Our God is YHWH
A Study of Ezekiel’s Prophecy

Payday for Sin
Lesson 3
Ezekiel 6-7

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 15, 2019
The Gospel in Ezekiel

- Salvation from sin and the curse through the cross of Jesus Christ (Heb. 13:20-21)
- The death of the Son of God who is the Son of Man (Gen. 3:15)
- The critical role of the nation Israel (Gen. 12:2) – a land and a monarchy
- A slow process in history
  - Compared to Ishmael (Gen. 25:12-18) and Esau (Gen. 36:31)
  - Patriarchs were aliens in the Promised Land – only possessed a graveyard
  - In Egypt for 400 years and ended up in slavery
- Became a great nation in Egypt (Deut 26:5; 2 Sam. 7:23-26)
- The Law of Moses defined the nation: a holy nation and a kingdom of priests (Ex 19:6)
- History revealed that they were neither a holy nation nor a kingdom of priests
  - 446 years of anarchy under judges and king Saul
  - 414 years of rebellion under the Davidic monarchy and in the divided kingdom
  - Superficial religion (Psalm 78:34-39)
Time Line of the Nation Israel
The Ministry of Ezekiel

- Ezekiel the priest, with exiles in Babylon for 5 years, is called to be a prophet
- False prophets prophesy relief (Jer 28) but Ezekiel will prophecy judgment (3:18)
- A spectacular vision of God – the fire, the figure of a man, and the rainbow
- A distinctive ministry:
  - The hand of YHWH, the word of YHWH, the Spirit of YHWH (1:3; 2:2; 3:10-11)
  - Mute, except for the word of YHWH – for 7½ years
  - A strange title: son of man
  - A purpose: to teach that their God is YHWH
The table outlines the events and themes in the Book of Ezekiel, written by the Prophet Ezekiel during the Babylonian captivity of Jerusalem. The table categorizes the prophetic messages into themes such as the coming judgment of Jerusalem, God’s glory departing, and the imminent judgment. The historical timeline is marked from 593 BC to 571 BC, highlighting key events like the fall of Jerusalem in 588 BC and the restoration in 571 BC. The table also indicates the presence of various prophetic visions and narratives such as the boiling pot, Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, Egypt, the dry bones, and Gog. The focus is on understanding the sequence of events and the prophetic messages delivered by Ezekiel to the exiles in Babylon.
Payday for Sin (Ezekiel 6-7)

- Ezekiel 6
  - I Myself am bringing a sword (6:1-7)
  - I will leave a remnant (6:8-10)
  - I will spend My wrath on all your habitations (6:11-14)

- Ezekiel 7
  - The end is coming soon (7:1-9)
  - Behold the day: a payday for sin (7:10-27)
Prophesy to the Mountains of Israel (6)

- The word of the Sovereign YHWH to the land of Israel (6:1-7)
  - The coming sword (6:3)
  - Destruction of idol worship sites (6:4)
  - Death to the idolatrous people (6:4b-5)
  - Destruction of idol worship sites, including their homes (6:6)
  - Death to idolatrous people (6:7a)
  - “You will know that I am YHWH” (6:7b)
    - The necessity of knowing YHWH (Hosea 4:1; 5:4; 6:6)
    - YHWH will by no means leave the guilty unpunished (Exodus 34:7)
    - YHWH fulfills His word (Lev 26; Deut 28-29)
Prophesy to the Mountains of Israel (6)

- “I will leave a remnant” (6:8-10)
  - Among those who escaped the sword and were scattered to the wind (5:2-4; 6:8)
  - Remnant preserved because of the character of YHWH (Psalm 98:1-3)
  - The remnant to retain the purpose of God for Israel (12:16:14:22-23)
  - They will remember their God (6:9)
    - They will realize the offense of their adulterous hearts and eyes – turned from God to idols
    - They will loathe themselves for their evils and abominations.
  - They will know that their God is YHWH – His ways are not in vain.
The rebels among the exiles (6:11-14)
- Clap your hands and stomp your feet – derision and disgust (Lam 2:15)
- The house of Israel will fall by sword, famine, and plague for their evil.
- Both far and near – location will be no protection
- God will spend His wrath on them
  - For idolatry
    - All their habitations will be more desolate than “the wilderness toward Diblah”
- Then they will know that their God is YHWH – by His wrath toward them
The Inevitable Punishment (7:1-27)

- The end is coming (7:1-4)
  - “The end is coming” — stated 4 times in 2 verses
  - To the land of Israel — no land means no nation
  - I will send My anger
  - I will judge you according to your ways
  - I will not spare you — no pity
  - I will bring your ways on you and your abominations — given over to sin
  - You will know that I am YHWH (7:4) — the instructive intent
The Inevitable Punishment (7:1-27)

- A unique disaster is coming (7:5-9)
  - Nothing like it in history – before or after (5:9)
  - The imminence is illustrated with the figure of one awakening from sleep
  - Their doom has come to them
    - “doom” is a crown or wreath – the reward for their ways
    - A reward of tumult and not the expected joy for the course they had chosen
  - Verses 8-9 repeat verses 3-4 – emphasizes the wrath and the lesson
  - They would learn that their God is YHWH by “the smiting”
  - The end is the destruction of the Temple, Jerusalem, and the nation
The Inevitable Punishment (7:1-27)

- The end of the nation Israel as it then existed
  - Israel is not the Church
  - The Church is the Body of Christ (Eph 2:22) – describes union with Christ
  - Israel is a nation consisting of the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
  - The remnant are true believers – the Israel of God (Gal 6:15-16)
    - Characterized by a new heart (Rom 2:28-29; 9:6, 27-29; Gal 3:7; Eph 2:11-13)
  - The remnant will finally fulfill their purpose (Rom 11:12, 25-29)
  - The end will come for the pretenders of Israel
The Inevitable Punishment (7:1-27)

- Behold the day! (7:10-27)
  - Doom – the wages of sin – the rod budded
  - Neither the buyer or the seller will survive in their iniquity
  - No one will respond to the trumpet call to assemble the defenses
  - The sword, the plague and the famine will not be stopped
  - The survivors will be no better off
  - Fear and shame will dominate the people
  - Their silver and gold will be useless to them
  - Their iniquity will destroy them

- The beauty of His ornaments – were profaned so He will profane them
- They will be enslaved by the worst of the nations – Babylon
- No peace, no prophet, no priest, no elder, no king, no prince
- Only God’s judgment by which they will learn that God is YHWH
Payday for Sin

- The history of Israel is given for our learning (1 Cor 10:6)
- YHWH will by no means leave the guilty unpunished (Exodus 34:7)
- Our God is a consuming fire (Deut 4:24; Heb 12:29)
- God’s longsuffering is not indifference
- Grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)