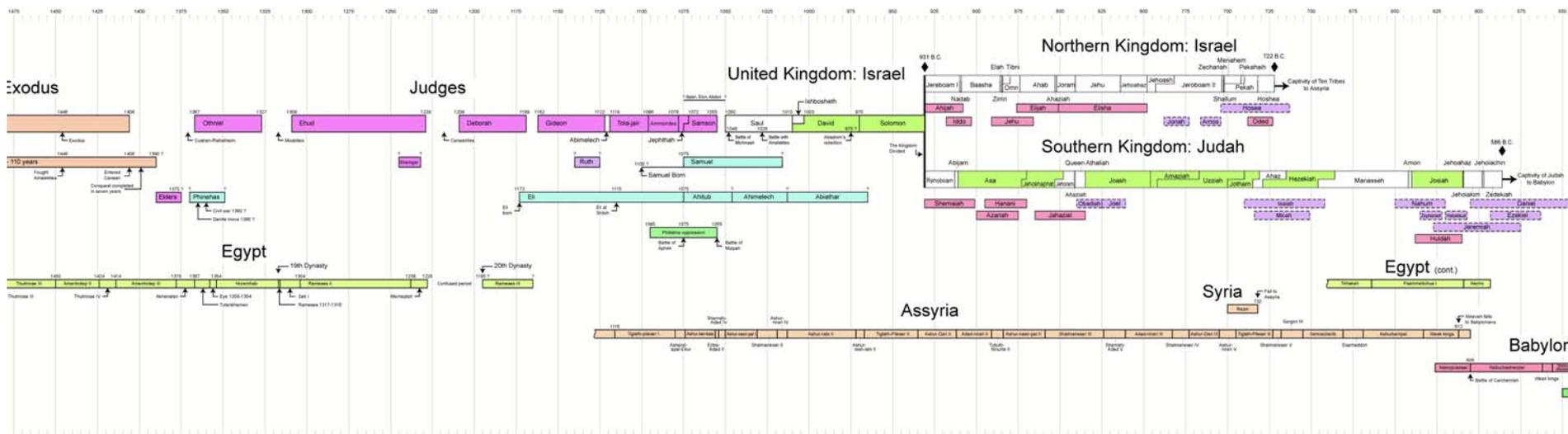
Ezekiel 4-5

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