

# **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