

Ezekiel

3394c AM, 4104 JP, 610 BC

759. There was also a second Song of Lamentations for the miserable condition of the kingdom of the Jews after the death of Josiah. It was composed by the prophet Ezekiel and was intended to be sung. {#Eze 19:1-14}

3409d AM, 4119 JP, 595 BC

822. Ezekiel had his first vision from God in the beginning of the thirtieth year from the restoration of the worship of God in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, or the fifth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin or Jeconiah, on the fifth day of the fourth month (on Saturday, July 24th). He was among the rest of the company that were carried away to Babylon on the Chebar or Chaborra River, according to Strabo and Ptolemy. {#Eze 1:1-28} From here he was sent to be a prophet among the Jews of the captivity. When he came to those who lived at Telabib near the Chebar River, he sat down in a state of distress for seven days. After this, God reminded him of his call, with promises if he obeyed and with threats if he refused. He confirmed him with a new sign and gave him courage and boldness through his word. {#Eze 2:1-3:27}

823. The prophet was commanded to make a drawing of the siege of Jerusalem, and to lie on his side for a very long time, for three hundred and ninety days. This was to symbolise how many days the siege of the city of Jerusalem would last and the number of years of the iniquity of the house of Israel from the time of Jeroboam. {#Eze 4:1-17} {See note on 3030a AM. <<481>>}

3410c AM, 4120 JP, 594 BC

825. When Ezekiel had lain on his left side for the three hundred and fifty days, he turned onto his right side and lay there for a further forty days. (#Eze 4:9 seems to imply that the period of forty days overlapped the three hundred and ninety days so Ezekiel lay on his side for a total of three hundred and ninety days not four hundred and thirty days. However, Eze 4:5,6 seems to imply two separate periods are in view. Editor.) The former symbolised the three hundred and ninety years of Israel's iniquity and the latter the forty of years of Judah's iniquity, each day representing one year. {#Eze 4:5,6} See also {#Eze 5:1-7:27}

3410d AM, 4120 JP, 594 BC

826. On the fifth day of the sixth month of the sixth year of Jeremiah's captivity, (which was Wednesday, September

22nd) God carried Ezekiel away by the Spirit to Jerusalem. There, in a vision, he showed him the infinite idolatry that was being practised there, and the plagues which were to befall the city for this, as well as a vision of the Spirit leaving the city. {#Eze 8:1 9:1-11:25}

827. According to Ezekiel's prediction, Pelatiah, the son of Benaiah, died. God comforted the godly during their captivity in Babylon by the sanctification of his presence, and with his evangelical promises for the time to come. When the vision was over, the prophet was brought back by the Spirit to his people in Chaldea and there declared to them all that God had shown him. {#Eze 11:13-25} [E89]

3411a AM, 4120 JP, 594 BC

828. God, by signs and verbally, predicted Zedekiah's flight by night, the putting out of his eyes, his going into captivity and his dying in Babylon. He also foretold the captivity of the Jews and the calamities which they were to endure before this captivity. {#Eze 12:1-28} In this same year, the next seven chapters of Ezekiel were written. From his writings we understand that Daniel's name was at that time very famous for his continual prayers on behalf of the people of the captivity. {#Eze 14:14,20} Zedekiah had no regard for the

covenant he had made and the oath which he had sworn, and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. {#Eze 17:15,17}

3411d AM, 4121 JP, 593 BC

829. In the seventh year of Jeconiah's captivity, on the tenth day of the fifth month (Sunday, August 27th), Ezekiel reproved the elders for their gross hypocrisy in coming to ask counsel of God. He prophesied regarding the calamity that was to befall all the nations. He pronounced God's judgment on the idolaters and his comfort to the godly. {#Eze 20:1-23:49}

3414b AM, 4124 JP, 590 BC

832. The siege of Jerusalem did not begin until the middle of winter. In the ninth year of the reign of Zedekiah, on the tenth day (Thursday, January 30th), Nebuchadnezzar came up to Jerusalem with all his army, and built citadels all around the city. {#2Ki 25:1 Jer 39:1 52:4} In memory of this event, a yearly fast is kept among the Jews which began at the time of the captivity, and continues to this day. {#Zec 8:19} [L129]

833. On the very day of the siege of Jerusalem, God revealed its complete destruction to Ezekiel, who was in Chaldea. This

was represented to him in symbolic form by a seething pot. His wife died that day in the evening, but he was told not to mourn her death. In this way he was to signify the grievous calamity that would befall the Jews, which would surpass all expressions of grief by mourning. {#Eze 24:1-27}

3415b AM, 4125 JP, 589 BC

840. In the tenth year of the captivity of Jeconiah and on the twelfth day of the tenth month, (on Sunday, February 1st) Ezekiel prophesied against Pharaoh and all Egypt. Ezekiel foretold that Pharaoh would prove to be only a staff or reed to the house of Israel. Pharaoh's attempts to relieve Israel would all be in vain. He predicted that Pharaoh himself would be defeated in the desert of Libya by the Cyrenians. {See note on 3430c AM. <<875>>} Egypt was to be miserably wasted by the Babylonians, and the Egyptian desolation would last for forty years. {#Eze 29:1-16}

3416c AM, 4126 JP, 588 BC

844. Tyre rejoiced to see the wretched treatment Jerusalem experienced at Nebuchadnezzar's hand. However, in the eleventh year of Jeconiah's captivity, on the first day of the first month, Ezekiel prophesied that Tyre would also perish in like manner at the same hand, and that all who had known

of her former wealth and bravery would be amazed. [L131] Tremellius and Pradus placed this prophecy in the fifth month. This would put it in the twelfth year of Jeconiah's captivity in Babylon. Ezekiel also foretold the same misery for the Sidonians, Tyre's neighbours. {#Eze 26:1-28:26} At that time the fame of Daniel's wisdom was so great, even in foreign nations, that they spoke proverbially of people being as wise as Daniel. God upbraided Ithobolus, king of Tyre, for his pride and arrogance in his mind: [E91]

"behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; no secret can be hid from thee." {#Eze 28:3}

845. In the same year, on the seventh day of the third month, (Tuesday, April 26th) God revealed to Ezekiel his intention of sending Nebuchadnezzar and his army against Pharaoh, to the ruin of Egypt. {#Eze 30:20-26}

846. In the same year, on the first day of the third month, (Sunday, June 19th) God declared that the Egyptians could no more avoid this judicial sentence than the Assyrians could. {#Eze 31:1-18}

3417b AM, 4127 JP, 587 BC

860. In the twelfth year of Jeconiah's captivity, on the fifth day of the tenth month, (Wednesday, January 25th) when news of the taking of Jerusalem reached Ezekiel, the prophet foretold of the utter destruction of the remaining Israelites. This was after the others had fled to Egypt. {#Eze 33:21-29}

861. In the same twelfth year, in the first day of the twelfth month, (Wednesday, March 22nd) Ezekiel prophesied of the grievous plague and affliction which Nebuchadnezzar would bring on the land of Egypt. {#Eze 32:1-16}

862. On the fifteenth day, the same prophet predicted of Pharaoh and all the people of Egypt that they would be brought down to destruction, along with the rest of the uncircumcised nations. {#Eze 32:17-32}

3420 AM, 4130 JP, 584 BC

867. In the twenty-third year of his reign, while Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre, which borders the land of Israel, {#Jos 19:29} [L134] Nebuzaradan, captain of his guard, took away together seven hundred and forty-five remaining Jews and Israelites into Babylon. {#Jer 52:30} This extreme depopulation was foretold by Ezekiel when he

referred to the iniquity of Israel lasting three hundred and ninety years, which was distinct from Judah's iniquity, lasting forty years until its end. {#Eze 4:5,6} {See note on 3380d AM. <<743>>}

3429c AM, 4139 JP, 575 BC

874. On the tenth day of the first month (as Jonathan stated in the Chaldee Paraphrase) of the twenty-fifth year of the captivity of Jeconiah, (Monday, April 30th) and in the fourteenth year after the destruction of Jerusalem, Ezekiel had a vision. In this vision the temple, the city and the kingdom of the Israelites were restored. This also foreshadowed the restoration of the church by Christ with its greatness, honour and excellence. {#Eze 40:1-48:35} (Ussher incorrectly listed this in the following year, as one can tell from the year of the captivity of Jeconiah. {See note on 3431c AM. <<877>>} Editor.)