

“YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ME”

Ezekiel 19-24

Introduction

1) **Ezekiel** was a prophet among the Jewish captives in Babylon (593-571 BC)

I) **A Lamentation for Israel (Ch. 19)**

A) Israel is pictured as a lioness with two cubs (vv. 2-9)

1) First cub is king Jehoahaz who is taken prisoner to Egypt (vv. 3-4; 2 Kgs. 23:31-34)

2) Second cub is king Jehoiachin who is taken prisoner to Babylon (vv. 5-9; 2 Kgs. 24:8-16)

B) Israel is pictured as a strong vine plucked up and planted in a dry and thirsty land (vv. 10-14)

1) No more strong branch for a scepter for ruling – end of kingly rule in Jerusalem (vv. 11, 14)

II) **The History of Israel’s Rebellions (Ch. 20)**

A) Elders of Israel came to Ezekiel in seventh year to inquire of the Lord (vv. 1-4; 591-590 BC)

B) They are given a lesson in Israel’s rebellious history (vv. 5-29)

1) Rebellion and idolatry in Egyptian bondage, but spared (vv. 5-9)

2) Rebellion and idolatry in the wilderness wanderings, but spared (vv. 10-17; defiled sabbath)

3) Rebellion and idolatry of next generation, spared again but scattered (vv. 18-29)

4) Present generation in captivity rebellious and idolatrous and need to repent (vv. 30-32)

C) God would use captivity to purge out rebellious and bring a restoration of Israel (vv. 33-44)

D) A fire will be kindled toward the South [Jerusalem] (vv. 45-49; continued in next chapter)

III) **The Sword of the Lord (Ch. 21)**

A) The sword of the Lord is drawn out of its sheath against Jerusalem (vv. 1-27)

1) **Sword** = Babylon (vv. 19-20); will make a dreadful slaughter (vv. 9-10)

2) Ezekiel to sigh before the people with a breaking heart and bitterness at the news (vv. 6-7)

3) Davidic king line ended until He comes whose right it is to reign – Messiah (vv. 25-27)

B) Ammonites also destroyed (vv. 28-29); Babylonians will be judged (vv. 30-32)

IV) **The Sins of Jerusalem (Ch. 22)**

A) Murder, idolatry, mock-mistreat-oppress, sexual sin – forgotten the Lord (vv. 1-16)

1) Despised God’s holy things and profaned His Sabbaths (v. 8)

B) Dross of Israel put in the furnace of God’s fury (vv. 17-22)

C) Priests did not distinguish between holy and unholy, princes destroy for money, prophets prophesy lies, and people sin against one another (vv. 23-29)

1) No one found to “stand in the gap” to save the land (vv. 30-31)

V) **Two Harlot Sisters (Ch. 23)**

A) **Oholah** [“her own tabernacle”] = Samaria; **Oholibah** [“my tabernacle is in her”] = Jerusalem

B) Both sisters played the harlot against God with foreign nations and their gods (vv. 2-34)

C) They had forgotten God; would be judged for their sins and profaning God’s things (vv. 35-49)

VI) **Symbol of the Cooking Pot and Death of Ezekiel’s Wife (Ch. 24)**

A) Lord speaks to Ezekiel in ninth year (589-588 BC) on the very day (tenth day of tenth month) that the king of Babylon started his siege against Jerusalem (vv. 1-2; 2 Kgs. 25:1; Jer. 39:1; 52:4)

B) Parable of cooking pot/cauldron – Jerusalem is a pot of destruction and will be destroyed

C) Ezekiel’s wife dies but he is not to mourn – a sign to the people not to mourn over Jerusalem

Conclusion

How horrible sin is in the sight of God! Let us learn and determine to be faithful to God!