

## Study Outline of Ezekiel

His name means “God is my strength.”

He was a priest and was one of those taken into Babylonian captivity (1:1-3).

He prophesied from the 5<sup>th</sup> year of captivity to the 27<sup>th</sup> year (1:2; 29:17).

97 times he is called “son of man.”

He was married and his wife died (24:15-18).

Book outlined:

1-24 – Jerusalem will fall.

25-32 – Gentile nations will fall.

33-48 – Messages of hope for the future.

Chapter 1 – The visions of this chapter will set the stage for the rest of the book.

1:1-3 – Introduction to the prophet and the times. It is dated to 592 BC. He, like Daniel and his three friends, was taken from Judah into Babylon.

4 visions:

1. 1:4-14 – The four cherubim. These beings are called cherubim in 10:1. These are a class of angels that we find in other parts of Scripture (Gen. 3:24). 4 creatures with four faces and four wings. Face of a man (intelligence), lion (sovereignty), ox (strength), eagle (speed).
2. 1:15-21 – The four wheels. They could see and move in any direction at any time.
3. 1:22-25 – The firmament. God’s voice came from this firmament.
4. 1:26-28 – The throne of God.

The purpose of the vision is to show that even though Babylon has destroyed God’s city and captured His people, God is still in control. He sees and knows all!

Chapters 2-3 – Ezekiel’s commission. In the 10 verses of chapter 2, the word *rebellious* is used 7 times! Ezekiel is warned ahead of time that he does not have an easy task. Ezekiel was told to ingest God’s word and speak it to Israel (2:9-3:4). He is then told, “they won’t listen to you because they won’t listen to Me (3:7). Speak whether they want to hear it or not (3:10-11). Imagine his conflict (3:14)! From everything he saw and heard, he didn’t speak for a week!

Ezekiel’s responsibility as a watchman (3:16-27).

3:16-19 - Hear My words and warn My people. If you don’t you’ll be guilty. If you do and they don’t listen, they’ll be guilty.

3:20-21 – If a righteous man falls he will be guilty and you too will be guilty if you have not warned him. If you warn him and he listens, you’ve both been delivered.

3:22-27 – Ezekiel was to preach at God’s bidding.

Chapter 4 – God through Ezekiel uses three different “object lessons” to show Jerusalem about her siege and fall to Babylon.

- Verses 1-3 – Draw it out on a clay tablet.

- Verses 4-8 – The sign of lying on his side. On the left side for 390 days and on his right for 40 days. Each day represented one year (v. 5-6). 430 years of captivity. He was probably referring to Israel’s captivity in Egypt as a sign that another captivity was coming.
- Verses 9-17 – He was to bake bread and eat about 8 oz a day and drink about a quart of water a day to show them the difficulty of their coming siege. He was to use animal waste for the fire.

Chapter 5 – A fourth object lesson on the destruction of Jerusalem.

- Verses 1-4 - Ezekiel instructed to shave his head and beard and use parts of them to illustrate what would happen to Jerusalem.
- Verses 5-17 explain why this would happen. Notice the specificity of verse 6!
- While Babylon was the instrument, it was really God Himself who was against Jerusalem (v. 8).

Chapter 6 – Ezekiel is in Babylon, but is instructed to look toward the “mountains of Israel” as he prophesied.

- Verses 1-7 – She was destroyed because of her idolatry.
- Verses 8-10 – A remnant would be spared.
- Verses 11-14 – God’s hand was against them.

Chapter 7 – The end is near!

- Verses 1-9 – The end is near. Pay attention to the words that are used to describe Israel’s behavior and God’s reaction.
- Verses 10-18 – Israel’s wickedness had blossomed and was ready for judgment.
- Verses 19-22 – Israel’s valuables cannot buy deliverance.
- Verses 23-27 – Destruction is coming!

Chapter 8 – Ezekiel is shown visions of the desecration of God’s temple through idolatry.

- 8:1-4 – Ezekiel has a vision from God. We need to remember the nature of this document. Ezekiel is in Babylon, not Jerusalem.
- 8:5-16 – Ezekiel is shown different abominations that were being committed by the Jews.
  - 8:5-6 – The image of jealousy.
  - 8:7-12 – The elders of Israel were worshiping animals (v. 10). Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan is singled out. Shaphan was the scribe who found “the book of the Law” when Josiah was restoring the temple (2 Kg. 22).
  - 8:13-14 – Women of Israel weeping for Tammuz, the Sumerian god of fertility.
  - 8:15-16 – 25 men worshiping the sun.
- 8:17-18 – God’s reaction to the abominations (Deut. 28:52-57).

Chapter 9 – A vision of the destruction of the wicked by God.

- 6 men with weapons (battle-ax – NKJ) are sent into Jerusalem to destroy the wicked.

- 1 man, a scribe, was sent to mark those who were crying because of the abominations that had been done (v. 3-4).
- 2 Timothy 2:19
- Ezekiel's response – v. 8.
- God's thoughts vs man's thoughts – v. 9-10.

Chapter 10 – Jerusalem is burned and the glory of God departs the temple.

- 10:1-8 – Coals are taken from the cherubim and spread them over Jerusalem. God's glory appeared in the court of the temple.
- 1 Kings 8:10-13
- 10:9-22 – God's glory departed from the temple.

Chapter 11 – Judgment and restoration.

- 11:1-13 – 25 of the men that Ezekiel saw in his vision (8:9-12) are told they will be destroyed because of their wickedness. Verse 12.
- 11:14-25 – God would be a “little sanctuary” to those who would be exiled from Jerusalem (v. 16).
- Those in the sanctuary would be given a new heart and spirit (v. 18-20).
- God's glory departed Jerusalem (v. 23).

Chapter 12 – Ezekiel is used as a sign for Israel.

- 12:1-16 – He was told to pack his things, dig through the city wall, and act as if he were leaving. The end of verse 3 reveals the reason.
- 12:17-28 – God's judgment will not be postponed. Verse 22 shows that they believed what they wanted even when Ezekiel and others had been teaching something different.

Chapter 13 – Ezekiel instructed to speak against the false prophets.

- 13:1-7 – Prophets existed then (and now) whom God did not send.
- 13:8-16 – They had “seduced” Israel with falsehood and they are compared to a wall built that had no internal strength.
- 13:17-23 – Female false prophets were prophesying “out of their own hearts. They are pictured as hunting for souls to deceive. 2 Peter 2:1-3.

Chapter 14 – Israel had set up idols in her heart.

- 14:1-11 – The leaders of the land had set up these idols in their hearts. Verses 6-8 are the call to repentance.
- 14:12-23 – Persistent sin of a nation can lead to nothing but punishment.

Chapter 15 – God's vine, Israel will be burned up.

- Isaiah used this same language about God's people – Isaiah 5:1-7.
- The key is that they had persisted in sin (v. 8).

Chapter 16 – God’s care for Israel and her unfaithfulness.

- 16:1-14 – How God “found” Israel and how He cared for her. As a nation, the Jewish people started out small and was not based on size or power (Deut. 7:7). He provided everything for her to grow and succeed.
- 16:15-34 – Israel’s response to God’s goodness. Notice in verses 15-17 the emphasis is on “thy.”
- 16:35-43 – Those on whom Israel had depended for protection would turn on them. Israel had fretted (KJV) or agitated (NKJ) God through her unfaithfulness.
- 16:44-59 – Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, had become worse than Israel and Sodom! God determines what’s right and wrong (v. 50).
- 16:60-63 – In the future, an everlasting covenant would be established. God had already established the “old covenant” in the days of Moses. Atonement today is provided through Christ, not animal sacrifice.

Chapter 17 – A parable for the house of Israel.

- 17:1-10 – The parable about Babylonian captivity.
- 17:11-21 – The explanation. The great eagle (v. 3) is Nebuchadnezzar (v. 12) who took “the highest branch (v. 3) which represents Jehoiachin (v. 12). The seed of the land (v. 5) represents Zedekiah (v. 13-14) whom Babylon placed as governor in Jerusalem. The other eagle (v. 7) represents Egypt who tried to exert her influence (v. 15; 2 Kgs. 24:17-20). Zedekiah broke his covenant with Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chr. 36:11-13) and God (Deut. 17:16).
- 17:22-24 – A prophecy of a “goodly cedar.” God’s plant here is a reference to Jesus (Isa. 11:1-4). All flesh (Jew and Gentile) would be able to dwell in His branches.

Chapter 18 – Sins of the fathers and sons.

- 18:1-4 – It was Israel’s habit to blame her condition on her predecessors (Jer. 31:29-30). “The soul that sins shall die.” Individual responsibility and accountability.
- 18:5-9 – Do right and live.
- 18:10-13 – If a just man has an evil son, the son shall die.
- 18:14-18 – A good son with a wicked father.
- 18:19-24 – How God holds mankind accountable.
- 18:25-32 – Israel complained about God’s “unfairness” toward them when they should have repented.

Chapter 19 – A lamentation about Jehoahaz and Jehoiachin.

- Verses 3-4 – 2 Kings 23:31-33.
- Verses 5-9 – 2 Kings 24:8-12.
- Verses 10-14 – Judah compared to a vine that started out strong and healthy, but went bad.

Chapter 20 – God refuses to answer the elders of Israel.

- 20:1-9 – God’s refusal (v. 1-4) and the reason (v. 5-9).
- 20:10-26 – Throughout her history God had delivered her from enemies and gave them His laws (v. 10-13). While they rejected Him he did not completely wipe them out because of His name’s sake during the exodus (v. 14, 22).
- 20:27-32 – They continued to blaspheme God when they got to Canaan.
- 20:33-44 – A future of hope. “Pass under the rod” – Leviticus 27:32. This is a reference to the remnant.
- 20:45-49 – The South is a reference to Judah. She will be burned up!

#### Chapter 21 – Babylon, God’s sword.

- 21:1-7 – Babylon is the “sword of the Lord.” God has, throughout history, used nations and people that are not always models to be imitated in order to accomplish His purposes.
- 21:8-17 – The sword is sharpened and ready and Ezekiel is told to prophesy that this is the “fury” of the Lord.
- 21:18-24 – Ezekiel is told to point the way for Nebuchadnezzar because of their iniquity.
- 21:25-27 – A pronouncement against Zedekiah – 2 Chronicles 36:11-14.
- 21:28-32 – Ammon will be destroyed as well.

#### Chapter 22 – God reveals Israel’s abominations.

- 22:1-16 – Jerusalem, the bloody city, will be judged. Her sins are enumerated in verses 6-12.
- 22:17-22 – Jerusalem would go through the furnace of captivity like silver goes through the fire to purify it.
- 22:23-31 – Conspiracy among the prophets and priests (v. 25-26). God had been looking for a man to “stand in the gap,” but couldn’t find one (v. 30).

#### Chapter 23 – The spiritual adultery of Samaria (Israel) and Jerusalem (Judah).

- 23:1-10 - Samaria (northern Israel) and Jerusalem (southern Israel) are pictured as two sisters who were prostitutes. Aholah (v. 4) means “her own tabernacle” and shows that Northern Israel had established her own places of worship (1 Kgs. 12:25-33). Aholibah means, “my tabernacle is in her” and signifies Jerusalem, the location of the temple.
- 23:11-35 – Jerusalem should have learned from the sins of Samaria. She did not and would, therefore, be judged by God through Babylon.
- 23:36-49 – Both sisters are judged.

#### Chapter 24 – Jerusalem would be destroyed.

- 24:1-14 – Jerusalem is pictured as a pot of boiling meat that had scum (rust) in it. God was going to build a great fire and consume her.
- 24:15-27 – Ezekiel’s wife would die and God would use that as a sign to Jerusalem (v. 17). This would be symbolic of the destruction of the temple (v. 21).

#### Chapter 25 – Proclamations against various groups.

- 25:1-7 – Against Ammon. Descendants of Lot by his youngest daughter (Gen. 19:38).
- 25:8-11 – Against Moab. Descendants of Lot by his oldest daughter (Gen. 19:37).
- 25:12-14 – Against Edom. Descendants of Esau (Gen. 36:8).

- 25:15-17 – Against Philistia. Descendants of Noah by Ham (Gen. 10:1-14).

Chapter 26-28 – Proclamation against and lamentation over Tyre and Sidon. It was attacked by Nebuchadnezzar, but finally destroyed by Alexander the Great in 332 BC.

- Tyre was made up of a mainland and an island. Nebuchadnezzar conquered the mainland, but never the island. Alexander used the debris from the city to build a causeway to the island (200' wide, ½ mile long) and conquer it.
- 28:11-19 has been misused to teach of the origins of Satan. It could be compared to Adam's fall in the garden, but it is not speaking of Satan.

Chapters 29-32 – Proclamation against Egypt.

- A key phrase here is “they shall know that I am the Lord” (29:6, 16, 21; 30:8, 19, 25-26; 32:15).
- Also significant is 30:10.

Chapter 33 – Ezekiel as a watchman and the fairness of God's judgment.

- 33:1-5 – The watchman is to watch and warn. The response of the people is not his responsibility.
- 33:6 – If he watches and does not warn, he will be guilty of that and for the injury that comes to others.
- 33:7-16 – The application to Ezekiel as a prophet of God.
- 33:17-20 – Israel complains that God is not fair.
- 33:21-29 – Sin led to their removal from the promised land.
- 33:30-33 – “Come listen to my preacher.”

Chapter 34 – The shepherds of Israel versus God as a shepherd.

- 34:1-10 – The neglect of the shepherds and God's reaction.
- 34:11-22 – God as a shepherd for His people.
- 34:23-31 – “David” would become Israel's shepherd. David has been dead at this point for nearly 400 years! Hebrews 13:20.

Chapter 35 – Judgment against Edom.

- Mt. Seir is a reference to the Edomites (Deut. 2:4).
- This whole chapter is a pronouncement of judgment upon Edom because of her antagonistic relationship with Israel. In boasting against God's people they were boasting against God Himself (v. 13).

Chapter 36 – Blessings for Israel.

- 36:1-7 – The nations that have punished Israel for her sins will also be punished for their sins. God is a “jealous” God (v. 5).
- 36:8-15 – Israel would be restored. Accomplished under the Persian empire and Cyrus (Isa. 44:27-28).
- 36:16-20 – Israel had polluted herself and God's name by their actions.
- 36:21-24 – God's name would be sanctified among Israel and the Gentiles in the restoration to their land.
- 36:25-38 – Israel will be repopulated and restored.

### Chapter 37 – The valley of dry bones.

- 37:1-3 – The spiritual condition of Israel.
- 37:4-10 – The conditional resurrection of the nation of Israel. To “hear” God’s word is more than listening to the speaker.
- 37:11-14 – The promise of restoration to their land. There is nothing in this text that has not been fulfilled – read Ezra and Nehemiah.
- 37:15-23 – Israel and Judah would be reunited. Israel had been defeated and taken captive by Assyria in 722 BC. Judah was in captivity at the time of this writing (606-536 BC). The 10 northern tribes were not “lost” as some claim (Jer. 3:8; Hos. 1:11).
- 37:24-28 – A spiritual prophecy of the future. Again, David is mentioned (v. 24-25) as ruling over them and he had been dead for hundreds of years. This is prophetic of Christ (Rom. 1:2-4). A new covenant would be made and it would be everlasting (v. 26). Also, God’s tabernacle would be with them and that is a prophecy of the church (Eph. 2:19-22).

### Chapters 38:1-39:16 – Judgment against Gog.

- Gog (leader of Magog) mentioned 9 times in these two chapters and once in Revelation 20:8. Magog mentioned 5 times in Scripture (Gen. 10:2; 1 Chr. 1:5; Eze. 38:2; 39:8; Rev. 20:8. Magog was located near the head waters of the Tigris river in Mesopotamia.
- 38:17 is a key to understanding this prophecy. As noted above, no other prophet mentions Gog or Magog. Magog is listed in the table of nations as a descendant of Noah through Japheth (Gen. 10:2).
- This is important because premillennialists use Revelation 20:8 to talk about the battle of Armageddon and they have tried to identify Gog and Magog as Russia and China.
- Throughout these chapters God said He was against Gog and that when He brings judgment “they shall know that I am the Lord.”
- Both prophecies start with “I am against you” (38:3; 39:1).

39:17-29 – Israel would be restored and a feast would be provided.

Chapters 40-43 – A new temple to be built. This prophecy came in about 570 BC. Jerusalem was captured and destroyed in 586 BC.

This section of Ezekiel (40-48) is highly symbolic, much like Revelation, and many have taught things that are false. Difficult passages of the Bible must be understood in light of simple passages on the same subject. As with Revelation, don’t get lost in the symbolic nature of this section.

- 40:2 sets the context for the rest of the book.
- 40:4-5 – A description of the measuring rod that would be used. It was “six cubits and a handbreadth each.” About 10-12 feet long. The dimensions of the temple (1) do not match Solomon’s, (2) the second temple was not yet constructed and was smaller than the first, and (3) do not match Herod’s temple. There must be something different that is being described.
- Chapters 40-48 contain the description and dimensions of a magnificent temple!

- 43:1-9 records the glory of the Lord entering the temple. Remember, this is a vision Ezekiel had from a mountain top in Israel (40:2), yet he was in Babylonian captivity.
- Chapters 43-46 reiterate aspects of the Law in regard to consecration, sacrifice, priests, and worship.
- Chapters 47-48 have similar aspects to Revelation 22.
- I believe what is being described in 40-48 is the spiritual temple of God, the church. The closing line to the section is, “and the name of the city from that day shall be, Jehovah-shammah” (the Lord is there). This city/temple will be God’s dwelling place with His people.
- Ephesians 2:19-22.