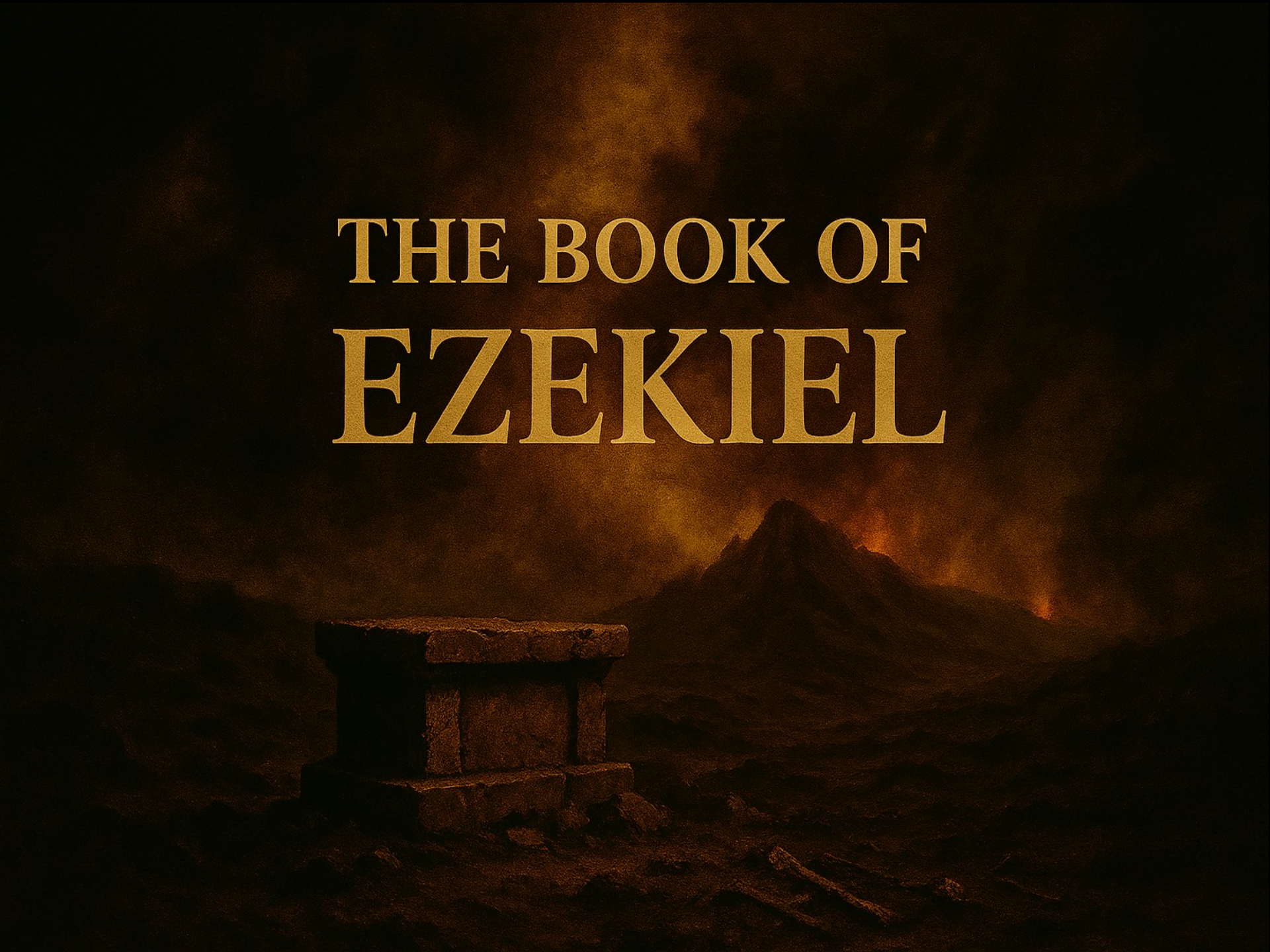

THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL

Ezekiel The Priest

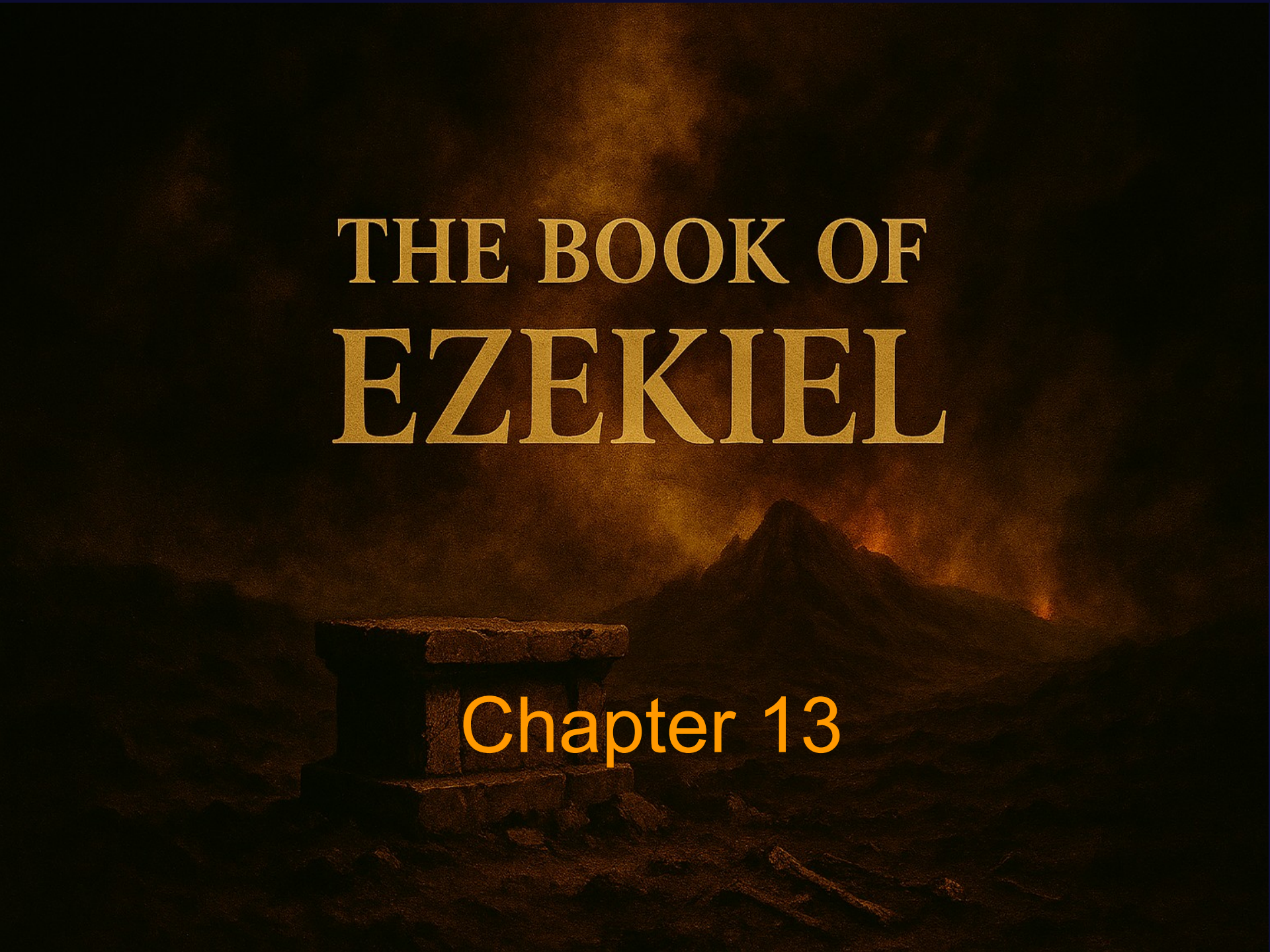
- Ezekiel & his fellow Jews settled next to the Chebar River
  - The Chebar was a canal off the Euphrates
- The book begins 5 years into his time in Babylon – as he turns thirty.
  - This would have been the age he normally would have begun his priestly service in the temple in Jerusalem (cf. Numbers 4:2-3).
- There was no chance of returning to Jerusalem now.
- Instead, God calls him to be a prophet to take his message to his people in Babylon

Review

- Chapter 1-3:
  - Ezekiel's call to the prophetic office
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- Chapter 7:
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Chapters 12 - 19

- Despite all this, the people were still not ready to accept the fact of Jerusalem's fall.
- Therefore, Ezekiel gave a new series of signs and messages:
- Any optimism would be futile; Jerusalem's fate had been sealed.
  - These messages were in the interval between the 2nd (Ezekiel's) and final sieges of Jerusalem.


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 13

Chapter 13

- *"As Chapter 12 denounced the <u>false expectations</u> of the people, so this chapter denounces the <u>false leaders</u> who fed those expectations"* - Missler
- *"This chapter denounces heavy judgments against the lying prophets who flattered the people, in the midst of their sin and danger, with false hopes of peace and security,*
- *The work of these deceivers is beautifully compared to a frail and insolent piece of building, which can never stand against the battering elements of heaven, (the Chaldean forces,) which God will commission against it*". - Clarke

False Prophets

- There were two classes of false prophets:
  - Those who were representatives of some object of worship other than the true God, e.g., Baal, Moloch, et al
    - cf. Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal
      I Kings 18:19ff.
  - Those who falsely purported to speak in the name of YHWH
    - cf. Micaiah's opposition to the prophets of Ahab
      I Kings 22:5-28

False Prophets

- *"Nevertheless he left not himself without witness"*

  Acts 14:17 (KJV)

- Some of the strongest denunciations of these deceivers are by Jeremiah, who opposed them on moral, personal, and political grounds

  Jer 23:9-32

- During the dying gasps of Jerusalem,
  - Hananiah opposed him at home Jer 28
  - Ahab, Zedekiah, and Shemaiah opposed him in Babylon

  Jer 29:15-32

- Ezekiel in this chapter exposes the false prophets and the false prophetesses

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the Lord;
3 Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!

Ezekiel 13:1-3

- The sin of the men denounced was that they prophesied out of their own hearts and followed their own spirit instead of the Spirit of YHWH. Jer 14:14; 23:16, 26

4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.

Ezekiel 13:4

- The fox is cunning Luke 13:32
  - the term is applied to Herod Antipas
- It spoils the vine and its fruits SofS 2:15
  Israel being the vineyard Ps 80:8-15;Isa 5:1-7
- It burrows among ruins Neh 4:3; Lam 5:18

- Thus, the false prophets were crafty, laid waste the vineyard of the Lord of hosts Isa 5:7
  made their profit out of the ruin of Israel, and made that ruin worse.

5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord.

Ezekiel 13:5

- There were breaches in the walls of Jerusalem, literally and spiritually, and the false prophets had not been as “repairers of the breach”

  Isa 58:12; Ps 106:23

- The leaders should have been the protectors of the people – instead, they loved their own popularity

6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

Ezekiel 13:6

- To gain knowledge of secret things by superstitious means was forbidden Israel

  Ex 22:18; Num 23:23; Deut 18:10, 11

- and divining was disparaged

  Eze 13:7, 9, 23; 21:29; 22:28; Mic 3:6, 7, 11

- They had an outward show of religion

7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The Lord saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

8 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 13:7-8

- This is the oldest deception in the book!
  - Either to say ‘has God said…’
  - Or to place your words as if they were God’s!
- This a crime against God and against His people

9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord God.

Ezekiel 13:9

- The ‘blotting out’ of the name of the ungodly!
- To be excluded from the list would deprive an individual of the ***rights of citizenship*** (cf. Ezra 2:62).
- They would die as captives in a foreign land.
  - There would be no documentation of their heritage

10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered morter:

Ezekiel 13:10

- Have we heard this before?

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

1 But there were false prophets also among the people,
even as there shall be false teachers among you, who
privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying
the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves
swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason
of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words
make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a
long time lingereth not, and their damnation
slumbereth not.

2 Peter 2:1-3

11 Say unto them which daub it with untempered
morter, that it shall fall: there shall be an
overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones,
shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

12 Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto
you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have
daubed it?

13 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I will even rend it
with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be
an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great
hailstones in my fury to consume it.

Ezekiel 13:11-13

14 So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed
with untempered morter, and bring it down to the
ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be
discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be
consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know
that I am the Lord.

15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and
upon them that have daubed it with untempered
morter, and will say unto you, The wall is no more,
neither they that daubed it;

Ezekiel 13:14-15

16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy
concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of
peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord
God.

17 Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the
daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their
own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

Ezekiel 13:16-17

Prophetesses

- Several godly, gifted women are referred to in Scripture as prophetesses:
  - Miriam Ex 15:20,21
  - Deborah Judges 4:3-5
  - Isaiah's wife Isa 8:3
  - Huldah 2 Kgs 22:14-20
  - Anna Lk 2:36
  - 4 daughters of Philip Acts 21:8,9
- In the next section, the prophetesses (or rather sorceresses) were counterparts of the false prophets, forerunners of the modern palmists, fortunetellers, and mediums…

18 And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Woe to the women
that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs
upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will
ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the
souls alive that come unto you?

19 And will ye pollute me among my people for
handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay
the souls that should not die, and to save the souls
alive that should not live, by your lying to my
people that hear your lies?

Ezekiel 13:18-19

20 Wherefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against your pillows, wherewith ye there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms, and will let the souls go, even the souls that ye hunt to make them fly.

21 Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

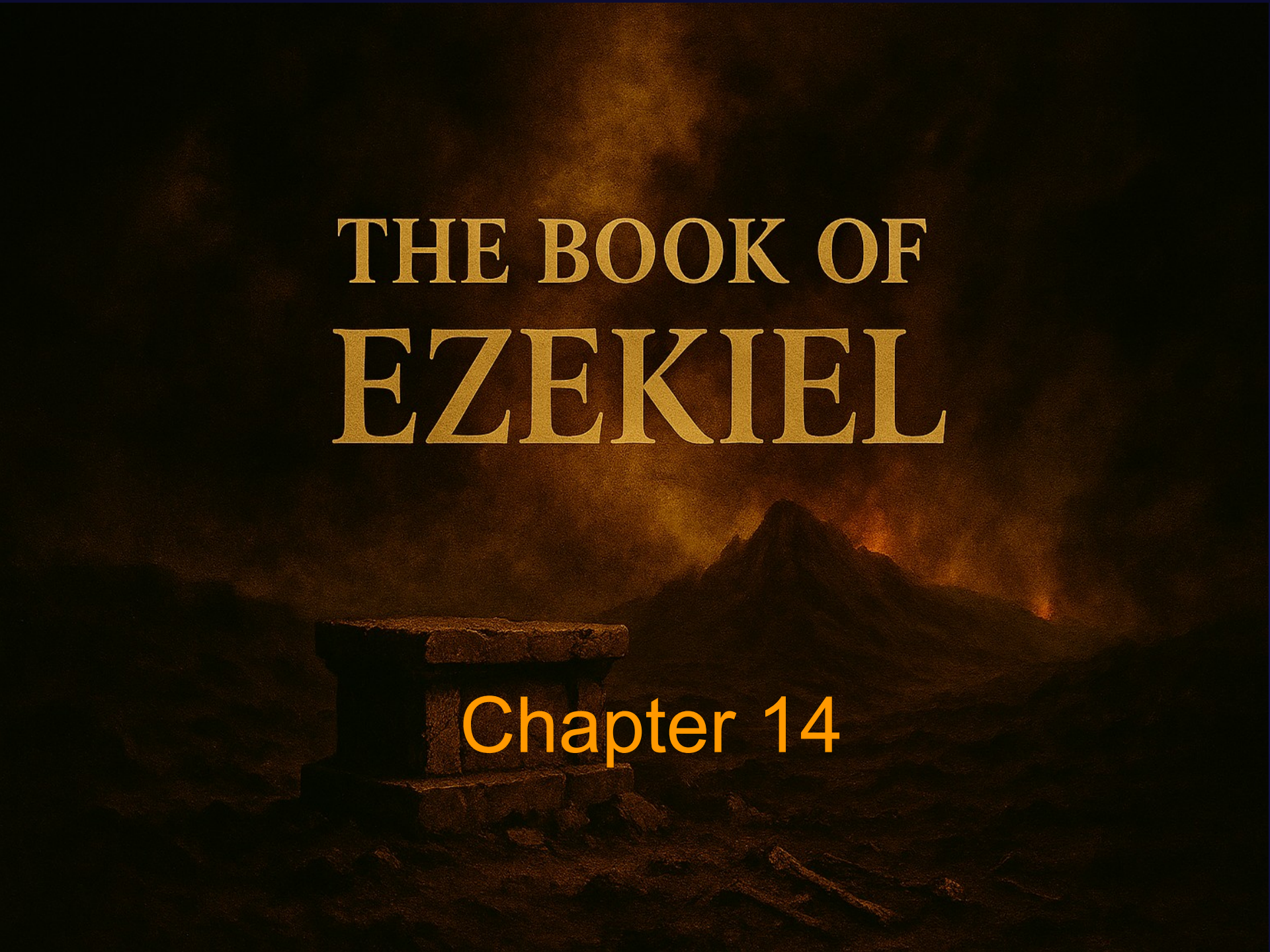
Ezekiel 13:20-21

22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the
righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and
strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should
not return from his wicked way, by promising him
life:

23 Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine
divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your
hand: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 13:22-23

- God will indeed bring false prophets to an end.
  - Similar passages can be found in Amos 8; Micah 3; Zec
- Note that His people are delivered in spite of the false prophets.


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 14

Chapter 14

- Ezekiel now turns to the wickedness of those who inquired of God but whose hearts were given over to their idols all the time. 14:1-11
- Chapter 14 introduces us to an important spiritual principle:
- The presence of a righteous man among a sinful people will not save a land when God brings His judgments upon it. 14:12-23

Chapter 14

- Chapter 14 is divided into two major sections:
  - The prophecy against the idolatry of the elders
  - The certainty of the destruction of Jerusalem
- God continues to outline why He will judge Jerusalem.
- God is the same, yesterday, today & forever!
  - The principles laid down here are still operative today…
  - God still judges nations (UK beware!)

1 Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 14:1

- *"It is probable that they were not of those who were now his fellow-captives, and constantly attended his ministry (such as those we read of Ezekiel 8:1; Ezekiel 8:1), but some occasional hearers, some of the grandees of Jerusalem who had come upon business to Babylon, perhaps public business, on an embassy from the king, and in their way called on the prophet, having heard much of him and being desirous to know if he had any message from God"* – Matthew Henry

2 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

Ezekiel 14:1-3

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus
saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel
that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the
stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and
cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him
that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own
heart, because they are all estranged from me
through their idols.

Ezekiel 14:4-5

6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

7 For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the Lord will answer him by myself

Ezekiel 14:6-7

8 And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 14:8

- The man whose heart was divided in its allegiance to God would receive no knowledge through a prophet, but would be answered by God himself in deeds.

Cf Lev 17:8-10; 20:3, 5, 6.

9 And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the Lord have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

10 And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him,

Ezekiel 14:8-10

- False prophets can often quote an abundance of Scripture, and still be wrong…
  - 1 Kings 22:19-23

11 That the house of Israel may go no more astray from
me, neither be polluted any more with all their
transgressions; but that they may be my people, and
I may be their God, saith the Lord God.
12 The word of the Lord came again to me, saying,
13 Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by
trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine
hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread
thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut
off man and beast from it:

Ezekiel 14:11-13

- 'Staff of bread' - We rely on our prosperity

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:11,12

- This is a disturbing rebuttal to those who are counting on a “second chance” after the Rapture…

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God's Four Judgments

- Ezekiel declares that when the land sins, God sends one of his four judgments against it: cf. 5:16, 17
  - Famine vv.12-14
  - Hurtful beasts vv.15, 16
  - Sword and war vv.17, 18
  - Pestilence vv.19, 20

14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:14

- Why these three?
  - What characterised them?
- Their contemporaries did not listen to their message!
- The atheist and sceptic say: why doesn't God give us a sign?
  - The truth is that He has! Many! They choose to ignore!

14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were
in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their
righteousness, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:14

- Noah taught of the coming judgment of God on account of man's wickedness
- Daniel proclaimed the sovereignty of God in the face of idolatry
- Job proclaimed the righteousness of God despite the way things might appear
- Note: they would still deliver their own souls on account of their faith!

Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Jeremiah 15:1

- Here in Jeremiah also we have “four sore judgments,” with the declaration that not even the presence of Moses and Samuel would avail to save the people.
- They were obviously selected by Jeremiah as examples of the power of intercession

Exo 32:11, 12; 1 Sam 7:9; 12:23

And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as *are* for death, to death; and such as *are* for the sword, to the sword; and such as *are* for the famine, to the famine; and such as *are* for the captivity, to the captivity.

Jeremiah 15:2

And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.

Jeremiah 15:3

- Ezekiel's heroes, though exceptional in faith and obedience, had been powerless to save the generation in which they lived;
  - perhaps, also, Ezekiel chose these three because they may well have been well known, not only in the records of Israel, but among other nations.

15 If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts:

16 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate.

Ezekiel 14:15-16

- "Work out your own salvation…"! - Phil 2:12
  - Your children cannot be saved on account of your faith and righteousness
  - We each answer to God for ourselves

17 Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it:

18 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be delivered themselves.

19 Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast:

Ezekiel 14:17-19

20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

21 For thus saith the Lord God; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

Ezekiel 14:20-21

Wrath vs Intercession

- The intercession, even of the holiest of men, cannot avert God's judgments:
  - Noah, though a righteous man, could not by his intercession have preserved the old world from being drowned.
  - Job, though a righteous man, could not preserve his children from being killed by the fall of their house.
  - Daniel, though a righteous man, could not prevent the captivity of his country.
    - The holiness of any man can only avail for himself.

Wrath vs Intercession

- *"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job united to plead for Jerusalem, their intercession would be all in vain"*
- **1**. This was *contrary to expectation*.
  - There is power in intercession; there is a special power in the intercession of a "righteous man" (James 5:16); there is a still greater power in united prayer (Matthew 18:20).
  - Yet here the union of three of the very best men, selected from all ages, could not secure the safety of Jerusalem.

Wrath vs Intercession

- *"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job united to plead for Jerusalem, their intercession would be all in vain"*
- **1**. This was *contrary to expectation*.
- **2**. The cause of the failure of such an intercession was *hardened impenitence*.
  - God is more anxious to save than we are to plead for salvation.
  - But it would be unjust and injurious to spare the ungodly and rebellious

Uselessness of Intercession

- *"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job united to plead for Jerusalem, their intercession would be all in vain"*
- **1**. This was *contrary to expectation*.
- **2**. The cause of the failure of such an intercession was *hardened impenitence*.
- **3**. *Intercession cannot change the divine will of an omniscient God*
- Lesson? When we pray, it MUST be according to His Word!

22 Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it.

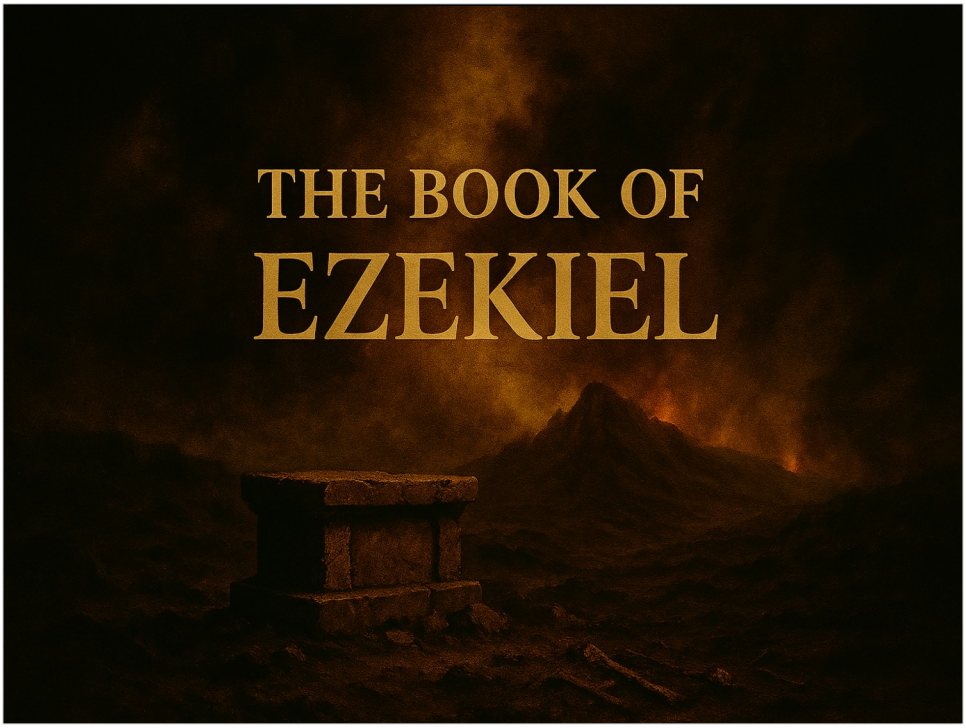
23 And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord God.

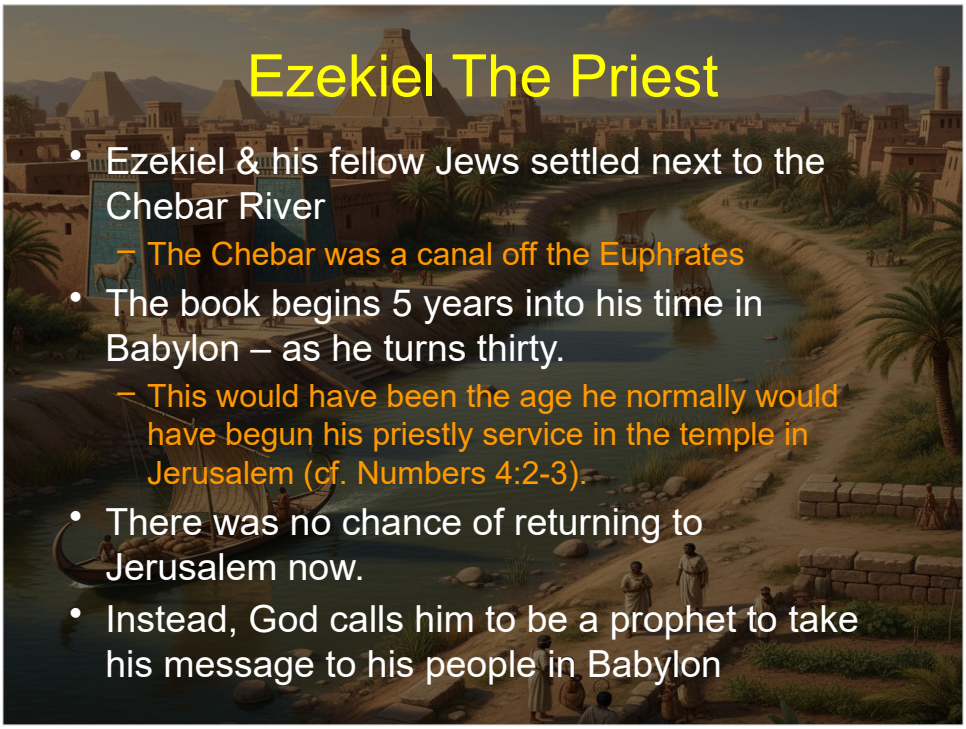
Ezekiel 14:22-23

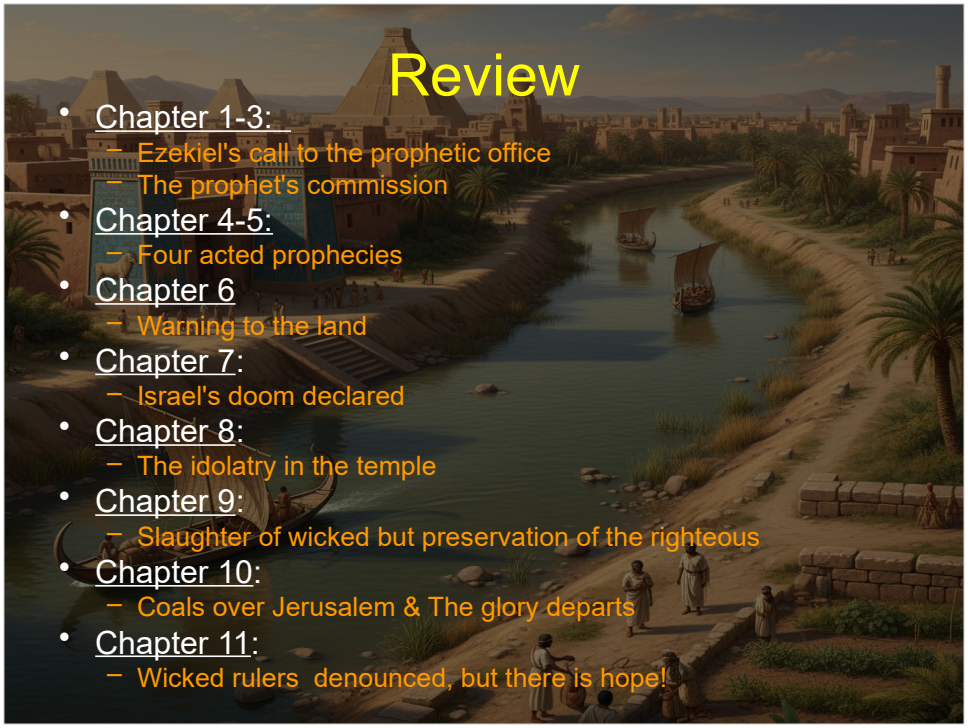
Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

2 Peter 3:3,4

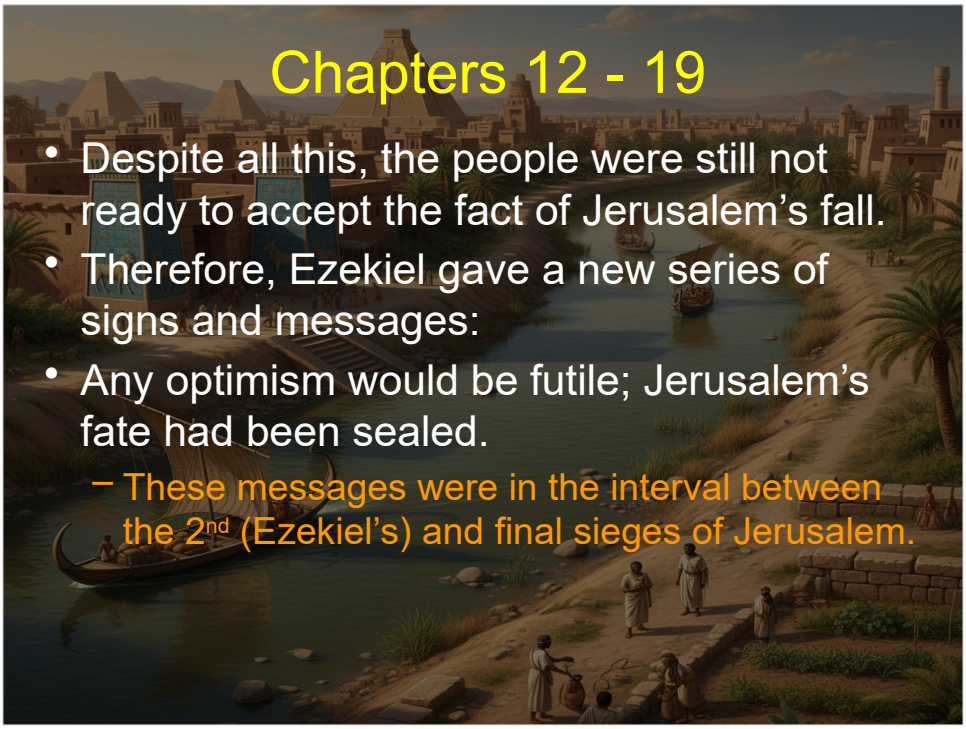

THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL


Ezekiel The Priest
• Ezekiel & his fellow Jews settled next to the Chebar River
– The Chebar was a canal off the Euphrates
• The book begins 5 years into his time in Babylon – as he turns thirty.
– This would have been the age he normally would have begun his priestly service in the temple in Jerusalem (cf. Numbers 4:2-3).
• There was no chance of returning to Jerusalem now.
• Instead, God calls him to be a prophet to take his message to his people in Babylon



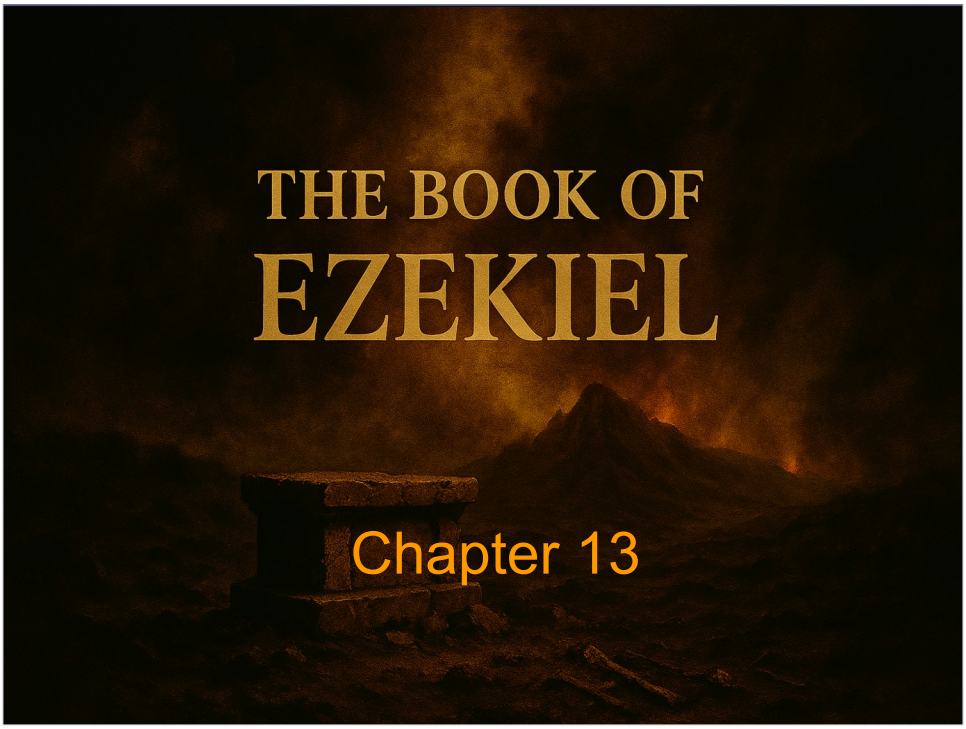
Review

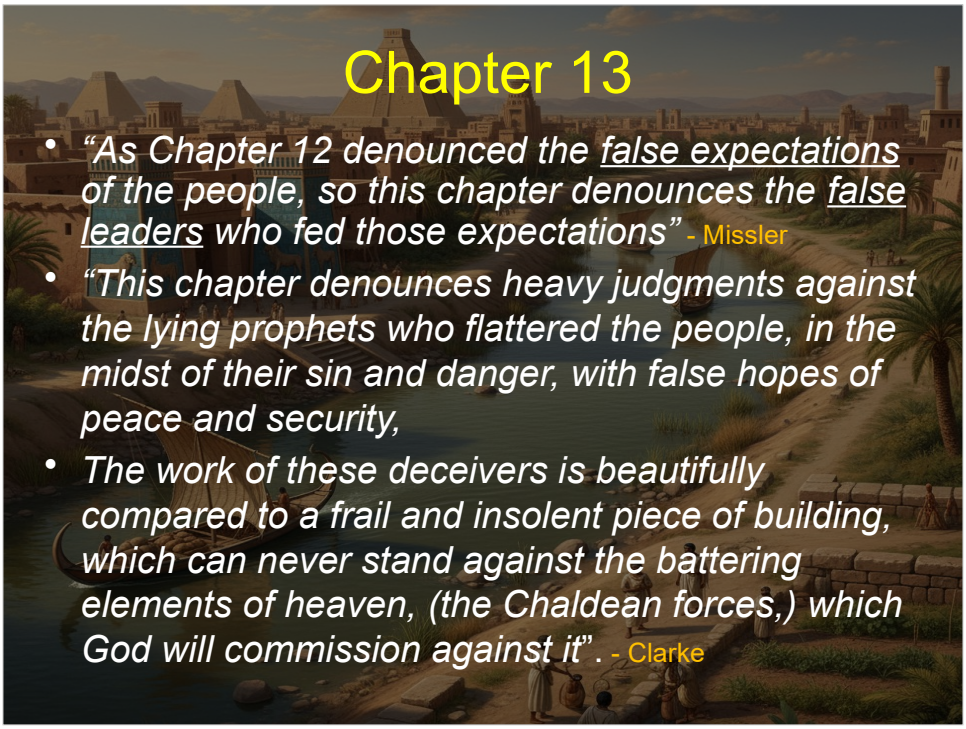
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Chapters 12 - 19

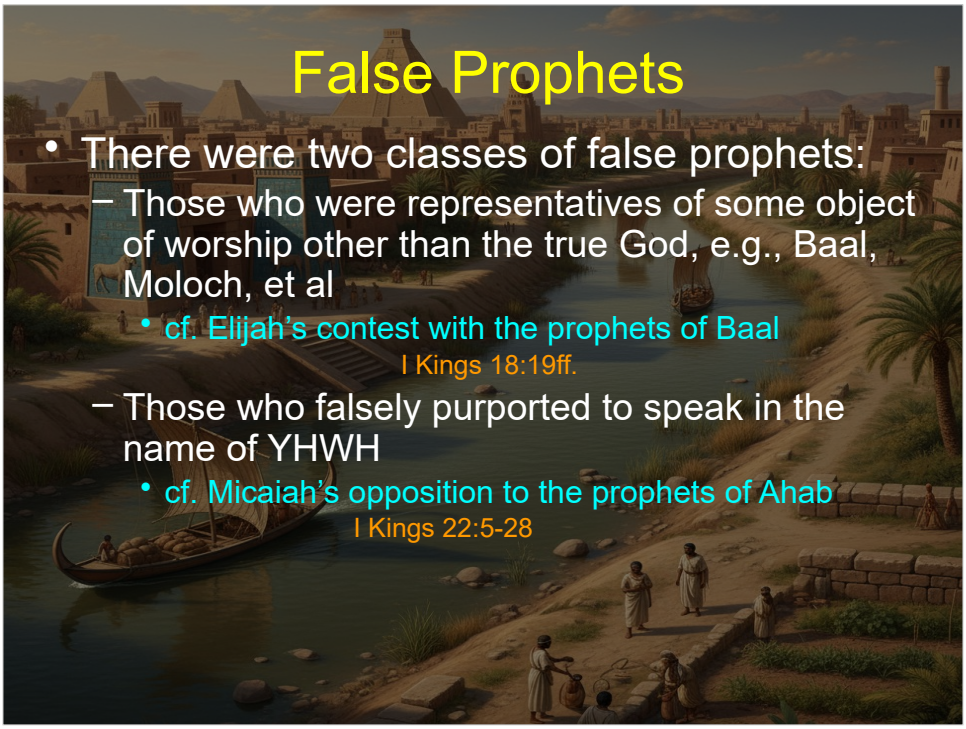
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THE BOOK OF
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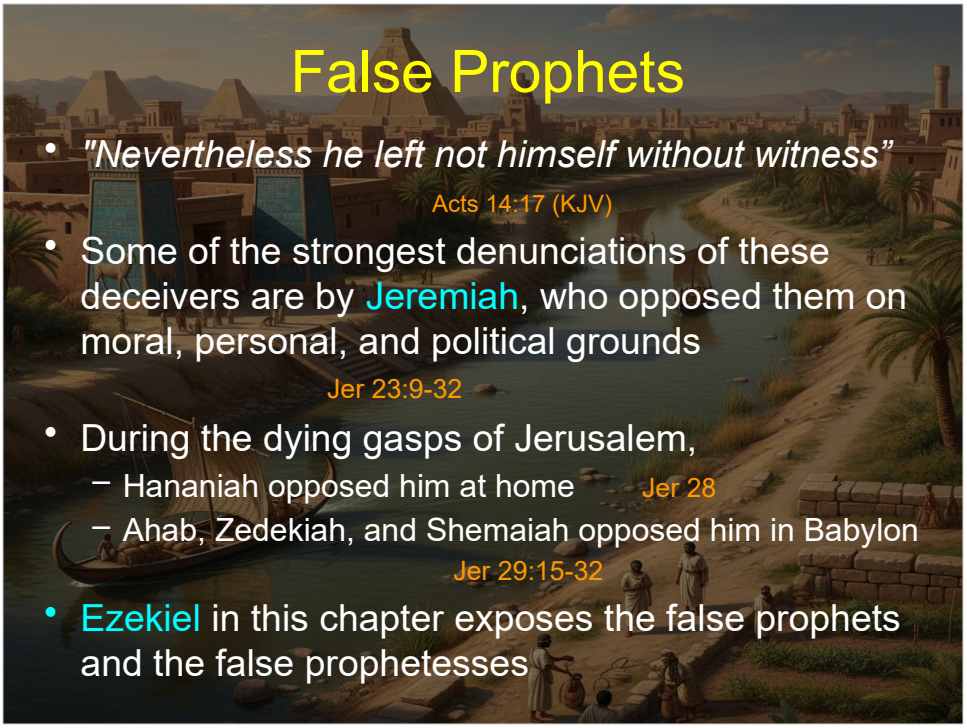
Chapter 13

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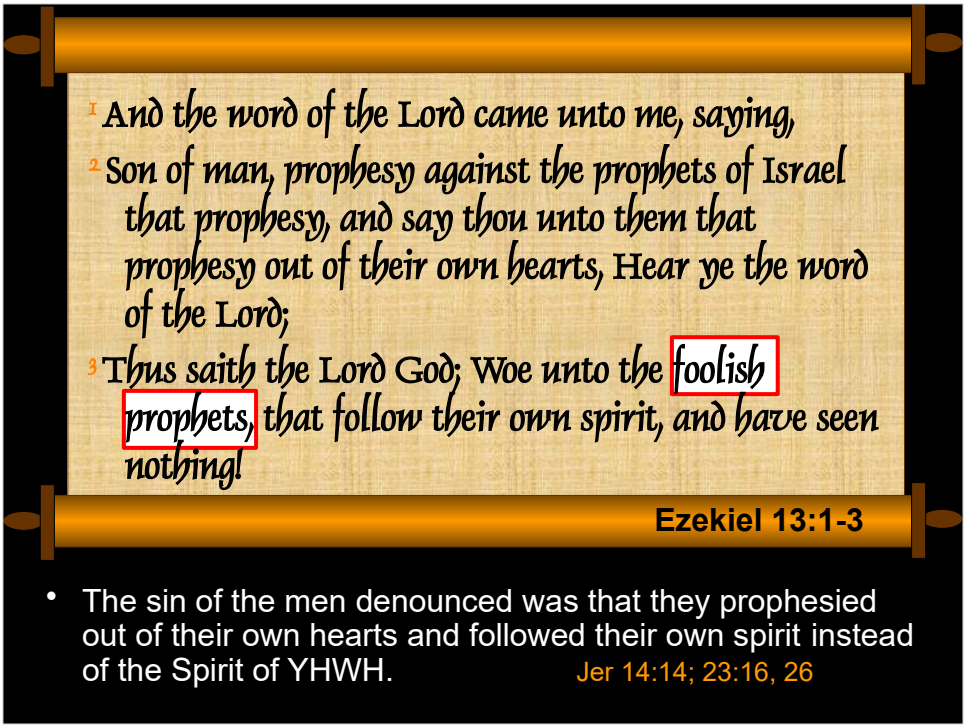
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  - Those who falsely purported to speak in the name of YHWH
    - cf. Micaiah's opposition to the prophets of Ahab
      I Kings 22:5-28



Zedekiah, Son of Maaseiah, a false prophet in Babylon, among the captives with Jeconiah.

(Also, a Zedekiah, son of Chenaanah, a false prophet in the days of Ahab 1Ki 22:11,24 2Ch 18:10,23)



Note the stronger Hebrew: "*the prophets, the fools,*" the words deriving their force from a kind

4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts.

Ezekiel 13:4

- The fox is cunning Luke 13:32
  - the term is applied to Herod Antipas
- It spoils the vine and its fruits SofS 2:15
  Israel being the vineyard Ps 80:8-15;Isa 5:1-7
- It burrows among ruins Neh 4:3; Lam 5:18

- Thus, the false prophets were crafty, laid waste the vineyard of the Lord of hosts Isa 5:7
  made their profit out of the ruin of Israel, and made that ruin worse.

{digged: Heb. digged for me}

5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord.

Ezekiel 13:5

- There were breaches in the walls of Jerusalem, literally and spiritually, and the false prophets had not been as "repairers of the breach"

  Isa 58:12; Ps 106:23
- The leaders should have been the protectors of the people – instead, they loved their own popularity

The leaders should have been the protectors of the people – instead, they loved their own popularity

6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

Ezekiel 13:6

- To gain knowledge of secret things by superstitious means was forbidden Israel

  Ex 22:18; Num 23:23; Deut 18:10, 11

- and divining was disparaged

  Eze 13:7, 9, 23; 21:29; 22:28; Mic 3:6, 7, 11

- They had an outward show of religion

7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The Lord saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

8 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 13:7-8

- This is the oldest deception in the book!
  - Either to say 'has God said…'
  - Or to place your words as if they were God's!
- This a crime against God and against His people

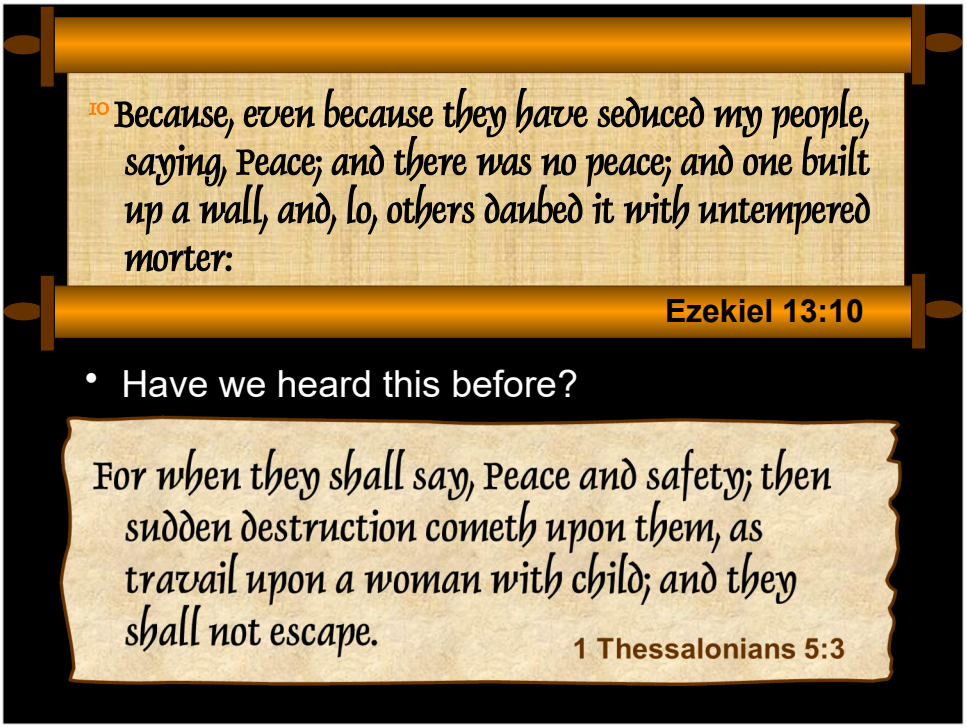
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9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord God.

Ezekiel 13:9

- The 'blotting out' of the name of the ungodly!
- To be excluded from the list would deprive an individual of the ***rights of citizenship*** (cf. Ezra 2:62).
- They would die as captives in a foreign land.
  - There would be no documentation of their heritage

{digged: Heb. digged for me}



{digged: Heb. digged for me}

1 But there were false prophets also among the people,
even as there shall be false teachers among you, who
privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying
the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves
swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason
of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words
make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a
long time lingereth not, and their damnation
slumbereth not.

2 Peter 2:1-3

{pernicious ways: or, lascivious ways, as some copies read}

11 Say unto them which daub it with untempered
morter, that it shall fall: there shall be an
overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones,
shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

12 Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto
you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have
daubed it?

13 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I will even rend it
with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be
an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great
hailstones in my fury to consume it.

Ezekiel 13:11-13

{digged: Heb. digged for me}

14 So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed
with untempered morter, and bring it down to the
ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be
discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be
consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know
that I am the Lord.
15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and
upon them that have daubed it with untempered
morter, and will say unto you, The wall is no more,
neither they that daubed it;

Ezekiel 13:14-15

{digged: Heb. digged for me}

16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord God.

17 Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,

Ezekiel 13:16-17

{digged: Heb. digged for me}

Prophetesses

- Several godly, gifted women are referred to in Scripture as prophetesses:
  - Miriam Ex 15:20,21
  - Deborah Judges 4:3-5
  - Isaiah's wife Isa 8:3
  - Huldah 2 Kgs 22:14-20
  - Anna Lk 2:36
  - 4 daughters of Philip Acts 21:8,9
- In the next section, the prophetesses (or rather sorceresses) were counterparts of the false prophets, forerunners of the modern palmists, fortunetellers, and mediums…

(Negatively: Noadiah (Neh 6:14), the prophetesses of Corinth (1 Cor 11:5) and Jezebel (Rev 2:20)…)

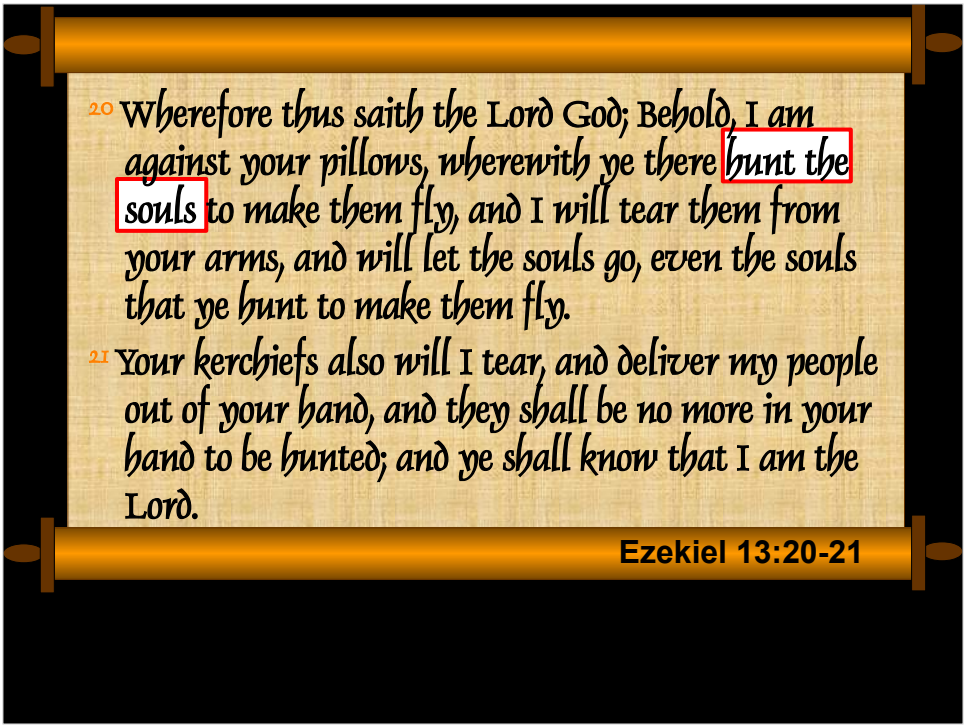
18 And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Woe to the women
that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs
upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will
ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the
souls alive that come unto you?

19 And will ye pollute me among my people for
handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay
the souls that should not die, and to save the souls
alive that should not live, by your lying to my
people that hear your lies?

Ezekiel 13:18-19

It speaks of alluring her prey. Cussions under the arms so it is easy to recline.

Kefchief = ornamental head



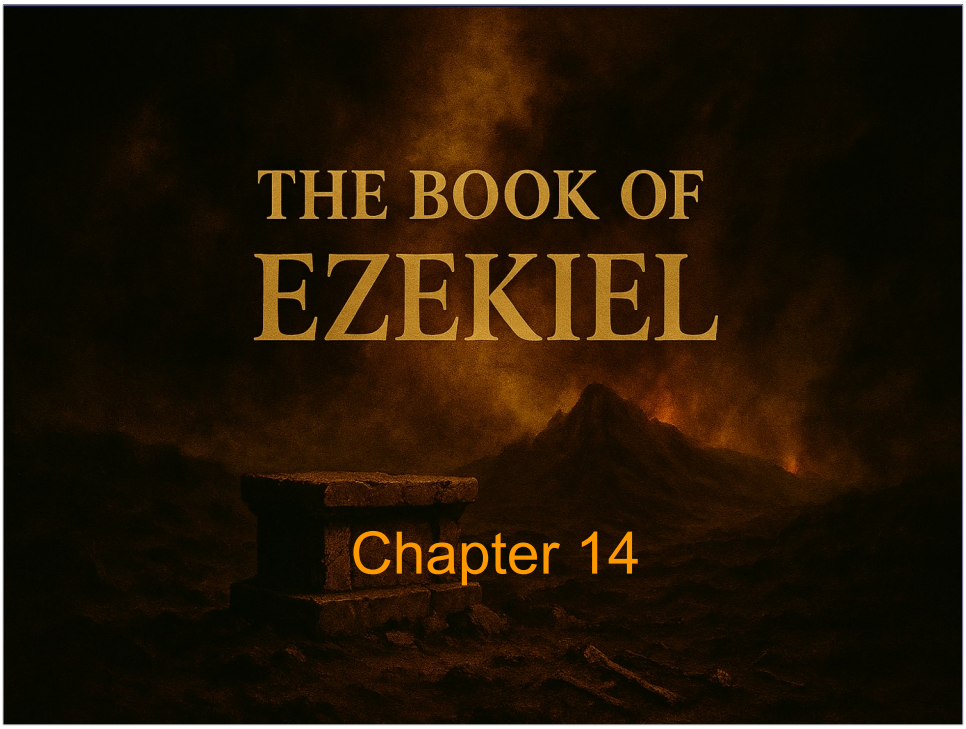
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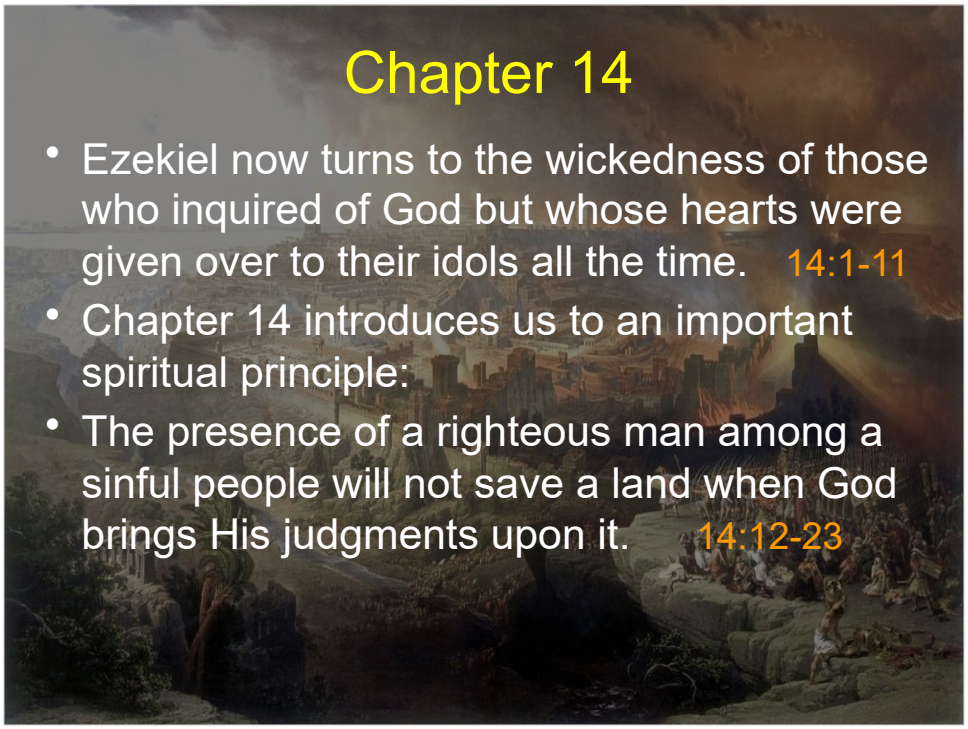
22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the
righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and
strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should
not return from his wicked way, by promising him
life:
23 Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine
divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your
hand: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 13:22-23

- God will indeed bring false prophets to an end.
  - Similar passages can be found in Amos 8; Micah 3; Zec
- Note that His people are delivered in spite of the false prophets.

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THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 14


Chapter 14
• Ezekiel now turns to the wickedness of those who inquired of God but whose hearts were given over to their idols all the time. 14:1-11
• Chapter 14 introduces us to an important spiritual principle:
• The presence of a righteous man among a sinful people will not save a land when God brings His judgments upon it. 14:12-23

Chapter 14

- Chapter 14 is divided into two major sections:
  - The prophecy against the idolatry of the elders
  - The certainty of the destruction of Jerusalem
- God continues to outline why He will judge Jerusalem.
- God is the same, yesterday, today & forever!
  - The principles laid down here are still operative today…
  - God still judges nations (UK beware!)

1 Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 14:1

- *"It is probable that they were not of those who were now his fellow-captives, and constantly attended his ministry (such as those we read of Ezekiel 8:1; Ezekiel 8:1), but some occasional hearers, some of the grandees of Jerusalem who had come upon business to Babylon, perhaps public business, on an embassy from the king, and in their way called on the prophet, having heard much of him and being desirous to know if he had any message from God"* – Matthew Henry

2 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

Ezekiel 14:1-3

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

Ezekiel 14:4-5

6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

7 For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the Lord will answer him by myself

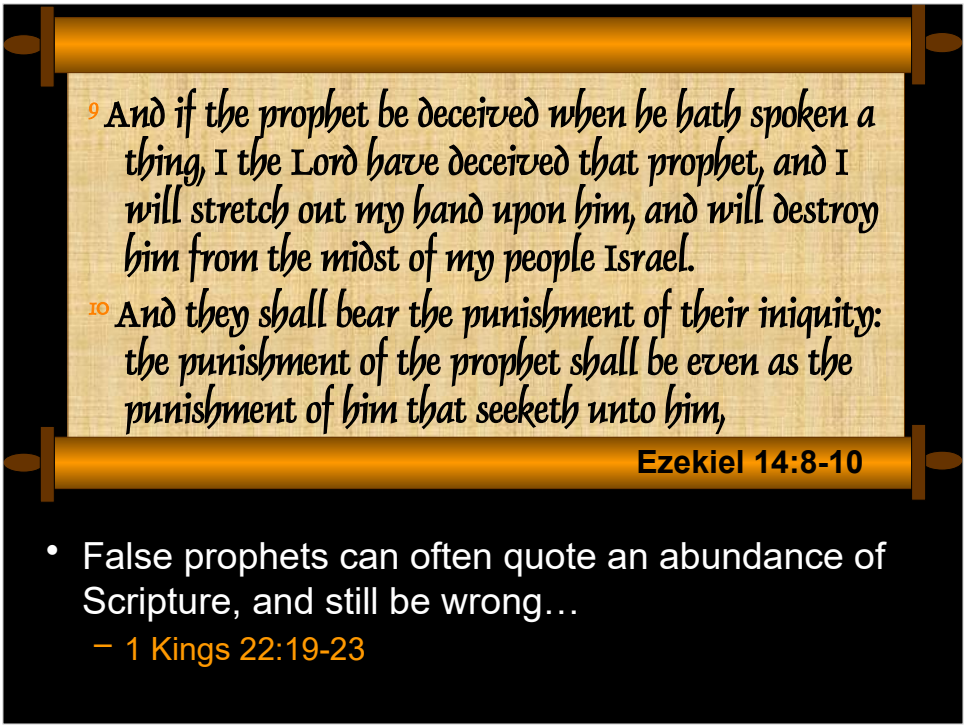
Ezekiel 14:6-7

8 And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 14:8

- The man whose heart was divided in its allegiance to God would receive no knowledge through a prophet, but would be answered by God himself in deeds.

Cf Lev 17:8-10; 20:3, 5, 6.



It is YHWH who sends the “lying spirit” in 1 Kings 22:20 -23. It is he who in the latter days shall send men “strong

11 That the house of Israel may go no more astray from
me, neither be polluted any more with all their
transgressions; but that they may be my people, and
I may be their God, saith the Lord God.
12 The word of the Lord came again to me, saying,
13 Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by
trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine
hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread
thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut
off man and beast from it:

Ezekiel 14:11-13

- 'Staff of bread' - We rely on our prosperity

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:11,12

- This is a disturbing rebuttal to those who are counting on a “second chance” after the Rapture…

▪ ▪ ▪

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God's Four Judgments

- Ezekiel declares that when the land sins, God sends one of his four judgments against it: cf. 5:16, 17
  - Famine vv.12-14
  - Hurtful beasts vv.15, 16
  - Sword and war vv.17, 18
  - Pestilence vv.19, 20

14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:14

- Why these three?
  - What characterised them?
- Their contemporaries did not listen to their message!
- The atheist and sceptic say: why doesn't God give us a sign?
  - The truth is that He has! Many! They choose to ignore!

14 Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:14

- Noah taught of the coming judgment of God on account of man's wickedness
- Daniel proclaimed the sovereignty of God in the face of idolatry
- Job proclaimed the righteousness of God despite the way things might appear
- Note: they would still deliver their own souls on account of their faith!

Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

Jeremiah 15:1

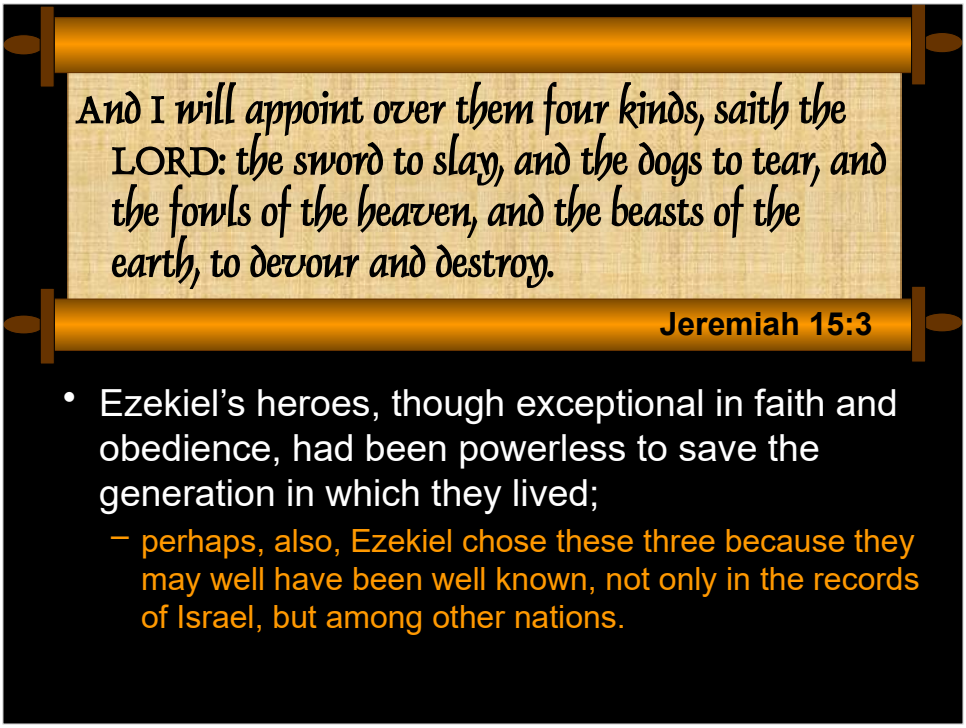
- Here in Jeremiah also we have "four sore judgments," with the declaration that not even the presence of Moses and Samuel would avail to save the people.
- They were obviously selected by Jeremiah as examples of the power of intercession

Exo 32:11, 12; 1 Sam 7:9; 12:23

▪ ▪ ▪

And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as *are* for death, to death; and such as *are* for the sword, to the sword; and such as *are* for the famine, to the famine; and such as *are* for the captivity, to the captivity.

Jeremiah 15:2



Noah had not saved the evil race before the Flood; Job had not saved his sons (Job 1:18); Daniel, though high in the king's favour, had not been able to influence Nebuchadnezzar to spare the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

15 If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land,
and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man
may pass through because of the beasts:
16 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the
Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor
daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land
shall be desolate.

Ezekiel 14:15-16

- "Work out your own salvation…"! - Phil 2:12
  - Your children cannot be saved on account of your faith and righteousness
  - We each answer to God for ourselves

17 Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it:

18 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be delivered themselves.

19 Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast:

Ezekiel 14:17-19

20 Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

21 For thus saith the Lord God; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?

Ezekiel 14:20-21

Wrath vs Intercession

- The intercession, even of the holiest of men, cannot avert God's judgments:
  - Noah, though a righteous man, could not by his intercession have preserved the old world from being drowned.
  - Job, though a righteous man, could not preserve his children from being killed by the fall of their house.
  - Daniel, though a righteous man, could not prevent the captivity of his country.
    - The holiness of any man can only avail for himself.

It is interesting to contrast the judgments here with the judgments of Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen 18. Abraham asked God if there were 10 righteous there, would He spare the city. Ten were not found. One was, Lot. Lot had to get out of there first, before the city was destroyed. God preserved Lot before judging. In fact, the angels pointed out that they could not even produce the judgment until Lot got out of there. Getting the righteous man out was a condition for the judgment to go forth

Wrath vs Intercession

- *"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job united to plead for Jerusalem, their intercession would be all in vain"*
- **1**. This was *contrary to expectation*.
  - There is power in intercession; there is a special power in the intercession of a "righteous man" (James 5:16); there is a still greater power in united prayer (Matthew 18:20).
  - Yet here the union of three of the very best men, selected from all ages, could not secure the safety of Jerusalem.

Wrath vs Intercession

- *"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job united to plead for Jerusalem, their intercession would be all in vain"*
- **1**. This was *contrary to expectation*.
- **2**. The cause of the failure of such an intercession was *hardened impenitence*.
  - God is more anxious to save than we are to plead for salvation.
  - But it would be unjust and injurious to spare the ungodly and rebellious

He sent his Son to save the world, an infinitely greater act than the most impassioned pleading of the best men. Therefore the failure cannot be attributed to His hardness.

Uselessness of Intercession

- *"Though Noah, Daniel, and Job united to plead for Jerusalem, their intercession would be all in vain"*
- **1**. This was *contrary to expectation*.
- **2**. The cause of the failure of such an intercession was *hardened impenitence*.
- **3**. *Intercession cannot change the divine will of an omniscient God*
- Lesson? When we pray, it MUST be according to His Word!

His prayers are worth those of ten thousand Noahs and Daniels and Jobs. "He ever liveth to make intercession for us;" and he alone, bearing the weight of the whole world's guilt, makes atonement for the sins of all men with ample sufficiency. *If they're penitent!*

22 Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it.

23 And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 14:22-23

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

2 Peter 3:3,4