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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeral</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>The call</td>
<td>593 BC</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>The send</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>The coming judgment of Jerusalem</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>8-11</td>
<td>God’s glory departs from Jerusalem</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>12-14</td>
<td>The imminent judgment</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>The unfaithfulness of Israel</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>20-23</td>
<td>The rebuke of the elders and Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>The boiling pot · the sign of Ezekiel</td>
<td>588 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>Tyre &amp; Sidon</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>29-32</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>The watchman · the fall of Jerusalem</td>
<td>586 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>34-39</td>
<td>Israel’s Shepherd, Mount Seir, Israel’s mountains, the dry bones, Gog</td>
<td>571 BC</td>
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**Messages of Wrath for Jerusalem**

**Messages of Wrath During the Siege**

**Restoration of Israel**

**Restoration of the LORD’s Presence**

**Jerusalem siege begins**

**Jerusalem destroyed**

**glory revealed**

**glory departed**

**glory restored**

**YHWH SHAMMAH “the LORD is there”**
## Dates in Ezekiel’s ministry

<table>
<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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<tbody>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>24:1</td>
<td>Woe to the bloody city</td>
<td>10 – 10 – 9</td>
<td>15 Jan 588</td>
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<tr>
<td>26:1</td>
<td>Oracle against Tyre</td>
<td>1 – (11) – 11</td>
<td>12 Feb 586</td>
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<tr>
<td>29:1</td>
<td>Oracle against Egypt</td>
<td>12 – 10 – 10</td>
<td>7 Jan 587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29:17</td>
<td>The message to Egypt</td>
<td>1 – 1 – 27</td>
<td>26 Apr 571</td>
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<tr>
<td>30:20</td>
<td>Babylon's victory over Egypt</td>
<td>7 – 1 – 11</td>
<td>29 Apr 587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31:1</td>
<td>Warning to Pharaoh</td>
<td>1 – 3 – 11</td>
<td>21 Jun 587</td>
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<tr>
<td>32:1</td>
<td>Lament over Pharaoh</td>
<td>1 – 12 – 12</td>
<td>3 Mar 585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32:17</td>
<td>Pharaoh in the grave A reminder to the watchman</td>
<td>15 – (12) – 12</td>
<td>17 Mar 585</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Visions after the Fall of Jerusalem</strong></td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>40:1</td>
<td>Visions of the future in Israel: the temple, the land &amp; the city</td>
<td>10 – 1 – 25</td>
<td>28 Apr 573</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 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