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

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### Timeline:
- **593 BC**: glory revealed
- **588 BC**: Jerusalem siege begins
- **586 BC**: Jerusalem destroyed
- **571 BC**: glory restored

### Summary:
- **593-571 BC = 22 years of ministry**: The prophetic ministry of Ezekiel is spanned over 22 years, with key events marked throughout.
- **Jerusalem** is the central location, with significant events such as the coming judgment, departure of glory, and destruction.
- **Israel** experiences restoration and the presence of the LORD.

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The diagram outlines key prophetic messages and divine actions, highlighting the temporal and narrative flow of Ezekiel’s prophetic work.
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 degredation 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