

17 -18 Bible Study #3

9 26 17

Introduction to 2017 – 2018 Bible Study (OT Prophets)

9/26/17

Prayer Requests

- **Poor Clare – 703 768 4918** Alexandria, VA - leave a message on recorder
- **Dominican Sisters -540 635 3982** Linden, VA - speak to a sister
- **Donations are welcome**

First Week

- Overview and definition of the prophets
- 12 periods of Bible History
- Development and overview of the Bible and 14 historical books
- Timeline of united and divided kingdoms

Last Week

- **20 Evil Kings of Israel**
- **7 Non-Canonical Prophets of Israel:**
 - Ahijah – to Jeroboam promising 10 tribes; sons will die
 - Man of God – to Jeroboam destruction of temple at Bethel
 - Lying prophet – tricked man of God causing his death
 - Jehu - *to Baasha* – house will be destroyed
 - Micaiah – *to Ahab* – death of King of Judah in battle
 - **Elijah** – *to Ahab*
 - **Elisha** – *to Joram*

Last Week (Cont)

- **3 Canonical prophet of Israel**
 - Jonah -prophesied to Assyria and *Jeroboam II*
 - Amos - prophesied to *Jeroboam II*
 - Hosea - prophesied to Jeroboam II
 - **Fall of Israel occurred in 722 BC ***
- **16 of the 20 Kings of Judah**

Israelite Kings Date Chart

(Based on the chronology of John Bright)

Dennis Bratcher

The United Monarchy				
Dates (BC)		Kingdom of the Israelites		
1020-1000		Saul		
1000-961		David		
961-922		Solomon		
The Divided Kingdoms				
Dates (BC)	Israel (Northern)		Judah (Southern)	Dates (BC)
922-901	Jeroboam I		Rehoboam	922-915
			Abijah	915-913
901-900	Nadab		Asa	913-873
900-877	Baasha			
877-876	Elah		Jehoshaphat	873-849
876	Zimri	Tibni		
876-869	Omri			
869-850	Ahab			
850-849	Ahaziah			
849-843	Joram (Jehoram)		Jehoram	849-843
843-815	Jehu		Ahaziah	843
			Athaliah (non-Davidic Queen)	843-837
815-802	Jehoahaz		Joash	837-800
802-786	Jehoash (Joash)		Amaziah	800-783
786-746	Jeroboam II		Uzziah (Azariah)	783-742
746-745	Zachariah		Jotham (co-regent)	750-742
745	Shallum		Jotham (king)	742-735
745-737	Menahem			
737-736	Pekahiah			
736-732	Pekah			
732-724	Hoshea		Ahaz	735-715
721	Fall of Samaria		Hezekiah	715-687
			Manasseh	687-642
			Amon	642-640
			Josiah	640-609
			Jehoahaz	609
			Jehoikim (Eliakim)	609-598
			Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	598-597
			Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	597-587

Non-Conical Prophets

- The following **Non-Canonical Prophets** prophesied to Judah:

Shemaiah – *to Rehoboam* – not to attack Israel

Canonical prophets oriented toward Judah and Assyria

- *Isaiah* – prophesied to Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
- Micah – prophesied to Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah
- Nahum – prophesied to the King of Assyria
- Zephaniah – prophesied to Josiah
- *Jeremiah* – prophesied to Josiah
- **Fall of Judah 586 BC ***

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah - 740-680 BC Pre Ex

- Was born around **765 BC**, married and had at least two sons
- Was a resident of *Jerusalem* during the reign of 4 kings
- Received prophetic visions while in the temple in Jerusalem
- Began to prophesy at the **age of 25** at the very end of the reign of King *Uzziah*, **Jotham**, **Ahaz**, and **Hezekiah**
- Proclaims the **fall of *Israel*** and ***Judah*** as punishment for both nations infidelity

Isaiah (Cont)

- Many scholars believed, because of the difference in language, that the **Book of Isaiah** was written by at least three different authors:
 - **1st Isaiah - Is 1- 39 (740 – 690 BC) The Book of Judgment**
 - Bad News
 - Judgment
 - Breaking of the Covenant
 - Curses of Deuteronomy from Moses

Isaiah (Cont)

- **2nd Isaiah - Is 40- 55 (550- 525 BC) The Book of Consolation – Good News**
 - Restoration
- **3rd Isaiah - Is 56-66 (525- 500 BC) focus on reconstruction after the Exile**

Isaiah (Cont)

- Today most believe that there is only **one author** who used different language when speaking about bad versus good things and that he was given a glimpse into “divine providence” spanning the entire history of the exile and return
- The thrust of his message is “judgment on sin”

Isaiah (Cont)

- **Major themes of Isaiah 1-39:**
 - *Yahweh* is king of all the earth
 - The central importance of the city of *Jerusalem*
 - The failures of *Judah* when they turned their backs on God
 - The people disobey God who is not pleased
 - The universalistic men of *Yahweh* as Lord

Isaiah (Cont)

- **Other themes include:**

- The importance of faith
- A remnant will be spared with a messiah for its king
- The just man as one like the “poor of Yahweh”
- Use of formal court room language
 - The *rib* or law suit
 - God as a prosecutor
- Imagery of the vineyard
- Punishment will conclude with exile
- God as holy and righteous

Isaiah (Cont)

- Three minor prophets were all speaking at about the same time as Isaiah:
 - **Micah - 740-700 BC – Israel and Judah**
 - **Zephaniah - 632-628 BC – Judah**
 - **Nahum - 664-654 BC – Assyria ***

The Book of the Prophet Micah

Micah 740 – 700 BC Pre Ex

- Was from a village in the low-lying hills country of *Judea* under the watchful eye of the military fortress at *Lachish*
- He ministered to *Israel* and *Judah*
- Was raised in the country, he was familiar with the poor of *Judah*
- He was also at home among the sages of *Judah* as he discerned the folly of the two states
- He contrasted the kingdom to come with the seedbed of corruption in *Jerusalem*

Micah (Cont)

- With the fall of *Samaria* in **722 BC** many of the *Israelites* fled to *Judah* for asylum
- The population of *Jerusalem* increased fourfold while her leaders grew more corrupt and the moral fiber further disintegrated
- Both he and *Isaiah* (**640 – 700 BC**) spoke of and lived to witness the fall of *Samaria (Israel)* in **721 BC**

Micah (Cont)

- Both witnessed the rise of the *Assyrian Empire* before its eclipse by *Babylon* in **612 BC** with the conquering of *Nineveh*
- *Micah's* ministry supports the significant reform programs of King *Hezekiah*
- His book can be seen as “cliff notes” for the book of *Isaiah*

Micah (Cont)

- He scourges:
 - the moneyed capitalists
 - the inexorable usurer
 - the swindling tradesmen
 - families divided by rivalry
 - avaricious priests and prophets
 - tyrants
 - venial judges *

The Book of the Prophet Zephaniah

Zephaniah 632 -628 BC Pre Ex

- Unfortunately, almost all of the information we have about him comes from his book
- He prophesied during the reign of the good **King *Josiah*** of *Judah* and just before the ministries of the *Jeremiah*
- He preached against:
 - Alien manners
 - Worship of false gods
 - Rebuke of Court officials

Zephaniah (Cont)

- *He* was active in the city of *Jerusalem*
- He pointed toward a period of religious reform (to be carried out by King *Josiah*)
- He preached against the sins of idolatry which had been rampant during the reigns of King *Manasseh* and *Amon*
- He laid the ax to the root of the religious and moral corruption which had even reached the sanctuary of the Temple
- He predicted the coming “**Day of the Lord**”

Zephaniah (Cont)

- Historically, *Judah* had just been robbed of part of its territory by the *Assyrian King Sennacherib*
- Thus, *Zephaniah* experienced living partly under *Assyrian* rule and during the wicked reigns of the *Judean* Kings, *Manasseh* and *Amon*, who favored religious disorders
- The coming weakness of the *Assyrians* raised hopes for national recovery accompanied by religious reform

The Book of the Prophet Nahum

Nahum 664-654 BC Pre Ex

- *Nahum* was from the village of **Elkosh**, on the East bank of the *Tigris River*, approximately 2 miles North of **Mosel** (in *Assyria*)
- *Nahum* means “comforted by *Yahweh*”
- He ministered God’s Word during the decline of the *Assyrian Empire* under the **Assyrian King Ashurbanipal** (668-627 BC)
- He prophesies about the destruction of **Nineveh** and the **collapse of the Assyrian Empire**
- He is seen as one of the great poets of Israel

Nahum

- His ministry was during the reign of King *Manasseh* of *Judah* (**696-642 BC**) who was a vassal of *Assyria*
- He contrasts the **punishments of *Assyria*** (judgment on *Nineveh*) with the **salvation of *Judah*** (comfort to *Israel*)
- His **main theme** was **raising the hope of the people of *Judah*** based on the destruction of *Nineveh*, which was captured by *Babylonians* in **612 BC**

Nahum

- He described a **righteous God** judging and destroying human evil
- He pulsates the hatred of the **people of *Israel*** against the people of *Assyria*
- He says that God is not the source of evil for it comes from humans who rebel and miss the mark of doing His will
- His message was short-lived due to fall of *Jerusalem* in **586 BC***
- Before we look at Jeremiah we will make a brief review of 2nd Kings 23-24 to set the stage of the final days of Judah before the Babylonian Captivity

A look at the final days
of Judah

2nd Kings 23 (Cont)

- **2nd Kings 23** summarize the life of **King Josiah** to include his:
 - Most important discovery of the **Book of Deuteronomy** in the temple
 - Cleansing *Jerusalem* and *Judea* of paganism
 - Attempt to cleanse the remnant in *Israel* and invitation to attend the Passover in *Jerusalem*
 - Effort to reunite the two nations under monotheism
- As *Isaiah* was the principle prophet to King *Hezekiah*, *Jeremiah* was the principle prophet to King *Josiah*
 - He was killed at the Battle of Megiddo vs the Pharaoh of Egypt

Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

Josiah

|

Jehoahaz(1)

Ruled 3 months,
exiled by Neco to Egypt
where he died

Eliakim(Jehoiakim)(2)

Ruled 11 years,
Enthroned by Neco
against Jeremiah's advice
criticized by Jeremiah
for loyalty to Egypt
died or assassinated
1st Exile 605 BC (Daniel)

Mattaniah/Judah(Zedekiah)(4)

Ruled 11 years
Rebelled against Babylon
which brought about
destruction of temple and
Jerusalem **3rd and final Exile**
586 BC

Jehoiachin/Jeconiah/Coniah (3)

Ruled for 3 months
Exiled to Babylon **2nd Exile 597 BC**
(Ezekiel)

2nd Kings 23 (Cont)

- **2nd Kings 23:31-37**

- **Jehoahaz (#1)**, is anointed (*Messiah*) and began to reign upon the death of his father *Josiah*
- He immediately departed from the ways of the father and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and only **ruled for three months** because Pharaoh *Neco* of *Egypt* (who killed his father):
 - Imposed a heavy tribute on Judah
 - Exiled him to Riblah in Hammath
 - Exercised power over Judah as a vassal state
 - Made his brother **Eliakim (#2)** king of Judah
 - Carried **Jehoahaz to Egypt where he died ***

Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

Josiah

|

|
Jehoahaz (1)

Ruled 3 months,
exiled by Neco to Egypt
where he died

|
Eliakim(Jehoiakim) (2)

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2nd Kings 23 (Cont)

- ***Eliakim (# 2)***, the second son of *Josiah*, became the vassal king of *Egypt* and had his name **changed** by Pharaoh *Neco* **to *Jehoiakim (# 2)***
 - When someone in power changes a person's name it was to show that they have power over that person
- *Nico* imposed a heavy tax on the land of *Judah* causing *Jehoiakim* to pay him a great deal of silver and gold
- *Jehoiakim* reigned for 11 years and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord

2nd Kings 24

- **2nd Kings 24:1-2**

- *Nebuchadnezzar*, King of *Babylon*, took over *Judah* making *Jehoiakim* his servant for three years
- *Jehoiakim* then **rebelled** resulting in the Lord sending against him (in accordance with the messages of the Prophets) bands of *Chaldeans (Babylonians)*, *Syrians*, and *Ammonites*
- Since *Jehoiakim* did not heed these messages from the Lord (Jeremiah), *Judah* ends up under the total domination of *Babylon*

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- *Jeremiah* predicted that *Babylon* would defeat of the combined forces of *Egypt* and *Assyria* (***Jeremiah 25:1; 8-11, 15-25***)
 - *Jeremiah* told the kings of *Judah* that if they simply submitted to the authority of the *Babylonians* they would remain in their land
 - The *Babylonians* were the chastisement from God upon the people of *Judah*
 - But if they rebelled against this chastisement, things were going to get worse
 - The kings and people of *Judah* did not listen to *Jeremiah* or the other prophets *

Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

Josiah

|

Jehoahaz (1)
Ruled 3 months,
exiled by Neco to Egypt
where he died

Eliakim(Jehoiakim) (2)
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Ruled for 3 months
Exiled to Babylon **2nd Exile 597 BC**
(Ezekiel)

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- **2nd Kings 24:3-7**

- We have already discussed the sins of *Manasseh*
- *Egypt* withdrew from *Judah* resulting in King *Nebuchadnezzar* overrunning the country and causing *Jehoiakim* to become his vassal of *Babylon*
- In **598 BC** *Jehoiakim* rejected *Jeremiah's* message and decided to throw off the yoke of the *Babylonians*
- By the time the *Babylonians* arrived from the north to put down this rebellion, ***Jehoiakim* had either died or had been assassinated**; Babylon controlled the entire Fertile Crescent
- This led to the **first Babylonian Exile in 605 BC**
 - A young man named Daniel was exiled at this time *

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- **2nd Kings 24:8-16**
- ***Jehoiachin (# 3)***, (*Jeconiah*) the son of *Jehoiakim*, (grandson of *Josiah*) was made king of *Judah* and he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord
- During his three month rule the *Babylonians* laid siege of *Jerusalem*, “despoiled” the temple, and **exiled *Jehoiachin***, his mother (who most likely was second in charge), and other leading citizens to *Babylon*
- Of importance to this history of the Davidic line in the New Testament is that:
 - *Jehoiachin's* son ***Shealtiel*** was exiled with his father to *Babylon*
 - *Shealtiel's* son ***Zerubbabel*** was born during the *Babylonian* Exile (**Mt 1:12**)

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- This led to the **second Exile to Babylon in 597 BC** as prophesied by *Jeremiah* (***Jeremiah 22:22-30***)
- At this point the *Babylonians* remain in control of the entire Fertile Crescent all the way to the *Nile* in *Egypt**

Descendants of Josiah and last reigning kings

Josiah

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Jehoahaz (1)

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Jehoiachin/Jeconiah/Coniah (3)

Ruled for 3 months
Exiled to Babylon **2nd Exile 597 BC**
(Ezekiel)

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- **2nd Kings 24:17-20**

- ***Mattaniah/ Zedekiah*** (# 4), another son of *Josiah* and uncle of *Jehoiachin*, was installed by the *Babylonians* as a vassal-king
- He was easily controlled by a pro-*Egyptian* party and prophets of hope who were living in *Jerusalem* at that time
- These false prophets predicted a rapid return of the Jews who had already been taken off to *Babylon* (first two deportations)
- *Jeremiah* continued to advise the King (as he had to the previous kings) to submit to *Babylon* and preached about the impending doom to *Jerusalem* if they refused to submit

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- Because of these prophecies, *Jeremiah* was considered a pro-*Babylonian* traitor and was thrown into prison, then a cistern, and eventually the guard house
- The King failed to heed *Jeremiah*, listened to his own officials, and was responsive to the rebellious plots of Pharaoh *Hophra*
- The king of Babylon changes his name (control) from *Mattaniah* to ***Zedekiah (4)***
- During this 11 year reign (in the 5th year into the 2nd Exile) Ezekiel will begin his visions

2nd Kings 24 (Cont)

- In **589 BC** King *Zedekiah* rebelled against the *Babylonians*
- This will ultimately result in the final destruction of Jerusalem and the **third and final exile to *Babylon* in 586 BC**

The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 625-580 BC Pre Ex

- Was born in **646 BC**, (approximately a century after *Isaiah*), into a priestly family in *Jerusalem*
- Is better known for his life and character than any other prophet because of his biographical narratives scattered throughout his book
- Was called by God as a **young man** (1:6-8) in **626 BC** (age 20)
- Was forbidden by **God to marry**

Jeremiah (Cont)

- Lived through the tragic years preceding and succeeding the ruin of the kingdom of *Judah*
- Was a man of deep human emotions who actually suffered with his people
- The hopes of the people of *Judah* had been raised by the religious reforms and the rallying of the nation by King *Josiah* (**640-609 BC**) (2nd Kings 22)

Jeremiah (Cont)

- These hopes were unfortunately dashed by:
 - The tragic death of King *Josiah* at *Megiddo* in **609 BC**
 - The disruption of the balance of power in the ancient world by the fall of *Nineveh* in **612 BC** and the expansion of power of the *Babylonians*

Jeremiah (Cont)

- From **605 BC** onward King *Nebuchadnezzar* of *Babylon* imposed his will on *Palestine*
 - *Judah* rebelled, encouraged by the persistent intrigue of *Egypt*, resulting in the besiege of *Jerusalem* and deportation of many in **597 BC**
 - A **second revolt ensued 10 years later in 586 BC**, resulting in the **destruction of the temple** and *Jerusalem*, followed by the **3rd and final deportation** of more of the Jews leaving only a small remnant in *Jerusalem* and *Judea*

Jeremiah (Cont)

- *Jeremiah* lived through these catastrophic events, preaching, threatening, prophesying disaster, vainly admonishing the worthless *Davidic* kings who followed *Josiah*
- He was dubbed a defeatist by the war party in *Jerusalem*, resulting in his persecution and imprisonment
- When the city fell (**587 BC**) he remained with the **remnant** in *Judah* with the support of his friend *Gedaliah* whom the *Babylonians* had appointed as governor of the region
- After the murder of *Gedaliah*, *Jeremiah* was taken to *Egypt* by a party of Jews fearing reprisal, where he most likely died

Jeremiah

- *Jeremiah* spoke of the fall and restoration of *Jerusalem* at the same time *Ezekiel* (**590-571 BC**) was preaching the same thing to those in exile in *Babylon*
 - *Jeremiah* prophesied for 40 years through four of the most turbulent decades in Jewish history:
 - The reigns of five kings and a governor of Judah
 - Periods of optimism (Josiah) to despair and desolation during the fall and aftermath of Jerusalem which he foretold (587 BC)

Jeremiah

- His main message included:
 - Tearing up
 - Knocking down
 - Destroying
 - Overthrowing
- Let's briefly look at presentations of Jeremiah from the Liturgy of the Hours: 8/29 – 9/11 *

Jeremiah – Liturgy of the Hours

8/29 – 9/11

- 1:1-10
 - 2:1-9
 - 3:1-5, 19-20
 - 4:5-8, 13-16
 - 7:1-20
 - 19:1-5,10;20:1-2
- 20:7-9
 - 26:1-15
 - 29:1-14
 - 30: 18-22;31:2-7
 - 31:15-17,27,31-34

2nd Kings 25 (Cont)

- Not **all the people** of *Judah* were not taken into Exile
- As we discussed earlier, there were three different waves of people exiled from *Judah* to *Babylon*
 - The **first exile** occurs in **2nd Kings 24:1-2** and included the people who were captured in battle
 - It was during this exile that **Daniel was taken to Babylon** as a young man (**Daniel 1:1f**)

2nd Kings 25 (Cont)

- The **second exile** was after the *Babylon* attack discussed in **2nd Kings 24:12**
 - It was during this period that **Ezekiel was exiled**
- After **Zedekiah (#4)** rebelled against the *Babylonians*, King *Nebuchadnezzar* laid siege to *Jerusalem* resulting in a severe famine
- A few months later things in *Jerusalem* were so bad that King *Zedekiah* breached in the city wall and he and his military fled in the night toward the Dead Sea (the Arabah)
- They were captured near *Jericho* by *Babylonians* (*Chaldeans*) and taken to the king of *Babylonians* at *Riblah*

2nd Kings 25 (Cont)

- The king of *Babylon* ordered all the sons of *Zedekiah* to be slain in his presence, his eyes were put out, and he was taken in chains to *Babylon*
- Shortly thereafter the Babylonian army returned to *Jerusalem* and sacked it along with the Temple
- The captain of the guard took all of the inhabitants of the city to *Babylon* **except for some of the poor who were vinedressers and plowmen**

2nd Kings 25 (Cont)

- This was the **third and final exile in 587 BC (2nd Kings 25:1-12)** in which *Zedekiah*, the last king in the line of *David*, was exiled
 - During this time Jeremiah continued to prophesy to the king to let his people not rebel against the Babylonians
 - Unfortunately he did not listen, leading to the total destruction of the temple and Jerusalem
 - While this was going on Ezekiel was prophesying to those already in Babylon
 - As discussed earlier, Jeremiah never went into Babylon but was forced to go to Egypt where he died

Introduction to the Prophets (Cont)

- This year we will look at the Exilic and post-Exilic Prophets to include:
 - Ezekiel
 - Daniel
 - Ezra
 - Haggai
 - Zechariah
 - Nehemiah
 - Malachi
 - Obadiah
 - Joel
- Followed by an introduction to - **1st Maccabees & Revelation**

Summary of the Summary

Summary

- **Civil war 930–540 = 344 yrs.**
 - Israel 930 – **722** = 208 yrs.
 - Judah 930-**586** = 344 yrs.
- **North (Israel)** 20 evil pagan/polytheist kings ends in Assyrian Exile (assimilation), important prophets:
 - Elijah – *to Ahab*
 - Elisha – *to Joram*
 - Jonah - *to Jeroboam II and Assyria*
 - Amos - *to Jeroboam II*
 - Hosea - *to Jeroboam II*

Summary (Cont)

- **South (Judah)** 20 kings of which only 8 were good (monotheists) ending in Babylonian Exile, important prophets:
 - *Isaiah* – to *Uzziah* , *Jotham*, *Ahaz*, and *Hezekiah*
 - Micah – prophesied to *Jotham*, *Ahaz*, and *Hezekiah*
 - Nahum – prophesied to *the king of Assyria*
 - Zephaniah – prophesied to *Josiah*
 - *Jeremiah* – prophesied to *Josiah*
- Three Exiles: **605 BC, 597 BC, 586 BC**
- Punishment of Exile was the fulfilment of **Deuteronomy 28**

Summary (Cont)

- Look at **Matthew 1:1-16**

Israelite Kings Date Chart

(Based on the chronology of John Bright)

Dennis Bratcher

The United Monarchy				
Dates (BC)		Kingdom of the Israelites		
1020-1000		Saul		
1000-961		David		
961-922		Solomon		
The Divided Kingdoms				
Dates (BC)	Israel (Northern)		Judah (Southern)	Dates (BC)
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			Abijah	915-913
901-900	Nadab		Asa	913-873
900-877	Baasha			
877-876	Elah		Jehoshaphat	873-849
876	Zimri	Tibni		
876-869	Omri			
869-850	Ahab			
850-849	Ahaziah			
849-843	Joram (Je		Jehoram	849-843
843-815	Jehu		Ahaziah	843
			Athaliah (non-Davidic Queen)	843-837
815-802	Jehoahaz		Joash	837-800
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736-732	Pekah			
732-724	Hoshea		Ahaz	735-715
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			Amon	642-640
			Josiah	640-609
			Jehoahaz	609
			Jehoikim (Eliakim)	609-598
			Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	598-597
			Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	597-587

Transition

- We will now begin this year's study with the **Prophet Ezekiel**