

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL – (Warren Wiersbe)

Theme: Restoring the Spiritual Heart of the Nation

The Glory of God

Key Verse: “You shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 6:7b)

I. The Prophet’s Call (Ezekiel 1-3)

- A. Seeing God’s Glory (Ezekiel 1)**
- B. Hearing God’s Word (Ezekiel 2)**
- C. Becoming God’s Watchman (Ezekiel 3)**

II. The Fall of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 4-24)

- A. The Judgment Predicted (Ezekiel 4-7)**
- B. God’s Glory Departs (Ezekiel 8-11)**
- C. Godless Leaders Exposed (Ezekiel 12-17)**
- D. God’s Justice Defended (Ezekiel 18-21)**
- E. The End of the City (Ezekiel 22-24)**

III. The Nations Judged (Ezekiel 25-32)

- A. Ammon (Ezekiel 25:1-7)**
- B. Moab (Ezekiel 25:8-11)**
- C. Edom (Ezekiel 25:12-14)**
- D. Philistia (Ezekiel 25:15-17)**
- E. Tyre (Ezekiel 26:1-28:19)**
- F. Sidon (Ezekiel 28:20-26)**
- G. Egypt (Ezekiel 29-32)**

IV. The Glorious Future of Israel (Ezekiel 33-48)

- A. The City of Jerusalem Restored (Ezekiel 33-34)**
- B. The Land of Israel Renewed (Ezekiel 35-36)**
- C. The Nation of Israel Resurrected and Reunited (Ezekiel 37-39)**
- D. The Temple and the Priesthood Reestablished (Ezekiel 40-48)**

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),
Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References used in study include Warren Wiersbe, David Hocking, Chuck Smith, Matthew Henry, Halley’s and others

INTRODUCTION TO EZEKIEL:

Questions:

- What is the theme of Ezekiel?
- What is the key phrase, used 70 times in the Book of Ezekiel?
- How many times is the “Lord God” used in the Book of Ezekiel?
- What are the dates of Ezekiel’s writings?
- How many deportations from Jerusalem to Babylon?
- Date of First? What prophet was taken captive at that time?
- Date of Second? What prophet was taken captive at that time? How do we know?
- Date of Third (also date of destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of Solomon)?
- What events bookend Ezekiel’s writings?
- Were any of the final kings of Judah obedient to the Lord? Who was Josiah and what was the relationship of the final kings of Judah to Josiah?
- Do you think it’s strange that all the final kings did not listen to Jeremiah prophesying in Jerusalem and Ezekiel prophesying in Babylon?
- How similar is that of the leaders today? Of the church today?
- How do you see the faithfulness and mercy of God in Ezekiel’s writings?

HISTORY/BACKGROUND OF EZEKIEL:

Theme of Book: **THE GLORY OF GOD**

The Hebrew word for Glory has the idea of heaviness. “*Chebod*”

Key phrase: “*And ye shall know that I am the LORD your God*” (used 70 times)

God is called “*Lord God*” (over 400 times) and the phrase “*I am the Lord*” (59 times)

CONTEXT OF EZEKIEL - 2 Kings 24 & 25; 2 Chron. 36:1-21; Jeremiah 37:1; 38, 39

EZEKIEL: Born around 622BC, taken captive **597BC**, began prophesying **592BC**, continuing on until about **571BC**. The name “*Ezekiel*” means the “*strength of God*,” or “*God strengthens*” in verb form. He is identified in verse 3 as “*THE priest*.”

He is also called “*the son of Buzi*.” The Hebrew word “*Buzi*” is from the root word meaning “*to shame*.” Therefore, rabbinical scholars see Ezekiel as the son of men who allowed themselves to be shamed for the sake of God’s honor and glory! It is a positive testimony, not a negative one!

- **When** did it happen? Nineveh, the capital of Assyria was a great city that fell to the Babylonians (with the help of the Medes) in **612 BC**. Several of the Hebrew prophets speak about the “glory” of Nineveh.

The Chaldean leader, **Nabopolassar (625-605 BC)**, not only led the armies in 612 BC, but he also, along with the help of the Medes drove out the forces of Assyria and Egypt once for all in 610 BC.

His famous son, **Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 BC)** was the general who pulled off one of the greatest victories over Assyria, aided by Egypt, of the ancient world at the Battle of Carchemish in the first year of his reign – **605 BC**, a victory recorded in **Jeremiah 46:2**.

It was **Jehoiakim**, Josiah's second son - he had at least 4- called Eliakim, who was made a vassal of Babylon. At that time, Nebuchadnezzar took some nobility, including Daniel and his three friends to Babylon.

In **598-597 BC, Jehoiakim rebelled** against Babylon, bringing Nebuchadnezzar's forces against Jerusalem. His son, **Jehoiachin, was installed, for 3 months, in the place of his father who was killed.** Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiachin and several leaders (**including Ezekiel**) off to Babylon to a Jewish colony on the Chebar canal.

Described by the word river in the bible, it was actually a canal. We know from history that a Jewish colony was located by this canal.

In **Jehoiachin's place, 597BC, Nebuchadnezzar put Josiah's, fourth son, Mattaniah**, as king - whom **he renamed Zedekiah.** **Zedekiah in 589 BC** joined with Tyre, Ammon, and Edom, **in a revolt** against Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar responded with rage against Judah and finally the city of Jerusalem, destroying it along with Solomon's temple in 586 BC. Zedekiah was captured, saw his sons killed, and then had his eyes gouged out, **Jer. 39:7**, and was taken in chains to Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar's general, **Nebuzaradan**, is the one who carried out the burning of Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon.

It is fascinating to read in the Babylonian Chronicles an inscription which referred to Jehoiachin as "*the king of the land of Judah.*" **No mention of Zedekiah.**

When he was 30 years old "30th year, 4th month, 5th day" NOTE: Jesus began his ministry at about 30 years of age. It was also the year when a priest would begin his official ministry (**Numbers 4:1-3, 23**).

Apparently **Ezekiel was born around 622 BC, and was only 25 years old** when he was taken captive to Babylon.

Jeremiah had been preaching in Jerusalem for four years when Ezekiel was born. It is also possible that Daniel and Ezekiel were friends or acquaintances before the captivity.

When he was a captive in Babylon - cf. **Psalms 137** - "*5th year of King Jehoiachin's captivity, 5th day of the month*" – about **592 BC (about 6 years before the temple was destroyed.)**

NOTE: The argument that Ezekiel was among the "*captives*" who were taken to Babylon in **597 BC**, along with King Jehoiachin is strengthened by **Ezekiel 33:21** – Ezekiel refers to "*our captivity*." He repeats this again in **Ezekiel 40:1**. Ezekiel was also married, and his wife died at the time of Jerusalem's fall – **Ezekiel 24:15-18**.

- **Where** was he at the time? **"among the captives by the river Chebar"**

It was a canal that went in a southeasterly direction, from the Euphrates and back to it. It was the area where the Jewish exiles were kept. **"in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar** (also spelled as Kevar)" - cf. **Ezekiel 3:15 – Tel-Aviv**

- **What** was this prophecy? **It was a revelation from God Himself! "the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God"** NOTE: In Talmudic literature, these "*visions*" are known as *Maaseh Merkavah* which means "*the work of the Chariot*."

It was a response directed specifically to Ezekiel! **"the word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel"** (used 50 times in the book) It was a realization of God's presence! **"the hand of the LORD was there upon him"** (cf. **Ezekiel 3:14, 22; 8:1; 33:22; 37:1; 40:1**

INTRODUCTION TO EZEKIEL:

Questions: (answers)

- What is the theme of Ezekiel? (The Glory of God/Spiritual Restoration of the Heart of Israel)
- What is the key phrase, used 70 times in the Book of Ezekiel? (*“And ye shall know that I am the LORD your God”*)
- How many times is the “Lord God” used in the Book of Ezekiel (400+)
- What are the dates of Ezekiel’s writings? (592-571BC)
- How many deportations from Jerusalem to Babylon? (3)
- Date of First? What prophet was taken captive at that time? (605BC; Daniel- Assyria had conquered the 10 northern kingdoms in 722 BC))
- Date of Second? What prophet was taken captive at that time? How do we know? (598-597BC; Ezekiel. The first 24 chapters tell so the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the temple)
- Date of Third (also date of destruction of Jerusalem and the temple of Solomon)? (586BC)
- What events bookend Ezekiel’s writings? (The coming fall of Judah; the Millennial Kingdom.)
- Were any of the final kings of Judah obedient to the Lord? (No) Who was Josiah (A good Judah king) and what was the relationship of the final kings of Judah to Josiah? (sons/grandson)
- Do you think it’s strange that all the final kings did not listen to Jeremiah prophesying in Jerusalem and Ezekiel prophesying in Babylon? (yes)
- How similar is that of the leaders today? Of the church today? (too similar)
- How do you see the faithfulness and mercy of God in Ezekiel’s writings? (He spoke to them even in captivity of the His faithfulness and mercy and of the coming glorious promises relating to Israel!)

Names	Age	Date	yrs/Sol.	Reign	Prophet	
16. Josiah (3 sons *-below)	8	640 BC	291	31	Zephaniah, Jeremiah	
17. Jehoahaz (Shallum)*	23	609 BC	322	3 months		
18. Jehoiakim (Eliakim)*	25	609 BC	322	11	Habakkuk (approx)	
19. Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)	8/18	597 BC	334	3 months		
20. Zedekiah (Mattaniah)*	21	597 BC	334	11		
		592 BC	339		Ezek. 592-571Daniel	

Important B.C. Dates re Israel:

2000 Abraham - 1446 The Exodus
1050 Monarchy Begins under Saul - 931 Kingdom Divided
722 Assyria conquers Northern Kingdom (Israel)
612 Nineveh falls to Medo-Babylon.
605 Babyon defeats Assyria/Egypt @ Carchemish
605 First Deportation of Judah to Babylon – Daniel captive
597/8 Second Deportation – Ezekiel captive
586 Third Deportation - Judah falls to Babylon – Temple Destroyed
536 Babylon falls to Persia
331 Greece conquers Judah
168 Abomination of Desolation (Antiochus IV Epiphanes)
63 Rome conquers Judah
4/0 Birth of Christ - AD 70 Fall of Jerusalem (Titus)