

Ezekiel - Prophecies Against Gentile Nations (Chapters 20-32) as Babylon Destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC - Lessons in Internationalisation

Christ, Whose Right It Is to Reign (Chs. 20-23)

Our Lord would not answer Israel's leaders except to review saving history and to call them to repentance from idolatry (Ch. 20: 6-7, 19-20, 30-31). However, covenant blessing would come ultimately (Ch. 20: 37-38). The leaders professed not to understand Ezekiel's words (Ch. 20: 49). His response was to sigh repeatedly to show his concern (Ch. 21: 6-7), showing his pity for them concerning the slaughter to come (Ch. 21: 12).

From that time on, only our Lord Jesus Christ would occupy Israel's throne (Ch. 21: 27; Genesis 49: 10). Christ alone is the King who pleases God (Ch. 22: 30-31; Jeremiah 22: 20-30). The New Testament gives His line of descent through Jehoiachin and Zerubbabel (Matthew 1: 12). Both Judah and Samaria would fall (Ch. 23: 48). As a result, from the time our Lord restored Israel seventy years later, the nation shunned idolatry completely.

Prophecies Against Gentile Nations (Chs. 25-32)

- * **Israel's Occupied Territories (Ch. 25)** - Ammon, Moab, Edom and Philistia would all fall to the Babylonians (Ch. 25: 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15-17).
- * **Lebanon (Chs. 26-28)** - Likewise the Babylonians would attack the prosperous trading island of Tyre (Ch. 26: 2, 7, 14). The prophecy shifts to the Prince of Tyre, the evil angelic being which controlled it (Chs. 27: 1-3; 28: 2-7; 12-13; Deuteronomy 32: 8; Isaiah 14: 4-5; Daniel 10: 13, 20-21). In this case it is Satan himself, and here is a key passage in relation to his rebellion (Ch. 28: 16-17). Sidon also would suffer like Tyre (Ch. 28: 24).
- * **Egypt (Chs. 29-32)** - The Babylonians went on to desolate Egypt for forty years (Ch. 29: 10-15; Jeremiah 46: 24-26). This prophecy in 571 BC, fifteen years after Jerusalem fell (Ch. 29: 17), is the only one out of sequence. Nations south and west of Egypt watched (Ch. 30: 5). The old pharaonic line ended (Hophra, Amasis, the Saite Dynasty XXVI), and Egypt passed into "the times of the Gentiles" (Ch. 30: 10-13, 21; Luke 21: 24). Ezekiel identifies Pharaoh with Satan; he goes down into Sheol, the place of departed spirits, and finds his mates there (Ch. 31: 15-18; 32: 19-21, 24, 29, 31).