

# Ezekiel

**Purpose:** Yahweh's judgment prophecies concerning Judah and the nations have taken place; therefore, Judah should maintain hope in restoration prophecies and priestly reconstruction program.

**Outline:** 1:1-24:27 – Judgment against Judah

25:1-32:32 – Judgment against the Nations

33:1-48:35 – Restoration and Reconstruction for Judah

**Author:** Ezekiel

**Date:** Ezekiel ministered from 593-571 B.C. (called when he was 30 years old, died at 75 [548 B.C.]

## Highlights:

The readers of Ezekiel's prophecy helped the early exiles understand the past; and helped the spared remnant know how to look at the future.

FALL OF JERUSALEM – *Original Meaning:* Jerusalem fell as Ezekiel predicted. *NT Elaboration:* God will judge covenant breakers in Christ. *Contemporary Application:* We must take warning from Jerusalem's fall.

UPHEAVAL OF NATIONS – *Original Meaning:* Nations fell as Ezekiel predicted. *NT Elaboration:* God will judge nations of earth in Christ. *Contemporary Application:* We must take heart and warn the nations of upcoming judgment.

RESTORATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF JUDAH – *Original Meaning:* Judah will be restored as Ezekiel predicted. *NT Elaboration:* Kingdom has and will be gloriously restored in Christ. *Contemporary Application:* We must continue to look for the restoration of the Kingdom.

## Judgment against Judah (1:1-24:27)

First set of Visions, Commission, Acts, and Speeches (1:1-7:27)

Visions and Commission (1:1-3:37) – unable to speak apart from God (3:26-27)

*Threat of Judgment* – *Description of God's glorious chariot-throne of war*

Symbolic Acts (4:1-5:17)

*Various aspects of siege in 587/6 BC*

Clay Tablet = Siege (4:1-3)

Lying on Side = Punishment (4:4-8)

Rationed Food Cooked w/excrement = Famine & Defiled food (4:9-17)

Burning Hair = Death (5:1-4)

Explanatory Oracles of Judgment = "This is Jerusalem" (5:5-17 esp. v.5)

Speeches (6:1-7:27)

***Judah will know God's judgment***

Judgment Oracle against Idolatry in Mountains (6:1-14)

Judgment Oracle against Whole Land of Judah (7:1-27)

Second set of Visions, Commission, Acts, and Speeches (8:1-24:27)

Visions and Commission (8:1-11:25)

*Reasons for Threat* – *Reappearance of chariot-throne & visionary transport to Temple*

Transport to Jerusalem (8:1-4)

Idolatry in the Temple (8:5-18)

Idol of Jealousy (8:5-6)

Secret Chamber (8:7-13)

Worship of Tammuz – Sumerian god (8:14-15)

Sun worship (8:16-18)

Conclusion of judgment – "I will not look on them with pity" (8:17-18)

Executioners for unrepentant in Jerusalem (9:1-11)

Chariot of Glory departs from Temple (10:1-22)

Jerusalem's evil leaders executed (11:1-21)

Transport to Babylon (11:22-25)

Symbolic Acts (12:1-20)

*Warning of exile and fear*

Packed Belongings = Exile (12:1-16)

Eating and Drinking = Anticipatory fear (12:17-20)

Explanatory Disputation = “None... will be delayed” (12:21-28 esp. v. 28)

Speeches (13:1-24:27) – able to speak freely (24:27)

***The siege on Jerusalem is justified and occurring now***

Woe to false prophets and prophetesses in Judah (13:1-23)

Judgment Oracle against Idolatry (14:1-23)

Parable of Useless Vine (15:1-8)

Allegory of Jerusalem as Unfaithful Woman (16:1-63)

Allegory of Two Eagles (17:1-24)

Disputation over a Proverb (18:1-32)

Lament for Jerusalem’s Nobility (19:1-14)

Judgment and Purification (20:1-44)

Judgment Oracle in Parable (20:45-21:32)

Oracle of Judgment against Jerusalem (22:1-31)

Allegory of the Two Sisters (23:1-49)

Parable for the Day of Siege (24:1-14)

Ezekiel’s Wife Dies on the Day of Siege (24:15-27)

CHARIOT-THRONE – Faces of mighty winged creature [human, lion (wild), ox (domesticated), eagle (flying)]. Chariot with complete mobility [Four faces (1:12), Intersecting wheels (1:16-17)].

EZEKIEL’S AUTHORITY – Original Meaning: Ezekiel’s exilic readers should see the confirmation of Ezekiel’s authority. NT Elaboration: Ezekiel’s prophecies are authoritative for the church. Contemporary Application: We should marvel at Ezekiel’s predictions and receive his words as God’s words.

JUDGMENT ON JERUSALEM AND REMNANT IN EXILE – Original Meaning: Ezekiel’s exilic readers should learn their own responsibilities and privileges as the remnant. NT Elaboration: The Church is God’s remnant people. Contemporary Application: We have the privileges and responsibilities of the remnant.

### **Judgment against the Nations (25:1-32:32)**

Judgment Oracle against Ammon (25:1-7)

Judgment Oracle against Moab and Seir (25:8-11)

Judgment Oracle against Edom (25:12-14)

Judgment Oracle against Philistia (25:15-17)

Tyre (26:1-28:19)

Judgment Oracle against Tyre (26:1-21)

Lament for Tyre (27:1-36)

Judgment Oracle against Tyre’s King (28:1-10)

Lament for Tyre’s King (28:11-19)

Judgment Oracle against Sidon (28:20-26)

Egypt (29:1-32:32)

Judgment Oracles against Egypt and Pharaoh (29:1-31:18)

Lament for Pharaoh (32:1-32)

COMPARE: Amos 1:1-25 (Assyrian and Babylonian Invasions)

Isaiah 13:1-23:18 (Assyrian and Babylonian Invasions)

Zephaniah 2:1-15 (Babylonian Invasion)

Obadiah (Israelite Restoration)

## **Restoration and Reconstruction for Judah (33:1-48:35)**

Judah's Fall and Restoration (33:1-39:29)

Ezekiel's Recommissioning as a Watchmen (33:1-20)

Jerusalem's Fall and the Two groups of Israelites (33:21-33)

Shepherds of the past and future (34:1-31)

Edom's Condemnation (35:1-15)

Foreign Judgment and Israel's Restoration (36:1-38)

Resurrection of Dry Bones (37:1-14)

Joining of Two Sticks (37:15-28)

Victory in the Future Battle (38:1-39:29)

Visionary Transport to Jerusalem (40:1-4)

The Temple Structure (40:5-42:20)

The Return of God's Presence (43:1-27)

The Sacred Personnel (44:1-46:27)

The Restoration of the Land (47:1-48:35)

TEMPLE RECONSTRUCTION – *Original Meaning*: The returnees must center their hope on rebuilding the temple with proper personnel. *NT Elaboration*: The church centers hopes on Christ, the Temple, and Priest. *Contemporary Application*: Our daily and eschatological hope is in no one but Christ.

BATTLE AGAINST NATIONS – *Original Meaning*: The returnees will face resistance from the nations. *NT Elaboration*: The church will face resistance from the world. *Contemporary Application*: We should expect great resistance from the world.

VICTORY AND GLORY – *Original Meaning*: Israel will receive victory over enemies and glory of full restoration. *NT Elaboration*: The church will receive victory now and at Christ's return. *Contemporary Application*: We must look for the victory of Christ over His enemies now and in future.