

## **Dr. Leslie Allen, Daniel, Session 8, Fall and Rise of the Monarchy (Ezek 17:1-24; 19:1-14) Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Allen, Ezekiel, Session 8, Fall and Rise of the Monarchy (Ezek 17:1-24; 18:1-14), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

Dr. Leslie Allen's lecture examines Ezekiel 17 and 19, focusing on the fall and potential rise of the monarchy in Judah. The lecture analyzes the literary structure, noting the placement of messages of hope alongside condemnations of the existing kingship. Ezekiel uses metaphors like eagles and vines to represent Babylon, Egypt, and the Davidic line, illustrating the political turmoil and Zedekiah's broken oaths. The lecture emphasizes the historical context of the 597 exile and the subsequent deportation of Zedekiah. Allen highlights how Ezekiel's message evolves after 587 BCE, incorporating hope for a restored monarchy under God's rule. Finally, Allen explores the lament form used in chapter 19 to convey judgment and the shift from prophetic prediction to historical mourning.

**2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Allen, Ezekiel, Session 8 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Ezekiel).**



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on08.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 8, Fall and Rise of the Monarchy (Ezek 17:1-24; 18:1-14)

#### Briefing Document: Ezekiel 17 & 19 - Fall and Rise of the Monarchy

##### Main Themes:

- **The Failure of the Monarchy:** Chapters 17 and 19 of Ezekiel focus primarily on the failures and downfall of the Judean monarchy, specifically concerning Zedekiah's rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar. The lecture highlights the negative portrayal of kingship before the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BCE.
- **Historical Context is Key:** Understanding the historical events surrounding the Babylonian exile (597 and 587 BCE) and Zedekiah's reign is crucial for interpreting Ezekiel's messages, even when couched in metaphors.
- **Metaphorical Language:** Ezekiel frequently employs metaphors (e.g., eagles, vines, lions) to illustrate the political and spiritual realities of his time. He uses extended metaphors that are then explained in plain language, enhancing the message's impact.
- **Covenant and Oath-Breaking:** Zedekiah's violation of his oath to Nebuchadnezzar (sworn in the name of Yahweh) is presented as a serious transgression, contributing to Judah's downfall.
- **Hope for Future Monarchy:** Embedded within the judgment oracles, particularly in Ezekiel 17:22-24, is a promise of a future, divinely ordained monarchy. This hope is characteristic of Ezekiel's post-587 prophecies.
- **Lamentation as Prophecy:** Chapter 19 uses the form of a lament to convey an oracle of judgment. It's a funeral lament turned prophetic, mourning a tragedy as if it has already happened.

##### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Literary Structure:** Chapters 17-19 form a literary unit centered around the theme of monarchy. Chapter 18 seems out of place initially but will be addressed later.
- **Two Editions of Ezekiel:** The inclusion of a positive message (17:22-24) amidst the negative pronouncements is attributed to a second edition of the book, reflecting a shift in Ezekiel's message after 587 BCE. This is because "its language and overall attitude have that positive theme and aspect that we associate with post-587 messages."

- **Theological vs. Historical Views of Kingship:** The Old Testament presents a tension between the theological ideal of kingship and the historical reality of its failures. Ezekiel integrates these contrasting views.
- **Rebellious House:** The phrase "rebellious house" refers to the people of Judah, with the king representing the nation's rebellion against God. "The rebellious house comes to a head in the king, in the Judean king."
- **Nebuchadnezzar's Vassal King:** Zedekiah was installed by Nebuchadnezzar as a vassal king, bound by a treaty and an oath of allegiance to Babylon.
- **Oath in Yahweh's Name:** The treaties made between vassal kings and empires like Babylon were often religiously flavored, with the vassal swearing in the name of their God to keep their promises. The fact that Zedekiah swore his oath in Yahweh's name and then broke it made it a sin.
- **Egypt's Failed Intervention:** Zedekiah's appeal to Egypt for military assistance ultimately failed to prevent the Babylonian siege and destruction of Jerusalem.
- **Metaphor of the Eagles and the Vine:** Ezekiel 17 uses the metaphor of a great eagle (Nebuchadnezzar) taking the top of a cedar (Jehoiachin) and planting a new seed (Zedekiah), who then turns to another eagle (Egypt), leading to destruction.
- **Lamentations Parallel:** Lamentations 4:20 provides a parallel account of the disappointment and loss felt after Zedekiah's capture.
- **Future Hope: Divine Sovereignty:** Ezekiel 17:22-24 offers a vision of a future monarchy directly established and blessed by God, demonstrating His providential control over world affairs. "God himself takes over this role and installs a new king in Israel."
- **Chapter 19: Lament for the Monarchy:** This chapter uses two metaphors (lions and vines) within a lament to express the tragedy of the monarchy's end, specifically Zedekiah's fate. "As for you, raise up a lamentation for the princes of Israel."
- **Two Laments United:** Chapter 19 uses two separate metaphors, one based on lions (verses 2-9) and one based on vines (verses 10-14), indicating two laments united by the theme of the monarchy.

- **Editorial Conclusion of Chapter 19:** The phrase "This is a lamentation and it is used as a lamentation" (or, as Allen suggests, "it has come to function as a lament") signifies an editorial reflection after the events had transpired, acknowledging the fulfilled prophecy and the grief over the monarchy's demise.

#### **Key Quotes:**

- "The history of the monarchy is a history of failure in the Old Testament."
- "The rebellious house comes to a head in the king, in the Judean king."
- "God himself takes over this role and installs a new king in Israel."
- "As for you, raise up a lamentation for the princes of Israel."
- "This is a lamentation and it is used as a lamentation." [Or, per Allen's commentary, "it has come to function as a lament."]

#### **Implications:**

- Ezekiel's message is a complex blend of judgment and hope, reflecting the historical trauma of the exile and the enduring promise of God's faithfulness.
- The lecture emphasizes the importance of understanding the historical and political context to properly interpret Ezekiel's prophecies.
- The use of metaphor and lament highlights the emotional and rhetorical power of Ezekiel's message.
- The promise of a future, divinely ordained monarchy provides a foundation for messianic expectations in later Jewish tradition and in the New Testament.

## 4. Study Guide: Allen, Ezekiel, Session 8, Fall and Rise of the Monarchy (Ezek 17:1-24; 18:1-14)

### Ezekiel: The Fall and Rise of the Monarchy (Chapters 17 & 19)

#### I. Study Guide

##### A. Key Themes:

1. **Judgment on the Monarchy:** Chapters 17 and 19 primarily focus on the failure of the Davidic monarchy and the reasons for its impending downfall, particularly the disloyalty of King Zedekiah.
2. **Broken Covenants:** The importance of oaths and covenants, especially Zedekiah's broken treaty with Nebuchadnezzar sworn in Yahweh's name, is highlighted as a key factor in the judgment.
3. **Metaphorical Language:** Ezekiel's use of metaphors (eagles, cedars, vines, lions) to convey his message and their interpretations are crucial to understanding the prophecies.
4. **Hope for the Future:** The insertion of 17:22-24 presents a contrasting message of hope for a restored monarchy blessed by God, a significant shift in tone.
5. **Lamentation:** Chapter 19 employs the form of a lament, both as a prophetic judgment and, retrospectively, as a mourning for the fallen monarchy.

##### B. Important Figures:

1. **Ezekiel:** The prophet delivering the messages of judgment and hope.
2. **Zedekiah:** The last king of Judah, whose rebellion against Babylon led to the destruction of Jerusalem.
3. **Nebuchadnezzar:** The king of Babylon, who conquered Jerusalem and exiled its elite.
4. **Jehoiachin:** The young king deported to Babylon in 597 BCE.
5. **Pharaoh (of Egypt):** The Egyptian ruler to whom Zedekiah appealed for help against Babylon.

##### C. Key Events:

1. **The Exile of 597 BCE:** The first deportation of Judean elites to Babylon, including King Jehoiachin and Ezekiel.
2. **Zedekiah's Rebellion:** Zedekiah's violation of his treaty with Nebuchadnezzar and alliance with Egypt.
3. **The Siege and Fall of Jerusalem (587/586 BCE):** The destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the Davidic monarchy.
4. **Zedekiah's Deportation:** Zedekiah's capture and deportation to Babylon after witnessing the defeat of Judah.

#### **D. Literary Structure:**

1. **Chapter 17:** Contains an extended metaphor (17:3-10) followed by an interpretation (17:11-21) and a later addition speaking of hope (17:22-24).
2. **Chapter 19:** Employs two separate lamentations, each with its own metaphor (lions and a vine), focusing on the demise of the monarchy.

#### **II. Quiz**

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What is the primary theme of Ezekiel chapters 17 and 19?
2. What is the significance of Zedekiah's oath to Nebuchadnezzar?
3. In Ezekiel 17, what do the "great eagle," the "cedar," and the "vine" represent?
4. Why is Zedekiah's appeal to Egypt considered a significant transgression in Ezekiel 17?
5. What is the major difference between the messages in Ezekiel 17:1-21 and 17:22-24?
6. What role does the concept of covenant play in Ezekiel's judgment of the monarchy?
7. What is the literary form of Ezekiel chapter 19?
8. What is the metaphor used in the first part of Ezekiel 19 (verses 2-9)?
9. According to the lecture, why is Ezekiel 17:22-24 positioned where it is, rather than after chapter 19?

10. How does the lecturer interpret the final sentence of Ezekiel 19 in his commentary?

### III. Answer Key

1. The primary theme is the judgment on the Davidic monarchy due to its failure to uphold its covenant with God, leading to the downfall of Jerusalem and the exile of its people. More specifically, the focus is on the last king of Judah, Zedekiah, and his broken treaty.
2. Zedekiah's oath is significant because it was made in the name of Yahweh. By breaking it, Zedekiah is considered to have taken God's name in vain and violated a sacred promise, leading to divine judgment.
3. In Ezekiel 17, the "great eagle" represents Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon; the "cedar" represents the Judean king, Jehoiachin; and the "vine" represents Zedekiah, the king installed by Nebuchadnezzar.
4. Zedekiah's appeal to Egypt is a transgression because it signifies a lack of trust in God and a reliance on foreign powers instead of remaining faithful to the covenant he made. This act of rebellion against Babylon is also seen as rebellion against God's plan.
5. Ezekiel 17:1-21 focuses on judgment and the impending destruction of the monarchy due to Zedekiah's unfaithfulness. Ezekiel 17:22-24, on the other hand, offers a message of hope for a future restoration of the Davidic monarchy, blessed and overseen by God.
6. The concept of covenant is central, as Zedekiah's broken treaty with Nebuchadnezzar (sworn in the name of Yahweh) is seen as a violation of a sacred agreement, warranting divine punishment. The monarchy's failure to uphold its covenant with God is the ultimate reason for its downfall.
7. Ezekiel chapter 19 is a lamentation. This takes the form of a funeral dirge to mourn the loss of the Davidic monarchy.
8. The metaphor used in the first part of Ezekiel 19 (verses 2-9) is that of lions. The mother lioness represents the Davidic dynasty and her cubs represent the kings of Judah.
9. Ezekiel 17:22-24 is positioned at the end of chapter 17 because its language and metaphors connect it more strongly with the first part of the chapter than it does

with chapter 19. It is a positive supplement to the earlier verses and uses the same overall metaphor.

10. The lecturer interprets the final sentence of Ezekiel 19 as an editorial conclusion reflecting on the completed tragedy. It recognizes that the prophetic lament has now become a true lament, as the predicted events have come to pass.

#### **IV. Essay Questions**

1. Analyze the use of metaphorical language in Ezekiel 17 and 19. How do these metaphors contribute to Ezekiel's message, and what is their impact on the audience?
2. Compare and contrast the messages of judgment and hope within Ezekiel 17. How does Ezekiel balance these contrasting themes, and what is the significance of their juxtaposition?
3. Discuss the role of covenant theology in Ezekiel's critique of the monarchy. How does Ezekiel use the concept of covenant to explain the downfall of Judah?
4. Explore the literary structure and function of lament in Ezekiel 19. How does Ezekiel employ the form of lament to convey his message of judgment and mourning?
5. Examine the historical context of Ezekiel 17 and 19. How do the political events of the time (the Babylonian exile, Zedekiah's rebellion, etc.) influence Ezekiel's message?



## V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Covenant:** A formal agreement or treaty, often with religious significance, establishing obligations and promises between parties.
- **Exile:** The forced removal of a people from their homeland, specifically referring to the deportation of Judeans to Babylon.
- **Lamentation:** A passionate expression of grief or sorrow, often in the form of a song or poem.
- **Metaphor:** A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.
- **Monarchy:** A form of government with a single ruler (king or queen) at its head, typically hereditary.
- **Oracle:** A prophetic message or utterance believed to come from God.
- **Prophet:** A person believed to be inspired by God to deliver messages or teachings to the people.
- **Rebellious House:** A term used by Ezekiel to describe the people of Israel/Judah, emphasizing their disobedience to God.
- **Vassal:** A subordinate ruler or state that owes allegiance and service to a superior power.
- **Zedekiah:** The last king of Judah, appointed by Nebuchadnezzar, whose rebellion led to the destruction of Jerusalem.

## 5. FAQs on Allen, Ezekiel, Session 8, Fall and Rise of the Monarchy (Ezek 17:1-24; 18:1-14), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided excerpts from Dr. Leslie Allen's lecture on Ezekiel 17 and 19:

### Frequently Asked Questions About Ezekiel 17 and 19:

- **Why are Ezekiel 17 and 19, which deal with the monarchy, separated by Ezekiel 18?** Ezekiel 17 and 19 are thematically linked, focusing on the rise and fall of the monarchy in Judah. However, chapter 18 appears to be a deliberate insertion, potentially from a later edition of the book. While 17 and 19 portray the monarchy negatively, with 17 briefly touching on hope, Chapter 18 contains a different message. Allen suggests it's best to initially consider 17 and 19 together, as they form bookends around the monarchy theme, then to consider how 18 fits into the themes covered in the surrounding chapters.
- **How does Ezekiel present contrasting views of the monarchy?** Ezekiel, like other Old Testament prophets, acknowledges the theological ideal of the monarchy as divinely ordained. However, he also critiques the historical reality of the monarchy in Judah, which was marked by failures. Ezekiel emphasizes the "bad old monarchy" in 17:1-21 and chapter 19, before offering a brief glimpse of hope for a restored, righteous monarchy in 17:22-24. This duality reflects the tension between the ideal and the actual.
- **What is the significance of the metaphors used in Ezekiel 17?** Ezekiel 17 uses extended metaphors, such as the great eagle and the vine, to represent Nebuchadnezzar, the Judean kings (Jehoiachin and Zedekiah), and the relationship between Judah, Babylon, and Egypt. These metaphors likely served as a rhetorical device to engage the audience and illustrate the political events leading to Judah's downfall in a vivid and memorable way. The interpretation of the metaphors (verses 11-21) provides the historical context.

- How does Ezekiel 17 relate to the historical events surrounding the exile?** Ezekiel 17 references key events of the Babylonian exile, including Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem in 597 BCE, the deportation of King Jehoiachin and other officials to Babylon, and the appointment of Zedekiah as a vassal king. Zedekiah's subsequent rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar and his appeal to Egypt for help are also depicted, ultimately leading to his downfall and the destruction of Jerusalem. The chapter provides a theological interpretation of these events, attributing them to Zedekiah's broken oath to Nebuchadnezzar sworn in the name of Yahweh.
- Why was Zedekiah's breaking of his oath to Nebuchadnezzar considered a sin?** Zedekiah's oath to Nebuchadnezzar was made in the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. By breaking this oath, Zedekiah was considered to have taken God's name in vain and violated a sacred commitment. This was seen as a grave offense with significant consequences for Judah.
- What is the message of hope presented in Ezekiel 17:22-24?** Ezekiel 17:22-24 offers a message of hope for the restoration of the monarchy. This section describes God taking charge and installing a new king in Israel, who will be a vassal king under God's authority. This new Davidic king will lead to prosperity and worldwide recognition of God's sovereignty. This message resonates with other prophetic promises of a future, righteous king from the line of David, providing a glimmer of hope amidst the judgment.
- What is the purpose of the lament in Ezekiel 19?** Ezekiel 19 takes the form of a lament, a traditional funeral dirge, to express grief and mourning over the fall of the Davidic monarchy. The lament uses metaphors of lions and vines to depict the decline and destruction of the royal line, particularly focusing on the fate of Zedekiah. It serves as a final, sorrowful pronouncement on the end of the monarchy, reinforcing the message of judgment conveyed in the earlier chapters.
- How do chapters 17:22-24 and 19 work together in the overall message of Ezekiel regarding the monarchy?** Chapters 17:22-24 and 19 create a "down and up and down" relationship. Chapter 17:1-21 and chapter 19 both offer negative assessments of the monarchy, while 17:22-24 provides a glimpse of hope for future restoration. While the logic of placement might seem disrupted, placing the positive message in the middle of 17 allows it to resonate with the earlier negative metaphors, while being mindful of the awareness of the lament in 19.