



EZEKIEL



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KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

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Eze 6:10 And they will know that I am the LORD

Occurs 57x in Ezekiel

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Where we have been so far

- Class 1: Nature of God
- Class 2: Historical background
- Class 3: Vision and call of Ezekiel

Today

Class 4: Street theater

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Act 1: The Seige



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Eze 4:1 "Now, son of man, take a clay tablet, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem on it.

Eze 4:2 Then lay siege to it: Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put battering rams around it.

Eze 4:3 Then take an iron pan, place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face toward it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel.

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Eze 4:4 "Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side.

Eze 4:5 I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel.

Eze 4:6 "After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.

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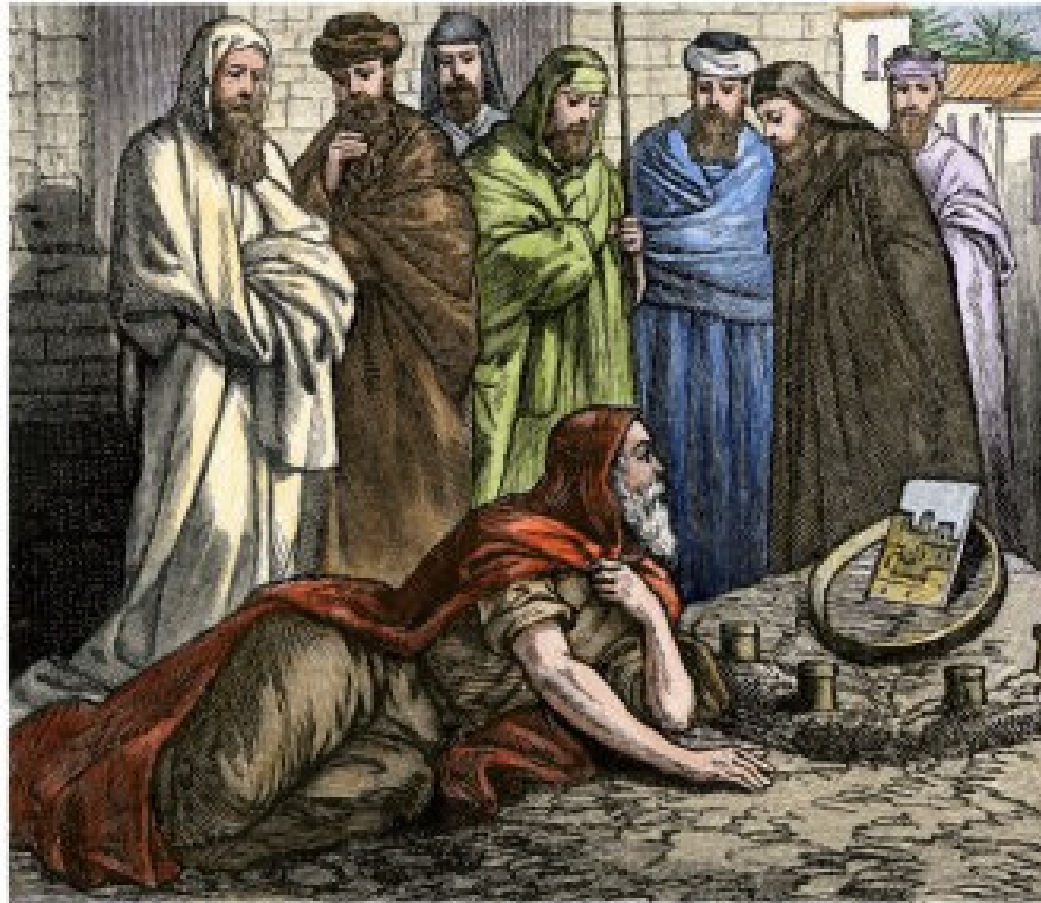
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Eze 4:7 Turn your face toward the siege of Jerusalem and with bared arm prophesy against her.

Eze 4:8 I will tie you up with ropes so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have finished the days of your siege.

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390 Days for Israel's sin

40 Days for Judah's sin

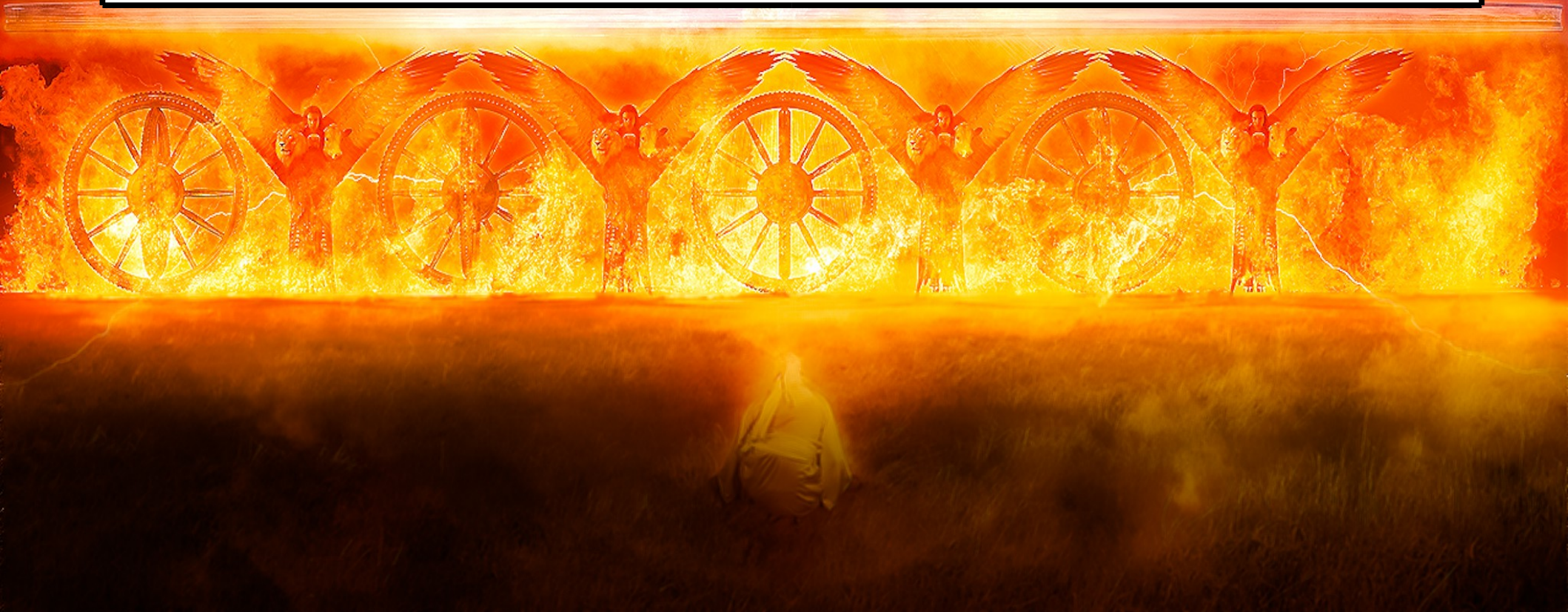


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390 days: Do they represent...

- Years of sin (NIV)?
- Or years of punishment (ESV)?



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Literal translation

Eze 4:5 For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of days: three hundred and ninety days. And you shall bear the house of Israel's iniquity.

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40 days: Do they represent...

- Years of sin (NIV)?
- Or years of punishment (ESV)?

Literal translation

Eze 4:6 And when you complete them, even lie on your right side, the second. And you shall bear the house of Judah's iniquity forty days; a day for a year. I have set it for you, a day for a year.

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390 years?

There is difficulty regardless of whether these are years of sin or years of punishment

- Not clear exactly when those periods were
- 345 years from divided kingdom to fall of Jerusalem
- Adding Solomon's reign brings total to to 385 years
 - remember his foreign wives

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40 years?

Years of sin?

- Manasseh ruled for 55 years
- What about Ahaz? Jehoiakim? Etc...

Years of punishment?

- Babylonian captivity lasted 70 years

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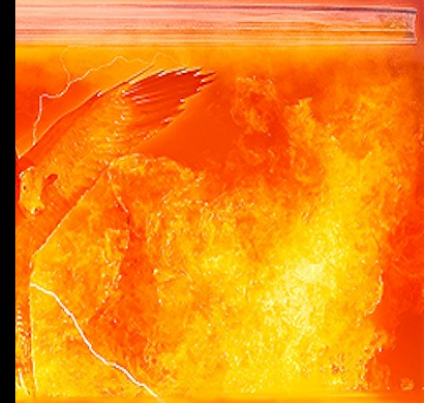
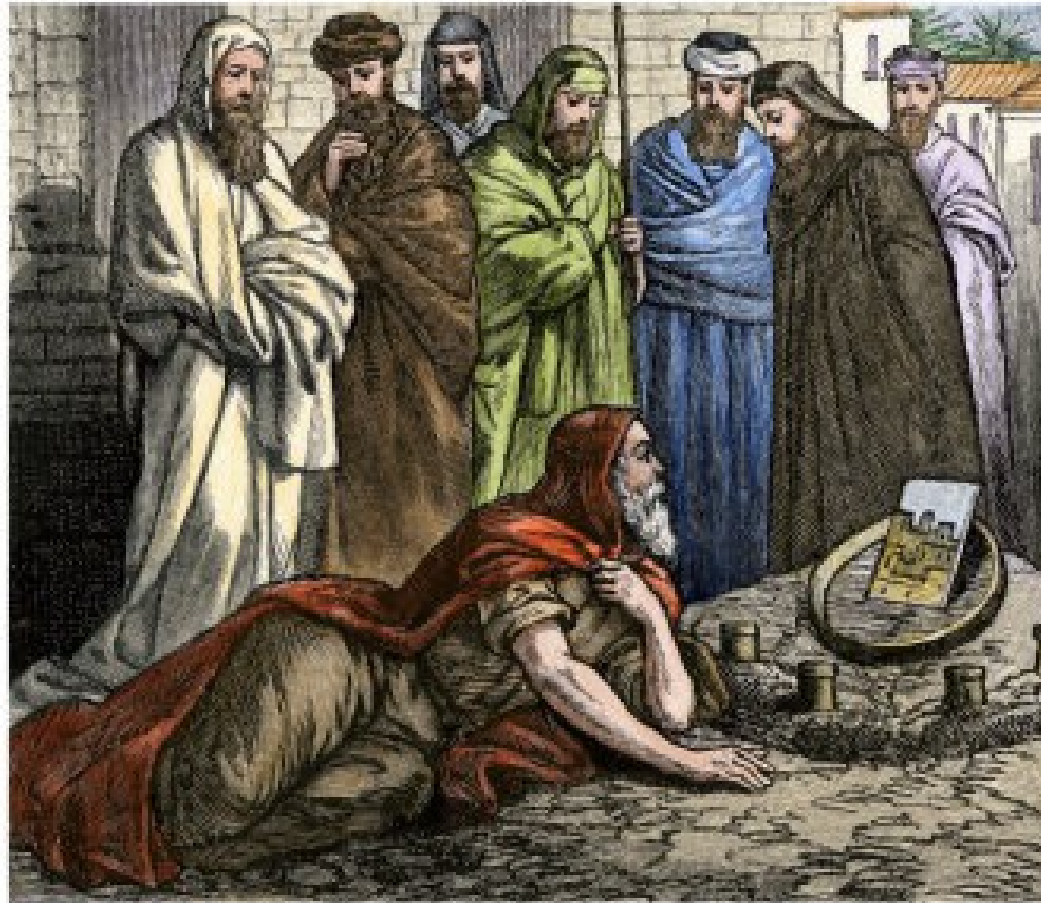
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Are 390 and 40 symbolic numbers?

- $390 = 39 \times 10$, 39 stripes from whip for each of 10 tribes
- Or, do “Israel” and 390 pertain to both kingdoms?
- 40 as a symbolic number
 - 40 days of rain in the flood
 - 40 years in the desert
- $390 + 40 = 430$, cmp 430 years in Egypt

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What were exiled people thinking?

- Hoping for the LORD to come to their rescue
- But Ezekiel portrayed the LORD outside Jerusalem beseiging it!
- The LORD was now their enemy!
- No hope of rescue

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Imagine how Ezekiel felt!

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Act 2: The Famine



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Eze 4:9 "Take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and spelt; put them in a storage jar and use them to make bread for yourself. You are to eat it during the 390 days you lie on your side.

Eze 4:10 Weigh out twenty shekels of food to eat each day and eat it at set times.

Eze 4:11 Also measure out a sixth of a hin of water and drink it at set times.

Eze 4:12 Eat the food as you would a loaf of barley bread; bake it in the sight of the people, using human excrement for fuel."

Eze 4:13 The LORD said, "In this way the people of Israel will eat defiled food among the nations where I will drive them."

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Eze 4:14 Then I said, "Not so, Sovereign LORD! I have never defiled myself. From my youth until now I have never eaten anything found dead or torn by wild animals. No impure meat has ever entered my mouth."

Eze 4:15 "Very well," he said, "I will let you bake your bread over cow dung instead of human excrement."

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What does it mean?

Eze 4:16 He then said to me: "Son of man, I am about to cut off the food supply in Jerusalem. The people will eat rationed food in anxiety and drink rationed water in despair,

Eze 4:17 for food and water will be scarce. They will be appalled at the sight of each other and will waste away because of their sin.

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As the LORD said 900 years before!

Lev 26:26 When I cut off your supply of bread, ten women will be able to bake your bread in one oven, and they will dole out the bread by weight. You will eat, but you will not be satisfied.

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Act 3: The Fall of Jerusalem



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Eze 5:1 "Now, son of man, take a sharp sword and use it as a barber's razor to **shave your head and your beard.** Then take a **set of scales** and divide up the hair.

Eze 5:2 When the days of your siege come to an end, **burn a third** of the hair inside the city. Take **a third and strike it with the sword** all around the city. And **scatter a third** to the wind. For I will pursue them with drawn sword.

Eze 5:3 But **take a few hairs** and tuck them away in the folds of your garment.

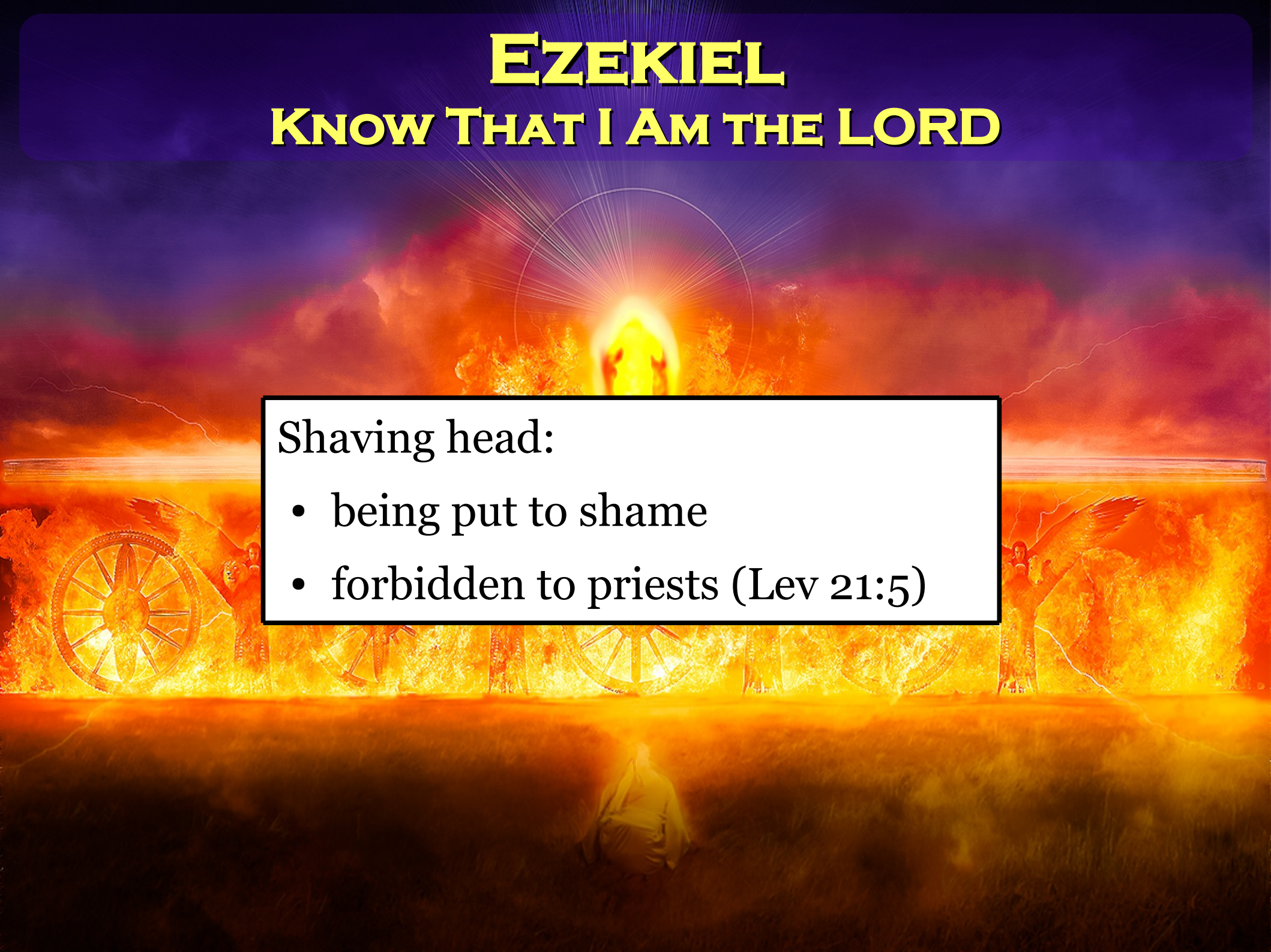
Eze 5:4 Again, **take a few of these and throw them into the fire** and burn them up. A fire will spread from there to all Israel.

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Shaving head:

- being put to shame
- forbidden to priests (Lev 21:5)



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Scales

- Divine justice



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Thirds:

- some die in city
- some die fleeing
- some scattered to winds
- a few will be preserved

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The LORD explains



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Eze 5:5 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

Eze 5:6 Yet in her wickedness she has rebelled against my laws and decrees more than the nations and countries around her. She has rejected my laws and has not followed my decrees.

Eze 5:7 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: You have been more unruly than the nations around you and have not followed my decrees or kept my laws. You have not even conformed to the standards of the nations around you.

Eze 5:8 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself am against you, Jerusalem, and I will inflict punishment on you in the sight of the nations.

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Eze 5:9 Because of all your detestable idols, I will do to you what I have never done before and will never do again.

Eze 5:10 Therefore in your midst parents will eat their children, and children will eat their parents. I will inflict punishment on you and will scatter all your survivors to the winds.

As the LORD warned 900 years before

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As the LORD warned 900 years before!

Lev 26:29 You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters.

Lev 26:33 I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins.

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Eze 5:11 Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your vile images and detestable practices, I myself will shave you; I will not look on you with pity or spare you.

Eze 5:12 A third of your people will die of the plague or perish by famine inside you; a third will fall by the sword outside your walls; and a third I will scatter to the winds and pursue with drawn sword.

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Eze 5:13 "Then my anger will cease and my wrath against them will subside, and I will be avenged. And when I have spent my wrath on them, they will know that I the LORD have spoken in my zeal.

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The LORD's complaint against idolatry

Jer 2:10 Cross over to the coasts of Kittim and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this:

Jer 2:11 Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols.

Jer 2:12 Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD.

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Those who should know are held to a higher standard

Luk 12:47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.

Luk 12:48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

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Those who should know are held to a higher standard

Joh 15:22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin.

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Those who should know are held to a higher standard

2Pe 2:20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

2Pe 2:21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

2Pe 2:22 Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

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Prophecy of Doom!

Eze 5:16 When I shoot at you with my deadly and destructive arrows of famine, I will shoot to destroy you. I will bring more and more famine upon you and cut off your supply of food.

Eze 5:17 I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and they will leave you childless. Plague and bloodshed will sweep through you, and I will bring the sword against you. I the LORD have spoken."

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Ezekiel 7: The LORD announces judgment!



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Eze 7:27b Then they will know that I am the LORD.





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