



EZEKIEL



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KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

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Setting:

- Ezekiel prophesying among exiles in Babylon
- The LORD announcing judgment on Jerusalem

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KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD

Ezekiel 18: The Justice of God



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Eze 18:1 The word of the LORD came to me:

Eze 18:2 "What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: "'The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?"



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An accusation against the justice of the LORD

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An accusation against the justice of the LORD

Ignores that the children continue in the same sins.

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Rom 3:4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."



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The LORD will prove everyone guilty

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Exo 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Exo 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, **punishing the children for the sin of the fathers** to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Exo 20:6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

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Num 14:18 "The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; **he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers** to the third and fourth generation.'

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The Judgment of God



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The Judgment of God

The Discipline of God



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The Judgment of God

Eze 7:6 The end has come! The end has come! It has roused itself against you. It has come!

Eze 7:7 Doom has come upon you—you who dwell in the land. The time has come, the day is near; there is panic, not joy, upon the mountains.

Eze 7:8 I am about to pour out my wrath on you and spend my anger against you; I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices.

Eze 7:9 I will not look on you with pity or spare you; I will repay you in accordance with your conduct and the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that it is I the LORD who strikes the blow.

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The Discipline of God

Deu 8:5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.



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Pro 3:11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,

Pro 3:12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

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The Discipline of God

Psa 94:12 Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law



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Psa 94:12 Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law

Psa 119:71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

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The Discipline of God

Heb 12:10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

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God punishes individuals



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God punishes individuals

And God punishes nations



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God punishes individuals

And God punishes nations

God protects the innocent while punishing the guilty

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God protects the innocent while punishing the guilty

Eze 9:5 As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion.

Eze 9:6 Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, **but do not touch anyone who has the mark.** Begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.

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The LORD defends his justice



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Eze 18:3 "As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel.

Eze 18:4 For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

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The LORD has the right of ownership

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The soul who sins is the one who will die

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Eze 18:5 "Suppose there is a righteous man who does what is just and right.

Eze 18:6 He does not eat at the mountain shrines or look to the idols of the house of Israel. He does not defile his neighbor's wife or lie with a woman during her period.

Eze 18:7 He does not oppress anyone, but returns what he took in pledge for a loan. He does not commit robbery but gives his food to the hungry and provides clothing for the naked.

Eze 18:8 He does not lend at usury or take excessive interest. He withholds his hand from doing wrong and judges fairly between man and man.

Eze 18:9 He follows my decrees and faithfully keeps my laws.

That man is righteous; he will surely live, declares the Sovereign LORD.

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Eze 18:10 "Suppose he has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these other things

Eze 18:11 (though the father has done none of them): "He eats at the mountain shrines. He defiles his neighbor's wife.

Eze 18:12 He oppresses the poor and needy. He commits robbery. He does not return what he took in pledge. He looks to the idols. He does detestable things.

Eze 18:13 He lends at usury and takes excessive interest.

Will such a man live? He will not! Because he has done all these detestable things, he will surely be put to death and his blood will be on his own head.

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“Any” of these other things (not “All”)

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Eze 18:20 The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.

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Eze 18:21 "But if a wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die.

Eze 18:22 None of the offenses he has committed will be remembered against him. Because of the righteous things he has done, he will live.

Eze 18:23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

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Repentance brings forgiveness

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Eze 18:24 "But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die.

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Formerly righteous man turns to sin

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Formerly righteous man turns to sin

He will die because of his sin

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Eze 18:25 "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust?"



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Eze 18:30 "Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. **Repent!** Turn away from all your offenses; **then sin will not be your downfall.**

Eze 18:31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and **get a new heart and a new spirit.** Why will you die, O house of Israel?

Eze 18:32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. **Repent and live!**

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Two Parables of Lament

- Lioness and her cubs
- Destruction of the fruitful vine

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The lioness and her cubs



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Eze 19:1 "Take up a lament concerning the princes of Israel

Eze 19:2 and say: "What a lioness was your mother among the lions! She lay down among the young lions and reared her cubs.

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Lioness: Israel

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Lioness: Israel

Cubs: Kings of Israel

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Eze 19:3 She brought up one of her cubs, and he became a **strong lion**. He learned to tear the prey and he devoured men.

Eze 19:4 The nations heard about him, and he was trapped in their pit. They led him with hooks to the land of Egypt.



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Strong lion: Jehoahaz

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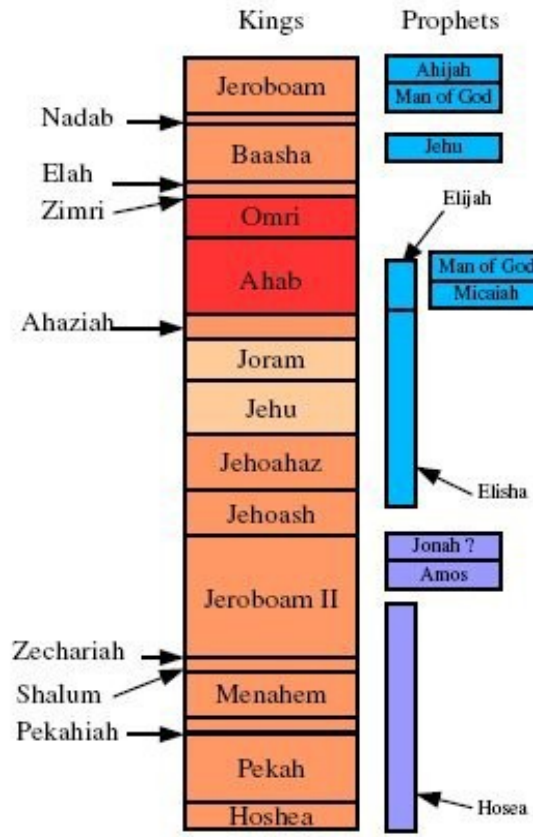
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Strong lion: Jehoahaz

Taken captive to Egypt

Israel



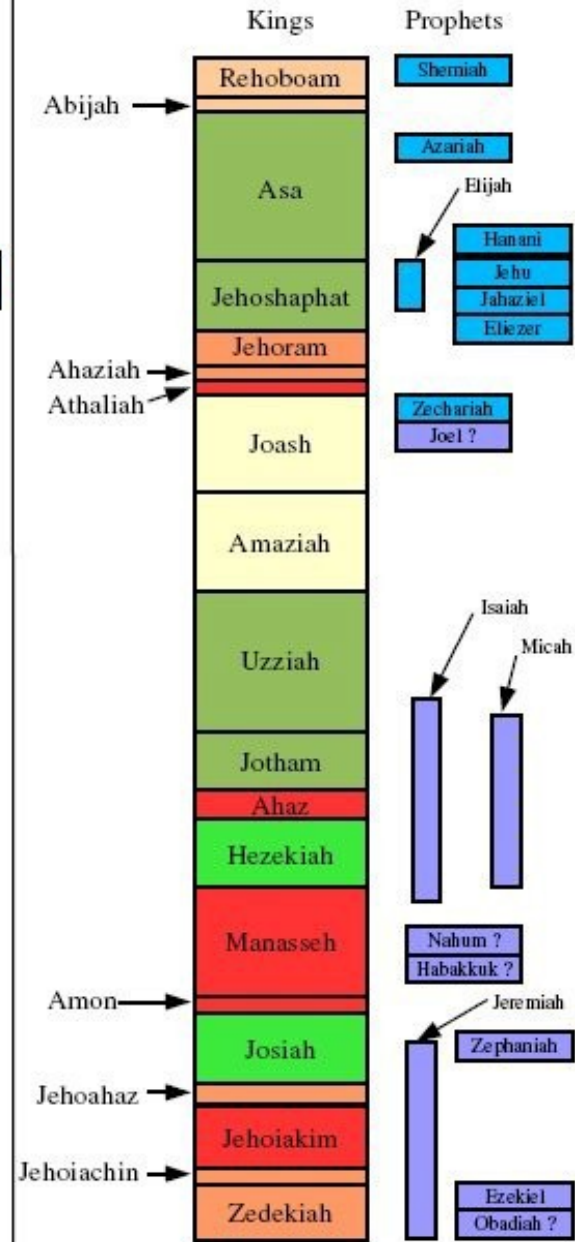
Assyrian Captivity

Prophet who did not write book
 Prophet who wrote book of Bible

Kings

Good Evil

Judah



Babylonian Captivity

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Strong lion: Jehoahaz taken to Egypt

2Ki 23:31 Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.

2Ki 23:32 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his fathers had done.

2Ki 23:33 Pharaoh Neco put him in chains at Riblah in the land of Hamath so that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and he imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

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Eze 19:5 "When she saw her hope unfulfilled, her expectation gone, she took **another of her cubs** and made him a strong lion.

Eze 19:6 He prowled among the lions, for he was now a strong lion. He learned to tear the prey and he devoured men.

Eze 19:7 He broke down their strongholds and devastated their towns. The land and all who were in it were terrified by his roaring.

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Second strong lion: Jehoiakim

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Jehoiakim taken captive to Babylon

Eze 19:8 Then the nations came against him, those from regions round about. They spread their net for him, and he was trapped in their pit.

Eze 19:9 With hooks they pulled him into a cage and brought him to the king of Babylon. They put him in prison, so his roar was heard no longer on the mountains of Israel.

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2Ch 36:6 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.

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Destruction of the fruitful vine



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Eze 19:10 "Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard planted by the water; it was fruitful and full of branches because of abundant water.

Eze 19:11 Its branches were strong, fit for a ruler's scepter. It towered high above the thick foliage, conspicuous for its height and for its many branches.

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The vine had every advantage for bearing fruit

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Eze 19:12 But it was uprooted in fury and thrown to the ground. The east wind made it shrivel, it was stripped of its fruit; its strong branches withered and fire consumed them.

Eze 19:13 Now it is planted in the desert, in a dry and thirsty land.

Eze 19:14 Fire spread from one of its main branches and consumed its fruit. No strong branch is left on it fit for a ruler's scepter.' This is a lament and is to be used as a lament."

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Uprooted in fury

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Eze 19:14b This is a lament and is to be used as a lament."

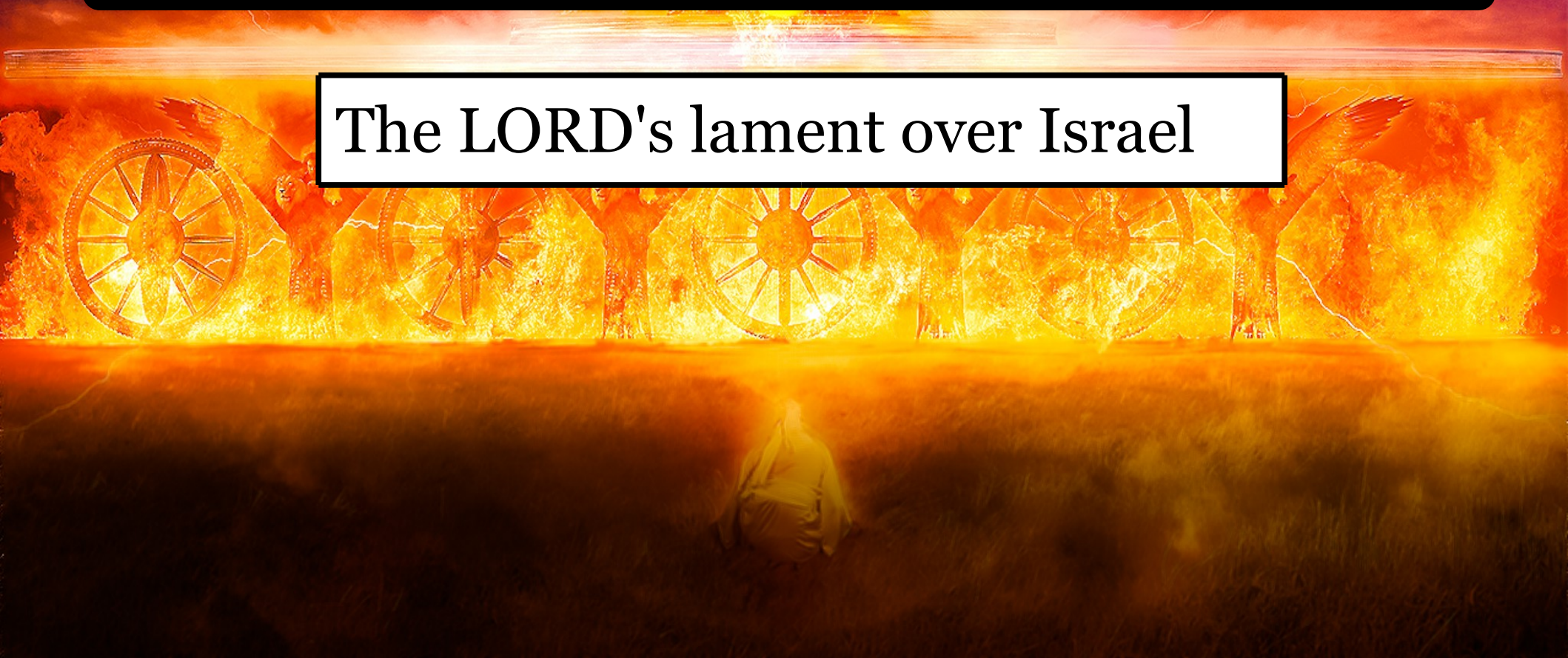


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Eze 19:14b This is a lament and is to be used as a lament."

The LORD's lament over Israel



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The LORD's lament over Israel

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