



The Book of EZEKIEL

Chapters 17 – 20

Chapter 17- “A Parable to the House of Israel”

(v1-10) The parable to the house of Israel.

- Ezekiel 17:1-5 - King Jehoiachin (Ezek 17:3-4,11-12). When Nebuchadnezzar swooped down on Judah in 597 B.C., he deposed King Jehoiachin and took him and his family and staff to Babylon. He also took the temple treasures and 10,000 officers, artisans, and soldiers (2 Kings 24:8-17). This fulfilled the prophecy Isaiah had spoken to King Hezekiah after the king had shown all his wealth to the Babylonian visitors (Isa 39; 2 Kings 20:17). Jehoiachin was the highest shoot or branch in David's family tree and he was "planted" in Babylon. Jehoiachin had reigned only three months and ten days (2 Chron 36:9). He's the king that Jeremiah called "Coniah" (Jer 22:24,28; 37:1) and Jeconiah in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (Matt 1:11-12). In Ezek 19:5-9, Jehoiachin is compared to a lion who would be caught and taken to Babylon. During his three months on the throne, instead of leading the people back to faith in the Lord, Jehoiachin did evil in the sight of the Lord. He died in Babylon. (from The Bible Exposition Commentary))

(v6-10) This section deals with King Zedekiah breaking his covenant with Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon to pay tribute thus keeping the peace. Zedekiah sought an allegiance with Pharaoh Hophra of Egypt, and God said this is wrong and will end in destruction.

(v11-21) The meaning of the parable – Wiersbe writes, “Ezekiel made it clear that it wasn't only Nebuchadnezzar's covenant that Zedekiah broke. He had broken God's covenant; and it was God who punished him through Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah had sworn his oath in the name of the Lord (2 Chron 36:11-14); therefore he was obligated to keep it. In looking to Egypt for help, Zedekiah turned a deaf ear to the warnings of Jeremiah (Jer 38), and Isaiah had preached the same message over a century before (Isa 31:1; 36:9). It was the Lord who caught the king and his officers in His net and turned them over to the Babylonians (2 Kings 25:1-10; Jer 52:1-11).”

(v22-24) The LORD of the parable - This section speaks of Messiah to come, to reign and rule over Israel in His millennial Kingdom! (Jesus is the tender shoot out of dry ground found in Isaiah 53:1-2 - *Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,*

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.)

Chapter 18 - "A Proverb for Israel"

(v1-3) A paternal proverb to pass away!

(v4-20) The soul that lives & the soul that dies!

(v21-32) "Repent & Turn!" or "Return & Burn!"

Chapter 19 - "Lamentation For Israel's Leaders"

(v1-9) Lamentation for the lioness and her cubs

(The lioness represents the kingdom of Israel. This lioness and cubs rebelled against God's commands and reaped what they sowed, corruption always brings destruction!)

(v10-14) Lamentation for the vine (This vine Israel did not bear, but withered and died.)

- Two messianic insights: (1) Jesus is the true lion from the tribe of Judah (Rev 5:5 -

***But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*); (2) Jesus is the true vine (John 15:1 - *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."*)**

Chapter 20 - "God's History Lesson For Israel"

- Ezekiel delivered this message on August 14, 591 B.C.

(v1-32) God's grace & Israel's rebellion

(v33-38) God will bring Israel back to the land!

(v39-44) God promises that Israel will worship Him once again!