Our God is YHWH
A Study of Ezekiel’s Prophecy

Fury Without Pity
Lesson 4
Ezekiel 8-9

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 22, 2019
The Biblical Context of Ezekiel

- “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40, NASB95)
- The story-line of the Bible: the revelation of the Son of God and His work of salvation
- The end point: the rule of Jesus Christ over a holy people in the new heaven and earth
- The Bible is the book of the Gospel – good news
- It is a wonderful plan – only possible by the Triune God
- The plan of salvation is gradually revealed through all of Scripture – two key points:
  - The incarnation, death and resurrection of the Son of God
  - Justification by faith the Son of God/Savior
Israel and the Gospel

- A surprising key to the Gospel – the great nation (Gen 12:2)
  - First statements in the promise to Abraham: a great nation and a blessing
  - The entire Old Testament is about the nation Israel
  - 2500 years before, and 2600 years (and counting) after Israel’s 860 year history
  - Existence of Israel characterized by anarchy and rebellion
  - The New Testament speaks of the nation as rejected by God
  - Paul speaks of their casting away as the cause of world wide Gospel blessing
  - A true and essential feature of the Gospel (Rom 11:12-15)

- Ezekiel addresses the place of Israel in the plan of God at their lowest point in history
  - 7½ years before the nation is terminated – Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed
  - A message given to the exiles in Babylon – Israel under wrath
## Ezekiel

God is YAHWEH = God is LORD

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### the wrath of the LORD God

- **1 the call**
  - 4-7 1 the coming judgment of Jerusalem
  - 8-11 2 God's glory departs from Jerusalem
  - 12-14 3 the imminent judgment
  - 15-19 4 the unfaithfulness of Israel
  - 20-23 5 the rebuke of the elders and Israel

### the holiness of the LORD God

- 24 1 the boiling pot - the sign of Ezekiel
  - 25 2 Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia
  - 26-28 3 Tyre & Sidon
  - 29-32 4 Egypt
  - 33 5 the watchman - the fall of Jerusalem

### YHWH SHAMMAH “the LORD is there”

- 34 1 Israel's Shepherd
  - 35 2 Mount Seir
  - 36 3 Israel's mountains
  - 37 4 the dry bones
  - 38-39 5 Gog

### Timeline

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  - 593 BC: Glory revealed
  - 593-571 BC: 22 years
  - 588 BC: Jerusalem siege begins
  - 586 BC: Jerusalem destroyed
  - 571 BC: Glory restored
Main Point: Israel’s God is YHWH

- Not a new name – Genesis 2:4 – “YHWH God”
- Not a new explanation – Exodus 34:6-7 – YHWH is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and faithfulness; keeping lovingkindness for thousands, forgives iniquity and transgressions and sin but “by no means” clear the guilty
- The strongest statement in the Bible linking the character of God with history
- They, or you, “will know that I am YHWH” (x72)
- LORD (x200) or Lord GOD (x218) in English Bibles
- Ezekiel begins: “Visions of God” (1:1), and ends: “YHWH is there” (in Jerusalem)
- Study question: What is the message or act of God that shows He is YHWH? How?
- Jesus came to reveal God as YHWH – the Savior
# Ezekiel

God is YAHWEH = God is LORD  
593-571 BC = 22 years

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10. 33 the watchman: the fall of Jerusalem
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12. 35 Mount Seir
13. 36 Israel's mountains
14. 37 the dry bones
15. 38-39 Gog
16. 40-42 the temple
17. 43-46 the service
18. 47-48 the land
19. YHWH SHAMMAH “the LORD is there”

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Ezekiel 8 – Abominations in the Temple

- 6th year, 6th month, 5th day - 420 days after the first vision (8:1-4)
- Sitting/dwelling in his house
- A vision of God – compare 1:27 (“a man”) with 8:2 (“a fire”)
- God is a consuming fire (Exodus 24:17; Hebrews 12:29)
- Form of a hand caught Ezekiel by a lock of his hair
- Holy Spirit transported him to Jerusalem at the north gate of the temple
- The seat of the idol of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy
  - Zeal for another’s property = envy
  - Zeal for one’s own property = jealousy (Ps 69:9; John 2:17; James 4:4-5)
- The glory of the God of Israel – YHWH (1:18 and 8:4)
Ezekiel 8 – Abominations in the Temple

- Greater and still greater abominations in the temple (8:5-17)
- Unnamed idol of jealousy, north of the altar gate
- Every form of beasts and destestable things carved on the wall – all idols of Israel
  – 70 elders and Jaazaniah, the son of Shaphan worshiping (Exodus 20:1-8)
  – Committing sin in the dark
  – YHWH does not see us; YHWH has forsaken us – willful sin (Rom 1:21-23)
- Women weeping for Tammuz
- 25 men worshiping the sun with their backs to the Temple (Deut 4:19)
Ezekiel 8 – Abominations in the Temple

- The sins of the nation
  - Abominations in the house of YHWH – without concern
  - Violence fills the land
  - Repeated provocation of YHWH
- The wages of sin
  - “I indeed will deal in wrath”
  - “My eye will have no pity”
  - “I will not spare”
  - “I will not hear their cries . . . I will not listen to them”
- Sins in defiance of the character of YHWH will experience the character of YHWH
- This is God’s assessment of the conduct of the nation Israel
Ezekiel 9 – Fury Without Pity

- YHWH calls the executioners with weapons of destruction
  - They assemble by the bronze altar (Exodus 25:40)
  - 6 men with weapons of destruction
  - 1 man dressed in linen with a writing case
- The glory of the God of Israel went up from the cherub - to the front of the temple
- The man in linen – preservation of the righteous
- Executioners – heavenly watchmen execute judgment
- A call to defile the temple with dead bodies
- Ezekiel feared for the remnant because of wrath on Jerusalem
Ezekiel 9 – Fury Without Pity

- YHWH . . . “will by no means clear the guilty”
  - The iniquity of the house of Israel was very, very great
    - Violence/murder through the land
    - Perversion in the Temple (Jerusalem)
    - Accusing YHWH of leaving them
- YHWH’S eye will show no pity but bring the consequences of their action upon them
- The man in linen completed his task
- “in wrath, remember mercy” (Hab 3:2)
Our God is YHWH

- What do these chapters say to our generation of Gentile believers?
  - They show God’s view of sinful man
  - They show the wrath of God against sin – “fury without pity”
  - They show a protected people

- The story of Israel requires their survival because their God is YHWH
- The full meaning of Lord YHWH is seen in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ