

Ezekiel
Chapters 19-20

Chapter 19

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

SEE: II Kings 23:31-34; Jer. 22:10-12

“A lamentation is a funeral dirge, a song, or message of sorrow. This chapter begins as an allegory of two lion cubs, representing Jehoahaz and Zedekiah, which hunters captured and confined in cages. Later in the chapter the prophet describes the desolation under King Zedekiah, which is pictured as a beautiful vine that is rooted up from a vineyard, withers away, and is eventually burned.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1258.

2 and say:

‘What is your mother? A lioness:

She lay down among the lions;

Among the young lions she nourished her cubs.

“Judah is the lioness and she is lying down among the lions. The lions here refer to the kings who rule in Jerusalem.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1258.

3 She brought up one of her cubs,

And he became a young lion;

He learned to catch prey,

And he devoured men.

“This whelp (cub) is Jehoahaz, who oppressed his people, making them his prey and seizing their possessions.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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

“The king of Egypt heard of Jehoahaz, invaded Jerusalem, captured him, and brought him to Egypt. He was as an animal in a pit. In that day, pits were dug in the ground and covered with branches and leaves. Hunters would drive an animal into the forest towards the pit, where the animal would fall into the hole, unable to rescue itself. The animal could be taken alive. At other times, spikes were placed in the pit, so when the animal fell, it would die a slow death at the bottom of the pit.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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

“The people waited for their king “lion whelp (cub)” to return, and he never did. They then took another ‘whelp’, King Zedekiah, who was given the kingly position by the king, Pharaoh of Egypt.” SEE: II Kings 23:34. Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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

“Jehoiakim became a ‘young lion’ seeking his own prey by oppressing, being covetous, and mistreating the people.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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

“According to scholars, this phrase in Hebrew literally means he devoured widow’s palaces (SEE: ISAIAH 13:22). He went into the widows’ houses and ‘knew’ them carnally, meaning he had physical relations with them.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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.

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.

“This king was taken captive by a coalition of nations: the Chaldeans, Syrians, Moab, and Ammon. He was placed in chains and led away as a prisoner (SEE: II Chron. 36:6; Jer. 22:18). The Hebrew word for chains is *chach* and comes from a root word meaning, ‘ring in the nose’, and is translated in English as ‘bracelet chain’ and ‘hook’. Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

10 Your mother was like a vine in your bloodline,

Planted by the waters,

Fruitful and full of branches

Because of many waters.

“Now a new metaphor, ‘a vine’ is used. The vine is blood planted by the waters, relating to the fact that Jerusalem was now a city of blood, offering their children to idol gods and shedding the blood of the righteous. Thus, God plucked up the vine and consumed the remains with fire = referring to the Babylonians burning the city. The land of Canaan was said to be well watered (SEE: Deut. 8:7-9); thus, the vine is Israel, which at one time had been a fruitful nation, both materially and spiritually.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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.

“This vine produced many branches, or ‘rods for scepters’. The rod is a metaphor for a kingly ruler from the house of Judah (SEE: Gen. 49:10). This refers to the royal kings who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah. In Israel, older olive trees produce shoot at the base of the root, which in time grow up along the trunk of the tree and eventually grow as tall as the tree itself, intertwining with the older tree.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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

“The vine was uprooted, referring to the remnant that was carried away captive into Babylon, a city situated in the wilderness of the plains of Shinar. The east wind depicts the armies of the east entering Judea and destroying the kings and the nation, burning cities with fire.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

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.

“The phrase, ‘a rod’, not ‘rods’, indicates one king, King Zedekiah, whose rebellion against the king of Babylon brought King Nebuchadnezzar into the land to devour the fruit, the people, and the land itself.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1259.

Chapter 20

“1 It came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the Lord, and sat before me.

“At this time, it has been seven years since the Jews were brought to Chaldea and put into captivity. Here the elders area meeting with Ezekiel.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1260.

2 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

“Ezekiel uses the words, ‘The Word of the Lord came unto me....’ Forty-seven time in this book. This phrase means that the ‘Lord was speaking to me’ or that the Lord was revealing a message for Ezekiel to deliver to the people.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1260.

3 “Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: ‘Have you come to inquire of Me? As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I will not be inquired of by you.’ ’ 4 Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Then make known to them the abominations of their fathers.

5 “Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On the day when I chose Israel and raised My hand in an oath to the descendants of the house of Jacob, and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, I raised My hand in an oath to them, saying, ‘I am the Lord your God.’ 6 On that day I raised My hand in an oath to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, ‘flowing with milk and honey,’ the glory of all lands. 7 Then I said to them, ‘Each of you, throw away the abominations which are before his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.’ 8 But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said, ‘I will pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.’ 9 But I acted for My name’s sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles among whom they were, in whose sight I had made Myself known to them, to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

10 “Therefore I made them go out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. 11 And I gave them My statutes and showed them My judgments, ‘which, if a man does, he shall live by them.’ 12 Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them. 13 Yet the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness; they did not walk in My statutes; they despised My judgments, ‘which, if a man does, he shall live by them’; and they greatly defiled My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them in the wilderness, to consume them. 14 But I acted for My name’s sake, that it should not be profaned before the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out.

15 So I also raised My hand in an oath to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, 'flowing with milk and honey,' the glory of all lands, 16 because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols. 17 Nevertheless My eye spared them from destruction. I did not make an end of them in the wilderness.

18 "But I said to their children in the wilderness, 'Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols. 19 I am the Lord your God: Walk in My statutes, keep My judgments, and do them; 20 hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the Lord your God.'

21 "Notwithstanding, the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, and were not careful to observe My judgments, 'which, if a man does, he shall live by them'; but they profaned My Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out My fury on them and fulfill My anger against them in the wilderness. 22 Nevertheless I withdrew My hand and acted for My name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the Gentiles, in whose sight I had brought them out. 23 Also I raised My hand in an oath to those in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the Gentiles and disperse them throughout the countries, 24 because they had not executed My judgments, but had despised My statutes, profaned My Sabbaths, and their eyes were fixed on their fathers' idols.

25 "Therefore I also gave them up to statutes that were not good, and judgments by which they could not live; 26 and I pronounced them unclean because of their ritual gifts, in that they caused all their firstborn to pass through the fire, that I might make them desolate and **that they might know that I am the Lord.**" '

27 "Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "In this too your fathers have blasphemed Me, by being unfaithful to Me. 28 When I brought them into the land concerning which I had raised My hand in an oath to give them, and they saw all the high hills and all the thick trees, there they offered their sacrifices and provoked Me with their offerings. There they also sent up their sweet aroma and poured out their drink offerings. 29 Then I said to them, 'What is this high place to which you go?' So its name is called Bamah to this day." ' 30 Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Are you defiling yourselves in the manner of your fathers, and committing harlotry according to their abominations? 31 For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live," says the Lord God, "I will not be inquired of by you. 32 What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'

33 "As I live," says the Lord God, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. 34 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you

into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. 36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,” says the Lord God.

37 “I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. **Then you will know that I am the Lord.**

39 “As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord God: “Go, serve every one of you his idols—and hereafter—if you will not obey Me; but profane My holy name no more with your gifts and your idols. 40 For on My holy mountain, on the mountain height of Israel,” says the Lord God, “there all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, shall serve Me; there I will accept them, and there I will require your offerings and the firstfruits of your sacrifices, together with all your holy things. 41 I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles. 42 Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I raised My hand in an oath to give to your fathers. 43 And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed. 44 **Then you shall know that I am the Lord,** when I have dealt with you for My name’s sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings, O house of Israel,” says the Lord God.’ ”

45 Furthermore the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 46 “Son of man, set your face toward the south; preach against the south and prophesy against the forest land, the South, 47 and say to the forest of the South, ‘Hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green tree and every dry tree in you; the blazing flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be scorched by it. 48 All flesh shall see that I, the Lord, have kindled it; it shall not be quenched.” ’ ” 49 Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! They say of me, ‘Does he not speak parables?’ ”

“Here, God reminds the elders that, throughout Israel’s history, He attempted to speak to the people, but they rebelled against Him five different times.

The first rebellion took place when the idols of Egypt began influencing the Hebrew people living in Egypt prior to the Exodus.

The second cycle of rebellion among the Hebrews was the rebellion of the evil generation wandering in the wilderness.

The third cycle happened after the new generation had settled along the borders of Israel and became influenced by the idols of the surrounding nations.

The fourth rebellion cycle was when the people possessed the land of Canaan and began intermingling with the pagan beliefs and idols from generation to generation.

The fifth rebellion consisted of the abomination of offering their children in the fires of the idol gods of the land and serving idols of wood and stone, which eventually led the Jews into captivity.

God concluded His reminder of their rebellion and His rebuke with promises of accepting the people again and restoring them to their inheritance in the Promised land.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1260.