



RECORDING THIS SESSION



Bible Study - Year 3

Ezekiel 17-32

Ezekiel, by Michelangelo on the Sistine Chapel ceiling

HOSEA - Chapter 11

The Disappointment of a Parent

1
When Israel was a child I loved him,
out of Egypt I called my son.

2
The more I called them,
the farther they went from me,
Sacrificing to the Baals
and burning incense to idols.

3
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
who took them in my arms;
but they did not know that I cared for them.

4
I drew them with human cords,
with bands of love;
I fostered them like those
who raise an infant to their cheeks;
I bent down to feed them.

5
He shall return to the land of Egypt,
Assyria shall be his king,
because they have refused to repent.

6
The sword shall rage in his cities:
it shall destroy his diviners,
and devour them because of their schemings.

7
My people have their mind set on apostasy;

though they call on God in unison,
he shall not raise them up.

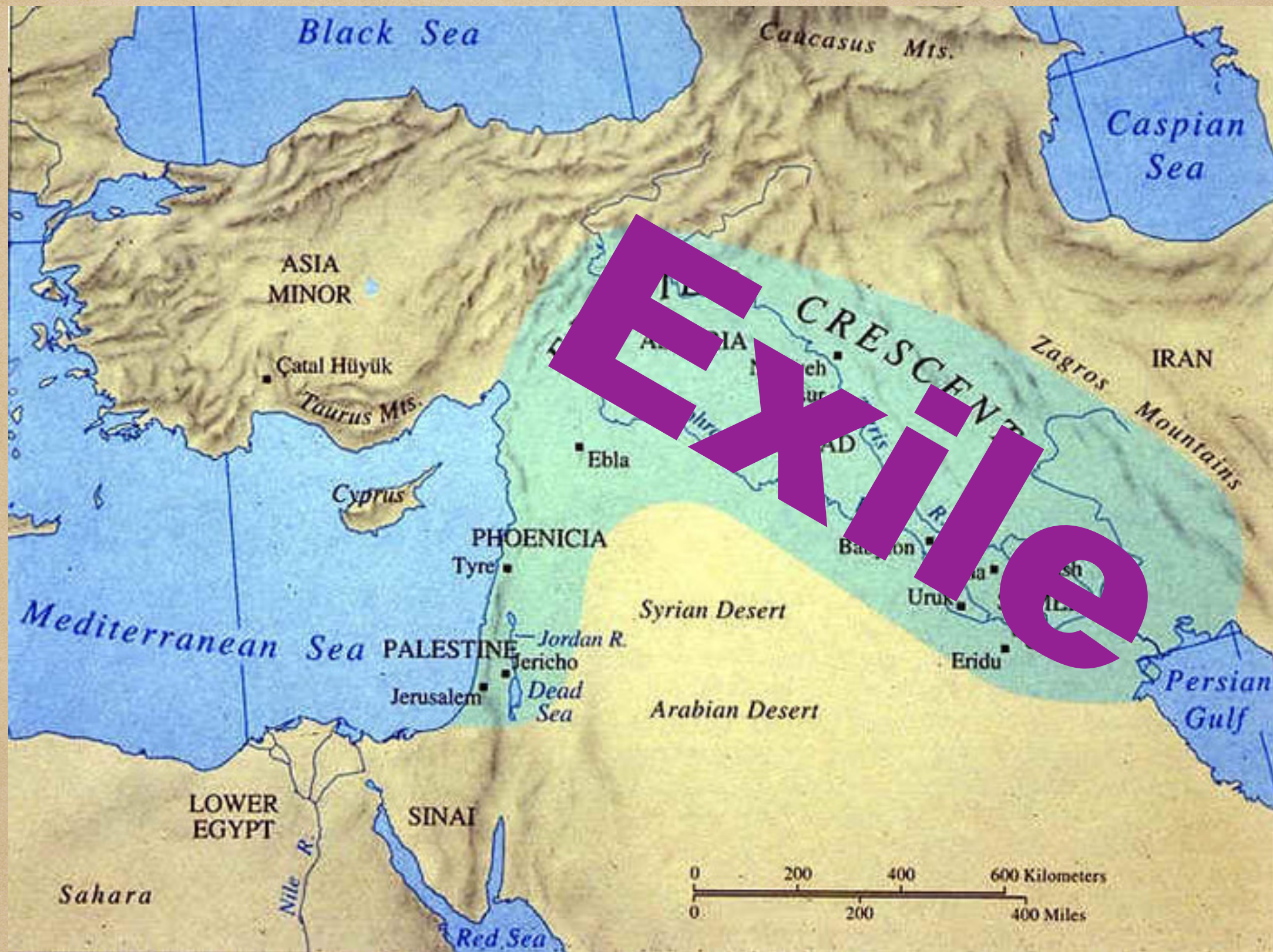
But Love Is Stronger and Restores

8
How could I give you up, Ephraim,
or deliver you up, Israel?
How could I treat you as Admah,
or make you like Zeboiim?
My heart is overwhelmed,
my pity is stirred.

9
I will not give vent to my blazing anger,
I will not destroy Ephraim again;
For I am God and not a man,
the Holy One present among you;
I will not come in wrath.

10
They shall follow the Lord,
who roars like a lion;
When he roars,
his children shall come frightened from the west,

11
Out of Egypt they shall come trembling, like birds,
like doves, from the land of Assyria;
And I will resettle them in their homes,
oracle of the Lord.



<https://historyonlinenow.weebly.com/section-1-civilization-in-the-fertile-crescent.html>

RECAP



- ♦ Ezekiel in first deportation (with high ranking, priest, wealthy)
- ♦ Ez Called in the 5th year of Jehoiachin's capture - while Zedekiah is reigning in Jerusalem
 - ♦ While Jeremiah is prophesying in Jerusalem
- ♦ Sent to Tel-abib, community of Israelites
- ♦ God transports him via visions to see the sins of the people
- ♦ Informs him of coming destruction to Jerusalem/Judah
- ♦ Stresses - personal responsibility for breaking of the covenant/Torah

Chapter 17

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

♦ The Eagles and the Vine

- ♦ v2, Propose a riddle (allegory), tell house of Israel
- ♦ vv3-6, Eagle transplants top of Lebanon cedar to land of merchants
 - ♦ Took some native seed, fertile soil
 - ♦ And it that grew
- ♦ v7-8, then another huge eagle was welcomed by the vine;
- ♦ 2nd eagle transplanted the vine
- ♦ v9-10, Lord: will it thrive? Won't this 2nd eagle devour it? Won't it eventually wither?



Chapter 17

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **The Eagles and the Vine**

- ♦ **v12, Interpretation:**

- ♦ **1st Eagle:** king of Babylon, k. Neb

- ♦ Lebanon = Jerusalem

- ♦ Highest branch: Jehoiachin along with the princes, nobles, people of influence

- ♦ The seeds and the vine represent the king Zedekiah

- ♦ Placed Zedekiah as king of Judah

- ♦ **2nd Eagle:** Pharaoh of Egypt, Hophra



Chapter 17

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

♦ The Eagles and the Vine

♦ v12, Interpretation:

- ♦ 1st Eagle: king of Babylon, k. Neb - dethroned Jehoaichin → 1st deportation of princes, nobles, people of influence
 - ♦ Placed Zedekiah (seeds) as king of Judah
- ♦ v13, k. Neb made covenant with Zedekiah - to ensure survival of Judah
- ♦ v15, BUT, Zedekiah rebelled - sought help from Egypt [pharaoh Hophra] — (thus breaking the covenant with k. Neb)
- ♦ Will he survive? - Zedekiah will die in Babylon (v16b)
- ♦ v17, Pharaoh Hophra will not/ cannot help him
- ♦ vv19-21, God promises to destroy Judah and inhabitants, including Zedekiah



Chapter 17

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem



♦ The Eagles and the Vine

- ♦ vv22-24 - Messianic prophecy/Church
- ♦ God: I too will pluck from the crest of the Lebanon cedar
- ♦ — he will raise up a leader from the Judahites/Davidic line - place him atop a mountain, will bear fruit, will be majestic, and will be a nesting place with shade for every kind of bird / for **all people**
- ♦ READ Matthew 13:31-32 - mustard seed / *faith*
- ♦ *Christ and the Church / The Kingdom of Heaven*

Chapter 18

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

◆ Personal Responsibility

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29	Ord. Time, Week 26, Sat	1
Ezek 1:2-5, 24-28c	Ord. Time, Week 19, Mon	2
Ezek 2:8—3:4	Ord. Time, Week 19, Tues	2
Ezek 9:1-7; 10:18-22	Ord. Time, Week 19, Wed	2
Ezek 12:1-12	Ord. Time, Week 19, Thurs	2
Ezek 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63	Ord. Time, Week 19, Fri	2
Ezek 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32	Ord. Time, Week 19, Sat	2
Ezek 18:21-28	Lent, Week 1, Fri	1+2
Ezek 24:15-23	Ord. Time, Week 20, Mon	2
Ezek 28:1-10	Ord. Time, Week 20, Tues	2
Ezek 34:1-11	Ord. Time, Week 20, Wed	2

Ezek 17:22-24	92-B	11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezek 18:25-28	136-A	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezek 33:7-9	127-A	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Chapter 18

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Personal Responsibility**
- ♦ v2, Popular proverb/saying: self-righteous Israelites, blaming their punishment on the sins of the fathers
- ♦ But God says: 'all life is mine!..'
 - ♦ Only the one who sins, will bear the consequences of his/her sins
- ♦ vv5-9, if a person is just, is not idolatrous, is not adulterous, does not steal, is merciful to the hungry, ...READ v9 - he will live.
- ♦ vv10-13, BUT...if a person is unrighteous and does not observe my commands, he will bring punishment on himself
- ♦ vv14-20, if the son of the wicked person does not imitate his father, but is just, he will live (v17). - only the father will be punished, v18.
- ♦ READ vv19-20

Chapter 18

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Personal Responsibility**
- ♦ vv21-23, If a wicked man repents—and does what is right, he will not die.
 - ♦ God: I will have amnesia!
 - ♦ v23, God finds NO PLEASURE in the death of the wicked!
 - ♦ But REJOICES when they repent
 - ♦ Cf. entire Luke 15 — esp vv 7, 10, 32

Chapter 18

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

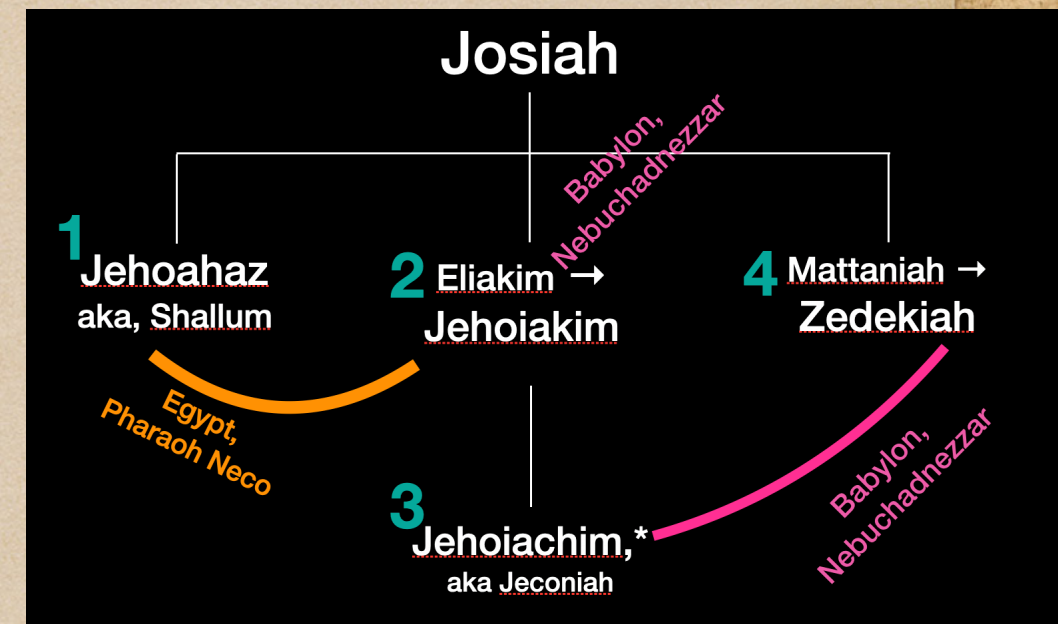
- ♦ **Personal Responsibility**
- ♦ vv24-29, if the just decides to become evil, abandon the Law of the Lord - they will be punished; will not be remembered
 - ♦ v25, READ - it is the way of unrighteous man that is not fair
- ♦ v30, THEREFORE...God will judge each according to his/her **choice**
 - ♦ READ 30b-32
 - ♦ — v31: *make yourself* a new heart and a new spirit = you decide
- ♦ Recall: Joshua 24:15 - Choose this day whom you will serve...
- ♦ And Matthew 25:1-13, 25:14-30; 25:31-46 - each about our personal responsibility and the day of judgment

Chapter 19

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

The poem is a **lamentation** about the kings of Judah - see v14c

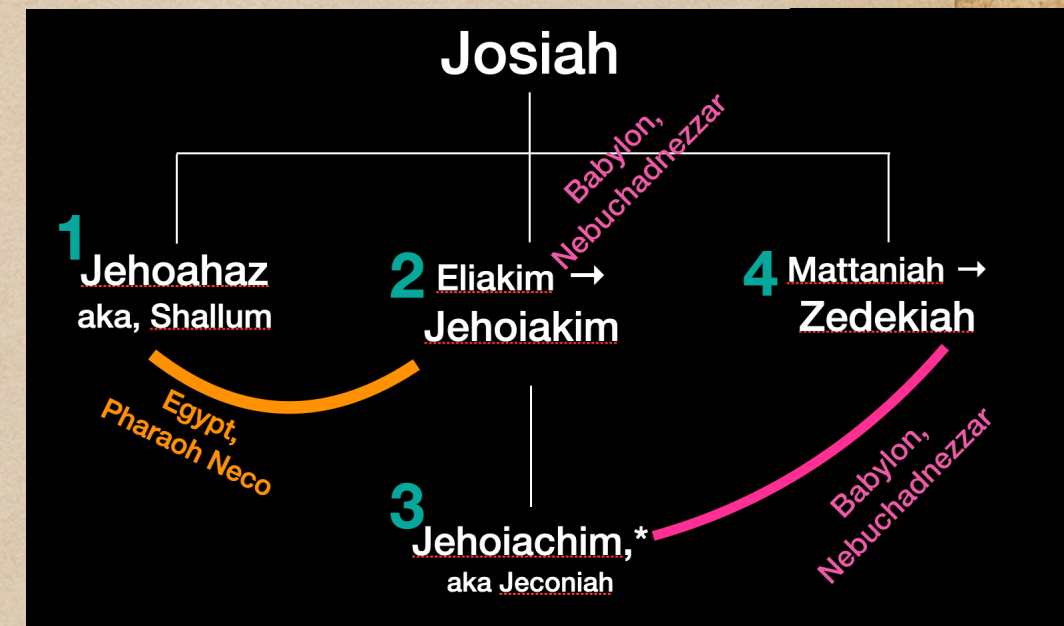
- ♦ **Allegory of the Lions**
- ♦ Judah is depicted as a lion: **Gen 49:9** in Jacob's blessing
 - ♦ v4b, **Cub #1** - Jehoahaz → Egypt (2 Kings 23:34)
 - ♦ v9, **Cub #2** - Jehoiachin → Babylon (2 Kings 24:12,15)
 - ♦ **And/or** Zedekiah (2 Kings 25:7)



Chapter 19

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Allegory of the Vine Branch**
- ♦ Israel was a leafy vine - strong
- ♦ v11, royal scepter (Judah) - Gen 49:10
- ♦ v12, but Judah is bested, is conquered, torn apart
 - ♦ Vine-branch = Zedekiah, who was captured
- ♦ v13, now she is planted in a wilderness - *in exile*
- ♦ 14b, now she does *not have a royal scepter [king]* at the helm
- ♦ READ v14c - lamentation



The Flight of the Prisoners (1896) by James Tissot;
The exile of the Jews from Canaan to Babylon

Chapter 20

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Israel's History of Infidelity**
- ♦ V1-3, August 391BC - elders in Tel-abib, a community of Israel's exiles
- ♦ Some Elders Came to consult with the Lord via Ezekiel
 - ♦ But the hearts of the elders were not righteous
 - ♦ They were idolatrous, not monotheistic as God requires (*recall Ez 14:1-11*)
- ♦ V4, God: 'Tell them about their history, about themselves...'
 - ♦ Cf. Psalm 106; God lays out

Chapter 20

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Israel's History of Infidelity**
- ♦ *History lesson from God:*
 - ♦ V5, ***I CHOSE*** Israel - making a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 - ♦ Revealed myself in Egypt, swore to bring them out of Egypt into Promised Land
 - ♦ But I told them: *toss the idols!*
 - ♦ V8, BUT they did not listen
 - ♦ V8b-9, I was going to take them out then...but I stayed my fury "for my name sake" — (Recall Exodus 32)
 - ♦ I kept my part of the covenant: led them out of Egypt, gave them my commandments, and **READ v12**
 - ♦ **God sees giving of the Sabbath as a gift — and a sign of the covenant**

Chapter 20

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Israel's History of Infidelity**
- ♦ *History lesson from God:*
 - ♦ V13, but they rebelled - didn't follow Torah, REJECTED my laws "that bring life"...and my sabbaths (God is really offended at this!)
 - ♦ V14, BUT, I stayed with them, 'for my name sake'
 - ♦ Brought them into Promised land,
 - ♦ V16, but their hearts belonged to the idols
 - ♦ READ v17 - ❤️

Chapter 20

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Israel's History of Infidelity**
- ♦ *History lesson from God:*
 - ♦ V18, to their children: don't act like your parents! Enough with the idols!
 - ♦ V21, but the kids also rebelled
 - ♦ READ v21b, "Then I considered...."
 - ♦ V22, but for my name sake, I held back
 - ♦ V23, But I told them, I would scatter them if... — and they still didn't listen.
 - ♦ V26, I let them...in order to be ruined...so that they might know that I am the Lord
 - ♦ See FN 20:25-26

Chapter 20

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Israel's History of Infidelity**
- ♦ *History lesson from God:*
 - ♦ V27, THEREFORE, speak to Israel:
 - ♦ I gave them beautiful, lush Promised Land — but they offered sacrifices to the idols - to provoke me
 - ♦ vv28b-29, what is that smell???
 - ♦ Vv30b-31, READ
 - ♦ V31b, so, to the elders (in vv1-4), That is why I will not be consulted by you!

Chapter 20

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Israel's History of Infidelity**
 - ♦ v32, you are fooling yourselves if you think I am going to let my nation become like those pagan nations -
 - ♦ v33, I will be king over you!! -
 - ♦ *I will take you down first!,*
 - ♦ *V37, pass under the staff*
 - ♦ *v38, I will sift you like wheat*
 - ♦ vv39-44, restoration of Israel prophesied
 - ♦ God will reassemble His chosen people
 - ♦ The wicked will perish, the just will return
 - ♦ READ VV42-44

Chapter 21

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **The Sword of the Lord**
- ♦ vv1-4, 'Forest land in the south' = Judah,
 - ♦ will be destroyed by fire that God kindled
- ♦ V5-10, The Lord will draw his sword against the unrighteous in Israel
- ♦ **Act Symbolic of the City's Fall**
- ♦ V11-12, God tells Ez to groan in sight of exiles
- ♦ Why are you groaning?
 - ♦ Bc I have seen what is coming.

Chapter 21

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

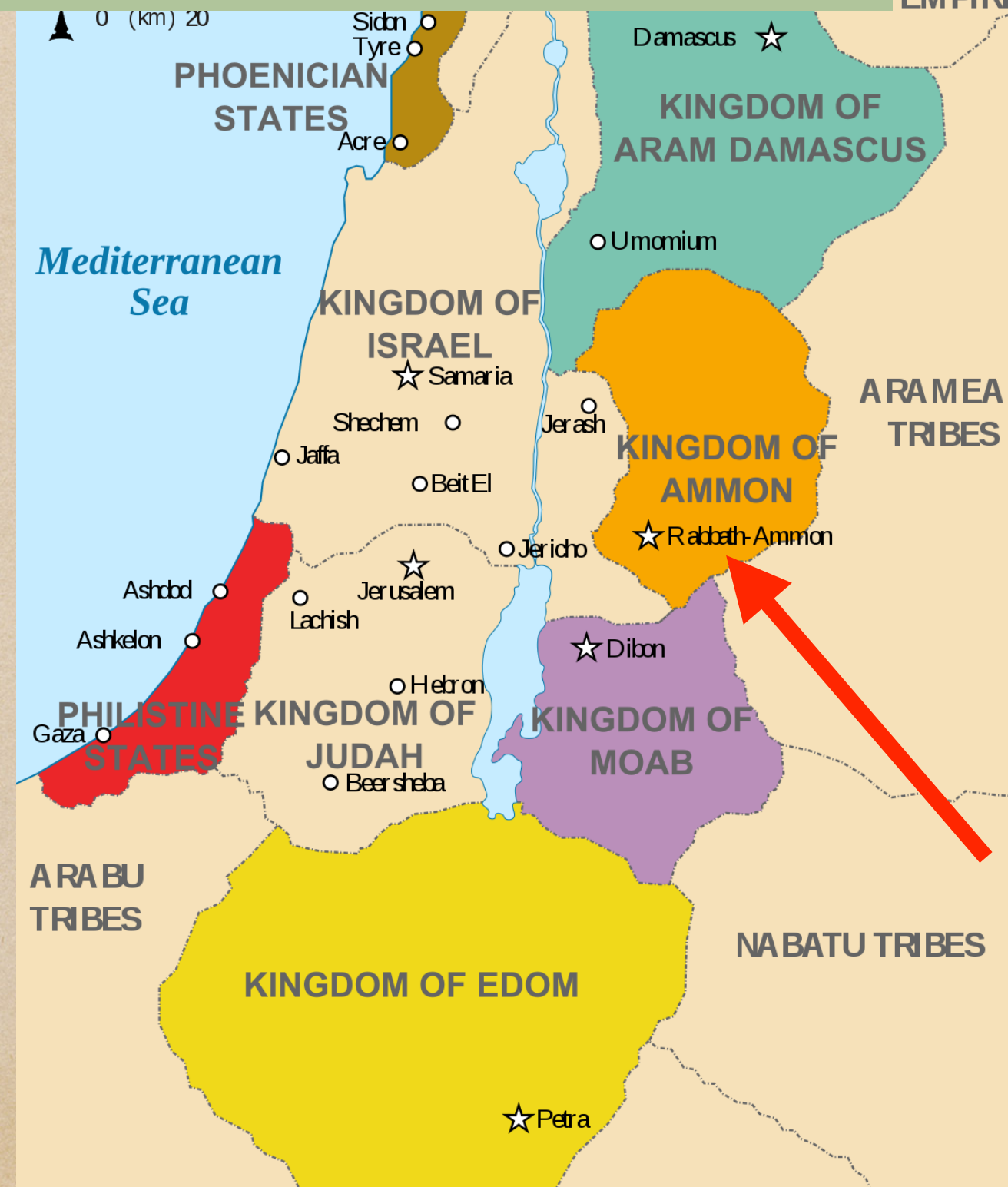
- ♦ **Song of the Sword**
 - ♦ Song lyrics describing the sword and its acts
- ♦ **Nebuchadnezzar at the Crossroads.**
 - ♦ k. Neb coming towards Jerusalem and Ammon
 - ♦ But he will choose the road to Jerusalem first (v27)
 - ♦ V29, Because your guilt has been exposed



Chapter 21

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **To the Ammonites**
- ♦ The Ammonites will also fall to Babylon, in winter 598BC
- ♦ Recall Jeremiah 49:1-6
- ♦ Rabbah = main city of Ammon
- ♦ Worshiped god Milcom (aka Molech) - child sacrifices



Chapter 22

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Crimes of Jerusalem**
- ♦ V1-2, God calls Ez to judge Jerusalem - call out their crimes, a city of bloodshed / injustice / idolatry / etc /
 - ♦ v7, dishonor parents, extorted the resident alien, oppress widows and orphans
 - ♦ v8, rejected what is holy, desecrated the sabbaths**
 - ♦ V10, uncovered the nakedness of fathers (ex. Noah, slept with mother, Reuben)
 - ♦ Force women to have sex during menstrual cycles
 - ♦ V11, incest (men and daughters),
 - ♦ v12, bribes to murder
 - ♦ Take interest on loans among their kin (Lev 25:36-37)
 - ♦ Forgotten the Lord
- ♦ V4, God will make them an object of horror to their enemy neighbors
 - ♦ V5, you will be mocked, called: Defiled, Queen of Tumult

Chapter 22

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Crimes of Jerusalem**
- ♦ V17, become dross - rubbish, junk
- ♦ V20, THEREFORE...throw you to the furnace
- ♦ V21-22, will assemble you ... heat refines, removes impurities... know that I am the Lord
- ♦ V23, more indictments against Judah
 - ♦ V27, officials are wolves, destroying lives to extort profit
 - ♦ V28, [false] prophet - whitewashed tales, false visions, lying divinations
 - ♦ V29, more wrongs
 - ♦ READ v30 - 31
 - ♦ (remember Abraham pleading for Sodom and Gomorrah, Gen 18:16-33)

Chapter 23

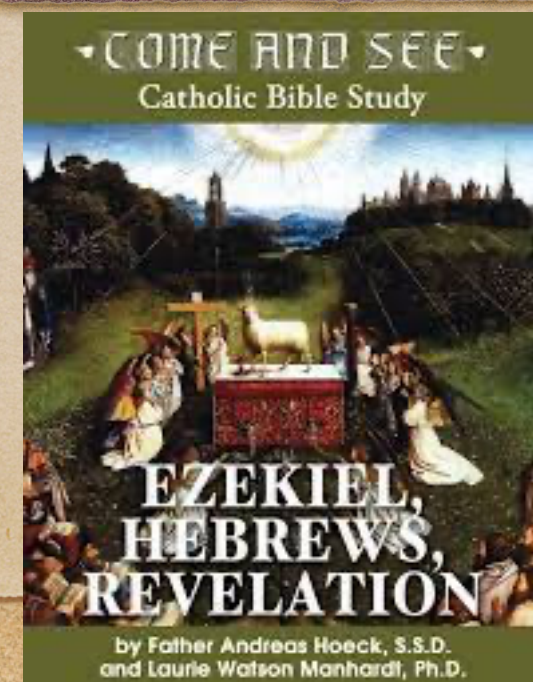
II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem



If I only read the Bible in order to see what horrible bits I can find in it, or to count up the bloodthirsty bits, then of course it won't heal me.

For one thing, the Bible reflects a certain history, but it is also a kind of path that leads us in a quite personal way and sets us in the right light. If, therefore, I read the Bible in the spirit in which it was written, from Christ, in fact, or if I read it as a believing Jew, if I read it from the right starting point, that is, and read in faith, then indeed it has the power to transform me. It leads me into the attitude of Christ; it interprets my life to me and changes me personally.

Pope Benedict XVI [Cardinal Ratzinger], *God and the World*,
(San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002), p. 155.



p41

Chapter 23

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Two Sisters**
- ♦ vv2-4, two daughters prostitutes since youth - started in Egypt
- ♦ Names: **Ohalah**, Samaria = her own tent
 - ♦ and **Oholibah**, Jerusalem = my tent is in her
- ♦ vv5-8, Ohalah lusted after Assyria - while married to the Lord...became a prostitute to them, idolatry
 - ♦ v9, so I gave her to them,
 - ♦ 10, and they assaulted her
 - ♦ She became a byword for women

Chapter 23

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Two Sisters**
- ♦ vv11-20, EVEN THOUGH **Oholibah** (Jerusalem) saw what happened with Oholah(Samaria), she OUTDID her in prostitution.
- ♦ v12, lusted after Assyria, v14, saw pics of Chaldeans/ Babylonians - found them attractive
- ♦ v16, she sent for them, v17, they came to her 'love couch'
- ♦ v18, Lord: I recoiled from her as I did he sister
 - ♦ v19, but her prostitution increased
 - ♦ v20, barbaric Egypt

Chapter 23

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Two Sisters**
- ♦ vv21, reverted to your depravity of youth - in Egypt
- ♦ v22-30, God will cause their lovers (v23 -Assyria, Babylon, other nations) to attack - to put an end to your depravity
- ♦ v31, Judah followed the path of Samaria (N. Kingdom)
 - ♦ v32, So, drink the same cup of horror and devastation (v33)
- ♦ v35 - the price of forgetting the covenant

Chapter 23

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Two Sisters**
- ♦ v35, God asks Ez: would you judge Oholaha and Oholibah? Tell them their crimes?
- ♦ v43, she never tires of her adultery/prostitution
- ♦ v46, Indeed ...God will raise up an army against them to kill inhabitants, burn the city, and put an end to their depravity

Chapter 24

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Allegory of the Pot**
- ♦ vv1-2, “write down the date” — 10th of Tebet (Dec or January) in 9th year of Zedekiah, 589BC
 - ♦ Day k. Neb will capture Jerusalem
 - ♦ *Only time I know of that God gives an exact date for his prophecy*
- ♦ Propose this parable to the rebellious nation
 - ♦ Cook a pot full of choice meat, cooked — but the blood had not been poured out as is required - so it is defiled (Lev 17:13, Deut 12:23, Genesis 4:10)
 - ♦ So the people of Judah are a people of bloodshed and are defiled
 - ♦ Attempts at purification has failed
- ♦ READ v13 - God’s love and capacity for mercy and forgiveness

Chapter 24

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

- ♦ **Ezekiel as a Sign for the Exiles**
- ♦ V15-16, God will allow Ezekiel's wife (the delight of Ez's eyes) to die
 - ♦ She dies suddenly during the siege of Jerusalem by k. Neb
 - ♦ In the morning he spoke to the people
 - ♦ In the evening, his wife died
 - ♦ Ez not allowed to make a public lament - only quietly, privately mourning her
 - ♦ Ez's behavior was to be a sign for the Judahites
 - ♦ The Judahites were not to display publicly their lament when they heard the city was sacked

Chapter 24

II. Before the Siege of Jerusalem

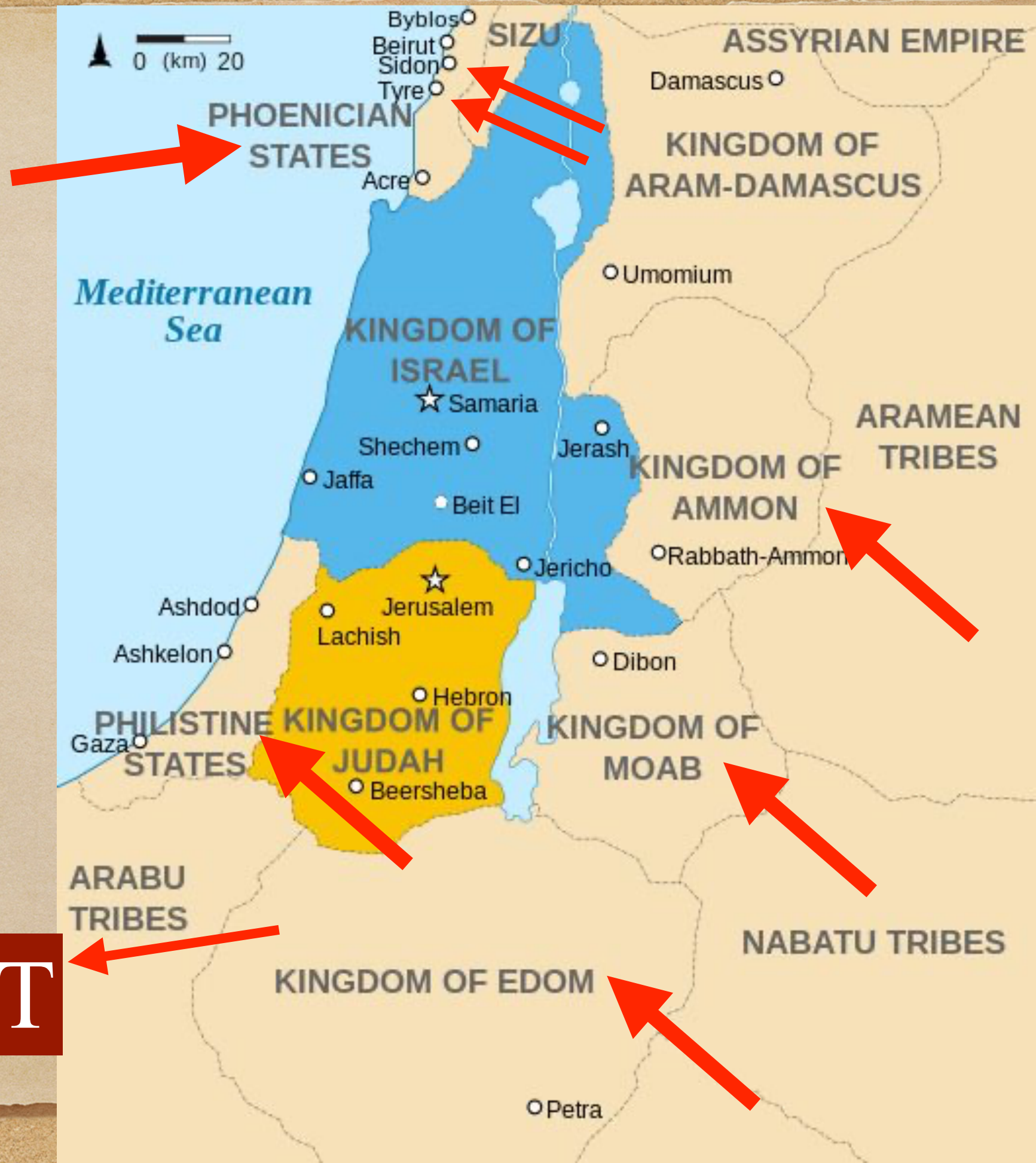
- ♦ **End of Ezekiel's Muteness**
- ♦ On the day of the siege, — when all that was beautiful in Jerusalem is destroyed, Ez's muteness will end
 - ♦ READ v 25b-26
 - ♦ The beloved of Judah will be taken away
 - ♦ A survivor will come to tell Ez
- ♦ That also is a sign to the exiles in Tel-abib

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ Like Jeremiah and Isaiah -
- ♦ Ezekiel gives prophecies and judgments on the Gentile nations:
 - ♦ Ammonites
 - ♦ Moabites
 - ♦ Edomites (like Obadiah)
 - ♦ Philistines
 - ♦ Tyre
 - ♦ Sidon
 - ♦ Egypt

EGYPT



Chapter 25

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Recall Genesis 19:30-38**
- ♦ **Against Ammon**
 - ♦ Ammonites, sons of Lot - Abraham's beloved nephew —relatives of Israelites
 - ♦ V3, they jeered and rejoiced at Temple when it was destroyed
 - ♦ READ v6
 - ♦ At Judah as being taken into exile
- ♦ **Against Moab**
 - ♦ Moabites, sons of Lot with other daughter
 - ♦ Did not respect the holiness of the people of Judah

Chapter 25

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

♦ **Against Edom**

- ♦ Descendants of Esau, Jacob/Israel's brother
 - ♦ Get 25:30, see footnote
 - ♦ Obadiah prophesied exclusively against Edom — cheered when Judah captured, exiled
- ♦ v12, Took vengeance on Judah

♦ **Against the Philistines**

- ♦ v15, Accused of acting vengefully - heartless, hostile
- ♦ God will destroy them

Chapter 26- 28

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **3 Prophecies Against the City of Tyre**
- ♦ **1 Prophecy Against the City of Sidon**
- ♦ **Lynda Bablin on the Phoenician cities: Tyre and Sidon**



<https://www.romanports.org/en/articles/ports-in-focus/698-tyre-birthplace-of-europe.html>

Chapter 26

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Against the City of Tyre (#1)**
- ♦ Tyre was wealthiest, most powerful of the Phoenician cities - strong sea fleet
- ♦ Had previously sided with k. Zed against k. Neb (**Jeremiah 27:1-11)
 - ♦ Recall: Amos 1:9-10
- ♦ — but they cheered at the fall of Jerusalem, who was their commercial rival, and they would inherit Jerusalem's trade (v2)



<https://www.romanports.org/en/articles/ports-in-focus/698-tyre-birthplace-of-europe.html>

Chapter 26

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Against the City of Tyre (#1, cont'd)**
- ♦ God alone **WILL** take Tyre down -
 - ♦ K. Neb. would destroy the mainland city
 - ♦ The debris of the city would be thrown into the water
 - ♦ The city would become a bare rock
 - ♦ Many nations would come against Tyre
 - ♦ The city would never be rebuilt
 - ♦ Fishermen would spread their nets over the site

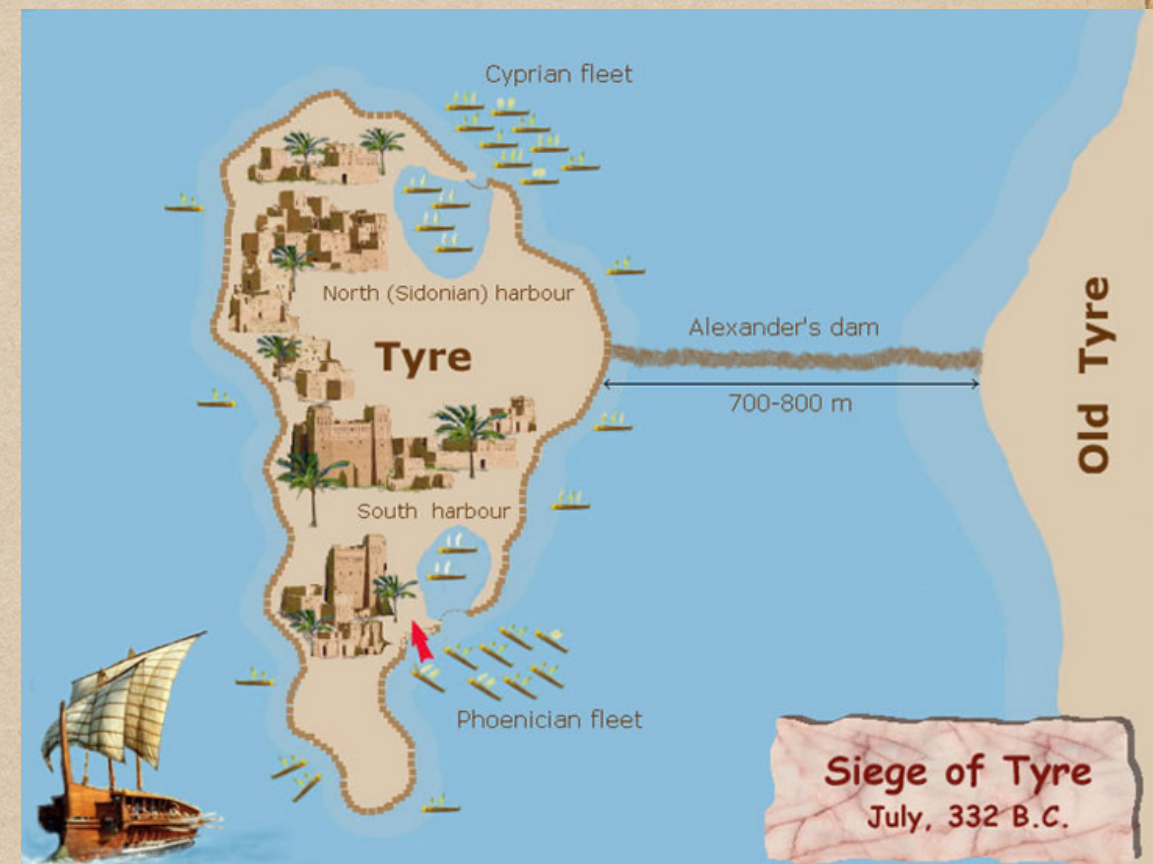


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Chapter 26

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Against the City of Tyre (#1, cont'd)**
- ♦ God alone **DID** take Tyre down -
 - ♦ besieged by k. Neb 586-574 BC (12-13 years),
 - ♦ captured by Alex the Great 332 BC,
 - ♦ finally destroyed by Saracens (Arabs/Muslims during Crusades) in 1291 AD
 - ♦ Now a fishermen's wharf





Chapter 27

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **The Ship Tyre (#2)**
- ♦ v1, a lament against Tyre
- ♦ Compared to a magnificent ship
 - ♦ Prideful nation, boasting on its wealth, success, prominence
 - ♦ Building of a ship
 - ♦ Then commercial transactions with a number of nations
 - ♦ V25b, ship goes down (like Titanic)
 - ♦ While other ships are afloat, mourning Tyre
 - ♦ V36b, you will be no more



Chapter 28

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **The Prince of Tyre (#3)**
 - ♦ Prince of Tyre represents wickedness and corruption,
 - ♦ v2, prideful - elevated himself to a god
 - ♦ *'Wiser than Daniel'*
 - ♦ But he is the 'great pretender' - he is no god at all
 - ♦ V8-9, and, his death proves he is a mortal man, not a god



<https://www.romanports.org/en/articles/ports-in-focus/698-tyre-birthplace-of-europe.html>

Chapter 28

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **The Prince of Tyre (#3, cont'd)**
 - ♦ vv12-jewels, same as Ex 28:17-20 - ephod
 - ♦ Made in perfection, as Adam and Eve, place in garden of Eden
 - ♦ V15, blameless...until evil was found in you
 - ♦ Corrupted all the good given to him
 - ♦ V16, THEREFORE, ...I banished you
 - ♦ V17, haughty heart
 - ♦ V18, Enormity of your guilt, and perversity of your trade



<https://www.romanports.org/en/articles/ports-in-focus/698-tyre-birthplace-of-europe.html>

Chapter 28

LRB p 1774

The **oracle against Tyre** resembles a **creation myth** and echoes the story in Genesis 1–3. Similarities are listed in the table below. Differences include the wearing of gemstones (28:13), living on God’s holy mountain (28:14), the destruction of a sanctuary (28:17–18), the horror of the nations (28:19).

Ezekiel 28	Genesis 1–3
“You were a seal of perfection . . .” (28:12)	“God created mankind in his image . . .” (1:27)
“In Eden, the garden of God, you lived . . .” (28:13)	“The LORD God planted a garden in Eden . . . and placed there the man whom he had formed” (2:8).
“. . . you sinned . . .” (28:16)	“Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?” (3:11).
“Therefore I banished you . . .” (28:16)	“The LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden . . .” (3:23)
“. . . the cherub drove you out . . .” (28:16)	God “expelled the man, stationing the cherubim . . . to guard the way to the tree of life” (3:24).

Chapter 28

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Against Sidon**
 - ♦ *Mother city of the Phoenicians*
- ♦ By causing Sidon to fall, God's name will be known and glorified
 - ♦ Astarte, goddess of the Sidonians (1 Kings 11:5) - introduced by one of Solomon's wives
 - ♦ Jezebel (1 Kings 16:61) - daughter of the King of Sidon
- ♦ Send disease, bloodshed by the sword
- ♦ Fall of the surrounding Gentile nations precede the restoration of Israelites



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Astarte

- ♦ Astarte - great goddess of the ancient Middle East
- ♦ chief deity of Tyre & Sidon
- ♦ Astarte was worshiped in Egypt, by Hittites, and Canaanites, and later spread
- ♦ goddess of war and sexual love





Sea Castle of Sidon



The ruins at Tyre, Lebanon.

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<https://www.britannica.com/place/Tyre>



Tyre, Lebanon / Main road through the ruins of ancient Tyre, Lebanon.

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<https://www.britannica.com/place/Tyre>

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

7 Prophecies Against Egypt Ezekiel 29 - 32



Chapter 29

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Egypt the Crocodile (#1)**
- ♦ Pharaoh is compared to a crocodile of the great Nile — will be humbled
 - ♦ Very prideful nation
- ♦ Egypt has been an unreliable support for Israel
 - ♦ Will first be devastated (v5, 10) - become a desolate wasteland
 - ♦ Then restored (note v11b, 13) —
 - ♦ v14b, But not to its former greatness
- ♦ v16c, They will know I am the Lord



Chapter 29

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Wages for Nebuchadnezzar (#2 against Egypt)**
- ♦ V17, date is March 571 BC
- ♦ K. Neb, “servant of God,” had been sent to conquer Tyre - but was not fully able to obtain it.
 - ♦ He laid siege to it
 - ♦ But the battle had been long and the siege arduous, and all the riches of Tyre exhausted
- ♦ Therefore, God will give K. Neb, his servant, Egypt as payment — to make up for the riches not obtained for his battle at Tyre
- ♦ Babylon captured Egypt in 568 BC
 - ♦ Which made the exiles pay more attention to the words of Ez (v21)

Chapter 30

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **The Day of the Lord Against Egypt (#3)**
- ♦ Prophecy of Egypt on the day of judgment
 - ♦ Egypt, Ethiopia (Egypt was ruled by a dynasty from Ethiopia)
- ♦ V8, set fire to Egypt
- ♦ V9, ships will land on Ethiopia
- ♦ V10, Egypt will be brought down by Neb
- ♦ V11, Nile dry up
- ♦ V13, destroy idols, Memphis
- ♦ Execute inhabitant with the sword
- ♦ They may know I am the Lord



Chapter 30

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Pharaoh's Broken Arm (#4)**
- ♦ V21, God states he has broken Pharaoh's arm -
 - ♦ Not immobilized/splinted/casted
 - ♦ —so can't fight back with a sword
- ♦ V22-23, I will break both arms, scatter Egyptians
- ♦ V24, but will strengthen the arms of K. Neb
 - ♦ Egypt will decline, Babylonia will increase
- ♦ V25, READ - ...
- ♦ They will know I am the Lord



<https://www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com/fractured-arm.html>

Chapter 31

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Allegory of the Cedar (#5)**
- ♦ Tree symbolism for strength is used throughout Scripture
- ♦ May/June (21?), 587BC
- ♦ Egypt compared to a magnificent cedar tree - which is now fallen (like Assyria)
- ♦ V3-7, look at description of this great magnificent tree
- ♦ v8-9, allegory compares it to tree in Garden of Eden - those trees were not as great or beautiful
- ♦ v10-11, but bc of arrogance, God will cause it to fall
- ♦ V16-17, People on earth will feel the quake of its fall, but those in Sheol will now that the great Pharaoh has fallen
 - ♦ Note v18 - pharaoh will die and be buried as all men



Chapter 32

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Lament over Pharaoh (#6)**
- ♦ Pharaoh represents all of Egypt in the lament
- ♦ V2, Pharaoh may think he is a roaring lion, but he is only a crocodile, limited in his territory
- ♦ V4, removed from Nile - will be prey for other beasts, birds
- ♦ V5-15, description of the cosmic disturbances on the Day of Judgment
- ♦ Utter devastation
- ♦ V9-10, Some will mourn, others shiver in fear that they will receive similar punishment at the hands of the Babylonians



Chapter 32

III. Prophecies Against Foreign Nations

- ♦ **Another/final Lament over Egypt (#7)**
- ♦ Description of Pharaoh's descent to the netherworld and his condition there'
- ♦ Note: 2 classes of Sheol:
 - ♦ The heroes of old have privileged positioning the upper part (Ps 49:15)
 - ♦ Uncircumcised and those slain in battle in lower level
- ♦ Other nations are fond there as well - Assyria (v22), Edom (v29), Elam (v24), Sidon (v30)
- ♦ READ v31, Pharaoh will have some comfort in seeing them there



Remember, God's punishment is not vengeful. God is always just and merciful. He gives sinners opportunities to repent. In the end, if a nation or person refuses to repent, refuses God's grace, mercy, redemption and restoration - God will appropriate the righteous judgment.

If I only read the Bible in order to see what horrible bits I can find in it, or to count up the bloodthirsty bits, then of course it won't heal me.

For one thing, the Bible reflects a certain history, but it is also a kind of path that leads us in a quite personal way and sets us in the right light. If, therefore, I read the Bible in the spirit in which it was written, from Christ, in fact, or if I read it as a believing Jew, if I read it from the right starting point, that is, and read in faith, then indeed it has the power to transform me. It leads me into the attitude of Christ; it interprets my life to me and changes me personally.

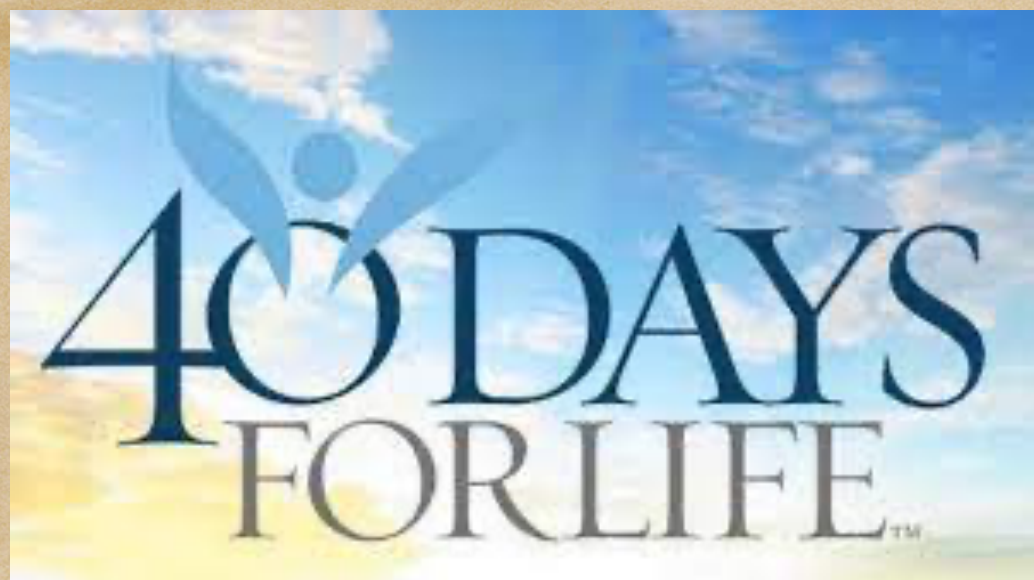
Pope Benedict XVI [Cardinal Ratzinger], *God and the World*,
(San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002), p. 155.

Next 2 classes:

Complexion of Ezekiel's prophecy changes:

Ezekiel 33 - 39: Hope for the Future - Salvation for Israel

Ezekiel 40 - 48: The New Israel



Ezekiel 18:4a

For all life is mine: the
life of the parent is like
the life of the child,
both are mine.

Psalm 139: 13-16

13

You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.

14

I praise you, because I am wonderfully
made;

wonderful are your works!

My very self you know.

15

My bones are not hidden from you,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.^[e]

16

Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came
to be.

Closing Prayer

From LOH Psalter, Wk 3, Thursday, Morning Prayer

Ant. 1 Glorious things are said of you, O city of God.

Psalm 87

Jerusalem is mother of us all

The heavenly Jerusalem is a free woman; she is our mother (Galatians 4:26).

On the holy mountain is his city
cherished by the Lord.

The Lord prefers the gates of Zion
to all Jacob's dwellings.

Of you are told glorious things,
O city of God!

“Babylon and Egypt I will count
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
these will be her children
and Zion shall be called ‘Mother’
for all shall be her children.”

It is he, the Lord Most High,
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes:
“These are her children,”
and while they dance they will sing:
“In you all find their home.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
— as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Psalm Prayer

Lord God, your only Son wept over ancient
Jerusalem, soon to be destroyed for its lack of
faith. He established the new Jerusalem firmly
upon rock and made it the mother of the faithful.
Make us rejoice in your Church and grant that all
people may be reborn into the freedom of your
Spirit.

Ant. Glorious things are said of you, O city of God.