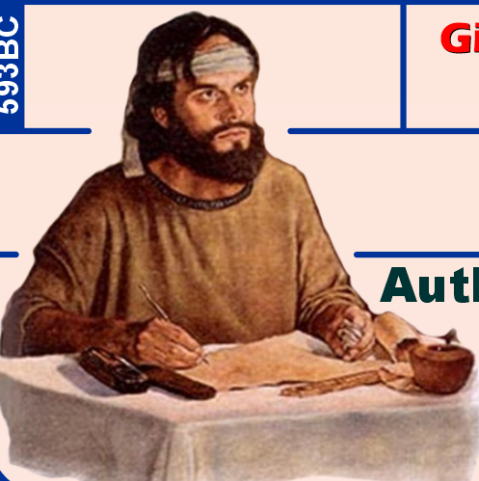


FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

17

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 JUDGMENT				The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE			
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															



3 PARABLES ON JUDGMENT

Ezekiel 15-17

3 PARABLES ON JUDGMENT — EZEKIEL 15-17

- **Ezekiel 15, Unprofitable Vine of Jerusalem**
(Ek.15:1-8)
- **Ezekiel 16, Jerusalem's History as a Prostitute**
(Ek.16:1-63)
- **Ezekiel 17, Riddle and Parable of the Two Eagles**
(Ek.17:1-24)

The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there are dense bushes with bright orange and yellow autumn leaves. A dark wooden fence runs along the bottom left. In the middle ground, a large, calm blue lake stretches across the frame, with several small, forested islands in the water. In the background, there are rolling green mountains under a sky with soft, white clouds. The overall lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

RIDDLE AND PARABLE OF THE TWO EAGLES

Ezekiel 17:1-24

SYMBOL LEGEND — EZEKIEL 17

- The EAGLE symbolized **Nebuchadnezzar** (Ek.17:3,12)
- The LEBANON stood for **Jerusalem** or **land of Canaan** (Ek.17:3; Js.1:4; 2Ki.14:9)
- The CEDAR TREES were a figure of the **Davidic dynasty** (Ek.17:22; Is.10:33-11:1)
- The TOP OF CEDAR TREE is king **Jehoiachin**
- The TOPMOST YOUNG TWIG is **Jehoiachin's advisors** (2Ki.24:11-16)
- The LAND OF TRADE is **Babylon** (Ek.16:29; 17:4)
- The SEED are those whom Babylon **left behind in Judah** (Ek.17:5, 597BC)
- The ANOTHER GREAT EAGLE refers to **Egypt** (Ek.17:7,15, Pharaoh Apries)
- The VINE or SPREADING VINE refers to **Zedekiah** (Ek.17:6,14; 597-586 B.C.)
- The KING'S OFFSPRING is **Zedekiah** as a vassal subject (Ek.17:5,13)
- The TREES are **other nations** (Ek.17:24)

**And the word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 17:1



And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.17:1)

- **This parable about two eagles pictures Zedekiah's rebellion against the king of Babylon and the judgment that would result.**
- **It is a riddle in that its meaning needs to be explained.**
- **Riddles excite the curiosity and leave the baffled listeners keen for an answer.**
- **The purpose for using riddles was apparently to test the intelligence or cleverness of the hearer (Jg.14:12-19; 1Ki.10:1; 2Ch.9:1; Mt.13).**



**"Son of man, pose a riddle,
and speak a parable to the
house of Israel,**

EZEKIEL 17:2



"Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel, (Ek.17:2)

- **A “riddle” is an cryptic saying that normally requires an explanation.**
- **The word riddle was used of the “riddle” Samson posed to the Philistines (Jg.14:12-19) and for the “hard questions” the Queen of Sheba asked Solomon (1Ki.10:1; 2Ch.9:1).**
- **Ezekiel was told to deliver a discourse or extended riddle that would require an explanation.**
- **A “parable” is often translated 'proverb,' is a short pithy statement which can refer to a longer work.**



"Son of man, pose a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel, (Ek.17:2)

FAMOUS PITHY STATEMENTS

- **"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity" — Albert Einstein**
- **"An unexamined life is not worth living" — Socrates**
- **"The mind is everything. What you think you become" — Buddha**
- **"The best revenge is massive success" — Frank Sinatra**
- **"The less you say, the more your words will matter" — Unknown**
- **"A few words are enough to express a great thought" — Anonymous**
- **"The essence of genius is to know what to overlook" — William James**
- **"Truth is the shortest distance between two points" — Anonymous**
- **"Brevity is the soul of wit" — William Shakespeare**

**and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "A
great eagle with large wings and
long pinions, Full of feathers of
various colors, Came to Lebanon And
took from the cedar the highest
branch.**

EZEKIEL 17:3



and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "A great eagle with large wings and long pinions, Full of feathers of various colors, Came to Lebanon And took from the cedar the highest branch. (Ek.17:3)

- The riddle is stated in verses 3-10, and explained in verses 11-21.**
- As Ezekiel explained later (Ek.17:12), the eagle symbolized Nebuchadnezzar, and Lebanon stood for Jerusalem.**
- This referred to Nebuchadnezzar's attack on Jerusalem in 597B.C. when he reestablished his control over the city and deposed King Jehoiachin.**



and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "A great eagle with large wings and long pinions, Full of feathers of various colors, Came to Lebanon And took from the cedar the highest branch. (Ek.17:3)

- **Lebanon was an alternative name for the land of Canaan that emphasized its great beauty and fruitfulness (Js.1:4; 2Ki.14:9).**
- **The Lord evidently used it here because He wanted to develop the idea of a bird plucking the top off a tree, and this was more typical in Lebanon than in Israel because of Lebanon's many cedar trees.**
- **Elsewhere in Scripture the cedar tree is a figure used to describe the Davidic line of kings culminating in Messiah (Is.10:33-11:1).**
- **Cedar trees were beautiful and very hardy, an appropriate figure of the Davidic dynasty.**



**He cropped off its topmost young
twig And carried it to a land of
trade; He set it in a city of
merchants.**

EZEKIEL 17:4



He cropped off its topmost young twig And carried it to a land of trade; He set it in a city of merchants. (Ek.17:4)

- **Nebuchadnezzar carried off her king (Ek.17:12), the top shoot of the tree, and her nobles, bringing them back with him (2Ki.24:8-16) and replanted the “shoot” in Babylon.**
- **In this riddle, a powerful and impressive eagle came to Lebanon, cropped off the top of one of its famous cedar trees, and carried these twigs to a land of merchants and a city of traders.**



He cropped off its topmost young twig And carried it to a land of trade; He set it in a city of merchants. (Ek.17:4)

- **Babylon was a city of traders in a land of merchants (Ek.17:4; 16:29; 1Ki.10:27; 2Ki.24:10-12; Je.22:15,23).**
- **The “topmost young twig” is Jehoiachin, the king, exiled in 597 B.C. (2Ki.24:11-16).**
- **The “land of trade” is Babylon (Ek.16:29).**



**Then he took some of the seed
of the land And planted it in a
fertile field; He placed it by
abundant waters And set it
like a willow tree.**

EZEKIEL 17:5



**Then he took some of the seed of the land And planted it in a fertile field;
He placed it by abundant waters And set it like a willow tree. (Ek.17:5)**

- **The “eagle,” Nebuchadnezzar, was not totally heartless.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar weakened Jerusalem, but he did not destroy it at that time.**
- **Instead he set up Zedekiah as a vassal king.**



**Then he took some of the seed of the land And planted it in a fertile field;
He placed it by abundant waters And set it like a willow tree. (Ek.17:5)**

- **This eagle also took some of the seed from Lebanon and planted it in fertile soil near a body of water so it would flourish, like a willow tree (Is.44:4).**
- **The “seed” are those whom Babylon left behind in Judah (597BC), who could prosper as a tributary to the conqueror.**



**And it grew and became a spreading
vine of low stature; Its branches
turned toward him, But its roots were
under it. So it became a vine, Brought
forth branches, And put forth shoots.**

EZEKIEL 17:6



And it grew and became a spreading vine of low stature; Its branches turned toward him, But its roots were under it. So it became a vine, Brought forth branches, And put forth shoots. (Ek.17:6)

- Jerusalem's military might was gone; but as long as she remained faithful to Nebuchadnezzar, her people could continue to live in peace.**
- Though Judah was brought low, weakened and humiliated, she could survive if she kept the treaty with Nebuchadnezzar.**
- This seed sprouted and became a low, spreading vine (Ek.15:1-8) that sent out branches upward toward the eagle and roots downward.**



And it grew and became a spreading vine of low stature; Its branches turned toward him, But its roots were under it. So it became a vine, Brought forth branches, And put forth shoots. (Ek.17:6)

- **The “spreading vine” refers to Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.), the youngest son of Josiah whom Nebuchadnezzar appointed king in Judah.**
- **The benevolent attitude of Nebuchadnezzar helped Zedekiah to prosper; and if he had remained faithful to his pledge to Nebuchadnezzar, Judah would have continued as a tributary kingdom.**
- **Zedekiah began courting help from Egypt (2Ch.36:13), which Jeremiah protested (Je.37:5-7).**



But there was another great eagle with large wings and many feathers; And behold, this vine bent its roots toward him, And stretched its branches toward him, From the garden terrace where it had been planted, That he might water it.

EZEKIEL 17:7



"But there was another great eagle with large wings and many feathers; And behold, this vine bent its roots toward him, And stretched its branches toward him, From the garden terrace where it had been planted, That he might water it. (Ek.17:7)

- **Another large eagle, not quite as glorious as the first, came along.**
- **Pharaoh Hophra (Gr. Apries, 588-568 B.C.) is the second strong eagle in the riddle to which the vine sent out its roots and branches for sustenance, probably in 588 B.C.**
- **"Another great eagle" refers to Egypt (Ek.17:15), specifically Pharaoh Apries (Hophra) (588-568 B.C.).**
- **Zedekiah turned to him for help in revolting against Babylon.**



**It was planted in good soil by
many waters, To bring forth
branches, bear fruit, And
become a majestic vine.**

EZEKIEL 17:8



It was planted in good soil by many waters, To bring forth branches, bear fruit, And become a majestic vine. (Ek.17:8)

- **When Ezekiel penned this prophecy Zedekiah's final revolt had not yet happened.**
- **The vine reached out with its branches and roots toward it so this eagle might water it.**
- **The vine did this even though it was growing in good soil with abundant water nearby, enough to make it a luxuriant and fruitful plant.**



Say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots, Cut off its fruit, And leave it to wither? All of its spring leaves will wither, And no great power or many people Will be needed to pluck it up by its roots.'

EZEKIEL 17:9



Say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots, Cut off its fruit, And leave it to wither? All of its spring leaves will wither, And no great power or many people Will be needed to pluck it up by its roots. (Ek.17:9)

- The results for the “vine” (Ek.17:8) would be disastrous.**
- It would be uprooted and stripped of its fruit and wither.**
- Because Zedekiah violated his oath to Nebuchadnezzar (an oath ordained by God, Je.27:1-22), Nebuchadnezzar would not spare the city.**



Say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots, Cut off its fruit, And leave it to wither? All of its spring leaves will wither, And no great power or many people Will be needed to pluck it up by its roots. (Ek.17:9)

- **Nothing that anyone could do could cause such a vine to recover its original health and fruitfulness after such treatment (Ek.17:22-24).**
- **The Lord rhetorically asked if the owner of such a vine would not pull it out of its soil and cause it to wither and become unfruitful.**



Say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots, Cut off its fruit, And leave it to wither? All of its spring leaves will wither, And no great power or many people Will be needed to pluck it up by its roots. (Ek.17:9)

- **Zedekiah's treachery would not prosper. It would “wither.”**
- **The king was captured in the plains of Jericho (Je.52:8).**
- **The dependence on Egypt would fail, and Judah would wither as the east wind (a picture of Babylon, Ek.13:11-13) blasted her.**



**Behold, it is planted, Will it thrive?
Will it not utterly wither when the
east wind touches it? It will
wither in the garden terrace
where it grew.**

EZEKIEL 17:10



Behold, it is planted, Will it thrive? Will it not utterly wither when the east wind touches it? It will wither in the garden terrace where it grew. (Ek.17:10)

- **As Ezekiel explained, this revolt meant that Zedekiah would die in Babylon because Pharaoh in Egypt would be of no help.**
- **In breaking his oath to Nebuchadnezzar, Zedekiah was also opposing God.**
- **Even though its roots were still in the ground it would not thrive.**
- **The hot east wind would easily wither it where it grew (Ek.19:12; Jb.27:21; Is.27:8; Ho.13:15).**



**Moreover the word of the
LORD came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 17:11



Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.17:11)

- **Ezekiel first interpreted his fable historically (Ek.17:11-18), then gave the theological events (Ek.17:19-24).**
- **Ezekiel was now to tell his rebellious hearers what this story represented.**
- **In this case the eagle represented God's instrument of judgment, Nebuchadnezzar, who had invaded Jerusalem, cropped off the Judean king, Jehoiachin (the top of the cedar tree, Ek.17:3), and his advisers (the topmost of its young twigs, Ek.17:4) and carried them off to Babylon in 597 B.C. (Da.7:4).**



Say now to the rebellious house: 'Do you not know what these things mean?' Tell them, 'Indeed the king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and took its king and princes, and led them with him to Babylon.'

EZEKIEL 17:12



Say now to the rebellious house: 'Do you not know what these things mean?' Tell them, 'Indeed the king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and took its king and princes, and led them with him to Babylon. (Ek.17:12)

- **Nebuchadnezzar carried off her king (Ek.17:12), the top shoot of the tree, and her nobles, bringing them back with him (2Ki.24:8-16) and replanted the “shoot” in Babylon.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Jerusalem (the specific identity of Lebanon in the riddle, Ek.17:3) devastated the land like a hot east wind (Ek.17:10).**



**And he took the king's offspring,
made a covenant with him, and put
him under oath. He also took away
the mighty of the land,**

EZEKIEL 17:13



And he took the king's offspring, made a covenant with him, and put him under oath. He also took away the mighty of the land, (Ek.17:13)

- **Nebuchadnezzar set up another king as his vassal, Zedekiah, one of the royal seed whom he planted in the fertile soil of Canaan (Ek.17:5).**
- **Babylon (Ek.17:12) made Zedekiah a vassal subject to her, took captives, and left Judah weak (Ek.17:13-14).**
- **Zedekiah broke the agreement (Ek.17:15) in which he swore by the Lord to submit to Babylon (2Ch.36:13), but sought Egypt's help. Thus, he was taken to Babylon to live out his life (Ek.17:16, 19; Je.39:4-7).**



**that the kingdom might be
brought low and not lift itself
up, but that by keeping his
covenant it might stand.**

EZEKIEL 17:14



that the kingdom might be brought low and not lift itself up, but that by keeping his covenant it might stand. (Ek.17:14)

- **Though Judah was brought low, weakened and humiliated, she could survive if she kept the treaty with Nebuchadnezzar.**
- **Nebuchadnezzar deported the leaders of Judah to Babylon so Judah would be a docile servant and continue to exist with a measure of independence under his control (2Ki.24:17; Je.37:1).**
- **Nebuchadnezzar made a binding covenant with Zedekiah obligating him to serve Babylon, and Zedekiah flourished for a time.**
- **The vine's roots remained under it, but it grew low and spreading rather than upward and fruitful, and it extended its branches toward the eagle, Nebuchadnezzar (Ek.17:6).**



**But he rebelled against him by sending
his ambassadors to Egypt, that they
might give him horses and many people.
Will he prosper? Will he who does such
things escape? Can he break a
covenant and still be delivered?**

EZEKIEL 17:15



But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and many people. Will he prosper? Will he who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and still be delivered? (Ek.17:15)

- **Another eagle came along to “entice” the vine away from where it had been planted.**
- **This new “eagle” was Egypt, which influenced Zedekiah to rebel against Babylon.**
- **Judah’s king violated his oath of allegiance to Babylon and joined forces with Egypt, sending envoys to Egypt to get horses and a large army.**

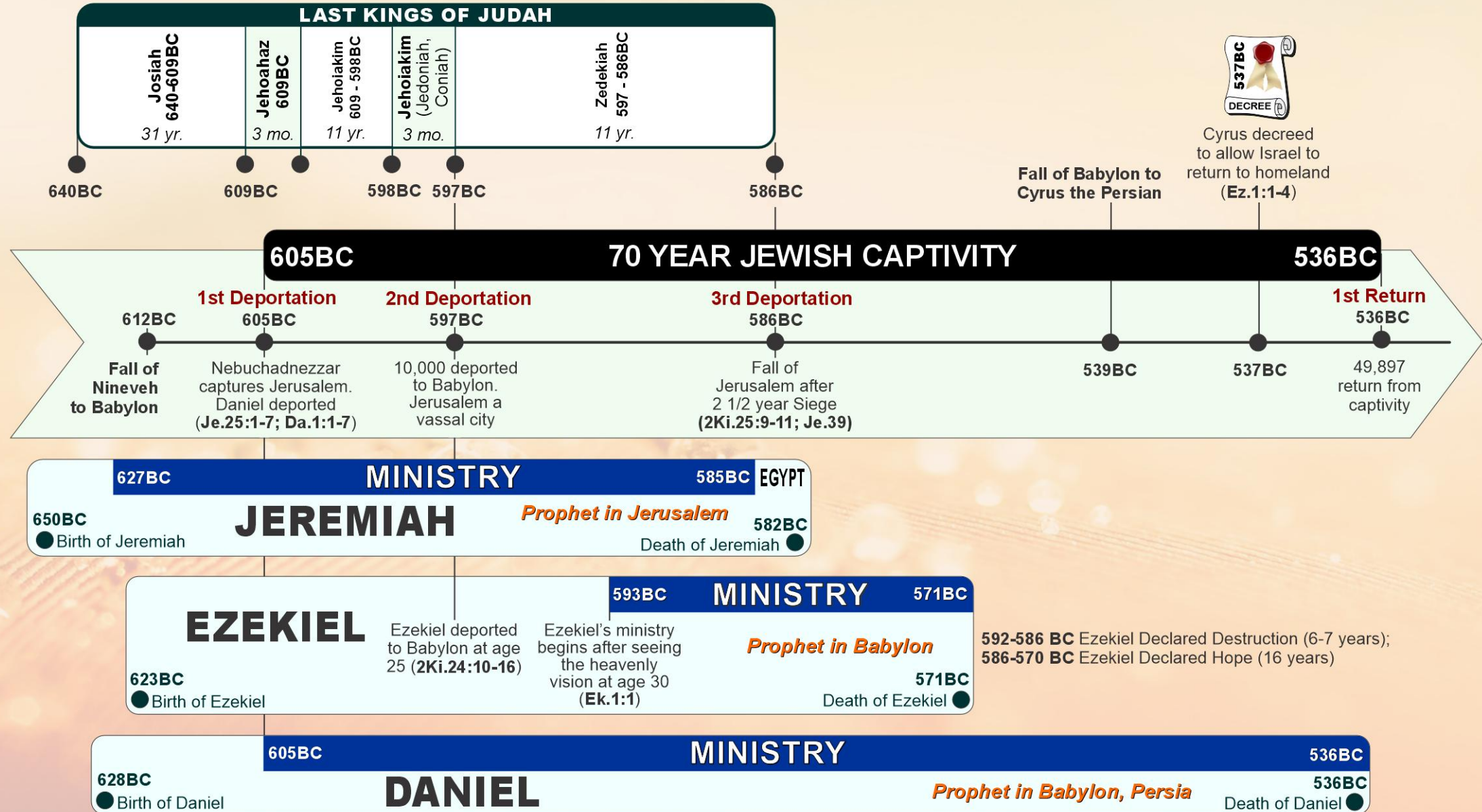


But he rebelled against him by sending his ambassadors to Egypt, that they might give him horses and many people. Will he prosper? Will he who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and still be delivered? (Ek.17:15)

- **If this prophecy is in chronological order, as seems likely, Ezekiel gave it between 592 (Ek.8:1) and 591 B.C. (Ek.20:1).**
- **Zedekiah's final revolt against Babylon actually began in 588 b.c., so Ezekiel predicted Zedekiah's revolt about three years before it happened.**



EXILE HISTORY MAJOR PROPHETS



EVENTS SURROUNDING EZEKIEL

IN BABYLON

640BC

Josiah begins his reign in Judah (640BC, **2Ki.22-23**)

The lost Book of the Law was found resulting in sweeping reforms when Ezekiel was a young boy.

(1)

605BC

The first Jewish captives are taken to Babylon including Daniel (**Da.1:1-2**)

(2)

597BC

The second Jewish captives are taken to Babylon including Ezekiel, Jehoiachin, with a group of 10,000 (**2Ki.24:14**)

593BC

Ezekiel's prophetic ministry begins at age 30 (Ek.1:1)

588BC

Final siege of Jerusalem begins & lasts for 18 months (**2Ki.25:1-2**)

(3)

586BC

Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Temple as the 3rd invasion (**2Ki.25:2ff; 2Ch.36:17-21**)

605BC

70 YEAR JEWISH CAPTIVITY

→ **536BC** ...

Ezekiel Birth: **623BC**

Ministry Begins: **593BC** End: **571BC**

IN JERUSALEM



609BC

Jehoahaz becomes king for 3 months (**2Ki.23:30-34**)



608BC

Jehoiakim becomes king of Judah (**2Ki.23:34—24:19**)



598BC

Jehoiachin becomes king for 3 months (**2Ki.24:17—25:7**)



597BC

Zedekiah as last king begins reign in Judah (**2Ki.24:6-25:30; 2Ch.36:11ff**)

**'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'surely
in the place where the king dwells
who made him king, whose oath he
despised and whose covenant he
broke—with him in the midst of
Babylon he shall die.'**

EZEKIEL 17:16



'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised and whose covenant he broke—with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die. (Ek.17:16)

- Zedekiah could not escape Nebuchadnezzar's wrath since he had broken the covenant under which he served him, a covenant that he had sworn in God's name (Ek.5:7; 2Ch.36:13).**
- When Zedekiah made his oath of allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar, the Lord's name was invoked as a guarantor of the treaty (2Ch.36:13).**



And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel. (2Ch.36:13).

- Consequently when Zedekiah broke his oath to Nebuchadnezzar, he in effect broke a treaty with God.**



**Nor will Pharaoh with his mighty army
and great company do anything in the
war, when they heap up a siege
mound and build a wall to cut off
many persons.**

EZEKIEL 17:17



Nor will Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company do anything in the war, when they heap up a siege mound and build a wall to cut off many persons. (Ek.17:17)

- **Pharaoh would not come to Zedekiah's aid when Nebuchadnezzar invaded and besieged Jerusalem and slew many of the people.**
- **Egypt was no help to him or a protector of his army (Ek.17:21).**



**Since he despised the oath by
breaking the covenant, and in
fact gave his hand and still did
all these things, he shall not
escape.**

EZEKIEL 17:18



Since he despised the oath by breaking the covenant, and in fact gave his hand and still did all these things, he shall not escape. (Ek.17:18)

- **There was no way that Zedekiah could escape Nebuchadnezzar's wrath since he had broken the covenant in which he had pledged his allegiance to the Babylonian king.**



**Therefore thus says the Lord
GOD: "As I live, surely My oath
which he despised, and My
covenant which he broke, I
will recompense on his own
head.**

EZEKIEL 17:19



Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "As I live, surely My oath which he despised, and My covenant which he broke, I will recompense on his own head. (Ek.17:19)

- **The Lord swore that Zedekiah would die in Babylon for breaking his covenant with Nebuchadnezzar.**
- **After judgment became inevitable, God's will for Judah was submission to their foreign conquerors as a sign of their submission to him (Je.38:17-23).**
- **The Lord also promised that because Zedekiah had broken Israel's covenant with Yahweh he would pay the penalty.**



**I will spread My net over him, and
he shall be taken in My snare. I
will bring him to Babylon and try
him there for the treason which
he committed against Me.**

EZEKIEL 17:20



I will spread My net over him, and he shall be taken in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon and try him there for the treason which he committed against Me. (Ek.17:20)

- **God would see that Zedekiah was caught by Nebuchadnezzar (in his net and snare) and brought to Babylon, with his troops killed by the sword (2Ki.24:3-7).**
- **The Lord would capture him like an animal in a net, bring him to Babylon, and judge him there for his covenant unfaithfulness to Yahweh.**



**All his fugitives with all his troops
shall fall by the sword, and those
who remain shall be scattered to
every wind; and you shall know that
I, the LORD, have spoken.**

EZEKIEL 17:21



All his fugitives with all his troops shall fall by the sword, and those who remain shall be scattered to every wind; and you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken. (Ek.17:21)

- **His best soldiers would die, and the survivors of the siege would scatter. When this happened everyone would know that Yahweh had ordained Jerusalem's destruction.**



ADDENDUM TO THIS PROPHECY

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain.

EZEKIEL 17:22



Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. (Ek.17:22)

- **Like the preceding parable, this one also ends with a promise of hope (Ek.16:60-63).**
- **Lest the people get overly discouraged about God's coming judgment, Ezekiel added an "addendum" to his prophecy against Jerusalem.**
- **Though not specifically calling God an "eagle," Ezekiel compared God's future actions to those of the two eagles (Babylon and Egypt) already mentioned.**



Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. (Ek.17:22)

- **God said He will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it.**
- **The “highest branches” was the Davidic line (Ek.17:4 with 17:12).**
- **God will replant a king from the line of David on the mountain heights of Israel.**
- **The kingdom will not be destroyed for God will restore it to the land of Israel.**



Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. (Ek.17:22)

- **The “young twigs a tender one” seems to be a messianic reference (Is.11:1; Je.23:5-6; 33:14-16; Zc.3:8; 6:12-13).**
- **The high mountain is probably Mount Zion, the place where Messiah will set up His throne in the Millennial (Ps.2:6).**
- **Then the cedar tree (messianic kingdom) will be very stately and fruitful.**



Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will take also one of the highest branches of the high cedar and set it out. I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and will plant it on a high and prominent mountain. (Ek.17:22)

- **“One of the highest branches” is a messianic prophecy that God will provide the Messiah from the royal line of David ("the high cedar") and establish Him in His kingdom (like a mountain, Da.2:35, 44-45).**
- **He will be “a high branch” reigning at the height of success.**
- **Branch is a name for Messiah (cf. Ek.34:23-24; 37:24-25; Is.4:2; Je.23:5; 33:15; Zc.3:8; Ek.6:12).**



**On the mountain height of Israel I will
plant it; and it will bring forth boughs,
and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar.
Under it will dwell birds of every sort;
in the shadow of its branches they will
dwell.**

EZEKIEL 17:23



On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it; and it will bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a majestic cedar. Under it will dwell birds of every sort; in the shadow of its branches they will dwell. (Ek.17:23)

- **That kingdom will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar.**
- **Instead of plucking branches from it, birds of every kind will nest in it.**
- **This suggests that Israel will protect surrounding nations rather than being their pawn.**
- **People would dwell securely under the protection of this great kingdom (Ho.14:5-7; Da.4:12,21; Mt.13:32; Mk.4:32).**



**And all the trees of the field shall know
that I, the LORD, have brought down
the high tree and exalted the low tree,
dried up the green tree and made the
dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have
spoken and have done it.**

EZEKIEL 17:24



And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it. (Ek.17:24)

- **God's purpose in restoring Israel is to reveal His glory and plan for Israel to all nations.**
- **All the trees will know that I the Lord bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall.**
- **Israel's rise to prominence will be a catalyst to turn other nations to the Lord.**



And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it. (Ek.17:24)

- **This prophecy was not fulfilled when Israel returned to the land after the Babylonian Captivity.**
- **The fulfillment of this prophecy awaits God's establishment of Israel in the Millennium under the Messiah, Jesus Christ.**
- **At that time God's kingdom will rule the world (Da.2:44-45; Zc.14:3-9, 16-17).**



And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it. (Ek.17:24)

- **At that time the other nations (trees) would know that the one who had done this was Israel's God.**
- **He would cut down the high tree (Babylon?) and exalt the low tree (Israel).**
- **He would dry up the presently green tree (Egypt?) and make the presently dry tree (Israel) flourish.**



FUTILITY OF FALSE OPTIMISM

EZEKIEL

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