

# **Our God is YHWH**

*A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy*

## **Rebellion and Nonsense**

**Lesson 6**

**Ezekiel 12-14**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
September 6, 2019*

# 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																																
1 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	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	34 ① Israel's Shepherd	35 ② Mount Seir	36 ③ Israel's mountains	37 ④ the dry bones	38-39 ⑤ Gog	40-42 ① the temple	43-46 ② the service	47-48 ③ the land	YHWH SHAMMAH "the LORD is there"																												
glory revealed	glory departed	Jerusalem siege begins					Jerusalem destroyed					glory restored																																			
593 BC		588 BC					586 BC					571 BC																																			

# The Purpose of Ezekiel

- ▶ The revelation of God as YHWH – *to know the God of Israel is YHWH* (GOD, LORD)
- ▶ ESV note: “Ezekiel makes frequent use of this ‘recognition formula.’ The Lord reveals Himself as the Ruler of history by announcing events beforehand.”
- ▶ God is YHWH who saves (Exodus 34:5-7) – LORD or Lord GOD
- ▶ How is this revealed?
- ▶ God’s way with the nation Israel in history – now about to end!
- ▶ He will not leave the guilty unpunished – He will make them a holy nation
- ▶ “YHWH is our judge, YHWH is our lawgiver, YHWH is our king, He will save us” (Isa 33:22)

# Messages of Wrath for Jerusalem (4-23)

- ▶ The coming termination of the nation Israel
- ▶ 860 years of anarchy and rebellion (Micah 7:4)
- ▶ The coming siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar
- ▶ The fall of Jerusalem and the scattering of the nation
- ▶ Visions – Dramatizations – Discourses
- ▶ Brief glimpses of a distant future for the house of Israel

# Lesson 6: Rebellion and Nonsense

- ▶ Ezekiel 12
  - The escape from Jerusalem enacted (12:1-20)
  - The proverb: The days are long and every vision fails (12:21-28)
- ▶ Ezekiel 13
  - False prophets condemned (13:1-16)
  - Women sorcerers condemned (13:17-23)
- ▶ Ezekiel 14
  - Elders of Israel condemned (14:1-11)
  - Jerusalem will be destroyed (14:12-23)

# The Escape from Jerusalem (12:1-20)

- ▶ The dramatization (12:1-7)
  - Message to a rebellious house
  - Prepare baggage for exile
  - Dig through the wall and go out with face covered
  - A sign to the house of Israel
- ▶ The interpretation (12:8-16)
  - The exiles ask for an explanation
  - The oracle/burden concerns “the prince in Jerusalem” – Zedekiah
  - Failed escape; blinded; taken to Babylon to die . . . by YHWH
  - The nation scattered – a few spared to witness to the nations
  - “Know that I am the LORD” (12:15, 16)
- ▶ The terror of the exile (12:17-20)
  - Eat and drink with trembling
  - Desolation of the land
  - “Know that I am the LORD” (12:20)

# The False Proverb (12:21-28)

- ▶ “The days are long and every vision fails”
  - Ezekiel prophesies “of times far off” (12:27)
- ▶ A false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel (12:24)
  - “The days draw near” – No more delay (12:23)
  - The word spoken by the Lord YHWH will be performed (12:25, 28)

# False Prophets Condemned (13:1-16)

- ▶ The prophets of Israel are not of YHWH (13:1-7)
  - They prophesy from their own heart; (13:2)
  - Foolish prophets follow their own spirit and have seen nothing (13:3)
  - Foxes among ruins – no help for the ruins (13:4-5)
  - Falsehood and lying divination – with false hope in YHWH (13:6)
  - False vision in the name of YHWH; He did not speak to them (13:7)
- ▶ YHWH is against them (13:8-9)
  - They shall not be in the council of My people or enrolled in the register of the house of Israel
  - They shall not enter the land
  - The house of Israel will “know that I am YHWH”
- ▶ The failed watchmen of Israel
  - Liars – They say, “Peace” when there is no peace
  - Vain ministry – whitewash walls to cover weakness, but cannot protect
  - The house of Israel will “know that I am YHWH”

# Women Sorcerers Condemned (13:17-23)

- ▶ Prophecy against women who practice witchcraft or sorcery (Deut 18:10-11)
  - Propheying from their own inspiration (heart) – totally extra-Biblical
  - They hunt down lives – a ministry of death (13:18)
  - They profane YHWH to His people for temporal gain (13:19)
  - They discourage the righteous with falsehood (13:22)
  - They encourage the wicked to retain their wicked ways (13:22)
- ▶ YHWH us against them
  - You (women) will know that **I am YHWH (13:21, 23)** - by His wrath
  - Their practices will be terminated and YHWH will deliver His people from them (13:23)
  - You (women) will know that **I am YHWH (13:21, 23)** - by His salvation for His people
- ▶ The vanity of the help of man (Prov 14:12)

# Judgment Against the Elders (14:1-11)

- ▶ The elders come before Ezekiel to hear the word of YHWH, but they are faithless
  - No right to come before YHWH as they have idols in their hearts, and evil
  - The word of YHWH: “Repent and turn from your idols and abominations”
  - YHWH will answer “in My own person” – and not the in keeping with their wishes
    - YHWH will set His face against them for their sin – by not stopping the lies of the prophets
    - The elders (idolaters) will be cut off from His people as a sign and a proverb to the nation
- ▶ They (elders) will learn that **the God of Israel is YHWH (14:8)**
  - By being removed from the house of Israel
  - They will share the same penalty as the false prophets for their iniquity
- ▶ **However**, the nation will see the revelation of the Person of YHWH also (14:7b, 9)
  - The house of Israel will no longer stray from YHWH
  - They will be His people and He will be their God

# A Critical Principle for God's Wrath

- ▶ The justice of God against an unfaithful people
- ▶ Four judgments: famine, wild animals, sword, plague (14:21)
- ▶ Four times the principle is stated: Judgment for the sins of a country
  - famine (13-14), wild animals (15-16), sword (17-18), plague (19-20)
  - The righteousness of Noah, Daniel, and Job cannot protect the city (e.g. Sodom)
  - The three righteous men **can deliver themselves by their righteousness**
- ▶ How much more is this true for Jerusalem!
- ▶ YET, survivors will be left as a comfort to the house of Israel
- ▶ The message: “I have not done in vain whatever I did to it.”
- ▶ Hope remains in the promise to the Fathers (37:24-28)

# The God of Israel is YHWH

- ▶ His Person/Character guarantees the outcome of history
  - His holiness will not be violated
  - His promise will not be prevented
- ▶ Israel is a sign for all ages
  - The history of Israel reveals the meaning of the name of God, YHWH
  - The message is perfectly clear when YHWH comes in the person of Jesus
- ▶ “Then they will comfort you when you see their conduct and actions, for you will know that I have not done in vain whatever I did to it” declares the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 14:23