

The Book of EZEKIEL

Hebrew: "God Strengthens"

"the Word of the Lord" is used 50 times

"They shall know that I am the Lord" is used 70 times

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1,000 BC	David becomes King of Israel Reigns 40 years until 961 BC
961 BC	Solomon becomes King of Israel Reigns 40 years
922BC	Solomon dies. Kingdom is divided. Benjamin and Judah become the Southern Kingdom of Judah under Rehoboam 10 Northern tribes become Israel under King Jeroboam
722 BC	The Northern Kingdom-10 Tribes of Israel falls to Assyria (200 years later)
640 BC	2 Kings 22:1,2 & 20 Josiah became King of Judah at 8 Years old Reigned 31 years
609 BC	Josiah was killed in battle of Megiddo against Egypt Josiah was the last good king.
605 BC	Nebuchadnezzar defeats Assyria and Egypt and Babylon becomes the world power 2 Kings 24:1 Daniel 1:1-2 3 rd year of Jehoiakim, God gave Jehoiakim, King of Judah ... into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. 2 Kings 24:12-14 8 th year of Nebuchadnezzar would be 597 BC A revolt led to a major deportation and exile to Babylon. Jehoiachin, educated people, upper class, etc taken in this first major deportation/exile Probably Daniel was taken in this deportation or possibly in 605 BC. Daniel and others may have been taken when Judah first fell.

586 BC **Another Revolt by Jerusalem**

2 Kings 25:8 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar 605 BC minus 19th year 586 BC

2 Kings 25:9-12 SOLOMON'S TEMPLE DESTROYED

WALLS OF JERUSALEM DESTROYED THE FINAL EXILE

Only some poor people were left

Jeremiah was not taken to Babylon. He was later taken to Egypt. Jer 43

Ezekiel was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel.

Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem during the fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Exile.

Jeremiah had begun his ministry during the reign of Josiah and lived to see the desolation of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple.

Daniel was a young man taken captive either during the first or second deportation.

Daniel was very educated and served in the King's court.

Ezekiel was a young man and lived among the people in exile. As a prophet, Ezekiel saw the Shekinah glory of God both leave the temple and return to the temple.

1 Peter 1:17 The prophets saw both the suffering and the glory.

OVERVIEW OF EZEKIEL

Chapters 1 – 32 Judgement

Chapters 33 – 48 Restoration and a Future

1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept when we remembered Zion.

2 We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it. 3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

4 How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? Psalm 137:1-4 NKJV

Chapters 1-3 The Call of Ezekiel

- 1:1 the 30th year - he was born into a priestly family but the priests were not functioning in the exile.
 He was 30 years old and it was time to become a priest. God called him as a prophet.
- 1:2 The fifth year of the exile of 597BC. He began his ministry in 592 BC and served until 570 BC.
 He was already in Babylon when Jerusalem and the temple was destroyed.
- 1:3 with the exiles by the River Chebar- a river that flows into the Euphrates River, South of Babylon.
 When we can't get to God, he comes to us.
- 1:5-6 4 creatures with 4 faces See Gen 3:24 and Rev 4:6-8
- 2:3 To the children of Israel, "to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me."
- 3:7 "They won't listen to you, because they won't listen to Me" Preach whether they listen or not!
- 3:16-19 A Watchman on the Wall
- 3:26-27 Ezekiel was made mute until the Lord had a word for him to speak. Also 33:22

Chapters 4-24 Judgement of Judah and Jerusalem A Disobedient Nation

- 5:9-12 Hunger and pestilence A Disciplined Nation
- 5:13 & 17 "I the Lord have spoken it"
- 6:7, 10, 13 7:4, 9, 27 "shall know that I am the Lord!"
- Ch 10 The Glory departs from the temple :18
 :8&9 The wheel inside the wheel See Gen 3:23&24
 :14-16, 20-21 The cherubim
- Ch 11 & 13 Judgement on false counselors and foolish prophets 11:2 13:7&8
- 14:12-20 Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were here, they would deliver only themselves
- Ch 24 Ezekiel's wife dies. No weeping or mourning. :16, 24 & 27 "they shall know that I am the Lord"

Chapters 25- 32 Judgement of the Enemies of Judah

- "They shall know that I am the Lord" 25:5, 7, 11, 14, 17 26:6 28:23, 26 29:16, 21 30:19, 26
- 28:11-19 Ezekiel speaks to Satan through the king of Tyre Luke 10:17-18 Isaiah 14:12-15

Chapters 33-39 Israel's Restoration

- 33:7-9 A Watchman on the Wall
- 33:21-22 Fall of Jerusalem and Ezekiel speaks
- 33:33 "they will know that a prophet has been among them" God is fair. They will know they have been told.
- 34:1-10 Woe to the bad shepherds
- 34:11-31 God, The True Shepherd John 10:1-18 The Good Shepherd Hebrews 13:20 The Great Shepherd
- 36:26 "I will give you a new heart..."
- 37 The Valley of the Dry Bones :13 & 28 "Then you shall know that I am the Lord!"
 37:19 Prophecy of Israel and Judah being reunited
- 38 Rollcall of the Nations Gog and Magog :23 "Then they shall know that I am the Lord!"
- 39:11 Valley of Hamon Gog Revelation 19? Valley of Armageddon? Megiddo?

Chapter 40-48 The New Jerusalem and a New Temple