Our God is YHWH
A Study of Ezekiel’s Prophecy

The Soul Who Sins Shall Die!
Lesson 8
Ezekiel 18-20

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
October 20, 2019
### Ezekiel

#### Our God/Lord is YAHWEH/LORD/GOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>593-571 BC</th>
<th>22 years of ministry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 3:</td>
<td>the call</td>
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<td>4-7</td>
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#### the wrath of the Lord GOD

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<tr>
<th>1</th>
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#### the goodness of the Lord GOD

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<tr>
<th>24</th>
<th>messages of wrath for the nations</th>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>① the boiling pot · the sign of Ezekiel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-28</td>
<td>② Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-32</td>
<td>③ Tyre &amp; Sidon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>④ Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34-39</td>
<td>⑤ the watchman · the fall of Jerusalem</td>
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</tbody>
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#### restoration of Israel

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

#### restoration of the LORD’s presence

| 40-42      | ① the temple |
| 43-46      | ② the service |
| 47-48      | ③ the land |

**YHWH SHAMMAH “the LORD is there”**

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<th>593 BC</th>
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<td>glory revealed</td>
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- 1: the call
- 2-3: the send
- 4-7: messages of wrath for Jerusalem
- 24: messages of wrath for the nations
- 34-39: restoration of Israel
- 40-42: restoration of the LORD’s presence
- 593 BC: glory revealed
- 588 BC: Jerusalem siege begins
- 586 BC: Jerusalem destroyed
- 571 BC: glory restored
Messages of Wrath for the Jerusalem
Ezekiel 4-23

- The coming fall of Jerusalem portrayed and explained (4-7)
- The vision in Jerusalem (8-11)
- No escape from the wrath (12-14)
- The unfaithfulness of Israel (15-19)
  - 4 parables
    - Personal salvation for faithfulness (18)
    - A funeral song (19)
- The closing argument (20-23)
  - A survey of Israel’s history (20)
The Soul Who Sins Shall Die (18)

- 1. A Proverb (18:1-4)
- 2. Three examples to refute the proverb (18:5-18)
- 3. The application to the exiles (18:19-24)
- 4. The challenge to the justice of the Lord (18:25-29)
- 5. The Lord GOD’S personal application to the house of Israel (18:30-32)
The Proverb (18:1-4)

- “The fathers eat the sour grapes, but the children’s teeth are set on edge”
  - Denied by Jeremiah (Jer 31:29)
  - Denied by the Lord GOD (18:3)

- The basis for the proverb
  - The Law of Moses, 1st Commandment: No other gods (Ex 20:3-6)
  - The 4 messages of unfaithfulness of the nation (15-18; see also Lam 5:7)

- The declaration of the Lord GOD (18:4)
  - “All souls are mine” – an individual relationship
  - “The soul who sins shall die” – an individual outcome
Three Illustrations of the Truth (18:5-18)

- The righteous man will live (18:5-9)
  - A man who begins in righteousness and continues
  - He will live

- The wicked son will die (18:10-13)
  - A man who sees his righteous father but lives a life of abominations
  - He will die

- The righteous grandson will live (18:14-18)
  - A man who sees his wicked father but does not do likewise but is righteous
  - He will live

- Each lives or dies by his personal righteousness or wickedness
The Lesson for the Exiles (18:19-23)

- “Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity?”
  - What is the authority for rejecting Exodus 20:3-6?
  - Justify the denial of the proverb!
- The principle of individual justice functions within national justice
  - The blessing for the nation requires 100% compliance to be a holy nation
  - The individual in the nation answers personally to the LORD for justice
- The history of the nation shows that YHWH is longsuffering – delaying justice
- Ezekiel already showed that 3 righteous men cannot save the nation (14:12-20)
- The LORD has no pleasure in the death of the wicked – He is longsuffering
Is God’s Way Unjust (18:25-29)

- They are unconvinced and accuse the Lord of injustice
- Notice – Ezekiel uses the title, “Lord” (master or sovereign)
- The answer: the Lord God restates the issue but does not defend His ways
- The way of Israel is not right – they deny the Sovereign rule of YHWH
- Israel treats God as their equal who answers to them
The Final Word (18:30-31)

- The Lord GOD will judge the house of Israel
- He will judge each according to his conduct (11:17-20; 18:31; 36:22-27)
  - Turn from your sin
  - A new heart
  - A new spirit – “My Spirit” (36:27)
- Only the Lord GOD can do this
- The pleasure of the LORD – “Turn and live” (18:23)
The Final Kings of Judah

- Manasseh
- Josiah
- Jehoiakim
- Zedekiah

Year:
- 650 B.C.
- 625
- 600
- 575

Events:
- Captivity of Judah to Babylon

Books of the Bible:
- Nahum
- Zephaniah
- Habakkuk
- Jeremiah
- Huldah
- Daniel
- Ezekiel
Lament for the Princes of Israel (19)

- A funeral lamentation – a lioness and a vine
- 1st young lion – Jehoahaz (Shallum) – taken to Egypt (19:3-4)
- 2nd young lion – Jehoiachin (Coniah) – taken to Babylon (19:5-9)
- The strong branch – Zedekiah – taken to the wilderness (Babylon) (19:10-14)
- Lion emphasizes power and violence; the vine emphasizes beauty and fruit
- The funeral song for the death of the Davidic monarchy
A Short History of Israel (20)

- The closing argument (20-23)
- The four phases of Israel’s history (20)
  - Elders came to inquire of the LORD (20:1-4)
  - Israel in Egypt (20:5-10)
  - Israel in the wilderness (20:11-26)
    - 1st generation (20:11-17)
    - 2nd generation (20:18-26)
  - The current generation (20:27-32)
  - Israel among the nations (20:33-44)
  - A forest fire in the south (20:45-49)
A Short History of Israel

- The Lord GOD – “I will not be inquired of by you”
- An unexpected answer – exposure of wickedness - real history, not metaphor
- Their response confirmed the assessment by the Lord GOD – “a parable” (20:49)
- A common pattern
  - Blessing – be their God; give the Law; spare them; promise restoration
  - Rebellion – faithless/treachery; idolatry; child sacrifices
  - Wrath withheld . . . until the dispersion through the nations
  - Preservation . . . Restoration promised
- Final phase – from dispersion to restoration
Recurring Themes in History (20:5-32)

- “I am the LORD” – (20:5, 7, 12, 19, 20, 26, 38, 42, 44) – most in 1 chapter of Ezekiel
  - It was the reason He chose them (5)
  - It was the reason they were to be holy (7, 19, 20)
  - It was the reason He gave them the Law (12)
  - It was the reason He judged them (26, 38)
  - It was the reason He brought them back to the Promised Land (42)
  - It was the reason He did not deal with them according to their sins (44)

- He acted for the sake of His name - YHWH - 3 times and only in this chapter
  - Withheld wrath for the sake of “My name” (20:9, 14, 22)
  - Not be profaned in the sight of the nations (20:9, 14, 22)
  - His name, YHWH, was to be a means of blessing to all nations, but Israel profaned it

- His name is YHWH – Savior (Exodus 34:5-7)
The Forest Fire in the South (20:45-49)

- The south is Judah
- The destruction of Judah will be soon and complete
- All flesh will see that the LORD did it and they cannot stop it
- The unbelief of the elders: “Ezekiel speaks in parables”
Our God is YHWH!

- Ezekiel shows the revelation of God as the LORD in the history of Israel
- Israel, as a nation, despised the name of God as the LORD
- Ezekiel shows how God as the LORD will fulfill His purpose for them
- Ultimately, it will be through personal salvation and personal condemnation
- Jesus most clearly reveals that God is the LORD (Matt 1:21; Phil 2:5-11)