
Ezekiel

The book of Ezekiel is the fourth book of the five Major Prophets.

Author

Ezekiel was a young priest when the Babylonians removed the first set of Jews (including Daniel) in 606 BC and took them to Babylon (modern day Iraq). At age 25, Ezekiel was part of the 10,000 Jews removed in the second deportation in 597 BC [Eze 1:3, 2Kings 24:14-16].

While in Babylon, God called him to minister to his fellow Jews in captivity [Eze 3:4]. The message God gave Ezekiel to deliver was focused on the sins of Jerusalem and its coming judgment. He warned against false prophets who said everything was going to get better [Eze 13:16].

Once the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC, the people turned

away from the false prophets and admitted their sin. At this point, Ezekiel, became a prophet of hope [Eze 36:34-35].

Key Phrase

Notice the repeating phrase “they shall know.”

Outline

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|---------------------------|---|
| Eze 1-3 | Ezekiel’s vision and calling |
| Eze 4-24 | Ezekiel’s message before Jerusalem fell |
| Eze 25-39 | Ezekiel’s warnings to the Gentiles |
| Eze 40-48 | Ezekiel’s message of hope |

Personal Reflection and Application

Ezekiel saw a rainbow around the throne in his vision [Eze 1:28, Rev 4:3]. This pictures the Divine covenant and symbol of Divine faithfulness and Grace [Isa 54:10].

How did Ezekiel respond to the rainbow? He saw it, fell on his face, and heard the voice of God. How do you respond to God’s faithfulness and Grace? How thankful are you for the rainbow around the throne?

Small Group Conversation Guide

In today's culture, many people blame their bad behavior on others. Read [Ezekiel 18:4-5](#), [18:9](#), and [18:20](#).

Discuss how God views our accountability for our behavior.

Leadership Principles from Ezekiel

Taking a Look

God told Ezekiel to pack his belongings and symbolically act out the exile that awaited the Jews ([Eze 12:1-28](#)). Sometimes words alone are not enough to convey a message. People need to see some action and know what specific actions they can take to make the vision a reality.

What process do you use to get a vision for people? Consider the following process to get a vision and create some action steps that people can see.

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| Look within. | How is God speaking to you? |
| Look behind. | What have you learned in the past? |
| Look around. | What is happening to others? |
| Look ahead. | What is the big picture? |
| Look above. | What does God expect of you? |
| Look beside. | What resources are available to you? |

How can you make the vision real to people?

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.
Try these:

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| 01. What the whirlwind, cherubim, and throne looked like | 02. What was written on the scroll given to Ezekiel |
| 03. What Ezekiel was to do as God's "watchman" | 04. Why Ezekiel was to lay on his side for many days |
| 05. What the three piles of Ezekiel's hair represented | 06. Why God promised to preserve a remnant in captivity |
| 07. What Jerusalem's fall would help people know | 08. What four idolatrous situations were revealed |
| 09. Why some people received a mark on their foreheads | 10. How the cherubim followed the Lord without turning |
| 11. What happened to Pelatiah, the false prophet | 12. What emptying the house foretold about Jerusalem |
| 13. Where God said false prophets get their messages | 14. What happens if you pray after choosing idolatry |
| 15. What kind of wood God compared to Jerusalem | 16. Who was compared to sinful and adulterous sisters |
| 17. What the eagle who plucked off the branch pictured | 18. Why God said the sour grapes proverb was not true |
| 19. What the lioness and her lion cubs represented | 20. Why it was vital that Israel observe the Sabbath |
| 21. What the sword drawn against Israel represented | 22. Why the prophets, priests, and princes angered God |
| 23. Why the "two sisters" angered God | 24. Why God told Ezekiel not to mourn his wife's death |
| 25. What the Ammonites did to anger God | 26. What God warned He would do to the city of Tyre |
| 27. What the wealthy city of Tyre said about itself | 28. What the prince of Tyre arrogantly claimed to be |
| 29. Who Pharaoh said created and owned the Nile River | 30. What God wanted Egypt to know after their defeat |
| 31. How God compared Egypt's fall to that of a lofty tree | 32. What other kings would fear after Pharaoh fell |

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| 33. What a watchman was to do when he saw trouble | 34. What the evil, selfish shepherds did to their flocks |
| 35. What Edomites of Mount Seir did to the Israelites | 36. Why God promised to return Israel from captivity |
| 37. What God compared to Israel's coming restoration | 38. What would motivate God to invade Israel someday |
| 39. What would happen to God's weapons and armies | 40. What God desired the priestly sons of Zadok to do |
| 41. How wall carvings pictured worship and fruitfulness | 42. How priests (picturing us) were to be holy, 1Pet 2:5 |
| 43. How Israel was to respond to the vision of the temple | 44. What Ezekiel did when God's glory filled the temple |
| 45. What God wanted the princes of Israel to stop doing | 46. How the prince's gift to his son and servant differed |
| 47. How God planned to let Gentiles inherit with the Jews | 48. What God named the clean, holy, transformed city |