

... then they shall
know that I am the
LORD

Studies in the Book of Ezekiel

Name: _____

“... then they shall know that I am the LORD.”

This phrase (or one that is similar) occurs about **seventy** times in the Book of Ezekiel. The many things God commanded the priest and prophet Ezekiel to record in this book were designed to show people who He is. You can learn about who God is by studying this book and then shape your life to reflect the glory of the Lord in a world that does not know who He really is.

Notes About These Lessons:

You will find a number of features in each lesson in this book:

- A brief summary of the chapters in the lesson in the margin of the first page
- A box with the approximate date of the prophecy
- A short discussion of the lesson text
- A brief statement of how the text shows how the audience would know that God is the LORD
- Several questions from the text; most of these will help you see how Ezekiel is connected to the rest of the Bible

Here is how you can make the class better:

- Read the text ahead of time
- Answer the questions as best you can
- Note any questions you have as you read the text and bring them to class
- Above all, pray for the class to work together to learn God's word and to be better able to share it with others

Trevor A. Brailey
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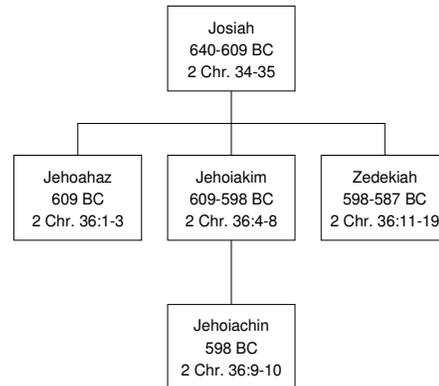
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Ezekiel's Vision

"... the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God." -- 1:1

Lesson 1

The Fall of Judah - By the time Ezekiel was written, the United Kingdom of David and Solomon had been gone for over 300 years (2 Chronicles 10). The Northern Kingdom of Israel had been captured and its people scattered 130 years before (2 Kings 17). The Southern Kingdom of Judah was about to be completely conquered by the Babylonians. The Babylonians had already invaded and carried off exiles twice (2 Kings 24-25) and would soon attack a third time, completely destroying Jerusalem and its temple. Ezekiel the priest (Ezekiel 1:3) had been taken captive, probably with the second group. God instructed him to begin prophesying in exile.



The Glory of God - Ezekiel's book begins with a glorious picture of the LORD (Most translations use LORD in the Old Testament for the name of God, Jehovah or Yahweh). Four living beings attended the throne of God (1:5-14; the creatures are called cherubim in 10:15), with strange wheels within wheels (1:15-21) accompanying them. The "appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD" (1:28) is presented in fantastic language that should impress upon us how staggering this was to Ezekiel.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:
they understood the glory of the LORD.

Questions

1. What details in Isaiah 6:1-4 are like what is said about the glory of God in Ezekiel 1? How were the messages that Isaiah and Ezekiel were given similar?
2. What did Ezekiel do when he was confronted with the glory of the LORD in 1:28? How did he get back up (2:2)?

Summary of Chapter 1:

Ezekiel sees a dazzling vision of God's throne

Ezekiel sees a vision of God's glory on His throne

Ezekiel's Mission

"... they will know that a prophet has been among them." -- 2:5

Lesson 2

Ezekiel's Mission - After the fantastic picture of the glory of the LORD in Chapter 1, God told Ezekiel that he was being called to prophesy to Israel. At least seven times in Chapters 2 and 3 God called Israel a rebellious house (for example, 2:3,5,6,8). Ezekiel's job would be difficult, because Israel should have been willing to listen to a true prophet, but they were not (3:6-7). He was to speak the message whether the people would listen or not (2:5,7; 3:11,27). God would strengthen Ezekiel so that he would be harder than a rock (3:8-9). He could speak with confidence because he knew "Thus says the Lord God" (2:4; 3:10,27).

Ezekiel's Duty - Ezekiel was to serve as a watchman (3:17). He would be judged not by his audience's response to God's message, but by whether he spoke the message faithfully (3:18-21). This message would be repeated in 33:1-9. If Ezekiel were judged on how many people followed his teaching, he might not be highly rated; instead, he was a great prophet because he spoke God's word in truth.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:

they saw Ezekiel's signs confirmed and his prophecies fulfilled.

Questions

1. How did God address Ezekiel in 2:1 and 3:1 (and at least six other times in these chapters)? Who else used this title in the Bible (for example, Luke 5:24 or John 12:23)? How was that different than in Ezekiel?

Summary of**Chapters 2-3:**

2: God sends Ezekiel to the rebellious sons of Israel

2. In 2:9-10 God shows Ezekiel a scroll with "lamentations, mourning, and woe" written on it. What was he told to do with the scroll in the following verses? How is this like what happened to John in Revelation 10?

Ezekiel is given a scroll full of woe

(3:)

3: Ezekiel is fed the scroll that he is to preach

3. What did Ezekiel do when he was confronted with the glory of the LORD in 3:23? How did he get back up (3:24)?

Ezekiel's life depends on his warning the people

4. In 3:27 God tells Ezekiel, "He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse." What did Jesus Christ say that was like this after telling the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8)?

Strange Signs

“... This is a sign to the house of Israel.” - 4:3

Lesson 3

The Besieged Brick - Ezekiel was given three signs to perform for the Jewish exiles in these two chapters. In the first, he was supposed to represent Jerusalem on a brick and pretend to be an army laying siege to the brick (4:1-8). By this the exiles could know that Jerusalem would be attacked again. He would also lie on his side for over a year, symbolizing the burden of Israel and Judah's sin.

The Bad Bread - While Ezekiel was lying on his side and laying siege to the brick, he was given only a little food to eat and water to drink (4:9-17). He probably had less than a quart of water and about half of a pound of bread each day. The bread was of poor quality and cooked over a fire of dung, symbolizing uncleanness. Ezekiel's meal reflected the poverty and fear that Israel would have as the attack approached.

A Haircut with a Sword - Ezekiel's third sign was perhaps the most strange (5:1-17). Ezekiel shaved his head with a sword. He took the hair and destroyed it in various ways. He kept a few hairs to show that a few of the people would be protected by God. Obviously a man who was attacking hair with a sword would have been noticed; this was what God needed to do to get the attention of a rebellious and callous people (2:3-6).

The Message - In the signs was the message that Jerusalem would be destroyed (5:5-8), which some were trying to deny (13:10). It would have been easy for a false prophet to preach a beautiful sermon with plenty of Scripture calling upon the memory of Abraham, Moses, and Hezekiah to assure the exiles that Jerusalem would not be destroyed. It would have been easy to denounce Ezekiel as faithless and negative, but God showed who spoke the truth. He fulfilled Ezekiel's prophecies.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:

He had punished them for their sins (5:13). God's justice demanded severe punishment when Israel had defiled the temple and worshipped idols.

Questions

1. Ezekiel described how Jerusalem would be captured in 4:1-2. What details from these verses are found in the account of the capture of Jerusalem in 2 Kings 25:1?

2. What did the number of days that God told Ezekiel to lie on his left and right sides represent?

(4:)

Summary of Chapters 4-5:

4: Ezekiel lies down and lays siege to Jerusalem

The LORD tells Ezekiel to eat defiled bread

5: Ezekiel shaves his hair and performs signs with it

Jerusalem will be horribly punished for idolatry

3. How did God originally instruct Ezekiel to bake the bread he was to eat while lying on his side? What was God showing the people by having Ezekiel do this?

(4:)

4. Why was Ezekiel troubled by how God told him how to bake his bread? What did God allow him to do instead?

(4:)

5. What were the three ways Ezekiel was to destroy his hair? What did these three actions represent (compare 5:2 with 5:12)?

6. In 5:14-15 God says that the destruction would not be a lesson only to the children of Israel. Who else would learn from it and what were they to learn?

7. In 5:17 God promised that certain things would happen to the people in their punishment. What were those things? How is this verse similar to 14:21?

Will we take an unpopular stand if it is what God says to do?

Will we learn the LORD's way before judgment?

Judging Israel

“The time has come, the day has arrived...” - 7:12

Lesson 4

The Truth Hurts - In Chapter 6, Ezekiel denounced idolatry and said that when the idol worshippers were killed, Israel would know that God’s promise was real. There would be a remnant that would repent (10), and they would learn from the judgment. Negative news is often poorly received, but sometimes giving it is a preacher’s job (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Material Things - In Chapter 7, judgment was close at hand. Israel’s sin had borne its fruit. God would not have mercy on a rebellious people (4,9). The people’s beloved money would do nothing for them now (12-13,19). Also, the temple would be destroyed (20-22). Both common man and ruler would suffer (27).

They would know God is the LORD when:

those who worshipped idols had been killed (6:7,13,14). Some of the exiles would see the destruction and repent when they came to know God and realize how they had hurt Him (6:10). Some of the Israelites would know God is the LORD when His eye had no pity on them and He punished them for their abominations (7:4,9). When the final judgment upon Jerusalem and the temple came, all of the people would understand that God is the LORD (7:27).

Questions

1. Ezekiel preached against the high places in 6:3. What had Israel been told to do to these high places 800 years earlier, before they had entered the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 12:2-3)?

2. God told Ezekiel in 6:8 that a remnant of the people would survive the punishment to come. What does this verse have to do with 5:3?

3. According to 7:24, what would the people who conquered Jerusalem be like? How does the prophecy in Habakkuk 1:5-7 describe the conquerors?

Summary of Chapters 6-7:

6: Ezekiel preaches to the mountains of Israel

The people will be killed or taken because of idols

7: Disaster will come upon the land because of sin

God will allow the temple to be profaned

Coming in Judgment

“... yet you will see still greater abominations ...” - several times

Lesson 5

Sins in the Temple - In Chapter 8, Ezekiel had a vision of what was happening in Jerusalem. It seems that each thing he saw was worse than the one before. First, he saw an idol in the temple courts (3-6). He then saw seventy elders burning incense to idols (7-13). After that he saw women engaged in one of the rituals of idol worship, weeping for Tammuz (14-15). Finally, he saw men bowing to the sun with their backs to the temple (16). This showed Ezekiel why God needed to punish the people.

Against Apathy - In Chapter 9, Ezekiel saw six men with deadly weapons who were ready to punish the people for their sin (1-2). The only ones who would be spared were those who sighed and groaned over the sin (4-6). Not participating in the sin was not enough; only those who had sorrow over the sin would be saved.

They would know God is the LORD when:

He had executed His judgment upon them for their sin and apathy.

Questions

1. How does the description of the appearance of the LORD in 8:2 resemble what Ezekiel wrote at the beginning of the book?

(1:)

2. In 8:6, where does God say that Israel’s sins are making Him go (it involves the temple)?

Summary of Chapters 8-9:

8: God takes Ezekiel to Jerusalem in a vision

Ezekiel sees Israel committing idolatry in the temple

9: Ezekiel sees a man in linen marking the righteous

Six armed men kill those who are not marked

3. In 8:12 and 9:9, what did the people say about their sins?

4. The same phrase is used in 7:4,9; 8:18; and 9:5,10. What does it tell us about God’s attitude toward those who continually sin?

5. In Chapter 9, what characteristic distinguished those who would be marked and saved from those who would be destroyed?

(9:)

Will you have sorrow when you see sin against the LORD?

The LORD Leaves

“And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city...” - 11:23

Lesson 6

God Prepares to Leave - Chapter 10 contains a frightening message: when God’s people persist in sin, God can leave. After Ezekiel had seen the gross sins of the people in Chapter 8 and the slaughter that started at the temple in 9:6, he began to see God depart. God’s departure will be further described in 11:22-23. God departed from Israel after a period of rebellion; He can depart from men and congregations that forsake Him today (Revelation 2:5).

The Misleaders - In Chapter 11, Ezekiel prophesied against the leaders of the land. Judgment would come despite their confident assurances that peace was near. As Ezekiel prophesied against the leaders in his vision, one of them died (1,13). After destruction was prophesied, there was a promise that Jerusalem would be rebuilt later (17).

They would know God is the LORD when:

God punished the leaders of the land who had said what was false (11:10) and had caused Israel to act like other nations (11:12).

Questions

1. How does the description of the glory of the LORD’s throne in 10:1 resemble the account in Chapter 1?

(1:)

2. The brightness of the glory of the LORD filled the temple in 10:4 as it did in 2 Chronicles 5. What was happening in that chapter? How did it differ from Ezekiel’s situation?

3. Where did the glory of the LORD move in 10:18-19? Where did it go in 11:22-23? What happens to it in 43:1-4?

(10:)

4. How did Ezekiel react when one of the leaders died? How does the rest of the chapter answer the question Ezekiel asked?

(11:)

5. What kind of heart did God promise to give His people in 11:19? How is this like what is said about the heart in Jeremiah 31:33?

Summary of Chapters 10-11:

10: Ezekiel sees coals that will be spread in the city

The glory of the LORD leaves the temple

11: Ezekiel says that God will judge the rulers

God will bring back Israel after scattering them

Going Into Exile

“... Prepare for yourself baggage for exile and go into exile...” - 12:3

Lesson 7

God’s Judgment, God’s Glory - In Chapter 12, Ezekiel acted as an exile to show the other exiles that Jerusalem would be destroyed completely. Ezekiel’s sign about Zedekiah’s capture and blindness (12-13) was fulfilled in stunning detail. In this chapter we also see how the scattered Israelites were to serve as an example to the other nations during their exile. The Gentiles could then know that Israel’s God was the LORD (Jeremiah 22:8-9).

They would know God is the LORD when:

the king and his men had gone into exile (15) and the cities had been destroyed (20). Some would escape death and serve as messengers to the Gentiles (16).

Questions

1. How is the description of Israel in 12:2 similar to Isaiah 6:9-10 (which is quoted many times in the New Testament)?

2. Ezekiel was already in exile when he was pretending to go into exile in 12:3-7. Who was he prophesying would go into exile?

(12:)

3. Ezekiel 12:13 says that the prince would die in the land of the Chaldeans, but he would not see the land. How does 2 Kings 25:7 explain this statement?

(v.)

**Summary of
Chapter 12:**

Ezekiel pretends to go into exile daily for a sign

The LORD says that judgment is close at hand

4. In 12:22 we read about people who doubted the prophets because their prophecies had not been fulfilled yet. How is 2 Peter 3:3-4 like what these people were saying in Ezekiel’s day?

False Prophets

“... your prophets have been like foxes among the ruins.” - 13:4

Lesson 8

Righting the Wrongs - In Chapter 13 Ezekiel spoke against the false prophets. False teachers would have found a ready audience, as in Chapter 5. Both the false prophets (9) who whitewashed the situation (14) and the practitioners of the occult (21,23) would be subject to God’s judgment. The prophets would not stand up for what was right (5; see 22:30), and what they did was like building a wall without anything to hold it together (10-16). Their words and work would fail when tested.

They would know God is the LORD when:

He had destroyed the influence of the false prophets (9) and those who pretended to do magic (21). Their work would be exposed (14) and they would not tell their lies anymore (23).

Questions

1. Much of Chapter 13 is about false prophets. In Jeremiah 28 we read of such a man living at about the same time as this chapter takes place. What false prophecy was he giving?

(Jeremiah 28:)

2. Ezekiel 13:5 speaks against those who would not stand firm. Psalm 106:23-30 names two men who did “stand in the gap” when the people had been sinning. Who were they?

(Psalm 106:)

3. How is 13:10 like Jeremiah 6:14? What does Jeremiah 28:8-9 say about prophets who prophesy these messages?

4. In 13:18-21 Ezekiel describes how Israel was involved in magic and superstition. What does Deuteronomy 18:9-13 say had happened in the land before because of these things?

Summary of Chapter 13:

The LORD condemns false prophets

Ezekiel preaches against those who practice sorcery

The Hypocrites

“... these men have set up their idols in their hearts...” - 14:3

Lesson 9

The Hypocrites - In Chapter 14 Ezekiel spoke against those who pretended to seek God while being attached to idols. The people would know He was the LORD when God punished them and removed them from Israel. The second half of the chapter contains the names of Noah, Daniel, and Job (this was not the only time God named men in situations like this; see Jeremiah 15:1) and tells of the judgment to come. The exiles could understand the justification for the destruction of Jerusalem by observing the behavior of the survivors who came to Babylon (23).

Uselessness - In Chapter 15 Ezekiel said the people of Jerusalem were useless for good works. Ezekiel's point is like the ones Jesus made in Luke 13:6-9, The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, and John 15:1-6. To fail to be useful in God's service is to invite judgment.

They would know God is the LORD when:

those who had idols in their hearts (14:8) and those whose lack of faith made them useless (15:7) would be cut off.

Questions

1. Who came to listen to Ezekiel in 14:1? What was wrong with the listeners?

(14:)

2. In 14:9 God speaks of deceiving prophets. Is He speaking of all prophets? How does 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 explain what God means?

Summary of Chapters 14-15:

14: Ezekiel learns that the elders practice idolatry

Noah, Daniel, and Job could not save Jerusalem

15: God says that wood from a vine is nearly useless

God says that Jerusalem will be consumed by fire

3. Noah, Daniel, and Job are mentioned as examples of righteousness in 14:14,20. How were these three men alike? Did any of them spend their whole lives in Israel?

(v.)

4. In 14:22 God speaks of leaving a remnant of the Jews after the destruction, but it was not necessarily a good remnant. Why does 12:16 say God spared a few from destruction?

(v.)

5. Chapter 15 compares Israel to the wood of a vine. What does John 15:1-6 say about those who do not abide in Jesus?

(v.)

A Wandering Spouse

“But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot...” - 16:15

Lesson 10

An Unfaithful Wife - In Chapter 16 Ezekiel painted a portrait of the people of Jerusalem; he used the picture of a woman in different parts of her life. She started out as an abandoned baby (3-5). God saw her and allowed her to live (6-7). God made a covenant with her and she grew to be beautiful (8-14). She spurned God and became a prostitute (15-24), turning to her pagan neighbors (25-29). God would use her neighbors to judge her (35-43). Eventually God would take her back and make an everlasting covenant with her and she would learn how wrong she had been (60-63). Ezekiel was prophesying about the New Testament. This chapter has graphic and disturbing pictures of Judah’s spiritual adultery; that should teach us how seriously God takes sin.

Judah would know God is the LORD when:

He had made a new covenant with them (60) and brought them into a closer relationship with Him.

Questions

1. What did Moses and the Israelites do in Exodus 24:6-8? How is that like one of the things God did for Judah in Ezekiel 16:8?
2. What did the woman do with the clothing, jewelry, food, and children that God had given her?
(16:)
3. What did the Law of Moses prescribe as punishment for an adulteress (Leviticus 20:10)?
4. In Verses 48-50 Ezekiel says that Jerusalem had become worse than Sodom. What is said about what Sodom did in these verses and in Genesis 19:4-13?
5. In Verses 60-62 Ezekiel prophesies about something similar to the prophecy in Jeremiah 31:31-32. What were both prophets describing?

Summary of Chapter 16:

God had helped Jerusalem when helpless

Jerusalem is worse than a prostitute and will suffer

Personal Responsibility

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies..." - 18:32

Lesson 11

The Cedar Tree - In Chapter 17, Ezekiel tells a parable about a cedar tree and two eagles. The first eagle was Babylon. They had captured Israel and taken many into exile (12), but this was God's will and Israel would prosper if they would accept their exile (Jeremiah 29:4-7). The second eagle was Egypt. Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon by forming an alliance with Egypt (13-15). Zedekiah would be captured by Babylon and die in exile (16). Meanwhile the LORD would cause a remnant of Israel to begin to grow again (22-23).

Individual Responsibility - In Chapter 18, the importance of each person's obedience was stressed. Even when the nation as a whole was being punished, God judged the people individually. What a person's family did or what he did in the past did not determine his standing for God. Many false doctrines taught by those who claim to follow the New Testament (Original Sin; Once Saved, Always Saved; Unconditional Election) are contradicted by the principles found in this chapter and others in the New Testament.

The children of Israel would know God is the LORD when:

He had punished Israel for its sins (17:21) and brought justice to the land (17:24).

Questions

1. Jeremiah 52:1-11 tells how Zedekiah of Israel rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. How does Jeremiah 52:11 fulfill Ezekiel 17:16?

Summary of Chapters 17-18:

17: Ezekiel tells of two eagles and a vine

Ezekiel preaches about King Zedekiah's punishment

18: Each person is only responsible for his own sins

Those who turn from evil to do good will live

2. In 17:22-23 God says He will take a branch from the cedar and plant it so that it will grow to be great. Who is the ultimate fulfillment of that prophecy? How do Isaiah 11:1-4 and Jeremiah 23:3-6 relate to this prophecy?

3. What truth is taught by 18:4,20 and Romans 6:23?

4. What false doctrine is contradicted by 18:24 and 2 Peter 2:20?

5. According to 18:32 and 2 Peter 3:9, does God want anyone to be condemned?

Falling Away and Returning

”But the house of Israel rebelled against Me...” - 20:13

Lesson 12

Two Lions - In Ezekiel 19, Ezekiel wrote a sorrowful poem about the kings of Judah. The first lion cub (3-4) was Jehoahaz, who was captured by Egypt (2 Chronicles 36:4). The second cub (5-9) was one of his successors (probably Jehoiachin or Zedekiah; see the chart that accompanies Lesson 1), who was captured by Babylon. Like a withered vine, Judah had no power or glory.

The Mercy of God - In Chapter 20, Ezekiel spoke of Israel’s history. The commands He gave them in His covenant were good (11). They would have known Him if they had kept His laws (12,20). They rebelled and suffered, and they would know Him by their punishments (26,38). God had mercy and would bring them back, and they would know He is the LORD again (42,44).

The children of Israel would know God is the LORD when:

they truly obeyed His commands, such as observing the Sabbath day (20:12,20), and when He purified them and brought them back to the land of Israel (20:38,42,44).

Questions

1. What happens to the vine of Judah in 19:12? How is this like 17:9-10?

2. Ezekiel said the same thing to the elders of Israel in 20:3 as he had in 14:3. What was the problem with these men?

(:)

3. In 20:9,14,22,44, for what reason does God say He acted the way He did? Was it because of Israel’s righteousness?

4. According to 20:28, what did the children of Israel do when they entered the Promised Land that displeased God?

Summary of Chapters 19-20:

19: Israel is compared to a family of lions

Israel is compared to a vine that has been burned

20: God led Israel out of Egypt but they rebelled

God will bring Israel back to the land

The Sword and the Furnace

“... will you judge the bloody city? ...” - 22:2

Lesson 13

The Sword - In Chapter 21, Ezekiel prophesied that God’s sword would strike Judah (2-5). This caused Ezekiel to groan bitterly (6-7). Babylon would choose to attack the land (19-23) and the king would be overthrown (25-26).

The Furnace - In Chapter 22, Ezekiel preached that Israel had become a stain, like tarnish. The LORD would destroy their ill-gotten gain and scattered them in exile even further (15-16). Priests, prophets, and princes were all corrupt. No true spiritual leader could be found (30). No one would stand in the gap and fight for what was right. Men like Ezekiel were needed in Judah, but the lack of men like him was a reason for the destruction of the land.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:

He had brought His sword out of His sheath (21:5) and punished them for their willful sin (22:16,22).

Questions

1. How would the king of Babylon decide whether to attack Jerusalem or Rabbah in 21:19-23?
2. How the rulers of Israel were oppressing the people is seen in 22:6-7. How was this like the situation about 140 years earlier in Micah 3:1-3?

Summary of Chapters 21-22:

- 21:** The sword of the LORD will destroy many
Judah’s king will be punished by the Babylonians
- 22:** God recounts the bloody sins of Judah
No one will stand up to the evil princes and priests
3. In 22:12 God describes a number of ways that the people oppressed their neighbors. Which sin is condemned in Exodus 22:25?
 4. How is Ezekiel 22:18-19 similar to Isaiah 1:22? How is 22:12 similar to Isaiah 1:23?
 5. In 22:30 God says He could not find anyone to “stand in the gap” when sin was being committed. Who does Psalm 106:23 describe as having done that (see also Exodus 32:9-14)?
(v.)

No Weeping Allowed

“Groan silently; make no mourning for the dead...” - 24:17

Lesson 14

The Harlots - Chapter 23 is graphic. Ezekiel compared Israel and Judah to two young women who prostituted themselves (3-4). The Northern Kingdom (Samaria) had been carried away already (10), but that did not keep Judah from committing the same sins. Judah would know that God is the LORD when He punished the people for their unfaithfulness (49).

The Death of a Spouse - Ezekiel learned that his wife would die as a part of a sign (16-18). Ezekiel had to have an incredible amount of faith in God to survive this trial. He was not allowed to mourn. In the same way, Israel was not to mourn publicly over the temple's destruction. They would see Ezekiel's prophecy about the manner of destruction fulfilled.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:

He had given them over in their sin to their enemies (23:49). They would know when they learned of the destruction of the temple, as Ezekiel had prophesied (24:24,27).

Questions

- How does Hosea 2:8 resemble Ezekiel 16:17-19 and 23:41?
- What specific parts of 23:47 were fulfilled in 2 Chronicles 36:17-19?
- Jeremiah 1 contains a parable about a boiling pot, as Ezekiel 24:3-13 does. How is the lesson of Jeremiah's parable different than Ezekiel's?
(Jeremiah 1:)
- In 24:16-18 Ezekiel's wife dies as a part of a sign to the people. The prophet Hosea's wife was also part of a sign (Hosea 1:2-3; 3:1-2). What did God show through her?
(Hosea :)
- In 24:19-24 Ezekiel tells the people that they would react to the news of the temple's destruction as he reacted to his wife's death. How is Jeremiah 16:2-7 similar to this passage?

Summary of Chapters 23-24:

23: Samaria is compared to a prostitute

Jerusalem has become worse than Samaria

24: Ezekiel sees a boiling pot as the city is besieged

Ezekiel's wife dies as a sign to the people

Judging Gentile Nations

”... ‘Behold, I am against you, O Tyre...’” - 26:3

Lesson 15

Other Nations - Chapter 25 marks a turning point in Ezekiel. After prophesying about Judah in the first half of the book, he speaks of other nations. The Ammonites were condemned for rejoicing at Judah’s fall (3). The Moabites were judged for saying Judah was like the other nations (8). The Edomites and Philistines were condemned for taking vengeance against Judah (12, 15).

The Proud City - Ezekiel preached against Tyre for wanting to profit from Jerusalem’s misfortune. In 26:1-16, Ezekiel revealed God’s judgment upon the city. Tyre was an extremely wealthy trading center, and part of it was located on an island that was difficult to attack. Ezekiel said that it would be utterly destroyed and scraped bare (4). This must have been shocking to his audience, who might have expected Tyre to last forever. Nothing that is earthly lasts forever, and even Tyre would pass away.

The nations would know God is the LORD when:

He had destroyed the Ammonites (25:5,7), the Moabites (25:11), and the Philistines (25:17), and had utterly destroyed the mighty kingdom of Tyre (26:6).

Questions

1. Earlier Amos had written about some the nations in Chapter 25. What were the sins of the Edomites and the Ammonites in Amos 1:11-15?

Summary of**Chapters 25-26:**

25: Ammon and Moab will suffer for hating Judah

Edom and Philistia will suffer for taking vengeance

26: Nebuchadnezzar will come against Tyre

Tyre will be destroyed and its riches plundered

2. How was the attitude that Tyre had shown toward Jerusalem in its destruction like the attitude the Ammonites had toward Jerusalem in 25:3-7?

(26:)

3. Nebuchadnezzar is called a “king of kings” in 26:7 and Daniel 2:37. What does the Daniel passage say about why he was a great king? Who is called by that title in Revelation 17:14?

4. How is the reaction of the “princes of the sea” in 26:16-17 like the reaction of the “kings of the earth” in Revelation 18:9-11? There are many things in common with Revelation 18 in these chapters.

The King of Tyre

”I am a god/ I sit in the seat of gods...” - 28:2

Lesson 16

The Proud Ship - Two laments over Tyre are in the text. We read the reaction of men in 26:17-21. Chapter 27 contains the LORD’s sad song of judgment. Tyre was described as a beautiful and well-built ship. Unfortunately, that ship would soon sink (34). The reason was its pride (3). The people of Tyre would know God is the LORD when their commercial empire was demolished.

The Proud King - In 28:1-19 the king of Tyre is described. He had thought he was a god (2) and that he was wiser than Daniel (3). He was tremendously successful but had become immensely conceited. God would soon destroy him for his wickedness. Some readers think that God is really describing Satan instead of the literal king, based on verses like 14, but the whole chapter can be applied to a man who has let Satan control his life. Another lamentation is made for the king in 12-19.

Making a Distinction - Ezekiel preached against another seacoast city, Sidon, in 28:20-23. Sidon would learn that God is the LORD and should be glorified when destruction came upon them. On the other hand, Israel would know that God is the LORD when He had removed all barriers from their way and restored them to their land (24-26). God would be gracious to Israel.

The nations would know God is the LORD when:

He had defeated Sidon (28:22,23), but had brought Israel back to its land and given His people peace (28:24,26).

Questions

1. Tyre is compared to a ship in 27:4-9. What details about the ship’s construction show that it was not only beautiful, but well-built?

(27:)

2. How is the reaction of the sailors in 27:29-32 like the reaction of the sailors in Revelation 18:17-19?

3. To whom does Ezekiel sarcastically compare the king of Tyre in 28:3?

Summary of Chapters 27-28:

27: The wealth of trading in Tyre is described

Merchants will lament when Tyre is annihilated

28: Tyre’s arrogant king will be humiliated

Sidon will be destroyed but Israel will return

4. In 28:5 Ezekiel describes how wealthy Tyre and its king were. How does Zechariah 9:3 describe their wealth?

5. In 28:14,16 Ezekiel describes the king of Tyre as the “cherub who covers”. What does Exodus 25:18-22 describe cherubs as covering?

6. In 28:24 God says there will not be a brier or a thorn for Israel when they return to the land. Whom does Numbers 33:55 describe as briers and thorns to Israel?

Will you trust in the LORD instead of taking pride in riches?

The Fate of Egypt

”And the land of Egypt will become a desolation and waste...” - 29:9

Lesson 17

The Sea Monster - In Chapter 29, the Egyptian Pharaoh was compared to a great beast in the Nile River (3-5). Judah was trying to make alliances with Egypt against Babylon, but it would only hurt Judah to do so (6-7). Babylon would destroy Egypt after having fought Tyre (18-20).

A Lament for Egypt - In Chapter 30, Ezekiel prophesied against Egypt. Egypt and her allies would fall (3-5). Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would defeat them (10-11). God would break the arms of Egypt’s Pharaoh and scatter the people (21-26).

The Egyptians would know God is the LORD when:

God abandoned them and prevented them from being a military power (29:6,9,16; 30:8,19,26). Israel would know that God is the LORD when He allowed Babylon to defeat Egypt and He strengthened Israel (29:21; 30:25).

Questions

1. Pharaoh claimed to have made the Nile by his own power in 29:3. He was defeated by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Daniel 4:28-30 shows that Nebuchadnezzar fell into the same kind of trap that Pharaoh did. What did Nebuchadnezzar do in that passage?

2. In 29:6-7 Ezekiel warned Judah against trusting in an alliance with Egypt. What happened in Jeremiah 37:5,11 that might have made Judah want to depend on Egypt?

3. In 29:18 Ezekiel said Nebuchadnezzar had attacked Tyre. What had Ezekiel prophesied against Tyre about several years earlier in 26:7-12?

4. How is Jeremiah’s prophecy against Egypt in 46:25-26 like Ezekiel’s prophecy in 30:14-15. Which places are specifically named?

5. In 30:21-24 God said He would break Pharaoh’s arms. What did that mean in Psalm 37:17?

Summary of Chapters 29-30:

29: God will show Pharaoh that he is not powerful

Babylon will destroy Egypt and it will not rise again

30: Ezekiel laments Egypt’s and its neighbors’ fate

God will be with Babylon against Egypt

587-6 BC

The Fate of Pharaoh

"Son of man, take up a lamentation over Pharaoh..." - 32:2

Lesson 18

A Lesson from Assyria - In Chapter 31, Pharaoh was asked to consider the former empire of Assyria. Assyria was described as a great and beautiful tree (3-9). Because Assyria was proud, God caused it to be cut down (10-18). Ezekiel's message to Pharaoh was that he should expect the same fate in Egypt.

Down in the Pit - In Chapter 32 there is another sorrowful song about Egypt. As in 29:3, God used the picture of a sea monster (2-8). Egypt would be destroyed despite her proud boasts. As in 31:16-18, Ezekiel spoke of Egypt and other nations as going into the pit, lying dead among the uncircumcised (18-32).

The nations would know God is the LORD when:
He had made Egypt desolate (32:15) as judgment for their sin.

Questions

1. Assyria is mentioned in 31:3. How did its king Sennacherib act when he came against Judah's king in 2 Chronicles 32:9-15? What eventually happened to him (2 Chronicles 32:21-22).

2. Daniel 4:10-13 contains a prophecy about cutting down a great tree that had become proud and haughty, similar to Ezekiel 31:3-12. To whom did Daniel refer?

3. In Ezekiel 17:17-20 Zedekiah, the king of Judah, trusted Pharaoh instead of God and would be captured. How would Pharaoh's fate be similar, according to 32:3-4?

4. Isaiah 13:9-10 and Matthew 24:29 use language similar to Ezekiel 32:7-8. What kinds of images do these three passages use to describe a day of judgment?

5. Ezekiel 32:15 says that the Egyptians would know that God is the LORD when He had destroyed the people of the land. In Exodus 7:15 (and many other passages in that book) the Egyptians of 850 years before are told something very similar. What event at that time would tell the Egyptians that God is the LORD?

**Summary of
Chapters 31-32:**

31: Assyria is compared to a beautiful tree

Pharaoh is told that he will be destroyed like Assyria

32: The LORD tells Pharaoh that he will be defeated

Ezekiel laments the destruction of Egypt and others

The Watchman and the Shepherds

”... I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David...” - 34:23

Lesson 19

Watching for Others - Ezekiel spoke more about hope for the future from Chapter 33 to the end of the book. In 33:1-9, Ezekiel was told about being a watchman again (see 3:17-21). Ezekiel’s duty was to warn the people of the coming danger; whether they repented was their decision. God did not want the people to be destroyed (11), and would gladly accept the repentance of the wicked (14-16). On the other hand, He would not overlook the sins of a righteous person who had become wicked (13). People would complain that God’s way was unfair (17,20), but God was not the one who had sinned!

The Capture of Jerusalem - Ezekiel reacted to the news of Jerusalem’s capture and destruction (33:21) with a prophecy about the judgment of God. Some still did not see that God was punishing them. They would know that God is the LORD when the destruction had continued further. Even though the people in exile saw Ezekiel’s words confirmed and came to hear him speak, they still did not obey his message from God (30-33).

True Shepherds - After Ezekiel’s prophecy against the shepherds of God’s people (34:1-10; compare to John 10:7-11), Ezekiel prophesied of a time when true shepherds would lead Israel in a better time. Israel would know God is the LORD when they were led by David’s Son, Jesus Christ (23). Though God had just finished scattering His people from the land, He knew that He would bring them home again (11-13).

They would know God is the LORD when:

He had destroyed them and had restored them. The LORD would have to destroy the land because of their sins (33:29), but after that He would bring them back to the land and His chosen leader would give them true life (34:27,30).

Questions

1. In 33:11 the LORD says that He does not want the wicked to die but to repent. Which two verses in Chapter 18 also teach that lesson?

(18:)

2. When a wicked person was told he would die in 33:14, was there any possibility for a change? What does this tell us about God?

(33:)

Summary of Chapters 33-34:

33: Ezekiel has the same duties as a watchman

Jerusalem was destroyed because of sin

34: Woes are pronounced upon Israel’s shepherds

The Lord God will restore His sheep under David

3. In 33:22 Ezekiel is told that he could speak again. How does this relate to 24:25-27? Considering 3:26-27 and all of the preaching that Ezekiel has done throughout the book, was this a literal silence?

4. In 33:30 we read that some people were coming to hear Ezekiel and bringing others with them. Why was God still displeased with them?

(33:)

5. In 34:1-6 Ezekiel describes the leaders of Israel as selfish and greedy shepherds. How is this like Jeremiah 23:1-4?

6. God describes the kind of shepherd He wanted the people to have in 34:13-16. How is that description like Psalm 23?

(Psalm 23:)

7. In 34:23 God's shepherd is called "David". How is this like Jeremiah 23:4-5? Who is this shepherd (John 10:11)?

8. The picture of a shepherd taking care of a flock is also used in 1 Peter 5:1-4. Whose work is that passage describing?

Restoring the People

”... You shall be My people, and I will be your God.” - 36:28

Lesson 20

Mount Seir - In Chapter 35 Ezekiel prophesied against the people of Mount Seir. They had also been mentioned in 25:8 with Moab for saying that Judah was like the other nations. They would be destroyed because they were violent (5-6).

A Light in the World - In Chapter 36 Ezekiel prophesied that Israel would be blessed again for God’s name’s sake. To Ezekiel’s fellow exiles, the situation would have seemed hopeless. Their capital had been leveled and their temple destroyed. God promised that Israel would come back (8) and rebuild their cities (10). Israel had committed great sin; God was not ignoring that but acting so the other nations would honor His name (21-23). A new time would come in which God’s people would act properly and have hearts that would be true (26-28); that prophecy would ultimately be fulfilled in Christ’s church.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:

He restored them to the land (36:11) and made them increase (36:38). The nations would know God is the LORD when they saw the land restored (36:36) and Israel’s faith restored (36:23). Mount Seir would know God is the LORD through their destruction (35:4,9,12).

Questions

1. What lesson do Ezekiel 35:6 and Matthew 26:52 have for those who love violence?
2. Ezekiel had also prophesied to the mountains of Israel in Chapter 6. What was the tone of that message (especially 6:3)? How is Chapter 36 different?
3. In 36:13 the land was accused of devouring the men who lived in it. How is this like what the Israelites said in Numbers 13:32, after the spies came back?
4. What things did God say about Israel in 36:26-27 that He also said in 11:19-20?
5. In 36:32 the LORD told Israel why He would restore them to their land. How is this verse like Deuteronomy 9:4-5, in which God described why He was having them conquer the land?

Summary of Chapters 35-36:

35: God promises to destroy Edom (Mount Seir)

Edom is condemned for hating Israel and Judah

36: God promises that Israel will populate the land

God says He is restoring Israel for His name's sake

Reviving the People

"... I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life." - 37:5

Lesson 21

Dry Bones - In Chapter 37 Ezekiel prophesied to the dry bones in the valley. He said that Israel would be restored from what looked like a hopeless situation, as in the previous chapter. The Lord could take those dry bones and make them live again (5-6). Christ literally rose from the grave (12), gives life to the spiritually dead today, and will cause many to be resurrected to eternal life (John 17:2-3), which is even more amazing than what Ezekiel saw. Also, Ezekiel prophesied that Israel and Judah would be reunited again (22) with the Son of David (24), Jesus Christ, ruling over them. They would have an eternal covenant with God, and He would be with them forever (26-27). To the exiles, the destruction of the temple might have seemed like the end, but God promised something new and better.

Israel would know God is the LORD when:

He revived them. Their spiritual restoration would be like physically raising one from the dead (37:6,13-14). God's dwelling among them would be restored (37:28).

Questions

1. In both 36:27 and 37:14, what does the LORD promise to give His people?
2. Ezekiel's vision of the bringing the dry bones back to life in Chapter 37 is amazing. According to Acts 26:8, what should we remember about the power of God in situations like this?
3. Jeremiah 3:18, like Ezekiel 37:15-23, contains a prophecy of Israel's and Judah's coming together again. What does Jeremiah add about where the people will come from?

**Summary of
Chapter 37:**

Ezekiel sees dry bones become alive again

Israel and Judah will reunite under David

4. In 37:24, Ezekiel prophesies that David will be the king and shepherd of all Israel. This was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who described Himself as the Good Shepherd in John 10. How does John 10:16 show that Jesus will do more than even what Ezekiel prophesied?

Will we accept Christ's kingship and do what He says?

The LORD's Triumph

”And I shall call for a sword against him...” - 38:21

Lesson 22

The Invader - In Chapter 38 Ezekiel prophesied against Gog, the coming invader. Though Gog was powerful and confident, God would defeat him. Though Gog would come with overwhelming force against a people who seemed defenseless (9-12), God would totally destroy the army. Israel would know that God is the LORD when He had shown the nations His power by defeating Gog.

Who Was Gog? - Note in 38:17 that Gog's coming had been prophesied many years before; this was not a brand new message Ezekiel was bringing. Also note that almost all of the names in 38:2-6 are also found in Genesis 10:2-7 as the descendants of Japheth and Ham, Noah's sons. Israel came through Noah's other son, Shem. It is much better to see Gog as a name for the enemies of God's people in the past than a mysterious future force, as many premillennialists interpret the passage today.

Peace from God - In Chapter 39 Ezekiel prophesied judgment on the invader Gog. They would know God was the LORD when He destroyed them. Israel would know God is the LORD in a new and lasting way when He caused His name to be exalted through His victories (7,22). When God had gathered Israel together, they would see His purpose in their exile and return, and they would know God is the LORD.

The nations would know God is the LORD when:

God thoroughly destroyed Israel's enemy (38:23), when He defeated those of the enemy who thought they were secure (39:6), and when He had made His name known in the midst of Israel (39:7). Israel would know God is the LORD when He completely destroyed the enemy's army (39:22) and when they had been gathered back to their land from exile (39:28).

Questions

1. Many, if not all, of the names mentioned with Gog in 38:2-6 were literal. Which of these names can you find in the description of the Ship of Tyre in 27:10-15?
2. Ezekiel 38:8 prophesies of a time in which Israel would return to its land and dwell safely. Jeremiah 23:5-6 also speaks of such a time. When would this happen and who would be leading the people at this time?

Summary of Chapters 38-39:

38: Ezekiel prophesies that Gog will invade Israel

God will punish Gog for abusing Israel

39: God describes the destruction of Gog

God speaks of how He will show His power to all

3. In 38:16 the LORD says that He is bringing Gog against Israel so that He could show His power to the nations. How is this like what God did in Exodus 14:4 against Egypt?

4. Gog and Magog are also mentioned in Revelation 20:7-9, where Satan uses them to attack God's people. What is the result of that battle? How is that like what happened to Gog and his army in Ezekiel 38:22?

5. In Ezekiel 39:9-10 God says that Israel will use all of the weapons of their defeated army for firewood. How is this like Isaiah 2:4?

Isaiah 2:2-3 shows at that time that men from many nations would seek God, and God's word would go out from Jerusalem. When did that happen (Acts 2:5-11; Luke 24:47)?

6. In Revelation 19:16-21 we see the forces of evil of earth fighting against Christ. How are the instructions given to the animals in that passage and Ezekiel 39:17-20 alike?

7. In Chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel we have read about the nations coming against God's people and being defeated. How is Zechariah 12:1-3 similar to these chapters?

Zechariah 12:10 speaks of the pouring out of God's Spirit, as Ezekiel 39:29 does. Zechariah 12:10 also says they would look at one whom God had pierced. Who was that (John 19:37)?

Will you trust God no matter how threatening the forces of evil appear?

The Beginning of the Temple Vision

"... Declare to the house of Israel all that you see." - 40:4

Lesson 23

The Temple Vision, Part 1 - The last nine chapters of Ezekiel contain a vision in which Ezekiel met a man with a measuring rod (40:3). The man measured the temple (40:5) with the rod. This temple was not the same as Solomon's temple, which had been destroyed fourteen years earlier, or any other in the Bible. In Chapter 40 Ezekiel wrote down the measurements of the outer parts of the temple. In Chapter 41 he recorded the measurements of the inner parts. In Chapter 42 he recorded those of the chambers around the temple. The picture of the temple that we should have is that of a perfect place where God dwells and where His laws are obeyed.

What It Means - Some expect this temple to be built one day, but that misses the point of the text. It is a vision (40:2) and has a figurative meaning. Understand the vision as showing how God's people would be built into a spiritual temple and how they would dwell with Him. Remember that this vision would be very meaningful to Ezekiel the priest (1:3) and the people who had known the physical temple before it had been destroyed. Consider our part in this temple in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

The house of Israel would know God is the LORD when:
they understood the lessons of the temple that Ezekiel described.

Questions

1. Where did God set Ezekiel at the beginning of the vision in 40:2? How is this similar to Revelation 21:10?
2. What did the man Ezekiel met in 40:3 have in his hand? How is this similar to Revelation 21:15?
3. In Ezekiel 40:38-42, the preparations for burnt offerings are described. Why would this not fit under the New Testament (Hebrews 7:26-28; 10:5-9)?
4. How are the descriptions of cherubim in 41:18-19 like the accounts of the cherubim in 1:10 and 10:14?

Summary of Chapters 40-42:

40: Ezekiel sees a man with a measuring rod

The man measures the guardrooms of the temple

41: The man measures the temple's interior

The outside of the new temple is measured

42: The man measures the courts of the temple

The man measures other chambers of the temple

The LORD's Return

"... I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever..." - 43:7

Lesson 24

The Lord Returns - The last nine chapters of Ezekiel contain the vision of the temple he received. In Chapters 10 and 11, Ezekiel had told the frightening story of how the LORD had left the temple and was no longer with His chosen people. In Chapter 43 the LORD returned to the new temple and would never leave again (1-9). God made clear that Israel was to learn something about holiness and reverence from the vision of the temple (10-12). The temple that Zerubbabel built (Zechariah 4:9) was not the one the Ezekiel described; that building was being renovated by Herod in Christ's day. That structure was obliterated by the Romans in AD 70, as Christ predicted (Matthew 24:1-2,32). God's true house is His people, the church, which Christ established (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Other Chapters - In Chapter 44 rules were given for the prince and the Levites. In Chapter 45 many of the offerings were described.

The house of Israel would know God is the LORD when:
they understood the lessons of the temple that Ezekiel described.

**Summary of
Chapters 43-45:**

43: The glory of God fills the new temple

The altar and offerings of the temple are described

44: God tells the rebellious in Israel to reform

The Levites are given rules to observe to minister

45: The prince and the people receive land parcels

The prince's offerings for feasts are described

Questions

1. According to 43:2-4, which direction did the glory of the LORD come from? Which direction had it gone when it left in 10:19 and 11:23?
2. In 43:7 God said that He would dwell in that place forever. Considering passages such as 37:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 6:16, where was it that God would dwell forever?
3. How does God refer to Israel in 44:6? He also referred to them this way in 2:5.
4. In 44:23-24 God tells the priests how they are to act. What kinds of sins had the priests committed according to 22:26?
5. In 45:8-9 God tells the prince how he is to act. What kinds of sins had the princes committed according to 22:27?

The LORD Is There

”... the name of the city from that day shall be, ‘The LORD is there.’” - 48:35

Lesson 25

The Temple Vision, Part 3 - The last nine chapters of Ezekiel contain a vision of the temple. In Chapter 46 the prince’s offerings in the temple were described.

Water from the Temple - In Chapter 47, Ezekiel saw a river coming from the temple. This river cleansed everything it touched, even the Dead Sea (8). Today we can have living water through Jesus Christ (John 7:38). The boundaries of the land were also set so that the land could be divided again among the tribes.

The City of God - The division of the land among the tribes is continued in Chapter 48. At the end of the chapter a great city is described. The gates of the city were described (30-34) and then the name of the city was given: “The LORD is there”. After a long absence God is back with His people and He will never leave. It is a beautiful promise at the end of a beautiful book. We can live that promise today in the church!

We will know God is the LORD when:

we do what Ezekiel has been teaching throughout the book, such as obeying God’s will (20:12,20), having faith in Him (36:23), and allowing Him to dwell among us (37:28; see also 2 Corinthians 6:16). We can then live in the presence of God forever (Revelation 22:1-5), where “The LORD is there”.

Questions

1. How does the description of the water in Chapter 47 resemble Revelation 22:1? Where did the water start in each case?

(47:)

2. In 47:7-9 the water from the temple had become a river. What grew beside the river there and in Revelation 22:2? The river in 47:9 and the leaves of the tree in Revelation could both do the same thing. What was it?

3. In 47:13 Joseph is said to get two portions of the land. According to Genesis 48:5 and 1 Chronicles 5:1, why did two tribes of Israel come from him?

Summary of Chapters 46-48:

46: Ezekiel describes other offerings of the prince

Ezekiel sees places to boil sacrifices in the temple

47: A river flows out of the new temple

The borders of Israel’s inheritance are specified

48: The land is divided among the tribes

The prince and priests receive portions of the land

4. According to 47:22-23, where could strangers settle in the restored land of Israel? Would they be treated differently than people who had been born there? What does this show about the age to come?

5. In 48:11 the priests who were from Zadok's family received a special honor. According to 44:15, what did they do to receive this honor?

6. In 48:35, what is the name of the beautiful city that Ezekiel has been describing? Why was that name appropriate for the city (43:7)?

Do you know that God is the LORD?

Will you be where "The LORD is there"?

If not, what will you do about it today?

End-of-class Review

You may wish to spend a final class period reading the selected verses from each lesson to understand the structure of the book as a whole.

Chapter 1: Read **1:26-28**. The appearance... of the likeness... of the glory of the LORD is almost beyond description. Even His attendants are beyond our comprehension. How great is the God we worship!

Chapters 2-3: Read **2:3-5**. Ezekiel had a difficult and (humanly) thankless task. God would make him hard enough (hence the name) to do the job. He had a divinely given responsibility.

Chapters 4-5: Read **5:1-3**. This is the third of the strange signs that God asked Ezekiel to perform. Ezekiel showed how much Israel had sinned and how it would be punished.

Chapters 6-7: Read **7:2-4**. God promised punishment upon the mountains of Israel because of idolatry; He promised to bring an end because of pride and violence.

Chapters 8-9: Read **9:3-5**. After having shown Ezekiel many visions of gross idolatry, God instructed His armed men to destroy all who were not pained by the sin in the land.

Chapters 10-11: Read **11:22-23**. The glory of the LORD, which Ezekiel saw again, left the temple and the city in steps. God showed that He would not protect a people that had forsaken Him.

Chapter 12: Read **12:11-13**. Ezekiel showed that captivity was coming for the king. The people would be dispersed and would be a negative example to the Gentiles.

Chapter 13: Read **13:8-9**. God condemned the false prophets who had been prophesying peace. Their words would not stand the test, like poorly-built walls. Women, too, were involved in exploiting the people through superstitious magic.

Chapters 14-15: Read **14:13-14**. God was displeased with the elders who feigned interest in the truth while attached to idols. God made clear that destruction was certain because His people had become useless.

Chapter 16: Read **16:20-22**. God compared Jerusalem to a prostitute who took His gifts and used them for evil purposes. Judah would be ashamed and eventually God would restore her.

Chapters 17-18: Read **18:19-20**. God promised retribution for Judah's rebellion against Babylon. He also explained that each man is responsible for his own sin at present.

Chapters 19-20: Read **20:7-9**. Ezekiel lamented the loss of Judah's kings. He recounted Israel's history of rebellion and warned that when they returned there would be judgment.

Chapters 21-22: Read **22:29-31**. Ezekiel prophesied of a flashing sword that would destroy Israel. All of the classes in Jerusalem had committed many abominations and virtually no one was standing up for what was right.

Chapters 23-24: Read **23:37-39**. God compared Israel and Judah to sisters who were prostitutes. He prophesied Judah's punishment. Ezekiel's lack of mourning was a sign to Judah.

The book shifts here from the Judgments Against Judah to the Judgments Against The Nations.

Chapters 25-26: Read **26:2-4**. God stated His judgment on four Gentile nations. He then speaks of Tyre's judgment for trying to take advantage of Judah's destruction.

Chapters 27-28: Read **28:6-8**. Ezekiel compared Tyre to a beautiful and well-crafted ship that would meet destruction. The king's pride would lead to his ruin. Sidon is also mentioned.

Chapters 29-30: Read **29:8-10**. God compared Egypt to a sea monster who would be snared. Nebuchadnezzar would defeat Egypt. Pharaoh's arms would be broken by God.

Chapters 31-32: Read **32:18-20**. Ezekiel warned Egypt of a destruction like Assyria's. Pharaoh is again compared to a sea monster. Many are pictured as going to the grave.

The book begins to shift here from the Judgments Against The Nations to the Future Restoration. Ezekiel has been tearing down false hopes; soon he will build up the true hope.

Chapters 33-34: Read **34:22-24**. God spoke of Ezekiel's being a watchman. He said righteous people must keep doing right to be saved. God condemned the selfish leaders of Israel and said He would make David their shepherd and prince.

Chapters 35-36: Read **36:8-10**. Ezekiel prophesied against Edom and its hatred. He prophesied that the people would return to the land, have a new heart, and be clean.

Chapter 37: Read **37:11-13**. God said that he could restore Israel as dramatically as making old bones live. He promised to rejoin Israel and Judah into one people.

Chapters 38-39: Read **39:27-29**. Ezekiel prophesied that Gog would try to attack Israel at peace but would suffer a crushing defeat.

Chapters 40-42: Read **40:2-4**. God showed Ezekiel the plan for a temple with its measurements in a vision. This vision is fulfilled in the church.

Chapters 43-45: Read **43:2-4**. God returned to the temple. The priesthood for the temple was described. The allotment of land for the temple and its servants was described.

Chapters 46-48: Read **47:1-2**. God revealed that there would be a river coming from the temple. The land's divisions were described. The name of the city would be The LORD Is There.