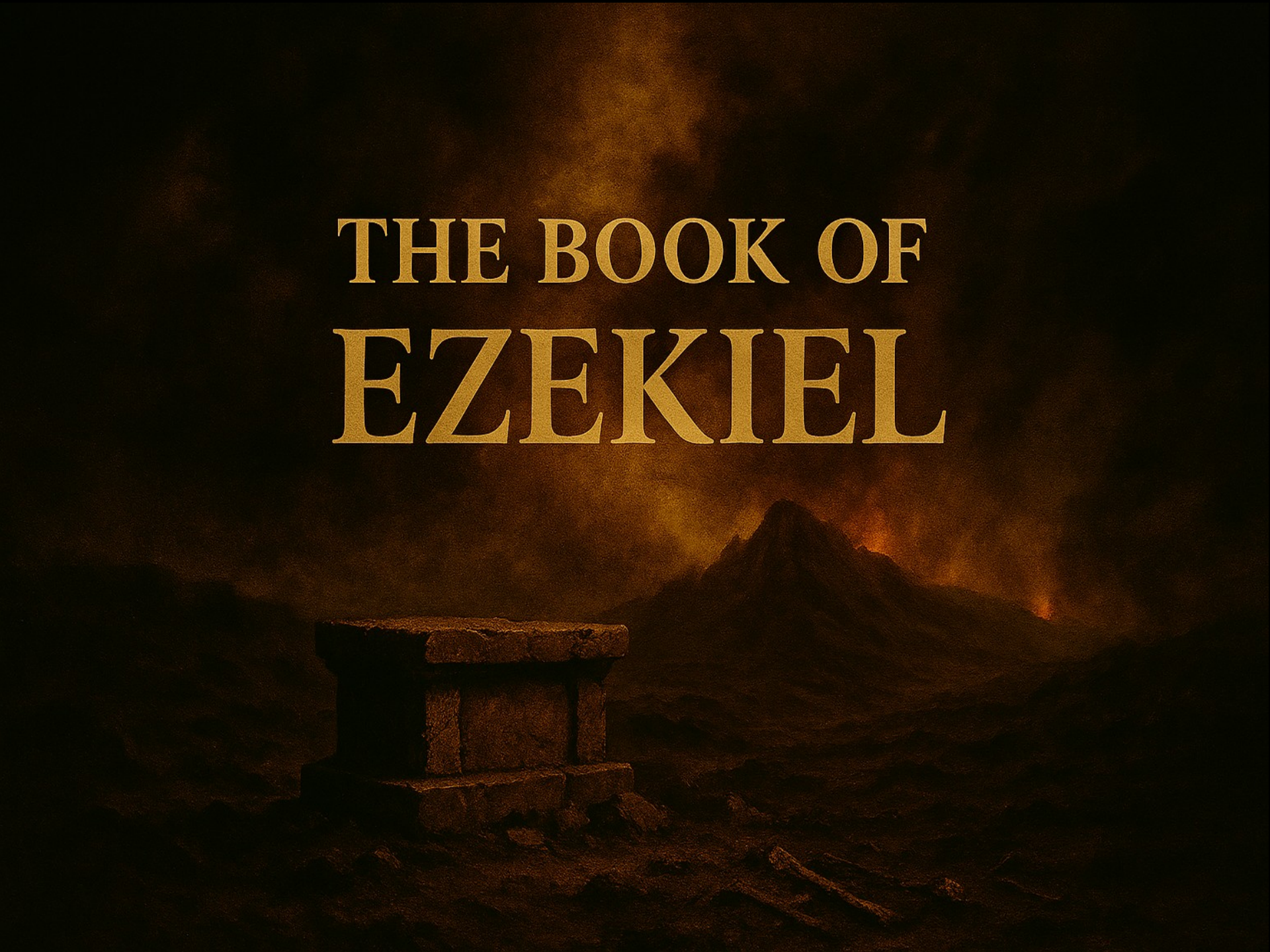
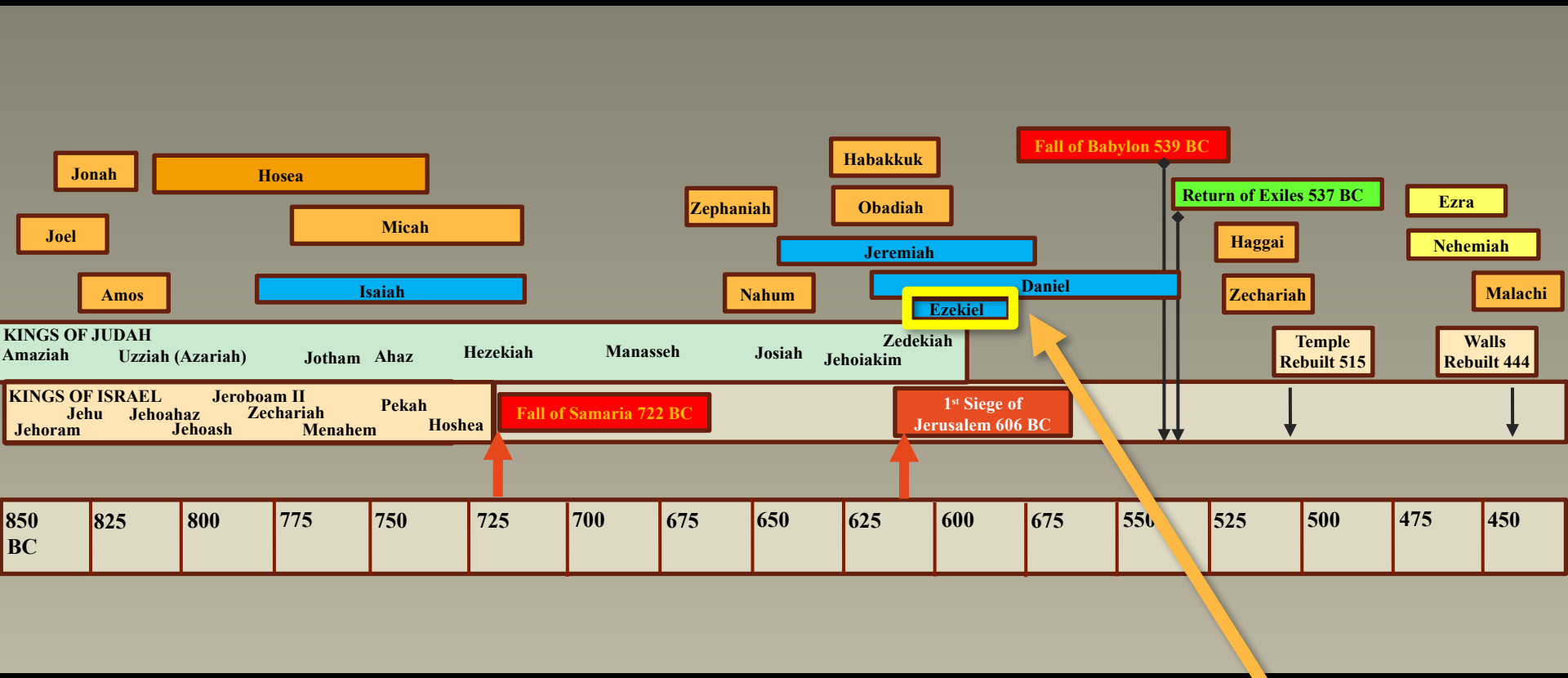

THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL

Timeline of Israel's Kings & Prophets

Final (longest reigning) Kings Leading Up To Captivity



Ezekiel written 593-571 B.C.

Introduction to Ch 18

- Chapter 14
  - The prophecy against the idolatry of the elders
  - The certainty of the destruction of Jerusalem

…emphasized by 3 parables:

- Chapter 15 (shortest chapter in Ezekiel)
  - The **parable** of the worthless vine
- Chapter 16 (longest chapter in Ezekiel)
  - The **parable** of the abandoned baby
- Chapter 17
  - The **parable** of two eagles and a vine,
- Chapter 18
  - The **justified verdict!**
    - The soul that sins, it will die!

The Paths of Life & Death

The Path of Life – Psalm 1

- Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly
- nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.
- But his delight is in the law of the Lord
- In his law does he meditate day and night.
- He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
- His leaf also shall not wither;
- Whatsoever he does shall prosper.

The Path of Death – Psalm 1

- The ungodly are not so:
  - Not blessed
  - Does not bring forth eternal fruit
  - Is not satisfied (always wanting)
  - All things not working for good
- But are like the chaff which the wind drives away
  - Everything uncertain
- Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment
  - A fearful verdict awaits Heb 10:27
- Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous
  - Not surrounded by love, peace & joy, acquittal, no condemnation
- The way of the ungodly shall perish.

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Chapter 19

Lamentation

Chapter 19

- We now have two lamentations:
  - The lamentations over the Princes of Judah v.1–9
  - The lamentation over the Land of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel v.10–14
- The whole chapter finds a parallel in Jeremiah's review of Josiah's successors Jer 22:10-30
- This is not the lamentation of Ezekiel, as some Bible commentators have attempted to say.
- This is the lamentation of the LORD…
- the lamentation of the same One who later wept over Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37–39).

1 Moreover take thou up a lamentation for the
princes of Israel,
2 And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay
down among lions, she nourished her whelps
among young lions.

Ezekiel 19:1-2

- The lioness is Israel,
  - the kingdom idealised and personified.
- The lionesses among whom she had lain down are the heathen kingdoms.
- The question asks why she had become as one of them and adopted their cruelty and ferocity.

3 And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.

Ezekiel 19:3

- The whelp, as v.4 shows, is Jehoahaz, who *"did evil"* in the sight of the LORD - 2 Kings 23:32
- The implication is that he was responsible for great cruelty and oppression, like that of Zedekiah.

4 The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit, and they brought him with chains unto the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 19:4

- Pharaoh Necho marched against Jerusalem and took Jehoahaz prisoner, and brought him to Egypt.
  2 Kings 23:33,34; Jer 22:11
- Chains = literally, 'nose rings', such as were put into the nostrils of animals
- Ez 38:4; 2 Kings 19:28; Isa 37:29

5 Now when she saw that she had waited, and her
hope was lost, then she took another of her
whelps, and made him a young lion.
6 And he went up and down among the lions, he
became a young lion, and learned to catch the
prey, and devoured men.

Ezekiel 19:5-6

- The second lion whelp, Jehoiachin, became as the pagan kings round about, and made Judea as idolatrous as any of the surrounding nations.

7 And he knew their desolate palaces, and he laid
waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and
the fullness thereof, by the noise of his roaring.

Ezekiel 19:7

8 Then the nations set against him on every side
from the provinces, and spread their net over
him: he was taken in their pit.

Ezekiel 19:8

- Nebuchadnezzar used Jehoiachin's allies against him
  - Chaldeans, Syrians, Moab, and Ammon
    2 Kings 24:2

9 And they put him in ward in chains, and brought
him to the king of Babylon: they brought him
into holds, that his voice should no more be heard
upon the mountains of Israel.

Ezekiel 19:9

- Nebuchadnezzar carried off Jehoiachin to Babylon as Jehoahaz had been to Egypt.
- The ‘young lion’ was to roar in chains, not on the mountains of Israel.

10 Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted
by the waters: she was fruitful and full of
branches by reason of many waters.

11 And she had strong rods for the sceptres of them
that bare rule, and her stature was exalted
among the thick branches, and she appeared in
her height with the multitude of her branches.

Ezekiel 19:10-11

- The vine, of course, was Israel, as we saw in Chapters 15 & 17. Cf. Ps 10; Isa 5

12 But she was plucked up in fury, she was cast
down to the ground, and the east wind dried up
her fruit: her strong rods were broken and
withered; the fire consumed them.
13 And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a
dry and thirsty ground.

Ezekiel 19:12-13

- “East Wind” - here is Nebuchadnezzar.
- Chaldea was well watered and fertile; but it is the condition of the captive people, not that of the land, which is referred to here.

14 And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches, which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.

Ezekiel 19:14

- God's wrath was kindled by the perjury of Zedekiah who by his perjury brought about the destruction of Jerusalem by fire.
- This marked the end of the monarchy in Israel…
- This has lasted for 2500 years as foretold by Hosea (3:4)

The End of the Dynasty

- There was no lawful king left. The royal line was cursed Jer 22:30
- Following the exile, no one was willing or able to take up the mantle
  - That leaves only One who can be heir to the Throne of David.
  - It has to be One from the royal line of David ‘legally’, but not from that blood line.
  - The only rightful King left is the Messiah Himself!
  - He was a descendant of the royal line through Joseph, but not of his blood!
  - He will sit on David’s throne as the Gabriel promised Mary. Luke 1:32

Acts 15:13-18; q.v. Amos 9:11,12

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

Chapter 20

A History of Rebellion

Chapters 20–24 contain
the final predictions concerning the
Judgment of Jerusalem

A History of Israel's Rebellion

Chapter 20

Verses

- In Egypt 5-9
- In the wilderness 10-17
- Of the 2nd generation 18-26
- Upon entering Canaan 27-29
- Ezekiel's generation 30-32
- Diaspora and Selective Return 33-39
- Kingdom Established 40-44

1 And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the Lord, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 20:1

- A new date is given, and includes what follows to Ez 23:49.
- The last note of time was in Ez 8:1, and 11 months and 5 days had passed, during which the prophecies of the intervening chapters had been written or spoken.

1 And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the Lord, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 20:1

- Maybe they were again wanting to protest their innocence, *"they were not deserving of judgment"*?
- Perhaps to see if the judgment could be averted?
- Either way they recognised in Ezekiel a righteous man whom God's favour was upon
  - How sad that their own communication with God had broken down to such an extent they could no longer seek Him directly!

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

3 Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you

Ezekiel 20:2-3

- Their moral state precluded them from capability of knowing the will of God

Ps 66:18; Pro 28:9; John 7:17

4 Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:

5 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the Lord your God;

Ezekiel 20:4-5

6 In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them,
to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a
land that I had espied for them, flowing with
milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

7 Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man
the abominations of his eyes, and defile not
yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the
Lord your God.

Ezekiel 20:6-7

- The Exodus was as much about leaving idolatry as it was physical deliverance from slavery.

8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:8

- He would have been justified to just wipe them out. Repeatedly, He extended His mercy and grace to them for His Name's sake.

His Name's Sake

7 The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:
8 But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

His Name's Sake

- If God makes a covenant and then fails to see it through—even if the other party breaks it—it could be perceived as a failure of His own word or power.
- By preserving a disobedient people, He demonstrates that His mercy and His ultimate plan are greater than their failures.

His Name's Sake

- The relationship was not just between God and Israel: it was intended to be a demonstration, a form of visibility, to the nations around there.
- He did this only for His name's sake, for His glory among those nations.
- God was attempting to communicate to all nations that He was a righteous God, therefore He had to judge sin.

His Name's Sake

- On the other hand, He wanted to demonstrate His mercy. But that ran the risk of being misunderstood by the nations around them that He was not powerful enough to enforce His own laws.
- Moses understood that, and used that when he negotiated; he would plead on behalf of His Name's sake. Ex 32:12, 14:16

9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should
not be polluted before the heathen, among whom
they were, in whose sight I made myself known
unto them, in bringing them forth out of the
land of Egypt.

10 Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the
land of Egypt, and brought them into the
wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:9-10

11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them

Ezekiel 20:11-12

- Ezekiel recognizes, almost in the very language of Deut 30:16-20, as fully as Psalm 19 and 119 recognised, the excellence of the Law.

11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them

Ezekiel 20:11-12

- The Sabbaths are unique to Israel
- Not to be confused with the 7th day of the week
- The 7th day of rest was established in Eden, not Sinai, and is for all mankind, not just the Jews!

Sabbath Days

Israel had 70 Sabbaths according to the Law of Moses

- 52 weekly Sabbaths
- 7 days for Passover (including 'Unleavened Bread' & 'Firstfruits')
- 1 day for the Feast of Pentecost
- 1 day for the Feast of Trumpets
- 1 day for the Feast of Atonement
- 7 days for the Feast of Tabernacles
- 1 day for the 'Eighth day of Assembly'

70

Israel's Sabbaths were bases on the Lunar calendar

13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Ezekiel 20:13

- The generation that went into the wilderness rebelled against God, and He let them die in the wilderness. Num 14:20-35, Ps 95:11; 106:26
- None except Joshua & Caleb entered the Land

14 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should
not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight
I brought them out.

15 Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the
wilderness, that I would not bring them into the
land which I had given them, flowing with milk
and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

Ezekiel 20:14-15

16 Because they despised my judgments, and walked
not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths:
for their heart went after their idols.
17 Nevertheless mine eye spared them from
destroying them, neither did I make an end of
them in the wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:16-17

- They wished to return to the idols of Egypt
  Num 13:32,33; 14:4
- God's grace, in contrast! Ps 78:38; Jer 30:11

18 But I said unto their children in the wilderness,
Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers,
neither observe their judgments, nor defile
yourselves with their idols:
19 I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes,
and keep my judgments, and do them;
20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a
sign between me and you, that ye may know
that I am the Lord your God.

Ezekiel 20:19-20

21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:21

- The next generation was rebellious also
- Num 25:1, 2; Deut 31:27

22 Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

Ezekiel 20:22

23 I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

Ezekiel 20:23-24

- The Diaspora (not just the Babylonian Captivity).

  Cf. Deut 28:63-68, et al.

25 Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live;

Ezekiel 20:25

- Since they would not follow My statutes that were good, “I gave them” their own Ez 20:18 and their fathers’ “which were not good”; statutes spiritually corrupting, and, finally, as the consequence, destroying them.
- Righteous retribution:
- Ps 81:12; Hos 8:11; Rom 1:24; 2 Thes 2:11

26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 20:26

- Not directly: “but I judicially *gave them up* to pollute themselves.” A just retribution for their “polluting My sabbaths” Ez 20:24
- Molech worship. Remember: we become like whatever it is we worship: Ps 115:8; 135:18

27 Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

Ezekiel 20:27

28 For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

Ezekiel 20:28

- Canaanite idolatry: “Groves;” “high hills”: phallic symbols, et al.

29 Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

Ezekiel 20:29

- Bamah = “high place.”
  - ‘ba’ means “to go;”
  - ‘mah’ means “where.”
- Thus, a contemptuous pun: Bamah indicates “going nowhere.”

30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you.

Ezekiel 20:30-31

32 And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

Ezekiel 20: 32

- And yet they have remained for nineteen centuries dispersed among all nations and without a home, but still a distinct people: a standing witness for the truth of the prophecy given so long ago.

I will go *and* return to my place, till they
acknowledge their offence, and seek my face:
in their affliction they will seek me earnestly.

Hosea 5:15

33 As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

Ezekiel 20:33

- *"I will assert My right over you in spite of your resistance (v.32), as a master would in the case of his slave, and I will not let you be wrested from Me, because of My regard to My covenant".* - CM

The Regathering

- The Diaspora
  - Into all the nations — Deut Ch 28 / Ch 30:1-11
- The Regathering
  - Regathered in stages — Ez 36
- Beginning in 1867!

1867: The Year of Jubilee

- On the 8th June 1867 Mark Twain set sail from New York – ending up in Israel
- On the exact same day, the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF) held a public meeting to pray for a Jewish homeland in Israel and to raise funds for excavation to begin in Israel
- Twain eventually arrived in Jerusalem and after journeying through the land wrote in his journal that the Land was a barren wilderness with nothing growing there.
- Twain's writings became a worldwide phenomenon.
- His "secular" testimony paradoxically fulfilled the biblical requirement that the land's utter desolation must be documented before its restoration could begin Deut 29:22

1867: The Year of Jubilee

- While Twain was there, so was Captain Charles Warren, sent by the PEF…
  - Twain & Warren were both in Jerusalem at the same time
- While Twain was describing the surface of the land as dead, Charles Warren was literally digging beneath the surface to find the "bones" of the Jewish kingdom.
- Warren discovered the ancient water system (Warren's Shaft) that proved the location of the original City of David.
- 1917 Balfour Declaration (50 yrs later)
- 1947 The Word rediscovered (Dead Sea Scrolls)
- 1948 The Nation born in a day! (Fulfilling Ezekiel's Prophecy Pt1)
  1967 Jerusalem recaptured! (Fulfilling Ezekiel's Prophecy Pt2)
- 2017 Jerusalem declared Israel's capital by Trump
- The regathering has continued since 1867 to this day!

The Regathering

- Israel is going to attain their role.
- What God had wanted them to do was be the mechanism by which He could show Himself strong throughout the earth.
- They failed at that all through history, but in this period, they are going to achieve that destiny.

Isa 49:17-23; 61:4-6.

Cf. Isa 61:7-10; Jer 23:1-8

The Regathering

- It will be interesting to note how the “north country” is earmarked in these forthcoming passages.
- The country that is predominately north of Israel is Russia, the descendants of the Magog (the Scythians).
  - We will get into this more in Ez 36, 37, 38, 39
  - Cf. Amos 9:11-15 and Zech 10:8-12.

34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

Ezekiel 20:34-35

- “Countries” is plural, not just from Babylon.

36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God.

37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

Ezekiel 20:36-37

- This concept of being passed under the rod is like a shepherd counts sheep.

Cf. Le 27:32; Jer 33:13; Mt 25:31-40

38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 20:38

39 As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

Ezekiel 20:39

- Some render this: *"Very well, go and serve your idols for now, but eventually, thought you won't listen to me now, [the time is coming when] you will pollute my holy Name no more…"*

Self-loathing

- When God gives the insight to see our sin, we are filled with loathing.
  - Job experienced that in Job 42;
  - So did Isaiah in Isaiah 6 when he saw the Throne of God and realised the righteousness of God, he loathed himself.
  - Apparently, Israel will also, when they realise, as they look back at their history, they will loathe themselves for their unbelief and for the evils they have committed against the Lord.

40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

Ezekiel 20:40

- Holy mountain = Jerusalem in the millennium
- Jerusalem will be the centre of the Earth

Jerusalem / Mt Zion

- Many commentators believe this refers to a literal geological change (Barns/Missler/Fruchtenbaum et al).
- Other prophets support this; Isaiah 2:2 and Micah 4:1 state that in the "latter days," the mountain of the Lord's house will be established as the highest of the mountains.
- By elevating Zion above all others, the text signals that the worship of Yahweh will no longer be hidden or equal to "high place" idols—it will be the undeniable, visible centre of the world.

Jerusalem / Mt Zion

<< Without text to show new land form >>



Jerusalem / Mt Zion

- Looking ahead to the end of Ezekiel chapters 40–48, the description of the land becomes almost "utopian" in its layout.
- The city and the temple are described with such massive, perfect dimensions that they wouldn't fit on the current, rugged terrain of Jerusalem.
- It suggests the "Mountain of Israel" in the Millennium is in a renovated earth where the valleys are lifted and the mountains are leveled Zechariah 14:10 to create a vast, elevated plateau for the Temple and the City.
- There's a beautiful "full circle" moment here. Ezekiel 28:13–14 actually refers to Eden as "the holy mountain of God." By establishing Jerusalem as the new "holy mountain" in the Millennial Kingdom, Ezekiel is describing a Restored Eden.

40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

Ezekiel 20:40

- All Israel – Northern kingdom + Judah
  - Ch 37 will expand this promise!
- Note also 'all of them IN THE LAND'

41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when
I bring you out from the people, and gather you
out of the countries wherein ye have been
scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before
the heathen.

42 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I
shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the
country for the which I lifted up mine hand to
give it to your fathers.

Ezekiel 20:41-42

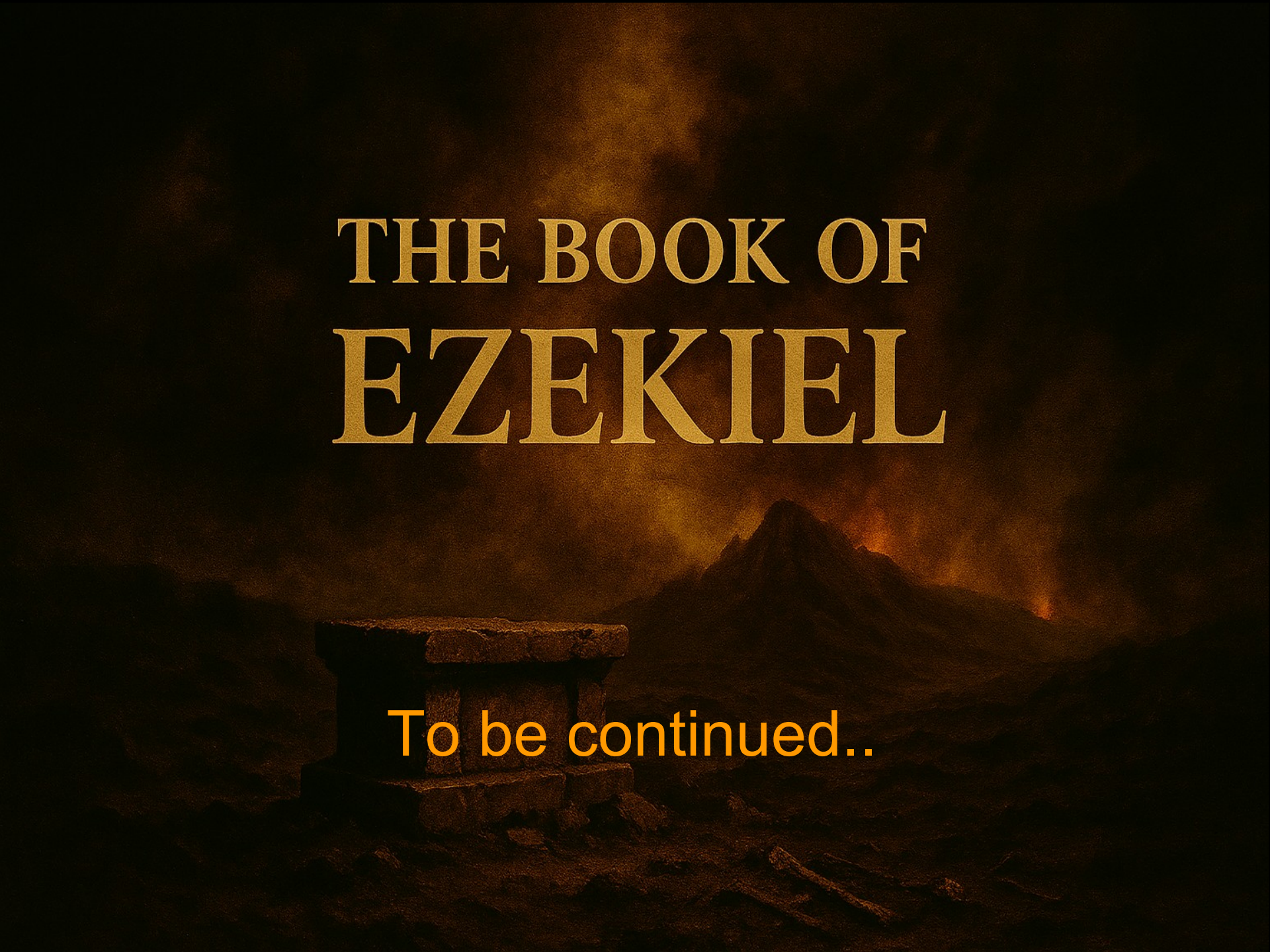
43 And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.

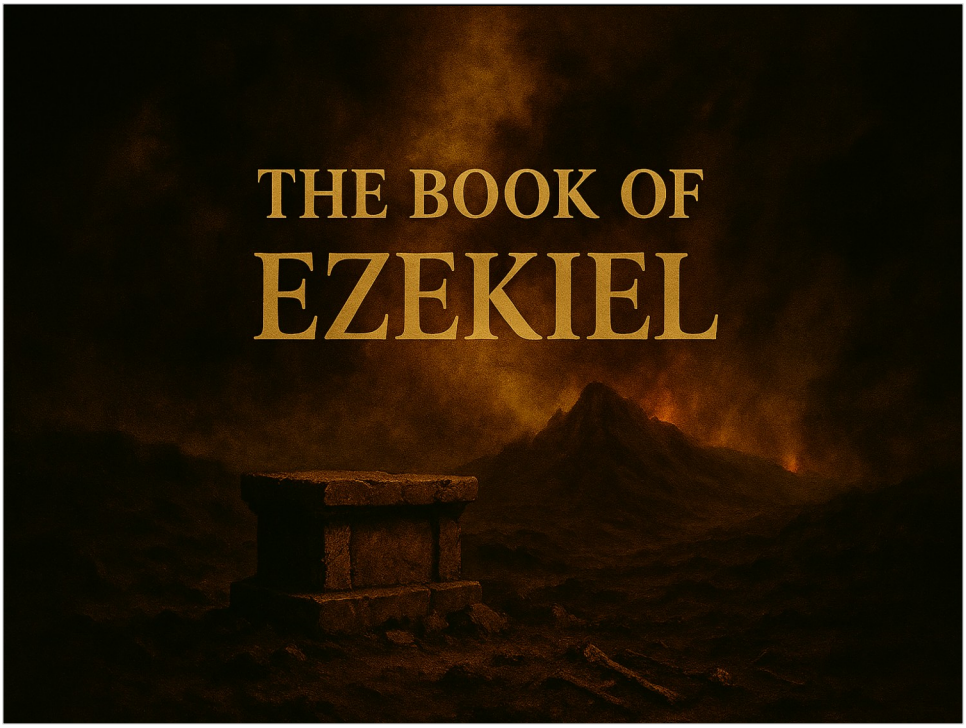
44 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 20:43-44

“The Prophecy of the Sword”

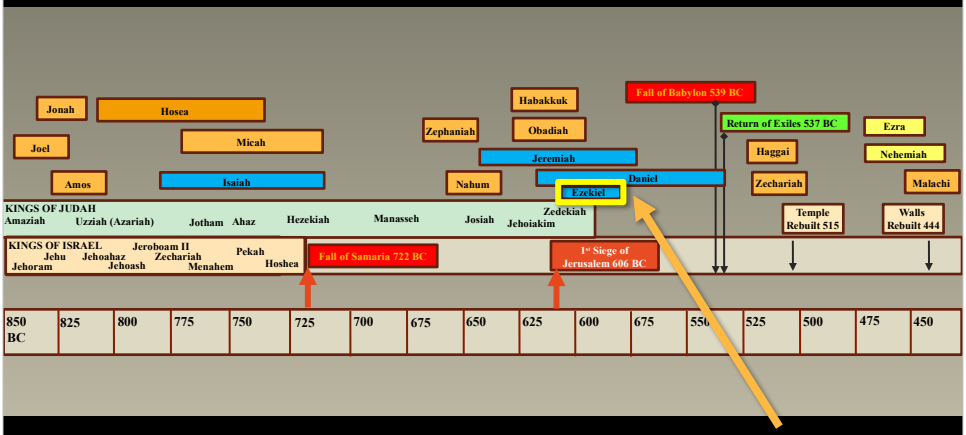
- This is where the Hebrew text ends Chapter 20;
- Verses 45-49 are the beginning of Chapter 21 which along with 21:1-32 is called “The Prophecy of the Sword”


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
To be continued..


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL

Timeline of Israel's Kings & Prophets

Final (longest reigning) Kings Leading Up To Captivity



Ezekiel written 593-571 B.C.

Introduction to Ch 18

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…emphasized by 3 parables:

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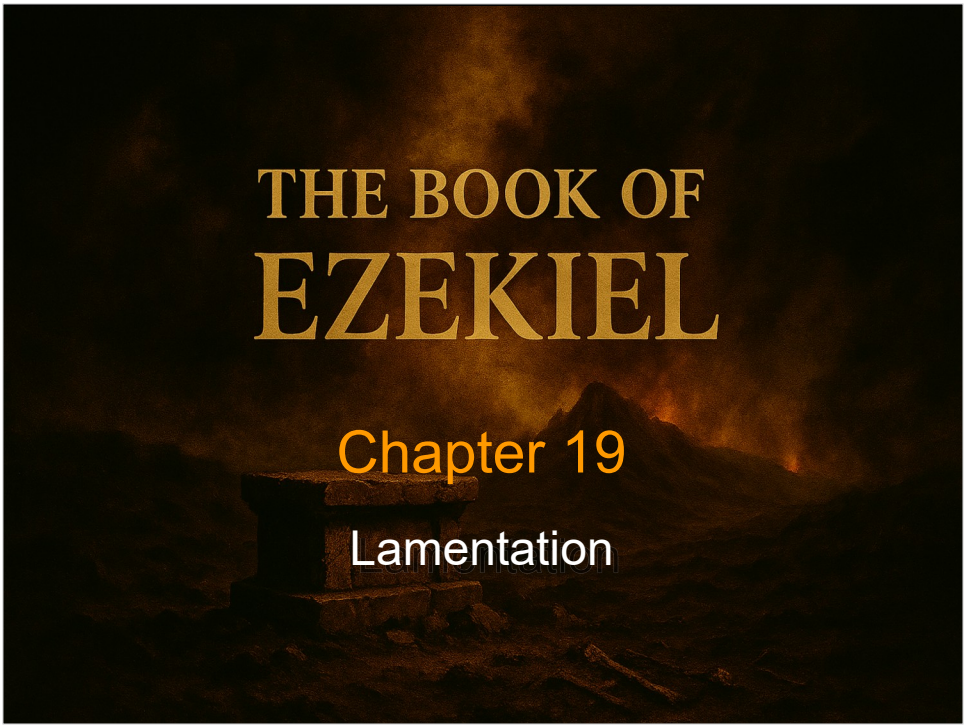
The Paths of Life & Death

The Path of Life – Psalm 1

- Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly
- nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.
- But his delight is in the law of the Lord
- In his law does he meditate day and night.
- He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
- His leaf also shall not wither;
- Whatsoever he does shall prosper.

The Path of Death – Psalm 1

- The ungodly are not so:
  - Not blessed
  - Does not bring forth eternal fruit
  - Is not satisfied (always wanting)
  - All things not working for good
- But are like the chaff which the wind drives away
  - Everything uncertain
- Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment
  - A fearful verdict awaits Heb 10:27
- Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous
  - Not surrounded by love, peace & joy, acquittal, no condemnation
- The way of the ungodly shall perish.


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
Chapter 19
Lamentation

Chapter 19

- We now have two lamentations:
  - The lamentations over the Princes of Judah v.1–9
  - The lamentation over the Land of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel v.10–14
- The whole chapter finds a parallel in Jeremiah's review of Josiah's successors Jer 22:10-30
- This is not the lamentation of Ezekiel, as some Bible commentators have attempted to say.
- This is the lamentation of the LORD…
- the lamentation of the same One who later wept over Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37–39).

[1] Moreover take thou up a lamentation for the princes of Israel,

[2] And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions.

Ezekiel 19:1-2

- The lioness is Israel,
  - the kingdom idealised and personified.
- The lionesses among whom she had lain down are the heathen kingdoms.
- The question asks why she had become as one of them and adopted their cruelty and ferocity.

3 And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.

Ezekiel 19:3

- The whelp, as v.4 shows, is Jehoahaz, who *"did evil"* in the sight of the LORD - 2 Kings 23:32
- The implication is that he was responsible for great cruelty and oppression, like that of Zedekiah.

4 The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit, and they brought him with chains unto the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 19:4

- Pharaoh Necho marched against Jerusalem and took Jehoahaz prisoner, and brought him to Egypt.
  2 Kings 23:33,34; Jer 22:11
- Chains = literally, 'nose rings', such as were put into the nostrils of animals
- Ez 38:4; 2 Kings 19:28; Isa 37:29

5 Now when she saw that she had waited, and her
hope was lost, then she took another of her
whelps, and made him a young lion.
6 And he went up and down among the lions, he
became a young lion, and learned to catch the
prey, and devoured men.

Ezekiel 19:5-6

- The second lion whelp, Jehoiachin, became as the pagan kings round about, and made Judea as idolatrous as any of the surrounding nations.

7 And he knew their desolate palaces, and he laid
waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and
the fullness thereof, by the noise of his roaring.

Ezekiel 19:7

> 8 Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him: he was taken in their pit.
>
> **Ezekiel 19:8**

- Nebuchadnezzar used Jehoiachin's allies against him
  - Chaldeans, Syrians, Moab, and Ammon
    2 Kings 24:2

[9]And they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon: they brought him into holds, that his voice should no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel.

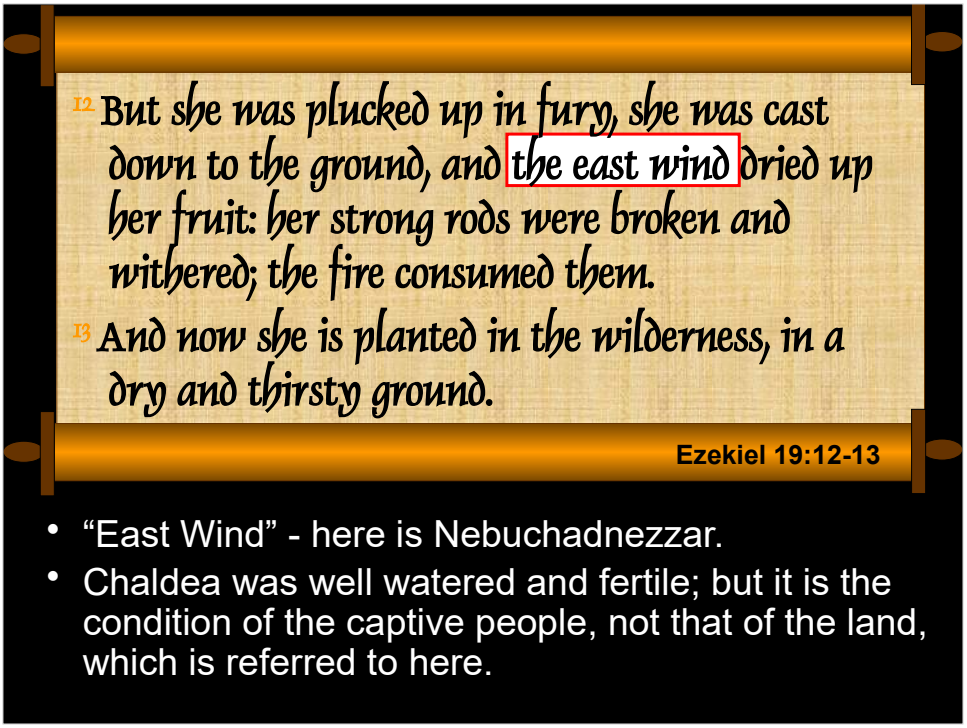
Ezekiel 19:9

- Nebuchadnezzar carried off Jehoiachin to Babylon as Jehoahaz had been to Egypt.
- The ‘young lion’ was to roar in chains, not on the mountains of Israel.

10 Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted
by the waters: she was fruitful and full of
branches by reason of many waters.
11 And she had strong rods for the sceptres of them
that bare rule, and her stature was exalted
among the thick branches, and she appeared in
her height with the multitude of her branches.

Ezekiel 19:10-11

- The vine, of course, was Israel, as we saw in Chapters 15 & 17. Cf. Ps 10; Isa 5



plucked up—not *gradually* withered. The *sudden* upturning of the state was designed to awaken the Jews out of their torpor to see the hand of God in the national judgment.

14 And fire is gone out of a rod of her branches,
which hath devoured her fruit, so that she hath
no strong rod to be a sceptre to rule. This is a
lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.

Ezekiel 19:14

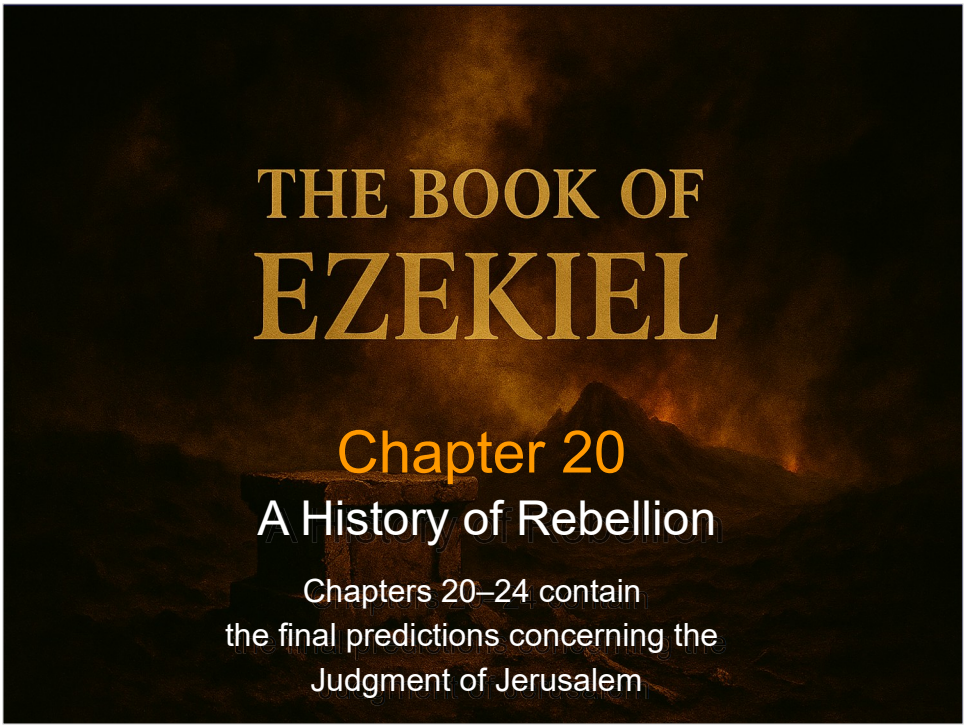
- God's wrath was kindled by the perjury of Zedekiah who by his perjury brought about the destruction of Jerusalem by fire.
- This marked the end of the monarchy in Israel…
- This has lasted for 2500 years as foretold by Hosea (3:4)

The End of the Dynasty

- There was no lawful king left. The royal line was cursed Jer 22:30
- Following the exile, no one was willing or able to take up the mantle
  - That leaves only One who can be heir to the Throne of David.
  - It has to be One from the royal line of David 'legally', but not from that blood line.
  - The only rightful King left is the Messiah Himself!
  - He was a descendant of the royal line through Joseph, but not of his blood!
  - He will sit on David's throne as the Gabriel promised Mary. Luke 1:32

    Acts 15:13-18; q.v. Amos 9:11,12

[As we reviewed in the last session…]`



Under every facet and circumstance, man has sought to be rebellious and to go any way other than that which the Lord had ordained. Here we will be reviewing ***the history of Israel is seen from God's point of view.***

A History of Israel's Rebellion

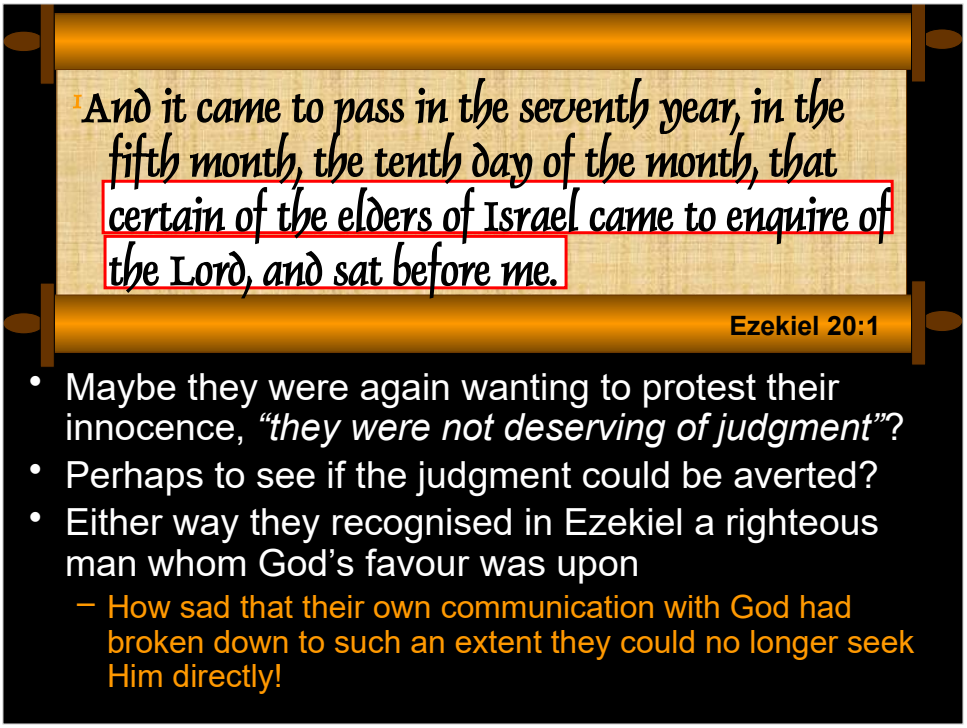
Chapter 20

	Verses
• In Egypt	5-9
• In the wilderness	10-17
• Of the 2nd generation	18-26
• Upon entering Canaan	27-29
• Ezekiel's generation	30-32
• Diaspora and Selective Return	33-39
• Kingdom Established	40-44

1 And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the Lord, and sat before me.

Ezekiel 20:1

- A new date is given, and includes what follows to Ez 23:49.
- The last note of time was in Ez 8:1, and 11 months and 5 days had passed, during which the prophecies of the intervening chapters had been written or spoken.



Is your relationship with God dependent on others?

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

3 Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you Ezekiel 20:2-3

- Their moral state precluded them from capability of knowing the will of God

Ps 66:18; Pro 28:9; John 7:17

4 Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers:

5 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; In the day when I chose Israel, and lifted up mine hand unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I lifted up mine hand unto them, saying, I am the Lord your God;

Ezekiel 20:4-5

6 In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them,
to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a
land that I had espied for them, flowing with
milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:
7 Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man
the abominations of his eyes, and defile not
yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the
Lord your God.

Ezekiel 20:6-7

- The Exodus was as much about leaving idolatry as it was physical deliverance from slavery.

8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 20:8

- He would have been justified to just wipe them out. Repeatedly, He extended His mercy and grace to them for His Name's sake.

His Name's Sake

7 The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:
8 But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

His Name's Sake

- If God makes a covenant and then fails to see it through—even if the other party breaks it—it could be perceived as a failure of His own word or power.
- By preserving a disobedient people, He demonstrates that His mercy and His ultimate plan are greater than their failures.

His Name's Sake

- The relationship was not just between God and Israel: it was intended to be a demonstration, a form of visibility, to the nations around there.
- He did this only for His name's sake, for His glory among those nations.
- God was attempting to communicate to all nations that He was a righteous God, therefore He had to judge sin.

His Name's Sake

- On the other hand, He wanted to demonstrate His mercy. But that ran the risk of being misunderstood by the nations around them that He was not powerful enough to enforce His own laws.
- Moses understood that, and used that when he negotiated; he would plead on behalf of His Name's sake. Ex 32:12, 14:16

9 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, among whom they were, in whose sight I made myself known unto them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

10 Wherefore I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:9-10

11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them

Ezekiel 20:11-12

- Ezekiel recognizes, almost in the very language of Deut 30:16-20, as fully as Psalm 19 and 119 recognised, the excellence of the Law.

11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them

Ezekiel 20:11-12

- The Sabbaths are unique to Israel
- Not to be confused with the 7th day of the week
- The 7th day of rest was established in Eden, not Sinai, and is for all mankind, not just the Jews!


Sabbath Days
Israel had 70 Sabbaths according to the Law of Moses
- 52 weekly Sabbaths
- 7 days for Passover (including 'Unleavened Bread' & 'Firstfruits')
- 1 day for the Feast of Pentecost
- 1 day for the Feast of Trumpets
- 1 day for the Feast of Atonement
- 7 days for the Feast of Tabernacles
- 1 day for the 'Eighth day of Assembly'
70
Israel's Sabbaths were bases on the Lunar calendar

13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

Ezekiel 20:13

- The generation that went into the wilderness rebelled against God, and He let them die in the wilderness. Num 14:20-35, Ps 95:11; 106:26
- None except Joshua & Caleb entered the Land

14 But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should
not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight
I brought them out.

15 Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the
wilderness, that I would not bring them into the
land which I had given them, flowing with milk
and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

Ezekiel 20:14-15

16 Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

17 Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:16-17

- They wished to return to the idols of Egypt
  Num 13:32,33; 14:4
- God's grace, in contrast! Ps 78:38; Jer 30:11

18 But I said unto their children in the wilderness,
Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers,
neither observe their judgments, nor defile
yourselves with their idols:
19 I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes,
and keep my judgments, and do them;
20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a
sign between me and you, that ye may know
that I am the Lord your God.

Ezekiel 20:19-20

21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

Ezekiel 20:21

- The next generation was rebellious also
- Num 25:1, 2; Deut 31:27

22 Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

Ezekiel 20:22

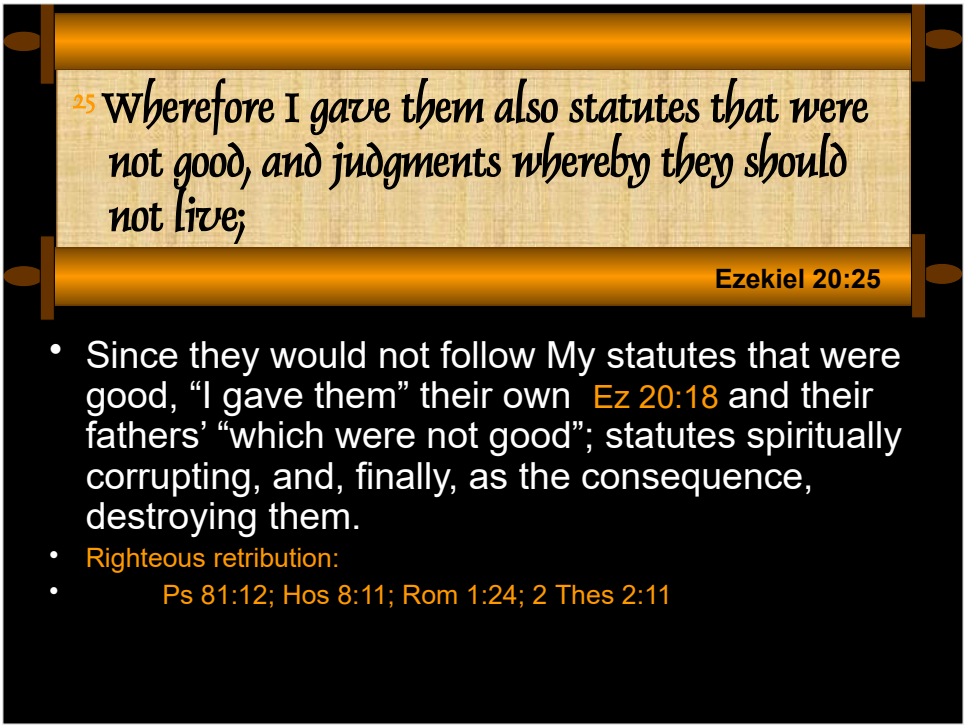
23 I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the heathen, and disperse them through the countries;

24 Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

Ezekiel 20:23-24

- The Diaspora (not just the Babylonian Captivity).

  Cf. Deut 28:63-68, et al.



Ez 20:39 proves this view to be correct (cf. Isa 63:17).

Thus on the plains of Moab (Nu 25:1–18), in chastisement for the secret unfaithfulness to God in their hearts, He permitted Baal’s worshipers to tempt them to idolatry (the ready success of the tempters, moreover, proving the inward unsoundness of the tempted); and this again ended necessarily in punitive judgments.

26 And I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that openeth the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 20:26

- Not directly: “but I judicially *gave them up* to pollute themselves.” A just retribution for their “polluting My sabbaths” Ez 20:24
- Molech worship. Remember: we become like whatever it is we worship: Ps 115:8; 135:18

27 Therefore, son of man, speak unto the house of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

Ezekiel 20:27

28 For when I had brought them into the land, for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to them, then they saw every high hill, and all the thick trees, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering: there also they made their sweet savour, and poured out there their drink offerings.

Ezekiel 20:28

- Canaanite idolatry: “Groves;” “high hills”: phallic symbols, et al.

29 Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

Ezekiel 20:29

- Bamah = “high place.”
  - ‘ba’ means “to go;”
  - ‘mah’ means “where.”
- Thus, a contemptuous pun: Bamah indicates “going nowhere.”

30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?

31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord God, I will not be enquired of by you.

Ezekiel 20:30-31

32 And that which cometh into your mind shall not be at all, that ye say, We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

Ezekiel 20: 32

- And yet they have remained for nineteen centuries dispersed among all nations and without a home, but still a distinct people: a standing witness for the truth of the prophecy given so long ago.

I will go *and* return to my place, till they
acknowledge their offence, and seek my face:
in their affliction they will seek me earnestly.

Hosea 5:15

33 As I live, saith the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

Ezekiel 20:33

- *"I will assert My right over you in spite of your resistance (v.32), as a master would in the case of his slave, and I will not let you be wrested from Me, because of My regard to My covenant".* - CM

The Regathering

- The Diaspora
  - Into all the nations — Deut Ch 28 / Ch 30:1-11
- The Regathering
  - Regathered in stages — Ez 36
- Beginning in 1867!

1867: The Year of Jubilee

- On the 8th June 1867 Mark Twain set sail from New York – ending up in Israel
- On the exact same day, the Palestine Exploration Fund (PEF) held a public meeting to pray for a Jewish homeland in Israel and to raise funds for excavation to begin in Israel
- Twain eventually arrived in Jerusalem and after journeying through the land wrote in his journal that the Land was a barren wilderness with nothing growing there.
- Twain's writings became a worldwide phenomenon.
- His "secular" testimony paradoxically fulfilled the biblical requirement that the land's utter desolation must be documented before its restoration could begin Deut 29:22

1867: The Year of Jubilee

- While Twain was there, so was Captain Charles Warren, sent by the PEF…
  - Twain & Warren were both in Jerusalem at the same time
- While Twain was describing the surface of the land as dead, Charles Warren was literally digging beneath the surface to find the "bones" of the Jewish kingdom.
- Warren discovered the ancient water system (Warren's Shaft) that proved the location of the original City of David.
- 1917 Balfour Declaration (50 yrs later)
- 1947 The Word rediscovered (Dead Sea Scrolls)
- 1948 The Nation born in a day! (Fulfilling Ezekiel's Prophecy Pt1)
  1967 Jerusalem recaptured! (Fulfilling Ezekiel's Prophecy Pt2)
- 2017 Jerusalem declared Israel's capital by Trump
- The regathering has continued since 1867 to this day!

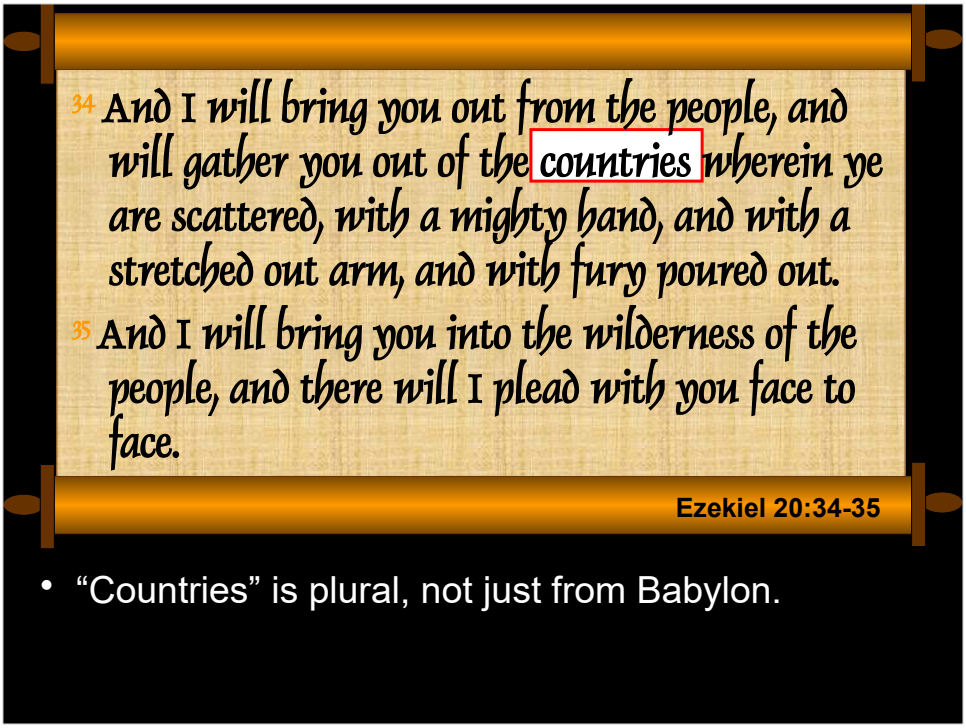
The Regathering

- Israel is going to attain their role.
- What God had wanted them to do was be the mechanism by which He could show Himself strong throughout the earth.
- They failed at that all through history, but in this period, they are going to achieve that destiny.

  Isa 49:17-23; 61:4-6.
  Cf. Isa 61:7-10; Jer 23:1-8

The Regathering

- It will be interesting to note how the “north country” is earmarked in these forthcoming passages.
- The country that is predominately north of Israel is Russia, the descendants of the Magog (the Scythians).
  - We will get into this more in Ez 36, 37, 38, 39
  - Cf. Amos 9:11-15 and Zech 10:8-12.



“Countries” is plural, not just from Babylon.

36 Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the
wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead
with you, saith the Lord God.
37 And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I
will bring you into the bond of the covenant:

Ezekiel 20:36-37

- This concept of being passed under the rod is like a shepherd counts sheep.

Cf. Le 27:32; Jer 33:13; Mt 25:31-40

38 And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 20:38

39 As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord God; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken unto me: but pollute ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.

Ezekiel 20:39

- Some render this: *"Very well, go and serve your idols for now, but eventually, thought you won't listen to me now, [the time is coming when] you will pollute my holy Name no more…"*

Self-loathing

- When God gives the insight to see our sin, we are filled with loathing.
  - Job experienced that in Job 42;
  - So did Isaiah in Isaiah 6 when he saw the Throne of God and realised the righteousness of God, he loathed himself.
  - Apparently, Israel will also, when they realise, as they look back at their history, they will loathe themselves for their unbelief and for the evils they have committed against the Lord.

40 For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things.

Ezekiel 20:40

- Holy mountain = Jerusalem in the millennium
- Jerusalem will be the centre of the Earth

Jerusalem / Mt Zion

- Many commentators believe this refers to a literal geological change (Barns/Missler/Fruchtenbaum et al).
- Other prophets support this; Isaiah 2:2 and Micah 4:1 state that in the "latter days," the mountain of the Lord's house will be established as the highest of the mountains.
- By elevating Zion above all others, the text signals that the worship of Yahweh will no longer be hidden or equal to "high place" idols—it will be the undeniable, visible centre of the world.

Jerusalem / Mt Zion

<< Without text to show new land form >>



Jerusalem / Mt Zion

- Looking ahead to the end of Ezekiel chapters 40–48, the description of the land becomes almost "utopian" in its layout.
- The city and the temple are described with such massive, perfect dimensions that they wouldn't fit on the current, rugged terrain of Jerusalem.
- It suggests the "Mountain of Israel" in the Millennium is in a renovated earth where the valleys are lifted and the mountains are leveled Zechariah 14:10 to create a vast, elevated plateau for the Temple and the City.
- There's a beautiful "full circle" moment here. Ezekiel 28:13–14 actually refers to Eden as "the holy mountain of God." By establishing Jerusalem as the new "holy mountain" in the Millennial Kingdom, Ezekiel is describing a Restored Eden.



Since the reign of Rehoboam (Solomon's son), the nation had been fractured into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). By the time of Ezekiel:

The Northern Kingdom had been scattered by Assyria (the "Lost Tribes").

The Southern Kingdom was in exile in Babylon.

41 I will accept you with your sweet savour, when
I bring you out from the people, and gather you
out of the countries wherein ye have been
scattered; and I will be sanctified in you before
the heathen.

42 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I
shall bring you into the land of Israel, into the
country for the which I lifted up mine hand to
give it to your fathers.

Ezekiel 20:41-42

43 And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed.

44 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have wrought with you for my name's sake, not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 20:43-44

“The Prophecy of the Sword”

- This is where the Hebrew text ends Chapter 20;
- Verses 45-49 are the beginning of Chapter 21 which along with 21:1-32 is called “The Prophecy of the Sword”


THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL
To be continued..