

Our God is YHWH

A Study of Ezekiel's Prophecy

A Drawn Sword, a Bloody City, and Two Harlots

Lesson 9

Ezekiel 21-23

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School

October 27, 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 Jerusalem (4-23)

- ▶ The message previewed (4-7)
- ▶ The vision in Jerusalem (8-11)
- ▶ Imminent judgment without hope (12-14)
 - No hope in the prince (leader, not king) who will try to escape and be captured
 - No hope in the prophets who are liars and killers
 - No hope in the elders who are idolaters
 - No hope in the righteous remnant – Noah, Daniel, Job
- ▶ The unfaithfulness of the house of Israel (15-19)
 - The parable of the useless vine (15:8)
 - The parable of the wicked queen/nation – unfaithful (16:59)
 - The parable of two eagles and a vine (17:18-20)
 - Correcting a misunderstanding of YHWH – individual accountability (18)
 - The funeral song – the death of the nation (19)
- ▶ The message of judgment reviewed (20-23)
 - A survey of the history of the rebellious nation (20)
 - The coming sword of YHWH - Nebuchadnezzar (21)
 - Three messages of wrath (22)
 - Two unfaithful sisters – in whom do you trust (23)

The Sword of the LORD (21:1-7)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (21:1)
- ▶ Clarification of the “parable” – compare 20:45-48 and 21:1-5)
- ▶ Set your face toward Jerusalem and speak against . . . sanctuaries and land
- ▶ The sword of the YHWH will accomplish the will of the YHWH (Joshua 5:13-15)
- ▶ Both righteous and unrighteous will be cut off from the land
- ▶ All flesh will know that YHWH is acting here – the sword will not return again
- ▶ Groan publicly “with breaking heart and bitter grief” for the coming disaster

The Sword of the LORD (21:8-17)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (21:8)
- ▶ The sword is fully prepared for the destruction of the nation
- ▶ The rod who despises – the prince who has no loyalty (faithfulness)
- ▶ Should we rejoice that this “rod who despises” is removed?
- ▶ Ezekiel to cry out and wail over the terror of the judgment – against the people & rulers
- ▶ YHWH will appease His wrath

The Sword of the King of Babylon (21:18-32)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (21:18)
- ▶ YHWH brings Nebuchadnezzar to Jerusalem by divination (21:18-23)
- ▶ The victory of Nebuchadnezzar (21:24-27)
 - The sins of the house of Israel are remembered by YHWH
 - Turban and crown – priest and king – will be removed
 - “A ruin, a ruin, a ruin” until “He comes whose right it is” (Genesis 49:10)
 - Turban and crown will be restored in the Messiah
- ▶ The victory of Nebuchadnezzar over Ammon (21:28-32)
 - The sword is drawn and will be sheathed – the job will be completed
 - YHWH speaks: “You will not be remembered” (25:1-7)

Judge the Bloody City (22:1-16)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (22:1)
- ▶ The exposure of the abominations of the bloody city
- ▶ The holiness code of Leviticus 17-26
- ▶ YHWH will smite the bloody city
- ▶ YHWH will scatter them among the nations
- ▶ Israel will profane themselves among the nations
- ▶ Israel will learn that the God of Israel is YHWH

The Dross of Silver (22:17-22)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (22:17)
- ▶ Jeremiah 6:30 refers to them as “rejected silver”
- ▶ The dross of silver – the impurities to be burned out
- ▶ Only dross – nothing to purify
- ▶ The fire of the furnace will show that the God of Israel is YHWH

No Hope in the Nation (22:23-31)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (22:23)
- ▶ No cleansing or rain in the day of indignation
- ▶ Conspiracy of prophets in her midst to devour lives
- ▶ Priests do violence and profane “My holy things” – equate holy and profane
- ▶ Princes like wolves
- ▶ Prophets whitewash with false claim to be speaking from YHWH
- ▶ The people oppress and rob
- ▶ Day of indignation – YHWH can find no man to stop it
- ▶ Isaiah 59:16; 63:5 – YHWH will Himself stand in the gap for the nation
- ▶ YHWH will Himself see that the guilty will “by no means” remain unpunished

The Unfaithful Nation (23:1-21)

- ▶ “The Word of the LORD came to me” (23:1)
- ▶ A third look at the nation:
 - Ezekiel 16 – moral degradation in the face of the goodness of YHWH
 - Ezekiel 20 – a national history of unfaithfulness to YHWH
 - Ezekiel 23 – a nation in pursuit of security among the nations
- ▶ Oholah and Oholibah – Samaria and Jerusalem
- ▶ The sin of Oholah (23:1-10)
 - Sought security in Assyria (23:5-6 – royalty and military power)
 - Given over to Assyria for judgment – now 135 years later
- ▶ The sin of Oholibah (23:11-21)
 - Learned nothing from Oholah’s experience
 - Pursued the Assyrians and the Chaldeans for security (23:12 – royalty and military power)
 - YHWH became disgusted with her

The Unfaithful Nation (23:22-49)

- ▶ Oholibah's judgment (23:22-35)
 - Babylon's treachery
 - The jealousy of YHWH
 - Equivalence with idolatry
 - Calvin – an attempt to command the presence of deity – no faith
 - Colossians 3:5 – covetousness is idolatry – temporal priorities
 - Rejection of YHWH leads to all kinds of personal sin
- ▶ Judgment for Oholah and Oholibah (23:36-49)
 - Possibly anticipating an attempted return at the end of the age with human help
 - The outcome will be the same – judgment by those from whom the sisters seek help
 - No cure in captivity – land purified by keeping the nation out of the land
 - The final outcome: the sisters will know that the God of Israel is YHWH

Messages of Wrath for Today

- ▶ Whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23)
- ▶ There is no fellowship with light and darkness (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- ▶ A terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31)
- ▶ The just shall live by faith (Hebrews 10:38)
- ▶ The blessing of knowing that YHWH is Jesus Christ our Savior