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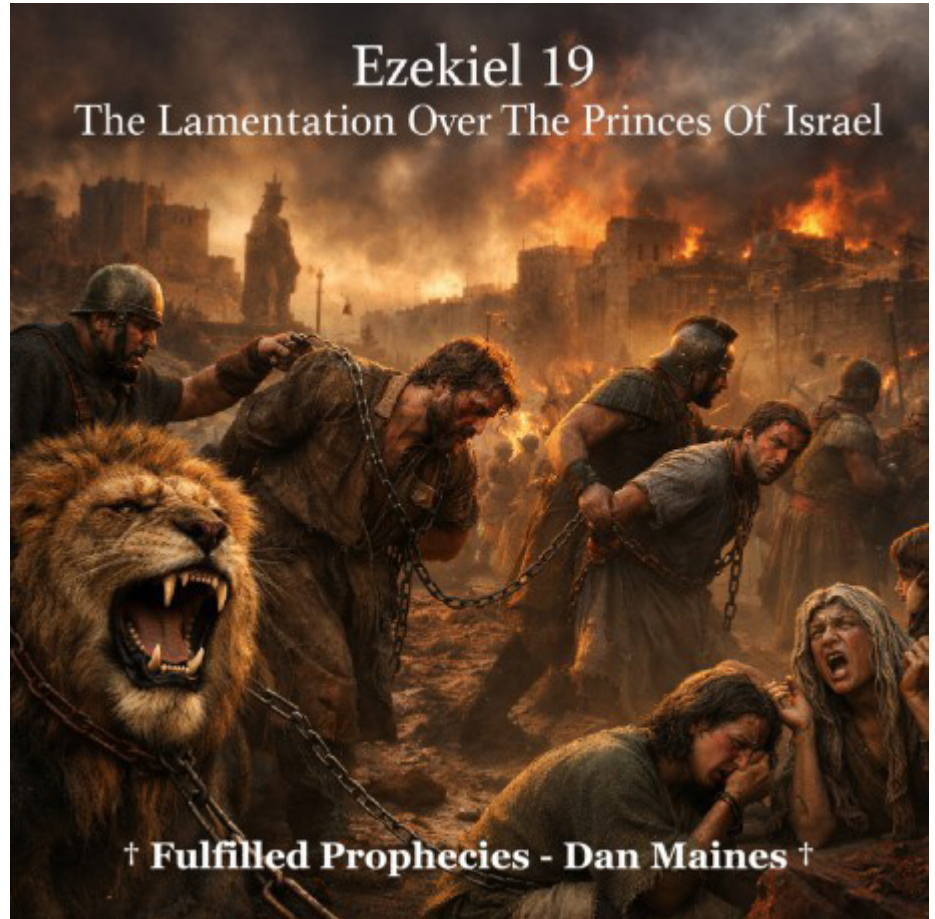
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Ezekiel 19 The Lamentation Over The Princes Of Israel



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 19 The Lamentation Over The Princes Of Israel

Introduction

† Ezekiel 19 is a lament, a funeral song over the fall of Israel's leadership, showing the rise and fall of kings like lions who devoured but were ultimately captured and judged (Ezekiel 19:1-2)

† This chapter shows the failure of Israel's rulers under the old covenant, leading directly to judgment and removal (Matthew

23:38)

† It proves that power without obedience to God ends in destruction, no matter how strong it appears (Proverbs 16:18)

Ezekiel 19:1-2

As for you, take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel, and say, What was your mother? A lioness among lions! She lay down among young lions, she reared her cubs.

† Israel is pictured as a lioness, strong among the nations, yet raising rulers who would become destructive (Genesis 49:9)

† The princes are the kings of Judah, raised in power but lacking righteousness (2 Kings 23:31-32)

† This shows corruption in leadership, not weakness, but strength used wrongly bringing judgment (Jeremiah 22:13-17)

Ezekiel 19:3-4

When she brought up one of her cubs, he became a lion, and he learned to tear his prey; he devoured people. Then nations heard about him; he was captured in their pit, and they brought him with hooks to the land of Egypt.

† This refers to Jehoahaz, who ruled in violence and was taken captive by Egypt (2 Kings 23:33-34)

† His strength became his downfall because it was used for oppression instead of justice (Ezekiel 22:27)

† God used the nations as instruments of judgment against him
(Habakkuk 1:6)

Ezekiel 19:5-7

When she saw, as she waited,
that her hope was lost,
she took another of her cubs
and made him a lion.
And he walked about among the lions;
he became a lion,
and he learned to tear his prey;
he devoured people.
He destroyed their fortified towers
and devastated their cities;
and the land and its fullness were appalled
because of the sound of his roaring.

† This points to Jehoiakim, another corrupt ruler who brought
destruction on the land (2 Kings 24:1)

† His reign increased oppression and violence, showing a
repeated pattern of failure (Micah 3:1-3)

† The devastation reflects covenant judgment exactly as
warned (Deuteronomy 28:49-52)

Ezekiel 19:8-9

Then nations set against him on every side from the provinces,
and they spread their net over him;
he was captured in their pit.
They put him in a cage with hooks
and brought him to the king of Babylon;
they brought him into strongholds
so that his voice would no longer be heard

on the mountains of Israel.

† This shows the Babylonian captivity where Judah's kings were removed and silenced (2 Kings 24:12)

† The silencing of his voice marks the end of that corrupt leadership (Lamentations 2:9)

† This fulfills covenant judgment for disobedience (Leviticus 26:33)

Ezekiel 19:10-11

Your mother was like a vine in your vineyard,
planted by the waters;
it was fruitful and full of branches
because of abundant waters.
And it had strong branches fit for scepters of rulers,
and its height was raised above the clouds;
so it was seen in its height
with the mass of its branches.

† Israel is now pictured as a vine, once fruitful under covenant blessing (Psalm 80:8-9)

† The strong rods represent kings and rulers given authority (Genesis 49:10)

† The fall came not from lack of blessing, but misuse of it (Isaiah 5:1-5)

Ezekiel 19:12-14

But it was uprooted in fury,
it was thrown down to the ground;
and the east wind dried up its fruit.
Its strong branch was torn off

so that it withered;
the fire consumed it.
And now it is planted in the wilderness,
in a dry and thirsty land.
And fire has gone out from its branch;
it has consumed its shoots and fruit,
so that there is not on it a strong branch,
a scepter to rule.
This is a lamentation, and has become a lamentation.

† The vine being uprooted shows total judgment and exile fulfilled in Babylon (2 Chronicles 36:19-20)

† The fire from within shows their own leadership caused their destruction (Hosea 13:9)

† No strong rod remaining shows the end of that royal power, pointing to the need for the true King, Christ (Luke 1:32-33)

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem and the consequences of corrupt leadership leading to national ruin (Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6)

† Eusebius identifies these judgments as fulfillment of prophetic warnings against Israel (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3)

† Irenaeus connects the fall of Israel's leadership to the transition into the new covenant through Christ (Irenaeus, Against Heresies Book 4)

How It Applies To Us Today

† Leadership without obedience to God leads to destruction regardless of strength (Proverbs 29:2)

† God holds leaders accountable for how they use authority
(James 3:1)

† Christ is the true and righteous King unlike the failed rulers of
Israel (John 18:37)

† Covenant unfaithfulness leads to loss, but restoration is found
in Christ (Hebrews 8:6-7)

Q & A Appendix

Q Who are the lions in Ezekiel 19

A They are the kings of Judah such as Jehoahaz and
Jehoiakim who ruled violently and were judged, 2 Kings 23:31-
34; 2 Kings 24:1

Q What does the lioness represent

A It represents Israel as the nation producing rulers, Genesis
49:9

Q What does the vine symbolize

A It represents Israel under covenant blessing that later came
under judgment, Psalm 80:8-9; Isaiah 5:1-5

Q Why were these rulers taken by other nations

A Because of covenant disobedience and God's use of foreign
nations for judgment, Deuteronomy 28:49-52

Q What is the main message of Ezekiel 19

A Corrupt leadership brings destruction and true hope is found
in God's appointed King, Luke 1:32-33

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled
Prophecies †**

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 19

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3; Irenaeus, Against Heresies Book 4

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