

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Ezekiel"
Book-26

Key Passage – Ezekiel 6:7

Ezekiel – Ministered to the exiles in Babylon, while Jeremiah ministered to the people in Judah.

Ezekiel – The name means *"God strengthens" or "Strengthened by God."*

In the first half of the book - The theme of Ezekiel's messages is seen in his review of the moral and religious history of Israel;

In the second half - The theme of hope is expressed in visions of Israel's restoration and future worship.

The Author – is Ezekiel, as stated in **Ezekiel 1:1-3; Ezekiel 24:24**

Ezekiel was a priest taken to Babylon in the second deportation. He was there for five years before he received his call to the ministry.

When Written – The Prophet Ezekiel first ministered as a Priest in Jerusalem and then to the exiles in Babylon. His carefully dated prophecies fall between 592 B.C. and 570 B.C. He ministered for 22 years. He overlapped the end of Jeremiah's ministry and the beginning of Daniel's ministry.

Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in three stages:

1. Stage – #1 In 605 B.C., he overcame Jehoiakim and carried off key hostages, including Daniel and his friends.
2. Stage – #2 In 597 B.C., the rebellion of Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin brought further punishment. Nebuchadnezzar made Jerusalem submit a second time. He carried off 10,000 hostages, including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel.
3. Stage – #3 In 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city after a long siege.

Where it was Written – Babylon. Ezekiel was 25 years old when he was taken to Babylon. He was 30 years old when he received his call.

Purpose – Serving as a watchman and calling to give warning of impending danger, the prophet uttered a series of dark predictions concerning Jerusalem's sin and fall. These ceased when that city fell in 586 B.C. and were replaced by promises of hope for the future.

Theme – *"The Glory Of God"*

Three additional themes with particular relevance to today are also woven throughout Ezekiel.

1. The Nature of God.
2. The Purpose of Divine Judgment.
3. Each Individual's Personal Responsibility For His or Her Own Actions. (WOW!)

Key Words – "son of man" over 90 times. Ezekiel is never called "the son of man"; he is always just a "son of man," as in one among many. **"I am the Lord" 70 times** Ezekiel's messages speak of the glory of God and honoring His name. **"The Word of the Lord came"** is used nearly **50 times** in this book.

Key Chapter – Ezekiel 37 The restoration of Israel.

Key Passage – Ezekiel 6:7

Outline –

- 1. Ezekiel 1-3 The Prophet's Call:**
- 2. Ezekiel 4-24 The Fall of Jerusalem:**
- 3. Ezekiel 25-32 The Nations Judged:**
- 4. Ezekiel 33-48 The Glorious Future of Israel:**

1. Ezekiel 1-3 The Prophet's Call:

Ezekiel 1 Seeing God's Glory: Ezekiel was a priest in captivity (1:1). He was not able to exercise his ministry since he was away from the temple and the sacred altar. Still, God opened the heavens to him and called him to be a prophet.

Ezekiel 1:4 A Fiery Whirlwind: Ezekiel 1:4 Babylon coming out of the north symbolized God's judgment on Jerusalem. The storm cloud, with its fiery lightning, meant destruction for Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 1:5-14 The Cherubim: (Revelation 4:6-9)

Four living creatures - symbolizing God's Creation - Cherubim -

Ezekiel 1:4-28 wheels - movement

Ezekiel 10:1-22 going here and there.

These creatures symbolize the glory and power of God. They could see in all directions and move in all directions without turning. The four faces speak of their characteristics. Some see in these faces the four Gospels.

Lion - Jews – (Matthew's Gospel) – Majesty - Authority – King
The strength and boldness of the lion.

Ox - Romans – (Mark's Gospel) - Strength & Service – Servant
The faithfulness and service of the ox.

Man's Face - Gentiles – (Luke's Gospel) - Son of Man - Perfect man,
The intelligence of man.

Eagle - might be saved – (John's Gospel) - The creature could move quickly to accomplish the will of God. We see the heavenliness of the eagle.
Revelation 4:6-9

Ezekiel 1:28 A Rainbow In The Storm:
Ezekiel 1:28; Genesis 9:11-17,
The rainbow was appointed as a sign of mercy and also
Revelation 4:3; 10:1

Noah saw the rainbow after the storm: **Genesis 9:13-16**

The Apostle John saw it before the storm: **Revelation 4:3; 10:1**

Ezekiel saw it within the storm: **Ezekiel 1:28**

Ezekiel not only proclaimed God's message to the people, but he had to live the message before them.

Ezekiel 2 Hearing God's Word: Ezekiel 2:7-8

Ezekiel 3 Becoming God's Watchman: Ezekiel 3:1-4

We are not people of permanence until we have personally eaten the Word and the Word has become part of us.

Ezekiel 3:18 All Are Called To Be Watchmen On The Wall:
Ezekiel 3:18 All that's called for is the awareness that friends without Christ are in terrible peril—and a voice to lift to give them a warning.

Personal Application: A word of warning to another clears us of guilt and may lead him or her to eternal life.

2. Ezekiel 4-24 The Fall of Jerusalem:

Ezekiel 4:1-17 Play At War: Ezekiel 4:1-3

For some 400 days, Ezekiel lay bound. First, on one side and then the other before a model of Jerusalem under siege. Each of the 400 days represented a year during which Israel and Judah were to "bear their sin."

Ezekiel 5:1-17 Shave His Hair and Beard: He shaved his head and beard to symbolize the city's fate (5:1–17). Humiliation, and mourning.
Ezekiel 5:9

Ezekiel 6:1-14 Ezekiel Prophesied Against The Mountains of Israel:
The mountains were used for pagan worship services.

Ezekiel 7:1-27 Announced Plainly That Judgment Day Was Here:
Doom had burst forth. **Ezekiel 7:1-4**

Ezekiel 8-11 God's Glory Departs: Ezekiel 10:18 The glory –
The Hebrew word translated "**glory**" means "*heavy*" or "*weighty*."
Figuratively it suggests *impressiveness: the social weight of a rich man, or the symbols of a ruler's majesty, are both identified as "glory."*

**Ezekiel 11:22-23 The Glory Moved Out of The Temple To The Top of The Mount of Olives: "Ichabod—the glory has departed."
(1 Samuel 4:21)**

Why was the glory removed? Because God cannot share His glory with another. The idols and the sins of the people had driven Him away.

Ezekiel 12-17 Godless Leaders Exposed:

Ezekiel 12:1-16 Act Like Someone Fleeing From War:

Sit and sigh. Ezekiel's actions had a more direct reference to the "prince among them." This is **Zedekiah**. He was called a prince because Judah's rightful king, **Jehoiachin**, was alive in Babylon. **Zedekiah** was to leave through a hole in the wall

Ezekiel 13 False Prophets Condemned:

Ezekiel 13:6 yet, they hope for the fulfillment of their word.

Sincerity without truth is as useless

Ezekiel 15:1-7 Judah Like a Useless Vine: Ezekiel 15:1-3

But the vine was prized only for its fruit. The wood is stringy and twisted and has no use in construction or value for fashioning furnishings.

Ezekiel 18-21 God's Justice Defended:

Ezekiel 18:1–32 "The Soul Who Sins... Will Die"

"**soul**" is used in the common Hebrew sense of "person" or "individual."
Also, death in this chapter is physical rather than spiritual.

Ezekiel 18:1-3 The argument that society is at fault when a person acts criminally isn't new.

The freedom to choose is one of the many gifts that God has given to you and me.

Ezekiel 22-24 The End of The City:

Ezekiel 23:1–49 "You Will Drink Your Sister's Cup"

In an extended allegory, Israel and Judah were likened to two adulterous sisters. Judah had not learned from the punishment of Israel and would suffer the same terrible fate. **Ezekiel 23:35**

Ezekiel 24:15-27 Ezekiel's Wife Dies: Ezekiel 24:15-18

Why should Ezekiel have to suffer the death of his wife?

The best answer probably is, "Why not?"

In our trials, we, like Ezekiel, are often God's sign to others, pointing the way to comfort and to Him.

3. Ezekiel 25-32 The Nations Judged:

Ezekiel 25:1-7 Ammon:

Ezekiel 25:8-11 Moab:

Ezekiel 25:12-14 Edom:

Ezekiel 25:15-17 Philistia:

Ezekiel 26:1–28:19 Tyre:

Ezekiel 28:20-24 Sidon:

Ezekiel 29-32 Egypt:

The implication for the Jewish captives was twofold.

1. The God of Israel Is The God of The Whole Earth.

2. God Is The Judge of The Whole Earth.

Nations that support terrorism, break treaty commitments, adopt policies of repression, and rely on force to coerce neighbors bring themselves unavoidably under the judgment of a God.

4. Ezekiel 33-48 The Glorious Future of Israel:

Ezekiel 33–34 The City of Jerusalem Restored —

Ezekiel 33:1–11 "I Have Made You A Watchman" Ezekiel 33:7-8

Ezekiel was a watchman for Israel. This was established in **Ezekiel 3**, and the charge is repeated here. Ezekiel was faithful in warning the people of Judah before the city fell. He must continue to warn.

Ezekiel 34:11–23 "I Myself Will Tend My Sheep And Have Them Lie

Down" When the promised Descendant of David appeared, God's flock would, at last, have a Leader whose sole concern was their well-being.

Jesus, who identified Himself as the **Good Shepherd** in **John 10**.

Ezekiel 35-36 The Land of Israel Renewed:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 God's Holy Name: Ezekiel 36:26-27

And the glory of God's holiness was revealed in their transformation.

Ezekiel 37-39 The Nation of Israel Resurrected and Reunited:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Vision Of A Valley Of Dry Bones:

Emphasized God's power to revitalize and restore Israel and Judah.

Ezekiel 38:1-17 "Set Your Face Against Gog, Of The Land Of Magog" Now, Ezekiel described an invasion force assembled from many nations about to strike a peaceful and unsuspecting Israel.

The battle in Ezekiel 38-39 is used by God to bring Israel back to Him (Ezekiel 39:21-29)

Several Hebrew phrases woven into the message fix the time. What Ezekiel foresaw would happen **"after many days" (v. 8)**, **"in future years" (v. 8)**. Another phrase translated **"in days to come" (v. 16)** helps locate the prophecy in the end times, near history's end.

"Gog" and "Magog" represent Russia. Of more significance is that the enemy forces are drawn from nations at every point of the compass: the east (Persia), the southwest (Cush: Ethiopia), the west (Put: Libya, and the "islands of the sea"), the north (Gomer: Cimmerians?).

- **Before the tribulation begins.** This view points to after the battle when the people of Israel will burn the enemy's weapons for seven years and spend over seven months burying the dead (Ezekiel 39:9-10, 12-16). That length of time most likely requires the battle to be fought before the tribulation and possibly even before the rapture of the church.

- **During the first part of the seven-year tribulation.**

This view hinges on the fact that Israel is at peace when the attack begins (Ezekiel 38:8, 11). The security Israel enjoys is assumed to be the result of Israel's covenant with the Antichrist at the beginning of the tribulation, Daniel's 70th Week (Daniel 9:27).

Ezekiel 38:17-39:24 "In My Zeal and Fiery Wrath"

In a series of announcements (38:17-23; 39:1-16, 17-24,) God told what He would do to the invading forces. He Himself would intervene.

Ezekiel 40-48 The Temple and the Priesthood Reestablished: The last chapters of Ezekiel describe the worship of a restored Israel and a return of the glory of God. Here, Ezekiel looked ahead and assured the exiles God's glory would return.

Puzzling Prophecy. The construction of the new temple.

Ezekiel 40:1–42:20 Ezekiel's Details of A New Temple To Be Constructed In Jerusalem:

Ezekiel 43:1–12 God's Glory Will Fill That Structure: Ezekiel 8–11

We have a report of Ezekiel's vision of the departure of God's glory. Now the prophet described a return.

Ezekiel 43:13-27 Commemorative Sacrifices Will be Offered On Its Altar: He describes a whole new system of worship to be conducted in the very presence of the Messiah.

**Ezekiel 44:1-31 Priests And Levites Will Again Serve God:
Ezekiel 44:4**

Ezekiel 45:1–12 Sacred Precincts:

Ezekiel 46:1–24 Israel Will Celebrate God's Festivals:

Ezekiel 47:1–12 A River Flowing From The Sanctuary Waters The Land:

Ezekiel 47:13–48:35 Boundaries and Division Of The Land:

Once again has been allotted to Israel's tribes.

Ezekiel 47:14 The prophecy of Ezekiel ends with God's people back in their land.

Application:

- 1.** The God Of Israel Is The God Of The Whole Earth.
- 2.** God Is The Judge Of The Whole Earth.
- 3.** We Need To Be Watchmen That Warn The World Of The Coming Judgment.