

Ezekiel Part 2, Week 9, Ezekiel 19-20
Lamentations for Jerusalem rulers assigned by Babylon

Day 1 – Review of the Three Parables of Ezekiel 15, 16, and 17

For those of you who are working through this book on your own or in another group other than our group here at New Life, my students and I took an excursion away from the chronological order of the chapters of Ezekiel at chapter 18, and worked through Ezekiel 36-39 first before returning to Ezekiel 19 and 20. At this time, we need a little review of the three parables presented in chapters 15-18. Please feel free to skip this if you've worked chronologically through the chapters so far.

1. What name did you give for the parable of chapter 15? Why did God make Jerusalem, wood of the vine and not wood of the branches?

I gave mine the name "Jerusalem, the Vine Meant for the Worship of God Alone and yet She Forsook Him"

2. What name did you give for the parable or the allegory of chapter 16? Why did God save this little, pathetic, discarded, worthless orphan?

I gave mine the name "Jerusalem, the Throwaway Orphan Adopted by God as His Own and yet She Forsook Him"

3. What name did you give for the parable of chapter 17? Why did God raise up Babylon to discipline His People, Israel?

I gave mine the name "Jerusalem Meant for the First Eagle as Overseer, yet She Forsook God and Sought Second Eagle as Emancipator"

”

4. Please summarize the three parables of Ezekiel 15-17 in one sentence.

Now, I would like you to just read Ezekiel chapters 19-20. Write down your general impression of these two chapters.

After reading Ezekiel 19-20, go back and read it word for word. Again, as before in the other lessons, slow your reading down enough to pick up the details of the text as you go. Take a mental note of key words that you see as you move through the text of these two chapters.

Now, reread these two chapters with discernment. Tomorrow, we will begin marking chapter 19.

Day 2-4 – Chapters 19-20

Ezekiel 19 – A Lamentation for the Jerusalem Rulers Assigned by Babylon

Please mark the following key repeated words in your own unique way for Ezekiel chapter 19:

“lamentation”

“lioness,” and all synonyms (i.e., “mother”) and pronouns as you have marked

“Jerusalem” in the past

all points of direction, i.e., “east wind,” as a capital “E” as before

“princes,” and all synonyms (i.e. “lions,” “young lions,” “cubs,” “rulers”) and pronouns

as one marking as you have marked “king(s),” and “royal family,” in the past

“on the mountains,” as you marked “on a high lofty mountain,” and “on the high

mountain of Israel,” as before

“nations” and their pronouns as before

“Babylon” and all pronouns as before

“Egypt” and all pronouns as before

“vine,” as before

“branch,” and “branches,” as before

“waters,” and “abundant waters,” as before

Notice that “lamentation” in verses 19:1 and 19:14 are the only verses that contain the word “lamentation” in this chapter; these two verses are kind of like book ends for what lies in-between the two verses. What lies between is a complete package.

What is a lamentation? Remember to check both a Bible Dictionary and a secular dictionary for your definition below:

The Book of Lamentations in the Old Testament was written by Jeremiah at about the same time as the Book of Ezekiel was written. From your definition of “lamentation” above, what do you think this “lamentation” in Ezekiel 19 is about, and what do you think Jeremiah’s Book of Lamentations must be about?

There are four other lamentations in the book of Ezekiel found in 26:17-18, 27, 28:12-19, and 32:1-16. Take just a few minutes to read through these other references. These lamentations are like “funeral dirges.

For these next questions please refer to Isaiah 29:1-7 printed for you here below:

“Woe, O Ariel, Ariel the city where David once camped!
Add year to year, observe your feasts on schedule.
And I will bring distress to Ariel,
And she shall be a city of lamenting and mourning;
And she shall be like an Ariel to me.
And I will camp against you encircling you,
And I will set siege works against you,
And I will raise up battle towers against you.
Then you shall be brought low;
From the earth you shall speak,
And from the dust where you are prostrate,
Your words shall come.
Your voice shall also be like that of a spirit from the ground,
And your speech shall whisper from the dust.”

“But the multitude of your enemies shall become like fine dust,
And the multitude of the ruthless ones like the chaff which blows away;
And it shall happen instantly, suddenly.
From the LORD of hosts you will be punished with thunder and earthquake and loud
noise,
With whirlwind and tempest and the flame of a consuming fire.
And the multitude of all the nations who wage war against Ariel,
Even all who wage war against her and her stronghold, and who distress her,
Shall be like a dream, a vision of the night.”

Who was the king over Jerusalem when Ezekiel is writing this dirge? Remember that Ezekiel was taken with the second siege and has been prophesying to the peoples who have been taken captive in the land of Babylon. Is this funeral dirge for just the rulers of Jerusalem during this timeframe or was it for the complete Davidic line of kings?

What is “Ariel” in Isaiah 29? What does the word “Ariel” mean? What city is “Ariel” referring to in this passage in Isaiah? Please use your Bible Dictionary and notes from your Bible margins to answer these questions. We looked at this in our study of Isaiah if you want to go back to your notes.

Could Ariel mean lioness? Could Ariel be referring to the city of Jerusalem in Isaiah 29 as well? What about here in Ezekiel 19? Is the lioness another allegory referring to Jerusalem?

Let's assume, that the "lioness" here in Ezekiel 19, is referring to "Jerusalem." Other commentators will tell you that the lioness is either the mothers of the kings of Judah or is Israel.

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheets, i.e. "when," "then," and "now."

Make a list describing the first lion "cub" that came to power? Who is this lion? Also, see references in 2 Chronicles 36:1-4 and 2 Kings 23:29-34. Did this lion (this prince) do right in God's eyes and do right according to Jerusalem and Judah?

Make a list describing the second young lion that came to power? Who is this lion? See also the reference in 2 Chronicles 36:5-8, and 2 Kings 23:34-24:6. Did this young lion do right in God's eyes and do right according to Jerusalem and Judah?

My Bible Knowledge Commentary says that this second lion was not referring to Jehoiakim, but Jehoiachin referenced in 2 Chronicles 36:9-10.¹ Apparently Jehoiachin's three months as king (he was only 8 years old when he became king) was a reign of terror. He and his mother were sent to Babylon.

Who were the nations that were set against this second lion on every side of Judah? See Ezekiel 19:8. Also refer back to 2 Kings 23:34-24:6 reference noted above.

How was Jerusalem like a vine in a vineyard according to 19:10 and following? Make a list.

Did the other nations notice this vine with its mass of branches high above the clouds? What happened to the potential for greatness and the glory of God's name in this city? What does this city's demise say about the rulers of this kingdom? What does the loss of godly rulers in this city say about the nation as a whole to the other nations round about Israel?

¹ John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary Old Testament, SP Publications, Inc. 1985, p. 1262.

What is the significance of the east wind in Ezekiel 19:12? Who or what is this east wind?

How is this chapter like the other parables on Jerusalem that we just looked at in Ezekiel 15, 16, and 17?

Who was the last earthly king to sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem? Who will be the next king to sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and when will this be?

Please record the theme of chapter 19 on the individual worksheet for Ezekiel 19 and on the Ezekiel Theme Summary Chart in the Appendix.

Ezekiel 20- Long list of Israel's Offenses Against God

Please mark the following key repeated words in your own unique way for Ezekiel chapter 20:

- all references to God as before, including "Lord," "LORD," "Lord GOD," "I am the LORD" with the same marking
- also mark "Lord GOD," as "Sovereign Lord"
- all references to Israel or "descendants to the house of Jacob," "the house of Israel," "their children," "children," or "your fathers," as before including all pronouns referring to them
- all references to Ezekiel as before, including "Son of man"
- all references to "abominations," "idols," "detestable things," "sacrifices," "offering," as one marking as before
- the phrase: "thus says the Lord GOD," as before; include "declares the Lord GOD," as one marking as before
- the phrase: "the word of the LORD came to me saying," as before
- the phrase: "so you will know that I am the LORD," as the same marking as before
- the phrase: "as I live," as in Ezekiel 17
- "statutes and ordinances," as before"
- "heart" as before
- "covenant" as before
- "sign" as before
- "Name" as before
- "wrath," "anger," "an outstretched arm," as you marked them before

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheets, i.e. "then," "now," "on the day," "on that day," "when," "to this day," and "later."

Mark all references to the word “therefore” in some unique way in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheet. What is the “therefore,” there for in Ezekiel 20:27 and 20:30? What statement(s) precede the “therefore(s)” which gives the reader understanding?

What year was this prophecy given? What was the last date recorded in Ezekiel 8:1? How much time has gone by between the prophecies of 8:1 and 20:1?

Why did the elders who were in captivity in Babylon come to inquire of the Lord through Ezekiel?

What did the elders inquire about? Does the text say? Why do you think God refused to answer them?

What does God tell Ezekiel to say to the elders in stead? See Ezekiel 20:3. He repeats this again in 20:31. Why does God say to them that He will not be inquired of by them?

God gives them a history lesson on their past offenses. Why did He do this instead of answering them directly?

What did God want Ezekiel to be or do by the question, “Will you judge them, will you judge them, son of man? Make them know the abominations of their fathers?”

How have the elders of the people, who are already in Babylonian captivity, shown disdain for God in the past?

God chose the Israelites out of the sea of the nations to be His own nation. He made Himself known to them in the land of Egypt when they were oppressed. He told them not to worship the gods of Egypt, but they disobeyed Him. He brought them out of the slavery of Egypt, out into the wilderness. There, again, He made Himself known to them. There He taught them His statutes and His ordinances and His Law. They did not obey Him and they reverted to worshipping the gods of the Egyptians. Angered, God would have destroyed them, but He did not because of His reputation, or His Name, amongst the other nations, who were watching. He then looked to the Israelites' children. He made Himself known to them in the wilderness. These children also did not worship Him alone and follow His statutes and His ordinances and His Law. He would have destroyed them, but again, He did not, because of His Name amongst the other nations. Once the children were in the Promised Land, He once again made Himself known amongst them and once again they did not walk in His statutes, nor did they walk in His ordinances, nor did they follow His Law. Again, they worshipped the gods of the people of the nations around them. Again, God would have destroyed them, yet for His Name, He did not. Are you seeing a repeating theme here? What is the repeating theme?

For each location or people group, this theme ends and begins between two lines of Scripture in chapter 20. I would like you to draw a single line between the sets of locations or people groups where this theme ends on the individual worksheet for chapter 20 and where the next round begins. I will choose the first line for you. The first line runs between 20:9 and 20:10 where the location changes from in Egypt to in the wilderness. Now you choose the next line. The next line will be the same location, but a different people group, i.e., the wilderness, but now the people group is the children of the first generation of Israelites.

How will God enter into judgment of the house of Israel for their idolatry once He has them in captivity according to Ezekiel 20:30:36?

List the points of judgment for the house of Israel from verses 20:34-36.

What will be different this time when God enters into judgment with the Israelites face to face? See Ezekiel 20:33, 37-44. Why will it be different this time? How will He restore the nation? Please make a list from these verses:

You must think along the lines of the Millennial Kingdom that is yet to come for the Jews and for us. Will those Jews who insist on disobeying God and worshiping their idols be allowed to pass under the shepherd's rod? Only those sheep that belong to the Shepherd will be allowed to enter the Shepherd's land, in this case the Promised Land. The Israelites will either believe and obey, or they will not believe and not obey and thus be cast out of the land forever. I know this is a very difficult passage of Scripture to discern.

In Ezekiel 20:43, when God restores Israel, she will remember her conduct and be ashamed of her past. Please read Zechariah 12:10-14 and note the similarities with this passage in Ezekiel.

What will Israel know in the day described in Ezekiel 20:44? Will God's covenant made with Israel depend on Israel's ways or deeds? If not Israel's ways or deeds, what then, will this covenant depend upon?

Please record the theme of chapter 20 on the individual worksheet for Ezekiel 20 and on the Ezekiel Theme Summary Chart in the Appendix.

Day 5 - Personal reflection:

These questions are as much for me as they are for you.

Unger's Bible Dictionary has one word that describes the word, "lament," and it is "mourning." If it is true, that a "lamentation," is a funeral dirge, then "mourning" through the expression of words is a good definition. Have you ever thought about what people would say about you at your funeral if you were to die? I would hope that people would give me all good remarks, that there would be no negative comments made. Really, what I hope down deep in my soul is that whatever good is expressed outwardly is really true in the hearts of my family members and friends. Secretly, I would hope that people would miss me greatly, that they would cry and mourn my absence from their lives.

I think God lamented or mourned over the "princes" or the "kings" of the tribe of Judah in Ezekiel 19. I actually had forgotten the blessing Israel prayed over his son Judah. Judah was the tribe that the kings of the whole house of Israel were to come from – remember: Jesus is called the Lion of Judah. This is what Israel prayed over his son Judah in Genesis 49:8-12:

"Judah, your brothers shall praise you;
Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father's sons shall bow down to you.
Judah is a lion's whelp;
From the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He couches, he lies down as a lion,
And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?
The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
He ties his foal to the vine,
And his donkey's colt to the choice vine;
He washes his garments in wine,
And his robes in the blood of grapes.
His eyes are dull from wine,
And his teeth white from milk.”

No human probably mourned the two kings spoken of in Ezekiel 19. These two fellows were about as bad as they could get. No one probably cried over their lost, pathetic lives. But, God cried. He cared individually for these kings – the godly line, the line from which the kings of the whole house of Israel came, the offspring of David, the Beloved, the line from which the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ, was to come.

Who wept over Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37-39? Is He not the One and the same Who wept over the kings of Judah here in Ezekiel 19? Or was this all just a negative dirge?

Who is concerned about you today?

Do those you work with really care about you? Do your friends at church really care enough about you to pray for you and to be concerned for your wellbeing? Would they come to your rescue if your needs were such? How about your family members? Does your sister really care about you or does she just need someone to share the load? Does your husband verbalize his love for you, but sometimes just not seem to have the compassion for you that He should? I would hope that for you all of these questions would be answerable as for you and not against you. But what if all the players here are just interested in themselves? You honestly just cannot know the depth of others' feelings or concern. But, you can know this: **God does care about you.** He does weep for you and He does carry your burdens to the Father each and every moment of every day. Jesus Christ sits at the Father's right hand ever making intercession for you until He comes again. Put your hope and confidence in Him.

Do you think that God would have saved the Jews from Babylon's final blow of Jerusalem if they had returned to Him in the last hour? What had God's track record been leading up to this moment in time? Is there any reason to doubt that He would treat them differently this time than at any other time?

What about you? Has your life been headed down the wrong and destructive pathway even though you are His and are eternally saved? If so, what is God doing this very moment in time? Is there time to return to Him? How much time? Please read Matthew 18:12-14.

One of the names God reveals Himself to be in the Scripture is Jehovah Raah: the Lord is my Shepherd. My earthly father was never demonstrative in his love for me; I cannot know for certain that he did love me. Thus, my understanding of my heavenly Father is not what it should be. I certainly did not view God as my shepherd watching over me at all times. Several years ago, now, just after coming out of surgery on my back, one of our pastors, Clyde Wilhite, sneaked into my hospital room and prayed over me. He didn't know that I was alerted to his presence. What a blessed memory and revelation for me that came from that one deed, that one act of shepherding, that one demonstrative show of love. Please read the 23rd Psalm here and write down your thoughts below:

Think about being a sheep in God's fold right now? What are you feeling? What do you know?

What does it mean in the 23rd Psalm when he says, "He restores my soul?" Has there ever been a time when you've needed restoration? Does it help to know that He is actively pursuing this restoration for you?

Give God thanks right now for the way He has been your faithful Shepherd.

Alas, even with God's messenger (Ezekiel) giving out that final call, at the last moment, for Israel to return to God, they did not want Him and He ultimately sent them into captivity in Babylon. What about you? As a true Believer in Jesus as your Savior, what might the Great Shepherd do to you if you refuse to come into the sheep pen for safekeeping?

In chapter 20, God tells Ezekiel to give the inquirers, those who came to him for a word from the Lord, a history lesson. Write down your history below:

Now, write down the history of our nation below:

Has our nation been like sheep gone astray? Is God calling our nation to return to Him right up to the last moment before our destruction? You bet He is. The problem with the people in our nation is not that God is not calling; the problem is that they are not listening to His message. Pray for our nation. Most don't even know or acknowledge that we are not right with Him.

The Jews who were of the faithful then, and those who are of the faithful today, could and can take great joy and anticipation in what God had to say to them for their future in Ezekiel 20:33ff. Even knowing the disobedience and idolatry, the sins of their nation, the Lord says that one day, He will be their King, He will bring them into the fold, into their own land, into the bond of the covenant, He will purge the rebels from among them and His holy Name will no longer be profaned. In Jerusalem, the whole house of Israel, will serve Him. There He will accept them. There He will prove Himself holy in the sight of the other nations. In the land of Israel, He will gather them from all the nations where He has scattered them and **they will know that He is the LORD**. So, will we, the true Believers in His Son, know that **He is the LORD**?

Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB ©) New American Standard Bible©, Copyright ©1960, 1971, 1977 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
“www.lockman.org”

Chapter 19

Chapter Theme _____

19:1 “As for you, take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel,

19:2 and say, ‘What was your mother? A lioness among lions! She lay down among young lions, She reared her cubs.

19:3 ‘When she brought up one of her cubs, He became a lion, And he learned to tear his prey; He devoured men.

19:4 ‘Then nations heard about him; He was captured in their pit, And they brought him with hooks To the land of Egypt.

19:5 ‘When she saw, as she waited, That her hope was lost, She took another of her cubs And made him a young lion.

19:6 ‘And he walked about among the lions; He became a young lion, He learned to tear his prey; He devoured men.

19:7 ‘And he destroyed their fortified towers And laid waste their cities; And the land and its fulness were appalled Because of the sound of his roaring.

19:8 ‘Then nations set against him On every side from their provinces, And they spread their net over him; He was captured in their pit.

19:9 ‘And they put him in a cage with hooks And brought him to the king of Babylon; They brought him in hunting nets So that his voice should be heard no more On the mountains of Israel.

19:10 ‘Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard, Planted by the waters; It was fruitful and full of branches Because of abundant waters.

19:11 ‘And it had strong branches fit for scepters of rulers, And its height was raised above the clouds So that it was seen in its height with the mass of its branches.

19:12 ‘But it was plucked up in fury; It was cast down to the ground; And the east wind dried up its fruit. Its strong branch was torn off So that it withered; The fire consumed it.

19:13 ‘And now it is planted in the wilderness, In a dry and thirsty land.

19:14 ‘And fire has gone out from its branch; It has consumed its shoots and fruit, So that there is not in it a strong branch, A scepter to rule.’” This is a lamentation, and has become a lamentation.

Chapter 20

Chapter Theme _____

20:1 Now it came about in the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

20:2 And the word of the LORD came to me saying,

20:3 “Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Do you come to inquire of Me? As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “I will not be inquired of by you.”’”

20:4 “Will you judge them, will you judge them, son of man? Make them know the abominations of their fathers;

20:5 and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD, “On the day when I chose Israel and swore to the descendants of the house of Jacob and made Myself known to them in the land of Egypt, when I swore to them, saying, I am the LORD your God,

20:6 on that day I swore to them, to bring them out from the land of Egypt into a land that I had selected for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands.

20:7 “And I said to them, ‘Cast away, each of you, the detestable things of his eyes, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.’”

20: 8 “But they rebelled against Me and were not willing to listen to Me; they did not cast away the detestable things of their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt.

Then I resolved to pour out My wrath on them, to accomplish My anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

20:9 “But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made Myself known to them by bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

20:10 “So I took them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness.

20:11 “And I gave them My statutes and informed them of My ordinances, by which, if a man observes them, he will live.

20:12 “And also I gave them My sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

20:13 “But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness. They did not walk in My statutes, and they rejected My ordinances, by which, if a man observes them, he will live; and My sabbaths they greatly profaned. Then I resolved to pour out My wrath on them in the wilderness, to annihilate them.

20:14 “But I acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, before whose sight I had brought them out.

20:15 “And also I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands,

20:16 because they rejected My ordinances, and as for My statutes, they did not walk in them; they even profaned My sabbaths, for their heart continually went after their idols.

20:17 “Yet My eye spared them rather than destroying them, and I did not cause their annihilation in the wilderness.

20:18 “And I said to their children in the wilderness, ‘Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, or keep their ordinances, or defile yourselves with their idols.

20:19 ‘I am the LORD your God; walk in My statutes, and keep My ordinances, and observe them.

20:20 ‘And sanctify My sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.’

20:21 “But the children rebelled against Me; they did not walk in My statutes, nor were they careful to observe My ordinances, by which, if a man observes them, he will live; they profaned My sabbaths. So I resolved to pour out My wrath on them, to accomplish My anger against them in the wilderness.

20:22 “But I withdrew My hand and acted for the sake of My name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.

20:23 “Also I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them among the lands,

20:24 because they had not observed My ordinances, but had rejected My statutes, and had profaned My sabbaths, and their eyes were on the idols of their fathers.

20:25 “And I also gave them statutes that were not good and ordinances by which they could not live;

20:26 and I pronounced them unclean because of their gifts, in that they caused all their first-born to pass through the fire so that I might make them desolate, in order that they might know that I am the LORD.”

20:27 “Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Yet in this your fathers have blasphemed Me by acting treacherously against Me.

20:28 “When I had brought them into the land which I swore to give to them, then they saw every high hill and every leafy tree, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they

presented the provocation of their offering. There also they made their soothing aroma, and there they poured out their libations.

20:29 “Then I said to them, ‘What is the high place to which you go?’ So its name is called Bamah to this day.”

20:30 “Therefore, say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Will you defile yourselves after the manner of your fathers and play the harlot after their detestable things?

20:31 “And when you offer your gifts, when you cause your sons to pass through the fire, you are defiling yourselves with all your idols to this day. And shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “I will not be inquired of by you.

20:32 “And what comes into your mind will not come about, when you say: ‘We will be like the nations, like the tribes of the lands, serving wood and stone.’

20:33 “As I live,” declares the Lord GOD, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you.

20:34 “And I shall bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out;

20:35 and I shall bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I shall enter into judgment with you face to face.

20:36 “As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord GOD.

20:37 “And I shall make you pass under the rod, and I shall bring you into the bond of the covenant;

20:38 and I shall purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.

20:39 “As for you, O house of Israel,” thus says the Lord GOD, “Go, serve everyone his idols; but later, you will surely listen to Me, and My holy name you will profane no longer with your gifts and with your idols.

20:40 “For on My holy mountain, on the high mountain of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD, “there the whole house of Israel, all of them, will serve Me in the land; there I shall accept them, and there I shall seek your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your holy things.

20:41 “As a soothing aroma I shall accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I shall prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations.

20:42 “And you will know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the land which I swore to give to your forefathers.

20:43 “And there you will remember your ways and all your deeds, with which you have defiled yourselves; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for all the evil things that you have done.

20:44 “Then you will know that I am the LORD when I have dealt with you for My name’s sake, not according to your evil ways or according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD.”

20:45 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

20:46 “Son of man, set your face toward Teman, and speak out against the south, and prophesy against the forest land of the Negev,

20:47 and say to the forest of the Negev, ‘Hear the word of the LORD: thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am about to kindle a fire in you, and it shall consume every green tree in you, as well as every dry tree; the blazing flame will not be quenched, and the whole surface from south to north will be burned by it.

20:48 “And all flesh will see that I, the LORD, have kindled it; it shall not be quenched.””

20:49 Then I said, “Ah Lord GOD! They are saying of me, Is he not just speaking parables?”

Lamentations for the Princes of Israel - a Funeral Dirge, Mourning and Wailing for Israel- Ezekiel 19,21

Take up a lamentation for the Princes of Israel	The Princes of Israel	This is a lamentation and has become a lamentation	Take up a lamentation for the rulers of the USA	The Political Leaders of the USA	This is a lamentation and has become a lamentation
<p>As for you (Ezekiel) take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel - 19:1</p> <p>As for you (Ezekiel) groan with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight (Jerusalem-the city, the sanctuaries, the land) - 21:6-7</p> <p>Why are you groaning Ezekiel? b/c of the news that is coming; 21:7</p> <p>every heart will melt all hands will be feeble 21:7</p> <p>every spirit will faint</p> <p>all knees will be weak as water</p> <p>Behold, it comes and it will happen</p>	<p>The city of Jerusalem had young kings (lion cubs), who were wicked: 19</p> <p>first cub/ son of lioness & young lion/son of Josiah:-<u>Jehoaz</u>-3 months rule -2 Chronicles 36:14/ 2 Kings 23:29-34</p> <p>-became a lion and learned to tear his prey and devour men - 19:3</p> <p>-23 years old when took throne, mother's name was Hamutal, daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah 2 Kings 23</p> <p>-did evil in the sight of Lord - 2 Kings 23</p> <p>-nations heard of him; was captured, put in pit,brought w/ hooks to Egypt - 19:4</p> <p>-Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him in Egypt 2 Kings 23</p> <p>possible second cub/son of lioness and a young lion/ son of Josiah:<u>Jehoiakim</u>; Egypt name chg: <u>Eliakim</u> year rule-2 Kgs 23;</p> <p>filled Jeru w/ innocent blood; Lord would not forgive 2 Kings 23</p> <p>-25 years old when took throne, mother's name was Zebidah, daughter of Pediah of Rumah 2 Kings 23</p> <p>-did evil in sight of Lord</p> <p>or</p> <p>possible second cub/son of lioness and a young lion/ son of Eliakim named Jehoiachin 2 Kings 23;</p> <p>-he and his mother captured by K. of Babylon; -mother's name was Nehushta, daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem 2 Kgs. 23</p> <p>-became young lion, learned to tear prey, devoured men, destroyed fortified towers, laid cities waste, land appaled b/e of his roaring; did evil in sight of Lord</p> <p>-nations set against him, spread net over him, captured in pit, put him in cage w/ hooks, brought him to king of Babylon; brought him in hunting nets; died in Babylon - 19</p>	<p>THEN:</p> <p>Jerusalem (the MOM) was like a vine in a vineyard, planted by the waters, it was fruitful, full of branches; it had strong branches fit for scepters of rulers (kings of Judah)</p> <p>-height was raised above the clouds so that it was seen by the other nations</p> <p>NOW OR PRESENT DAY CHAPTER 19:</p> <p>-was plucked up in fury, cast down to ground, east wind dried up its fruit, its strong branch torn off</p> <p>-planted in wilderness, consumed by fire</p> <p>-no longer a strong branch in it; a ruler to rule</p>	<p>As for you (Peggy Grinstead) take up a lamentation for the political leaders of your country - 19:1</p> <p>As for you (Peggy Grinstead) groan with breaking heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight (Washington, DC/USA. -the city, and the people; the sanctuaries (our churches and church bodies), the land) 21:6-7</p> <p>Why are you groaning Peggy Grinstead? b/c of the news that is coming:</p> <p>-all those who do not have a new heart, a heart of flesh will die in their sins</p> <p>-every spirit (life) that does not have the Holy Spirit shall be snuffed out and will die and be lost for eternity - no more chances after death</p> <p>-all physical calamity will come upon them if they live during GT that is coming</p>	<p>Our nation once ruled by strong rulers, some wicked, some righteous</p> <p>Founding Fathers were strong Christians, at the least - they were Deists</p> <p>Founding Fathers built this nation on the strong fabric of Jehovah God's laws - his statutes/ his ordinances</p> <p>Nation was built on strong base of Jehovah sGod as overall Sovereign who had endowed all men w/equal rights</p> <p>Morals were instilled from generation to generation</p> <p>Responsibility and accountability built into gov't via constitution</p>	<p>THEN</p> <p>the United States was once the world super-power/ the President of the USA was the most powerful man in the world; he was morally upright and opposed those things that God also hates</p> <p>-The churches were able to take care of their own and those who were in need</p> <p>-The nation tried to be fiscally/financially responsible</p> <p>-We went to war for all the right reasons</p> <p>-We blessed Israel & thus were blessed in return</p> <p>NOW</p> <p>-morality is in question</p> <p>-our humanity is in question</p> <p>-our opposition to all the things that God also hates, we have embraced</p> <p>-the church is mostly secular; we don't take care of our poor and oppressed</p> <p>-out of control spending by our gov't, our churches, our people</p> <p>-we go to war w/ faulty counsel</p> <p>-many of us do not bless or back Israel</p>

**Ezekiel, the Prosecuting Attorney -
The Abominations of Israel and her Fathers - Ezekiel 20**

In Egypt	In the Wilderness - the original parents, just out of Egypt	In the Wilderness - those children of the originals x 38 years	In the Land - those children of the originals	What was God going to do to them/ Millennial Kingdom- then they will know that He is the Lord
<p>God chose Israel and swore to her descendants in the land of Egypt to bring them out from the land of Egypt into a land that He selected for them, flowing w/ milk -they were to cast away each of them, the detestable things of their eyes, and were not to defile themselves w/ idols of Egypt -but they rebelled against Him & were not willing to listen to Him, they did not cast away the detestable things of their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols -God resolved to pour out His wrath on them -But, God acted for the sake of His name for the Egyptians to see</p>	<p>-God took the Israelites out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness -He gave them His statutes and informed them of His ordinances -He also gave them His sabbaths -But the house of Israel rebelled against God in the wilderness. They did not walk in His statutes and they rejected His ordinances -then God resolved Himself to to pour out His wrath on them in the wilderness to annihilate them -but God acted for the sake of His name and for the other nations to see -swore to them in the wilderness that He would not let them into the land which He had given them -God's eye spared them rather than destroying them</p>	<p>-God said to the children to not walk in the statutes of their fathers nor keep their ordinances or defile themselves with their idols -God told them to walk in His statutes and His ordinances, and sanctify His sabbaths -the children rebelled against God -they did not walk in His statutes, nor obey His ordinances -they profaned his sabbaths -God resolved to pour out His wrath on them in the wilderness -God withdrew His hand and acted for the sake of His Name and for the other nations to see -also God told them in the wilderness that He would scatter them among the nations and disperse them among the lands b/c they had not observed His ordinances, His statutes & their eyes were on idols</p>	<p>-God brought them into the children into the land -they saw every high hill and every leafy tree, and offered their sacrifices and offerings, soothing aroma, poured out libations to other gods; played the harlot after detestable things</p>	<p>-He will not be inquired of by them -with wrath poured out, He will be king over them -He will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the lands where He will scatter them -He, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, shall bring them into the wilderness of the peoples and there will enter into judgment with them face to face -He shall make them pass under the rod and those who transgress against Him, He shall bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel -They will serve everyone his idols, but later, they will listen to Him -His holy name will be profaned no longer with their gifts and idols -On God's high mountain of Israel, all of Israel will serve Him in the land; there He will accept them, there He shall seek their contributions the choicest of their gifts, with all their holy things; He will accept their soothing aroma; He shall accept them when He brings them out from the peoples and gathers them from the lands where they will be scattered -He shall prove Himself holy among them in the sight of the nations and they will know that He is the LORD -there, they will remember their ways and all their deeds with which they have defiled themselves and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for all the evil things they have done -then they will know that God is the LORD when He has dealt with them for His name's sake</p>