

# **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

593-571 BC = 22 years of ministry

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 goodness of the Lord GOD**

	<u>messages of wrath for Jerusalem</u>	<u>messages of wrath for the nations</u>	<u>restoration of Israel</u>	<u>restoration of the LORD's presence</u>
1 the call	4-7 ① the coming judgment of Jerusalem	24 ① the boiling pot · the sign of Ezekiel	34 ① Israel's Shepherd	40-42 ① the temple
2-3 the send	8-11 ② God's glory departs from Jerusalem	25 ② Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia	35 ② Mount Seir	43-46 ② the service
	12-14 ③ the imminent judgment	26-28 ③ Tyre & Sidon	36 ③ Israel's mountains	47-48 ③ the land
	15-19 ④ the unfaithfulness of Israel	29-32 ④ Egypt	37 ④ the dry bones	
	20-23 ⑤ the rebuke of the elders and Israel	33 ⑤ the watchman · the fall of Jerusalem	38-39 ⑤ Gog	



glory revealed      glory departed      **Jerusalem siege begins**      **Jerusalem destroyed**      glory restored

593 BC           588 BC      586 BC      571 BC

**YHWH SHAMMAH**  
"the LORD is there"

# 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment: No other gods (Ex 20:3-6)
  - The 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)*

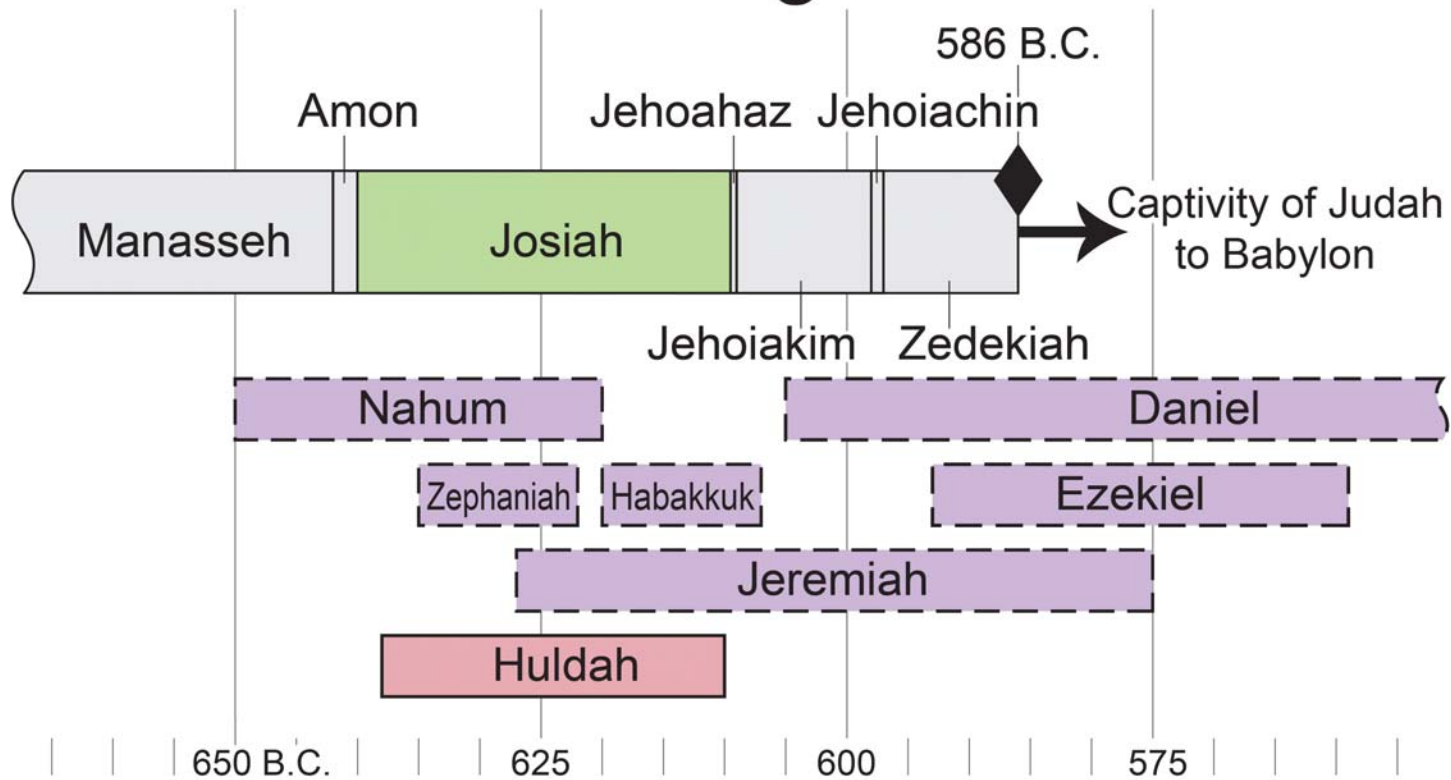
- ▶ They are unconvinced and accuse the Lord of injustice
- ▶ Notice – Ezekiel uses the title, “Lord” (master or sovereign)
- ▶ The answer: the Lord God restates the issue but does not defend His ways
- ▶ The way of Israel is not right – they deny the Sovereign rule of YHWH
- ▶ Israel treats God as their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



# Lament for the Princes of Israel (19)

- ▶ A funeral lamentation – a lioness and a vine
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> young lion – Jehoahaz (Shallum) – taken to Egypt (19:3-4)
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)
    - 1<sup>st</sup> generation (20:11-17)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)