

INTRODUCTION TO Ezekiel

READ ALONG

- 05/04-05/08 Ezekiel 1-12
- 05/11-05/15 Ezekiel 13-22
- 05/18-05/22 Ezekiel 23-32
- 05/25-05/29 Ezekiel 33-42
- 06/01-06/03 Ezekiel 43-48

MESSAGE

The message of Ezekiel is a two-fold message of judgment and restoration. Ezekiel predicts the judgment of Judah, symbolized by the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, after the departure of God's glory from it. This judgment is the result of Judah's unwillingness to repent from their persistent idolatry. Ezekiel challenges their idolatry, through both strong words, and strange actions that vividly depict how repulsive idolatry is to God. While this judgment is severe, Ezekiel also prophesies of a day when God will restore his people to right relationship with Him, by giving them new hearts, and thus the ability to know and follow God.

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 23. ISAIAH
- 24. JEREMIAH
- 25. LAMENTATIONS
- 26. **EZEKIEL**
- 27. DANIEL
- 28. HOSEA
- 29. JOEL

KEY THEMES

- God's glory. God is holy and worthy of praise; He will not share His glory with others. Much of Ezekiel focuses on God acting on behalf of His glory, vindicating the holiness of his great name (36:22-23).
- The foolishness of idolatry. Ezekiel uses graphic language and imagery to depict how repugnant idolatry is to God (8 & 14-16). Worship of anything except God is empty and deserves judgment from God.
- God is sovereign over all nations. God does not just judge Judah, but other nations as well.
- Humanity's need for a new heart. The Israelites fail to repent of their idolatry because of the hardness of their hearts. God promises to give his people a new heart and thus enabling them to know Him and follow His commands (11:18-21; 36:24-37)
- The promise of a new creation. The book of Ezekiel ends with a vision of a magnificent temple. Out of the temple flows a river of life bringing life to the most barren of places (40-48). This imagery is very similar to the imagery found in the book of Revelation, and depicts the hope of a restored creation, without the effects of sin.

BASIC STRUCTURE

48 CHAPTERS



BOOK BASICS



DATE
593-571 BC



TYPE
Prophecy



AUTHOR
Ezekiel

Ezekiel son of Buzi (1:3), was a priest from Jerusalem who was a part of the first group of Israelites taken into captivity by the Babylonians in 597 B.C. (2 Kings 24:10-16). Ezekiel's name means "may God strengthen", a fitting name for a prophet called to deliver a message of both certain judgment and the hope of restoration.

OCCASION

God first appeared to Ezekiel in 593 B.C., five years after he and most of the population of Jerusalem were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Ezekiel was 30 years old when God first appeared to Him. He was told by God to prophesy to the nation of Judah (also called Israel in the book), telling them of the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the temple which would happen in 586 B.C. After which, God gave Ezekiel a message of hope and restoration, which he prophesied until 571 B.C.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Website:
<http://bibleproject.com/explore/ezekiel/>

Commentary/Bible Study:
Christ Centered Exposition Commentary by Landon Dowden