

## Reading Guide for Ezekiel 19

Chapter 19 is a lament for the Judean monarchy. God had made a covenant with David that He would establish his throne forever (2 Sam. 7) and because of this, the people erroneously believed that God would never destroy Jerusalem. Ezekiel, however, is now called to raise a funeral lament over the fall of the Davidic dynasty. Zedekiah would be the last king of Judah, and his rebellion would end the succession of Davidic kings on the throne.

This chapter consists of two laments (vv. 2b-9, 10-14a). In first lament, the Davidic dynasty is a “mother” of lions; in the second it is called a “mother” of a grapevine. Both these metaphors derive from the images in Jacob’s blessing to Judah (Gen. 49:9-11).

In the first poetic lament, the lioness has a cub who becomes a ravenous devourer of human flesh. He is eventually carried off to Egypt. This is likely a reference to Jehoahaz, who was exiled to Egypt by Pharaoh Neco (2 Ki. 23:34).

Rather than learn from the first cub’s mistakes, her second cub committed the same atrocities on humanity. As a consequence, he would be taken into exile, this time to Babylon. This second lion could be a reference to Jehoiakim, Jehoahaz’ successor, but is fitting for Zedekiah as well, who was the last king of Judah, and exiled to Babylon.

In the second lament, the Davidic dynasty is likened to a grapevine, the rulers being the shoots. The vine was planted in such a way that it should have flourished and grown. But because of the kings’ apostasy, the dynasty was uprooted and eventually withered. The fire that went out from one of its shoots, which burned it up, is most certainly a reference to Zedekiah, whose rebellion, in effect, ended the Davidic monarchy, which would only reëmerge with Jesus Christ.

### **Command from the Lord to Raise a Lament (19:1-2a)**

#### **A Lament for the Rulers of Judah as Ravenous Lions (19:2b-9)**

*The Rise and Exile of the First Lion (vv. 2b-4)*

*The Rise and Exile of the Second Lion (vv. 5-9)*

#### **A Lament for the Rulers of Judah as a Grapevine (19:10-14a)**

*The Past Glory and Favor of the Davidic Dynasty (vv. 10-11)*

*The Exile of Zedekiah and the (Temporary) End of the Monarchy (vv. 12-14a)*

### **Recognition of the Prophetic Fulfillment (19:14b)**