

**SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, PART 25**  
**June 13, 2018**  
**Ezekiel: “God’s Word to God’s People in Exile”**

**Introduction**

• **Title**

- Ezekiel means “God will \_\_\_\_\_” or “God will \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Ezekiel needed God’s strength to carry out his prophetic ministry to disobedient Israel.
  - Ezek. 3:8-9: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Our Subtitle:**

- “God’s Word to God’s People in Exile”
- Ezekiel and \_\_\_\_\_ were the only two prophets of the exile.
- Ezekiel prophesied to the Jews living in captivity in the city of Tel-Abib on the \_\_\_\_\_ River in Babylon.
  - The “Grand Canal” of Babylon that branched off the Euphrates and flowed east and south of the city.

• **Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Ezekiel was one of three prophets who were also priests.
  - Ezekiel, Jeremiah, \_\_\_\_\_
- He was taken into captivity in the \_\_\_\_\_ deportation in 596 B.C.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ of the leaders, soldiers, and talented craftsmen were exiled to Babylon along with King Jehoiachin.
  - He was \_\_\_\_\_ years old at the time.
- God called Ezekiel to his prophetic ministry at age \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1), when priests normally began to serve in the Temple.
- Evidently, Ezekiel wasn’t too \_\_\_\_\_ about the job God gave him to do.
  - Ezek. 3:14: \_\_\_\_\_

• **Other Key People:**

- Ezekiel’s wife (unnamed)—taken away by God in \_\_\_\_\_ as an object lesson
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel—hard-hearted, idolatrous, and rebellious
- Various leaders of the Jews in Jerusalem—seen by Ezekiel in his vision
- Nebuchadnezzar—instrument of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ upon the nations

• **Date: Between 593 and 571 B.C.**

- Due to the many date markers in the book, we know that Ezekiel’s prophetic ministry began in 593 (the 5<sup>th</sup> year of \_\_\_\_\_ captivity) and that his last prophetic utterance was recorded in 571 (29:17-21), 16 years after the destruction of Jerusalem.

## **Background and Setting**

- Ezekiel prophesied at the same time as Jeremiah and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He was \_\_\_\_\_ than Jeremiah and about the same age as Daniel.
- The Jews living in captivity were eager to hear news from Judah and longing to be \_\_\_\_\_ to their homeland.
- Ezekiel's message to the Jews living in captivity \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah's message to the Jews still living in Jerusalem and Judah.
  - Although false prophets were predicting a soon return to Jerusalem, God wanted his people to know that the destruction of the nation and city were \_\_\_\_\_, but that God would restore Israel in the future.

## **Structure and Style**

- A \_\_\_\_\_ arrangement
  - Precise dates for many prophecies make the chronological arrangement obvious.
  - Those prophecies with no date were probably recorded not long after the last dated prophecy.
  - A couple of prophecies concerning Egypt are grouped \_\_\_\_\_ rather than chronologically (29:1-30:19).
- A structural \_\_\_\_\_
  - The beginning section about God's \_\_\_\_\_ upon Israel and the closing section about God's \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel are balanced in the middle by a section of prophecies concerning other nations.
  - Another way to look at the book is that judgment is balanced by blessing.
    - In the first part of the book, Ezekiel sees the \_\_\_\_\_ of God leaving the Temple.
    - In the end, he sees God's glory return upon a new, better Temple.
- A great \_\_\_\_\_ of literary devices
  - God illustrated Ezekiel's messages with vivid \_\_\_\_\_ lessons, allegories, \_\_\_\_\_, proverbs, parables, and signs.
  - Some of Ezekiel's signs and symbols:
    - He was \_\_\_\_\_ from his commissioning as a prophet until tidings of Jerusalem's destruction arrived.
    - He laid on his left side for \_\_\_\_\_ days and his right side for 40 days.
    - He ate rationed water and bread baked over \_\_\_\_\_ for 390 days.
    - He shaved his head and beard and divided the hair into thirds.

- He \_\_\_\_\_ through the city wall at night.
- He could not \_\_\_\_\_ when his wife died.

**Overview (condensed from the Bible Knowledge Commentary)**

• **The Judgment on Judah (1-24)**

- Ezekiel's preparation (1-3)
  - Introduction (1:1-3)
  - The visions for the work (1:4-2:7)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ for the work (2:8-3:11)
  - The motivation for the work (3:12-27)
- Ezekiel's prophecies against Judah and Jerusalem (4-24)
  - The necessity of judgment because of disobedience (4-11)
  - The futility of false optimism (12-19)
  - The history of Judah's corruption (20-24)

• **Judgment on \_\_\_\_\_ Nations (25-32)**

- Judgment on Ammon (25:1-7)
- Judgment on Moab (25:8-11)
- Judgment on Edom (25:12-14)
- Judgment on Philistia (25:15-17)
- Judgment on Tyre (26:1-28:19)
- Judgment on Sidon (28:20-26)
- Judgment on Egypt (29-32)

• **\_\_\_\_\_ on Israel (33-48)**

- New life for Israel (33-39)
  - Watchman Ezekiel reappointed (33)
  - The present false shepherds contrasted with the future true shepherd (34)
  - The enemy (Edom) destroyed (35)
  - The people blessed (36)
  - The nation restored (37)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ by Gog repulsed (38-39)
- New order for Israel (40-48)
  - A new \_\_\_\_\_ (40-43)
  - A new service of worship (44-46)
  - A new land (47-48)

**Challenges in the Book**

- **Q: Should the description of the restored Temple and its surroundings in chapters 40-48 be interpreted literally or \_\_\_\_\_?**

- A: Literally. The whole point of these chapters was to impress upon the Jews as strongly as possible that the restoration of the Temple, Jerusalem, and their nation under the Messiah would most certainly become a \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Christ in the Book**

- He is the highest \_\_\_\_\_ of the high cedar, replanted on the mountain of Israel (17:22-23).
- He is the future \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel (21:26-27).
- He is the Good \_\_\_\_\_ of the sheep of Israel (34).
- He is the Messiah, King, Shepherd, and Son of David Who will unite Israel and Judah under his rule forever (37:22-28).
- He is Jehovah-\_\_\_\_\_ (48:35).

### **Key Themes and Doctrines**

#### **• Bibliology**

- The divine \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture:
  - “The word of the Lord came unto me” (39x)
  - “Thus saith the Lord God” (122x)
  - “Saith the Lord God” (81x)

#### **• Eschatology**

- The regathering and \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel in the land
- The battle of Gog and Magog
- A description of the Millennial Temple and worship.

#### **• Angelology**

- The appearance and service of the \_\_\_\_\_ (chs. 1, 10).
- The function of angels to carry out the commands of God (ch. 9).

#### **• Satanology**

- The creation, original state, \_\_\_\_\_, and judgment of Satan (ch. 28).

#### **• Theology**

- The “\_\_\_\_\_” of God’s glory vs. the “\_\_\_\_\_” of idols.
- The holiness of God vs. the sinfulness of Judah and other nations.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God to deal with sin.
  - Ezek. 7:9: \_\_\_\_\_
- The faithfulness of God to honor His Word.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God to restore Israel in the future.

### **Application**

- **Are you focusing your life by \_\_\_\_\_ on the weight of God’s glory, or \_\_\_\_\_ your life on the worthlessness of idols?**