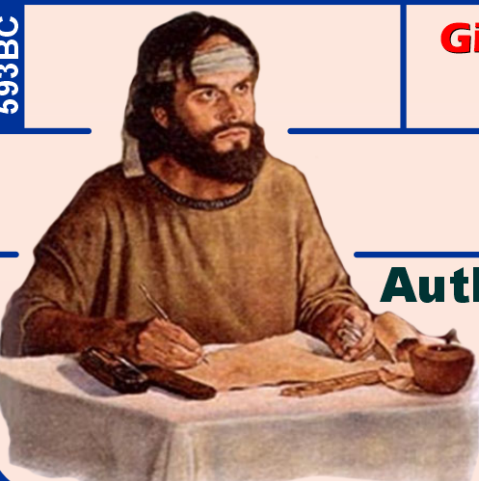


FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

19

BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↻ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic									
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48							
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Babylonia (26) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God							
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC	
								The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying <u>JUDGMENT</u>					
								The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying <u>HOPE</u>					
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)													
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old													
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old													
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old													
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old													

LAMENT FOR THE KINGS OF JUDAH

Ezekiel 19:1-14

INTRODUCTION – EZEKIEL 19

- **Ezekiel concluded this section on the futility of false optimism (chaps. 12-19) with a lament for Israel and her leaders.**
- **This is the first of five laments in the book (Ek.26:17-18; 27:1-36; 28:12-19; 32:1-16).**
- **A “lament” was a funeral song usually recited in honor of a dead person.**



INTRODUCTION – EZEKIEL 19

- **The song generally stressed the good qualities of the departed and the tragedy or loss engendered by his death (2Sm.1:17-27).**
- **This is a lament for the last kings of Judah.**



KINGS OF JUDAH

UNITED KINGDOM
1050-930BC

Saul
[Benjamin]
1050-1010BC
(40 years)

David
[Judah]
1010-970BC
(40 years)

Solomon
[Judah]
970-930BC

DIVIDED
KINGDOM

JUDAH (Southern Kingdom) 930-605BC

Fall of Jerusalem
into Babylonian Captivity
(586BC)

ALL ARE FROM THE SAME DYNASTY SINCE THEY ARE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

KINGS OF JUDAH (Southern) 930-605 BC

2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
									
913-911BC	873-848BC	841BC	835-796BC	790-739BC	732-715BC	697-642BC	640-609BC	609-598BC	597-586BC
Abijam (Abjiah)	Jehoshaphat	Ahaziah	Joash	Uzziah (Azariah)	Ahaz	Manasseh	Josiah	Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	Zedekiah (Mattaniah)
1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	19
									
930-913BC	911-870BC	848-841BC	841-835BC	796-767BC	750-735BC	715-686BC	642-640BC	609BC	598-597BC
Rehoboam	Asa	Jehoram	Athaliah (queen)	Amaziah	Jotham	Hezekiah	Amon	Jehoahaz	Jehoiachin (Coniah) (Jeconiah)

LEGEND

 **KING** = Basically Bad

 **KING** = Basically Good

LAMENT FOR THE LAST KINGS OF JUDAH — EZEKIEL 19

16
640-609BC

Josiah



Josiah ascended to the throne of Judah at the age of eight following the assassination of his father, King Amon.

17
609BC

Jehoahaz



Jehoahaz died in captivity in Egypt (2Ki.23:30-34; Je.22:11-12).

18
609-598BC

Jehoiakim
(Eliakim)



Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah king and changed his name to Jehoiakim. He took Jehoahaz away and brought him to Egypt. He died there in Egypt (2Ki.23:34).

19
598-597BC

Jehoiachin
(Coniah)
(Jeconiah)



Jehoiachin reigned for only 3 months before he was deposed by Nebuchadnezzar.

Jehoiachin's brief reign (described in Ek.19:5-7) was a time of terror and destruction.

Nebuchadnezzar imprisoned Jehoiachin in Babylon because of the revolt his father Jehoiakim had begun (2Ki.24:8-17).

Jehoiachin remained in prison for 37 years till he was released when Evil-Merodach (Amel-Marduk) succeeded his father Nebuchadnezzar

The Babylonians captured Jehoiachin and took him into exile in 597 B.C. Later he enjoyed a measure of freedom, but he never returned to rule over Judah (2Ki.24:8-17; 25:27-30; 2Ch.36:8-10).

20
597-586BC

Zedekiah
(Mattaniah)



He was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar, and is known for his rebellion against Babylon.

Zedekiah, the fire, is regarded as an usurper and the ruin of his people.

EZEKIEL — 19:1-5

- Judah is the lioness (v.2).
- The other nations are the lions (v.2)
- The other nations's rulers are the young lions (v.2).
- The young lion (v.3) is perhaps Jehoahaz, who was captured and taken off to Egypt (v.4).
- The other cub (v.5) is possibly Jehoiachin.



**"Moreover take up a
lamentation for the
princes of Israel,**

EZEKIEL 19:1



"Moreover take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel, (Ek.19:1)

- **"Princes" was the title Ezekiel gave the kings residing in Jerusalem (Ek.7:27).**
- **At the time of this lament Zedekiah was king.**
- **The date was 592 B.C., five years before the fall of Jerusalem (587BC).**



"Moreover take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel, (Ek.19:1)

- **Ezekiel was taking up a funeral dirge even though the city's "death" was still in the future.**
- **The dirge was not over one individual; it was being sung for the Davidic dynasty and the "death" of its rule.**



**and say: 'What is your mother?
A lioness: She lay down among
the lions; Among the young lions
she nourished her cubs.**

EZEKIEL 19:2



and say: 'What is your mother? A lioness: She lay down among the lions; Among the young lions she nourished her cubs. (Ek.19:2)

- **The nation herself is the “mother” of the kings.**
- **Ezekiel 19:13 seems to allude to Israel's captivity.**
- **Therefore the lioness/mother in this chapter is the nation Israel.**
- **She was the one who set up her kings but saw them destroyed, and she was the one who would go into captivity.**



**She brought up one of her cubs,
And he became a young lion;
He learned to catch prey, And
he devoured men.**

EZEKIEL 19:3



**She brought up one of her cubs, And he became a young lion;
He learned to catch prey, And he devoured men. (Ek.19:3)**

- **The lioness, Israel, brought up one of her cubs, and he became a strong lion (a king).**
- **This lion was Jehoahaz who came to the throne after Josiah's untimely death.**
- **This verse singles out one of the cubs and the context indicates it means Jehoahaz (2Ki.23:30).**



**The nations also heard of him;
He was trapped in their pit,
And they brought him with
chains to the land of Egypt.**

EZEKIEL 19:4



The nations also heard of him; He was trapped in their pit, And they brought him with chains to the land of Egypt. (Ek.19:4)

- **After a reign of only three months Jehoiachin was deposed by Pharaoh Neco II, who led him with hooks (probably literal hooks in his nose attached to a rope-leash; Ek.19:9) to the land of Egypt.**
- **Jehoiachin's brief reign (described in Ek.19:5-7) was a time of terror and destruction.**



**'When she saw that she waited,
that her hope was lost, She took
another of her cubs and made
him a young lion.**

EZEKIEL 19:5



'When she saw that she waited, that her hope was lost, She took another of her cubs and made him a young lion. (Ek.19:5)

- **With the death of this cub (Jehoiakim) the lioness took another of her offspring and made him (Jehoiachin) dominant.**
- **Jehoiachin ruled over Judah for only three months (598-597 B.C.).**
- **This seems to signify that the Jews waited some time before they thought of setting another king over them, hoping, probably, that the king of Egypt would restore unto them Jehoahaz.**
- **When they saw their hopes disappointed in this then they, by the consent, and probably elected Jehoahaz's brother, Eliakim.**



**He roved among the lions, And
became a young lion; He learned
to catch prey; He devoured men.**

EZEKIEL 19:6



**He roved among the lions, And became a young lion;
He learned to catch prey; He devoured men. (Ek.19:6)**

- **Eliakim's name was changed to Jehoiakim.**
- **Jehoiachin gained his position among the other rulers of the area and also became violent and destructive, like the first cub.**
- **Judah was no different than all the other nations, a lioness among the lions.**



**He roved among the lions, And became a young lion;
He learned to catch prey; He devoured men. (Ek.19:6)**

- **The leaders of the nations are fierce and selfish.**
- **The Lord expects His people to be different. If not, they are inviting His judgment.**
- **Jehoiakim imitated the kings his neighbors as he “roved among the lions.” He became cruel like them.**



**He knew their desolate places, And
laid waste their cities; The land
with its fullness was desolated By
the noise of his roaring.**

EZEKIEL 19:7



He knew their desolate places, And laid waste their cities; The land with its fullness was desolated By the noise of his roaring. (Ek.19:7)

- **With lion-like brutality Jehoiachin wrought havoc, breaking down their strongholds and their towns.**
- **The land, Israel, and all who were in it were terrified by his roaring.**
- **The “terror” was removed only when he was dethroned and deported by Nebuchadnezzar.**
- **He so devastated his own land that the people in it despaired.**



**Then the nations set against him
from the provinces on every side,
And spread their net over him; He
was trapped in their pit.**

EZEKIEL 19:8



**Then the nations set against him from the provinces on every side,
And spread their net over him; He was trapped in their pit. (Ek.19:8)**

- **The Babylonians captured Jehoiachin and took him into exile in 597 B.C. Later he enjoyed a measure of freedom, but he never returned to rule over Judah (2Ki.24:8-17; 25:27-30; 2Ch.36:8-10).**
- **Israel had wanted a king like the other nations. Here Ezekiel lowers the curtain on the last act of their monarchy.**
- **God wants His people to be different from the world, to be a holy people for Himself, and to acknowledge Him as King.**



**They put him in a cage with chains,
And brought him to the king of
Babylon; They brought him in nets,
That his voice should no longer be
heard on the mountains of Israel.**

EZEKIEL 19:9



They put him in a cage with chains, And brought him to the king of Babylon; They brought him in nets, That his voice should no longer be heard on the mountains of Israel. (Ek.19:9)

- **His neighbors trapped this lion and took him captive to Babylon thus ending his reign.**
- **Jehoiakim was attacked by the Chaldeans, Syrians, Moabites, and Ammonites, and at last the king of Babylon took him prisoner.**
- **“That his voice should no longer be heard” signified that he should no longer be a terror to any in the country.**



**'Your mother was like a vine in your
bloodline, Planted by the waters,
Fruitful and full of branches Because
of many waters.**

EZEKIEL 19:10



**'Your mother was like a vine in your bloodline, Planted by the waters,
Fruitful and full of branches Because of many waters. (Ek.19:10)**

- **In Ezekiel 19:10-14 Ezekiel addressed King Zedekiah directly. He is the subject of the rest of the dirge.**
- **The mother, Israel, was like a vine.**
- **In her past glory, Israel was, figuratively speaking, fruitful and full of branches.**
- **Since vines were common in Israel, the writers of Scripture often referred to Israel and others as vines (Is.5:1-7; Ek.15:1-8; 17:5-10; Mt.21:33-41; Jn.15:1-8).**



**She had strong branches for
scepters of rulers. She towered
in stature above the thick
branches, And was seen in her
height amid the dense foliage.**

EZEKIEL 19:11



She had strong branches for scepters of rulers. She towered in stature above the thick branches, And was seen in her height amid the dense foliage. (Ek.19:11)

- Israel had prospered under the blessing of God, and had produced many rulers.**
- Its branches were strong, fit for a ruler's scepter.**
- It appears Ezekiel was not pointing to specific rulers in Israel's past, but was merely showing that Israel's past was glorious and that it included many mighty leaders.**



**But she was plucked up in fury,
She was cast down to the ground,
And the east wind dried her fruit.
Her strong branches were broken
and withered; The fire consumed
them.**

EZEKIEL 19:12



**But she was plucked up in fury, She was cast down to the ground,
And the east wind dried her fruit. Her strong branches were broken
and withered; The fire consumed them. (Ek.19:12)**

- **The vine's past glory contrasted sharply with its condition in Ezekiel's day.**
- **Israel the vine was uprooted in fury and thrown to the ground.**
- **It was shriveled and its branches were burned.**
- **The vine forgot that God was her source of blessing. Therefore God "plucked up" the nation, deporting her from the land.**



**But she was plucked up in fury, She was cast down to the ground,
And the east wind dried her fruit. Her strong branches were broken
and withered; The fire consumed them. (Ek.19:12)**

- **The prevailing winds in Israel are from the west and bring moisture-laden air from the Mediterranean Sea.**
- **The east wind, known as the sirocco, blows on Israel from the desert in the east, bringing severe problems.**
- **The east wind can wither vegetation (Ge.41:6), destroy houses (Jb.1:19), and cause severe distress (Jo.4:8).**



**But she was plucked up in fury, She was cast down to the ground,
And the east wind dried her fruit. Her strong branches were broken
and withered; The fire consumed them. (Ek.19:12)**

- **The east wind would have conveyed a double meaning to Israel.**
- **Ezekiel's east wind referred to more than the sirocco.**
- **Babylon was also east of Israel; and when she “blew in” from the east, the nation shriveled under the heat of her oppression.**



**And now she is planted in the
wilderness, In a dry and thirsty
land.**

EZEKIEL 19:13



And now she is planted in the wilderness, In a dry and thirsty land. (Ek.19:13)

- **Here it seems to allude to Israel's captivity.**
- **Ultimately Israel fell to Babylon. Ezekiel's statement, "now she is planted" in the desert, in a dry and thirsty land, probably refers to Babylon's destruction of Israel.**
- **The luxuriant vine of the nation would be uprooted from her homeland and cast down on foreign soil.**



**Fire has come out from a rod of her
branches And devoured her fruit, So
that she has no strong branch— a
scepter for ruling.' " This is a
lamentation, and has become a
lamentation.**

EZEKIEL 19:14



Fire has come out from a rod of her branches And devoured her fruit, So that she has no strong branch— a scepter for ruling.' "
This is a lamentation, and has become a lamentation. (Ek.19:14)

- **Zedekiah, the fire, is regarded as a usurper and the ruin of his people.**
- **God's judgment would also affect the royal line. No strong branch is left on it fit for a ruler's scepter.**
- **The nation which had produced mighty rulers in the past (Ek.19:11) now would have no king.**



Fire has come out from a rod of her branches And devoured her fruit, So that she has no strong branch— a scepter for ruling.' "
This is a lamentation, and has become a lamentation. (Ek.19:14)

- **After Zedekiah was overthrown by Babylon, no king from the Davidic dynasty replaced him.**
- **Not until Christ returns will a “ruler’s scepter” again arise in the line of David and reign as Israel’s king.**



FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

19