

## Ezekiel 19

God is using the familiar to explain the overlooked or the unknown. God is using the known physical things to explain invisible spiritual things. In this chapter, he uses lions and vines. This is just like Jesus' teaching in parables.

*If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (John 3)*

Ezekiel Chapter 15: Images of vine wood vs lumber

Chapter 16: Metaphor for an unwanted pregnancy resulting in a rescue baby

Chapter 17: A riddle about 2 eagles.

Chapter 18: A proverb about eating sour grapes

Chapter 19: A lamentation for the lost hopes for her lion cubs

This chapter is written as a lamentation for failed national leadership. It is like a funeral song that rehearses the pride and promise... and then the missed opportunities of the Kings of Judah. Each new king is introduced in scripture with a summarizing epitaph stating that he was either faithful to God or that he was not. All the good or evil details that followed matched the kind of person they were.

**Read Ezekiel 19:1-4:** This chapter uses metaphors to help us understand the destiny of Judah and her kings. Each of the 12 tribes of Israel has a mascot that embodies their prophetic destiny and symbolism. Judah's mascot is a lion.



Judah and Jerusalem are described in this chapter as a lioness mother who has lion cubs. Being a lion; she has the potential to birth kings and masters of the forest. These lion cubs describe various Judean kings. This chapter is a lamentation of the fate and their missed potential, and national humiliation. It is not a commentary on their failed administration or strategies; as much as it is a tale of where they put God in their Kingdom....and how that played out.

This chapter would be like making a sad country song about Uncle Sam's Wife who had three disappointing sons: Three of the US Presidents who did their nation a huge disservice; and essentially sold us down the river. Their missed opportunities to soar with God's help came crashing down on all of us.

This chapter has a different style of writing; in that is like a funeral dirge. It is a retelling a sad story of a noble lineage whose offsprings became fell way short. The hope of their leadership potential was dashed and crushed.

The imagery of a lion is applicable to the tribe which produced Jesus. One of his titles is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. He is the future lion cub; and the only worthy one to save and lead his people.

### Cub #1

Which Judean cub-King was carried away in chains to Egypt? King Jehoahaz was taken captive by Pharaoh Neco II after only being in office 3 months. His brother Jehoiakim took his office.

*Jehoahaz was the son of Josiah, king of Judah (609 BC).* Jehoahaz was made king over Judah once his father died ([2 Kings 23:31](#); [2 Chronicles 36:1](#)). Also known as Shallum ([1 Chronicles 3:15](#)), Jehoahaz only reigned for three months in Jerusalem before being deposed by Pharaoh Necho. The pharaoh installed Jehoahaz's brother, Eliakim (aka Jehoiakim) as king and deported Jehoahaz in chains. Jehoahaz later died in Egypt ([2 Kings 23:31-35](#)). Jehoahaz "did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his predecessors has done" ([2 Kings 23:32](#)).

The sins of Jehoahaz were especially tragic because his father, [Josiah](#), had been an exceptionally good king. His father was a noble lion for sure. Josiah had found the Book of the Law, renewed the covenant, torn down the high places of idol worship, destroyed the priests of false gods, reinstated the Passover, and turned to the Lord "with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses" ([2 Kings 23:25](#)). But his son Jehoahaz did not follow in his steps. It would be like Donald Trump, Jr. becoming the next President and getting paid off by the Chinese to sell us out, and re-open the flood gates of transgenderism after all of his father's progress.

### Cub # 2

**Read Ezekiel 19:5-9:** Which King of Judah was taken away in chains to Babylon? King Zedekiah snuck out of Jerusalem as Jerusalem's city walls were being breached.

In [Jeremiah 21](#), during the siege of Jerusalem, Zedekiah asks [Jeremiah](#) to intercede to the Lord so that perhaps the Lord would deliver Judah. Jeremiah returns God's answer: He has irrevocably handed Judah over to judgment, first by plague, and those who escape that will fall to the Babylonians. The only hope that any of the people have is to surrender to the Babylonians. "Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives" (verse 9).

Zedekiah heard God's definitive answer, but he did not like it. False prophets contradicted Jeremiah and preached a more favorable message ([Jeremiah 23](#)), but God reiterated His

message to Jeremiah (chapters 24–25). There is a “showdown” in [Jeremiah 27–28](#). Jeremiah comes to the king wearing a yoke around his neck as a visual of what will happen to the people—they will be taken to Babylon as exiles in bondage. The (false) prophet [Hananiah](#) took the yoke from Jeremiah and broke it, saying, “This is what the LORD says: ‘In the same way I will break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years’” ([Jeremiah 28:11](#)). The Lord then tells Jeremiah to pronounce judgment on Hananiah and tell him that, before the end of the year, he will be dead. Demonstrating the legitimacy of Jeremiah as a prophet and the truth of his prophecies, Hananiah died “in the seventh month of that same year” (verse 17).

Jeremiah sends a letter to those already in exile in Babylon telling them not to trust prophets who foretell a speedy return. He tells them to settle in, build houses and gardens, have children, and seek the prosperity of Babylon, for they will be there for a long time (he specifies 70 years, [Jeremiah 29:10](#)). However, they are promised that God will restore Judah to the land, but only in His time (chapters 29–31).

In chapter 32, King Zedekiah confines Jeremiah to the courtyard of the guard in the palace (verse 2), but Jeremiah does not compromise his message. Zedekiah had been presented with a tremendous opportunity. Although he missed the throne three times when two of his brothers and then his nephew were crowned, he finally received stewardship of the kingdom. Zedekiah had the benefit of seeing firsthand the mistakes of his brothers and nephew, and he also had direct messages from God through Jeremiah. Yet he would not submit to the Lord. As a result, Zedekiah lost his sons, his sight, his freedom, and his throne.

**Read Ezekiel 19:10–14:** Jerusalem is now being compared to a once well-watered healthy vine. Like a lioness; she produced royalty. She was once a healthy plant, with big strong branches. These largest branches are her history of producing powerful kings. Her stately branches became ruling scepters of mighty kings.

Now she has been viciously pulled out of the ground by her roots and burned with fire. Then she was slammed back down to the ground. She has been transplanted to a desert wilderness (Babylon). She has lost all of her fruit in the process. Her kings have been killed. The mother of kings has sadly lost her place of abundance and strength. Now she is weak and deprived. Now the nation of Judah (the survivors) was taken to Babylon. The nation will be starved of nutrients; and she will wither.