

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson One – Introduction and Historical Background

I. Ezekiel's Personal History

- Son of Buzi
- His name means “God will strengthen” – key to his message to the captives/exiles.
- He was born in 622 BC during Josiah's reign and grew up in Palestine.
- He was 17 years old when Daniel was taken to Babylon with the first group of Jews.
- He was taken to Babylon when he was twenty-five years old with the second wave of deportees along with the king and 10,000 others.
- Jehoiachin was the king when Ezekiel and the king himself were taken into captivity.
- He was called to prophecy at the age of thirty after five years in exile.
- There is no indication he was ever able to return to Jerusalem or Palestine with those who went with Nehemiah and others.
- He called the Jews in exile to repentance from their past evil ways and told them of the hope for God's remnant.
- Jerusalem fell approximately six years after Ezekiel was called to prophecy.
- He was married, but we do not know anything about his family. He was instructed not to mourn the sudden tragic death of his wife.
- He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Daniel, but there is no indication they ever met or conferred with one another.

Jeremiah – Stayed in Jerusalem

Daniel – Capitol City of Babylon

Ezekiel – Rural area on an irrigation canal near the Euphrates River

- He was also a contemporary with Zephaniah, Nahum and Habakkuk.
- In Babylon he lived in a fertile area on the river Chebar known as the “hill of corn ears”.

II. World History and Political Situation (see chart of last kings of Judah)

- The ten northern tribes of Israel had been carried off to Assyrian captivity during 721 BC, but southern tribes were spared at this time due to Hezekiah's righteous rule.
- In Judah, the king Mannaseh introduced idol worship and went as far as offering their children as human sacrifices in worship to the idol god Molech. Amon, the son of Mannaseh, continued the worship of idols in the land of Judah.
- King Josiah ruled for 31 years (640-608 BC). He tore down the idol's temples, destroyed the “high places” and restored the proper worship to Judah.
- Jehoahaz ruled for only three months and brought idol worship back to Judah before he was taken away as a captive to Egypt.
- Jehoiakim ruled for 11 years and in the fourth year of his reign Daniel was taken to Babylon along with some of the best of the land of Judah.
- Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, ruled for three months and was taken to Babylon during the same deportation with Ezekiel.
- Zedekiah was installed as a puppet king in 597 and ruled for 11 years until Jerusalem and the temple were completely destroyed (part of Ezekiel's warning to the exiles).

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III. Key Expressions in the Book of Ezekiel

- 1) “The word of the Lord came to me saying” *Used 49 times*
 - A claim to direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit for the things written.
 - Also used extensively in the book of Jeremiah.

- 2) “Thus says the Lord God” *Used 64 times*
 - An affirmation his message was the truth from God in contrast with the false prophets of hope who told people what they wanted to hear.

- 3) “Son of Man” *Used 93 times*
 - Often coupled with “The word of the Lord came to me saying”
 - Used to show the contrast between the humanity and limitation of the prophet Ezekiel and the unlimited power and glory of God.

- 4) “Ye shall know that I AM THE LORD” *Used 63 times*
 - Pivotal idea in the message of Ezekiel – God is in control and all will know / God’s sovereign power will be shown among all nations in all the following cases:
 - When Jerusalem is destroyed and people are taken captive to Babylon
 - When judgement comes upon the Gentile nations in the land
 - When God restores his people to their land
 - When God saves his righteous remnant to bring about the promise to Abraham.

- 5) “I the Lord have spoken it” *Used 12 times*
 - Refers back to the power of God’s spoken word in the creation of the world.
 - Shows that God, who is unbound by time/space, could speak about events in human history years into the future as if they had already happened.

IV. Use of Symbolic Acts, Allegories and Parables

Symbolic acts demonstrated:

- The siege of Jerusalem – Chapter 4
- The captivity of God’s people – Chapter 4
- The famine in the land – Chapter 4
- The fall of Jerusalem – Chapter 12

Parables and allegories to illustrate a point were:

- The vine – Chapter 15
- The two eagles and the tender twig – Chapter 17
- The lioness and the vineyard – Chapter 19
- The forest fire – Chapter 20
- The sword of the Lord and the caldron – Chapters 20 and 21

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V. The message of the Book (see also the handouts/outlines)

1) Jerusalem must fall due to the wickedness of God's chosen people

Chapters 1-24

- Jews maintained false hope, fueled by the words of false prophets.
- God's punishment will be just due to their worship of idols.
- The exiles must repent and turn back to God.
- Destruction is imminent and certain.

2) The Gentile Nations Will Not Escape God's Judgement

Chapters 25-32

- The rejoicing at Judah's destruction by the heathen nations would be turned to sorrow when they were destroyed.
- God rules in the affairs of all nations not just his chosen people.

3) The Nation is Restored and God Ushers In a New Order

Chapters 33-48

- Judah and Israel will be brought back to the land as one nation.
- God will save his righteous remnant and fulfill his promise of the Messiah.
- We are given a symbolic view of the temple/worship and land of the future.

Book of Ezekiel
Lesson Two –Vision of the Lord’s Glory/ Ezekiel’s Call and Commission
Chapter 1-3

Outline of Chapter One:

- I) The Introduction: Verses 1-3
 - a) The date/place of the vision (vs. 1-3)
- II) The Vision of the Living Creatures: Verses 4-25
 - a) The approaching storm cloud from the north (vs. 4)
 - b) The four living creatures: (vs. 5-25)
 - i) General remarks on the nature of the cherubim
 - ii) The cherubim described
- III) The Vision of God’s Glory: Verses 26-28
 - a) The throne on which he sits (vs. 26)
 - b) The description of the king (vs. 27)
 - c) The rainbow and the glory (vs. 28)
 - d) The response of the prophet (vs. 28)

Outline of Chapter Two and Three

Outline of Chapters Two and Three

- I) The people to whom Ezekiel is made a prophet: Verses 1-7
 - a) The prophet hears his commission: (vs. 1-2)
 - b) Israel, the rebellious house: (vs. 3)
 - c) The stiff hearted and the message needed: (vs. 4)
 - d) The prophet’s place among the rebellious: (vs. 5-7)
- II) The eating of the little book: Verses 2:8-3:3
 - a) The book and the command: (vs. 2:9-3:1)
 - b) Eating the book and thoroughly digesting: (vs. 2-3)
- III) The final charge concerning the commission: Verses 4-11
 - a) The difficulty of the job just given: (vs. 4-7)
 - b) The prophet is promised equipment: (vs. 8-9)
 - c) Success is proclaiming the word: (vs. 10-11)
 - d) The response of the prophet: (vs. 28)
- IV) Back to reality: Verses 12-15
 - a) Back to normality: (vs. 12-14)
 - b) Overwhelmed among the captives (vs. 15)
- V) The commission is restated: Verses 16-27
 - a) One silent week later: (vs. 16)
 - b) The watchman’s obligations: (vs. 17-21)
 - c) The chariot of God is shown again: (vs. 22-23)
 - d) The final words of God’s command: (vs. 24-27)

Book of Ezekiel
Lesson Two –Vision of the Lord’s Glory/ Ezekiel’s Call and Commission
Chapter 1-3

- 1) Where was Ezekiel and how old was he when he saw the visions of God? If he had not been taken to Babylon, what would he probably have been doing at the age he saw the vision?
- 2) When metal is heated to the point it is glowing, what does this process (testing) do to the metal?
- 3) Describe the four different types of faces he saw on each of the living creatures. What is the significance of each of these types of faces and what could each one represent?
- 4) Review the passage in Rev 4:1-11 and compare/contrast the living creatures described by John in his vision with the ones in Ezekiel’s vision.
- 5) Briefly describe the wheels which were beside/under each of the living creatures. What do you think is the significance of the design of these wheels?
- 6) We are told each one of the wheels was full of eyes on all sides, or were full of eyes all around. What does this symbolism tell us about God?
- 7) What were the sounds used by Ezekiel to describe the noise made by the movement of the four living creatures?
- 8) We also see the appearance of a rainbow among all the other images in this awesome scene. What does the rainbow in this vision tell us about the nature of God?
- 9) How does Ezekiel interpret this vision? Why do you think this vision was given to him at the very beginning of his time of special service to God?
- 10) The designation “son of man” is used several times in chapters 2 and 3. What does this phrase tell us about our power/knowledge compared to our God?
- 11) How are the people to whom Ezekiel is sent described in the early verses of chapter two? List two or three events in the history of Israel that would cause them to be described in this way.

Book of Ezekiel
Lesson Two –Vision of the Lord’s Glory/ Ezekiel’s Call and Commission
Chapter 1-3

- 12) What constitutes true “success” for one who proclaims God’s words? What instructions did the Spirit through Paul give us about preaching the word in II Tim. 4:1-5?

- 13) What were the three types of words contained in the scroll given to Ezekiel?

- 14) What was unusual about the command given to Ezekiel regarding what to do with the book? (The apostle John is told to do the same thing in Rev. 10:9-10). What does this tell us about the importance of spending time and effort to know God’s word?

- 15) The name Ezekiel means “God strengthens”. What does God promise he will do to help Ezekiel to proclaim his word?

- 16) God calls Ezekiel to action in verse 10, but what vision is repeated before he is sent on his mission? Why do you think this vision was repeated?

- 17) According to verses 16-21 what is the extent of the responsibility of the watchman to the wicked man? To the righteous man who is erring?

Application Questions

- 1) What was Ezekiel’s reaction to this vision?

- 2) Do you think that any of us have lost some of our sense of reverence and awe when we are thinking about our God? Try to make a list of some actions we can take to help us regain a proper perspective/attitude toward our God.

- 3) What does the New Testament tell us about the extent of our responsibility to attempt to save the lost or the erring brother/sister? Who should be the “watchman” among the world today and what will be the reward for the faithful watchman?

Book of Ezekiel
**Lesson Three – Symbolic Representation of Jerusalem’s Fall/Land’s
Corruption/Destruction Begins--Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9**

Outline of Chapters Four and Five:

- I) The city on a tile: Verses 1-3
 - a) Jerusalem sketched on a tile: (vs. 1)
 - b) The siege illustrated: (vs. 2)
 - c) The prophet begins the siege: (vs. 3)
- II) The 430 days on his sides: Verses 4-8
 - a) Bearing the iniquity of the nation: (vs. 4)
 - b) The days appointed for Israel and Judah: (vs. 5-6)
 - c) The continuing siege: (vs. 7)
 - d) The prophet assigned to this job: (vs. 8)
- III) The unclean food: Verses 9-17
 - a) The nature of the bread to be eaten for 430 days: (vs. 9)
 - b) The amount of bread to be eaten: (vs. 10)
 - c) The water ration: (vs. 11)
 - d) The repulsive fuel: (vs. 12)
 - e) The baking of the bread: (vs. 13)
 - f) The prophets request to change the fuel to bake bread: (vs. 14-15)
 - g) The coming scarcity of food: (vs. 16-17)
- IV) The prophet and the haircut: Verses 1-4
 - a) The weighing in the balances: (vs. 1)
 - b) The third burned in the fire: (vs. 2)
 - c) The third hacked by the sword: (vs. 2)
 - d) The dividing of the final third: (vs. 3-4)
 - i) Scattering some to the wind
 - ii) Tying some in the skirt
 - iii) Burning some more
- V) The reason for the severity of the judgement: Verses 5-11
 - a) Israel’s place of influence for good: (vs. 6)
 - b) Israel’s just punishment: (vs. 7-11)
 - i) The rationale for the judgement
 - ii) The severity of the judgement
- VI) The explanation of the symbols: Verse 12
- VII) The description and purpose of God’s wrath: Verses 13-17
 - a) God’s justice satisfied: (vs. 13)
 - b) Israel’s judged state a source of instruction: (vs. 14-15)
 - c) God’s four sore judgements: (vs. 16-17)

Outline of Chapters Six and Seven:

- I. A prophecy against the land of Israel: 6:1-14
 - A. Idolatry in the land of Israel to be judged: (verses 1-7)
 - B. The instructive remnant: (verses 8-10)
 - C. The idolaters will be purged away: (verses 11-14)

Book of Ezekiel
**Lesson Three – Symbolic Representation of Jerusalem’s Fall/Land’s
Corruption/Destruction Begins--Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9**

- II. A second prophecy against the land of Israel: 7:1-27
 - A. The certain judgment as a result of Israel’s iniquity: (verses 1-11)
 - B. The response of the people in that day (verses 12-27)
 - 1. The futility of business affairs: 12-13
 - 2. The futility of armed resistance: 14
 - 3. Concerning those that die: 15
 - 4. Concerning the survivors: 16-18
 - 5. The uselessness of wealth and idols: 19-22
 - C. Captivity and the belated appeals to the prophets: (verses 23-27)
 - Chains for the wicked: 23
 - The wicked invaders: 24
 - Conversion under calamity: 25-26
 - Despair at all levels: 27

Outline of Chapters Eight and Nine:

- I. The occasion of the vision: (verse 1) *Chapter Eight*
- II. The transport to Jerusalem: (verses 2-4)
- III. The condition of Jerusalem (verses 5-18)
 - 1. The image of jealousy outside the north gate: verses 5-6
 - 2. Inside the court wall: verses 7-13
 - A. The hidden door
 - B. The secret chamber of shame
 - C. The secret worship of shame
 - 3. Within the walls of the temple proper: verses 14-15
 - 4. Within the holy place: verses 16-17
- IV. The threat against Jerusalem: verse 18

- I. The order to execute judgment: (verse 1) *Chapter Nine*
- II. The death squads and the man in linen: (verse 2)
- III. The preservation of the righteous remnant: (verses 3-4)
- IV. The slaughter of the ungodly: (verses 5-7)
- V. The prophet’s plea and God’s response: (verses 8-11)
 - 1. The prophet’s protest and plea: (verses 8-11)
 - 2. The Lord’s response: verses 9-11
 - A. Judah’s wickedness necessitates judgment
 - B. Mercy will be withheld from the wicked
 - C. Mercy is connected with righteousness

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**Lesson Three – Symbolic Representation of Jerusalem’s Fall/Land’s
Corruption/Destruction Begins--Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9**

- 1) What is Ezekiel instructed to sketch on a tile made of clay? What did the sketch represent?
- 2) How long is Ezekiel told to lie on his left side during his “siege” of the city of Jerusalem? How long was he instructed to lie on his right side? What do you think these two periods of time represent?
- 3) What is the symbolic meaning of the rationing of the polluted bread and water Ezekiel was told to eat and drink? What repulsive action was Ezekiel told to perform in the preparation of the polluted bread, and what could this action represent?
- 4) What symbolic action is Ezekiel told to perform at the beginning of chapter five? Why would this action be particularly repulsive for Ezekiel as a priest of God? What does Ezekiel do with the three groupings he makes using a set of scales?
- 5) Why does Ezekiel say that God’s people have rebelled in a way that is even more wicked than all the nations around them? What was the root cause of the sins of the nation of Judah?
- 6) What personal pronoun is used over a dozen times in the last seven verses of chapter five? What might be the significance of this repetition?

Chapter Six

- 7) What place and what areas of that place are prophesied against? Why? What happens to the bodies? What lesson will they have learned?
- 8) Are all the people destroyed? Why are some to remain? Where will they go? What will be their attitude then? Why is the punishment just?

Chapter Seven

- 9) How close is the judgment? Describe God’s attitude toward the land (people). How certain is the judgement? Again, why is it so certain? Again, what lesson will they learn?

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- 10) Total destruction--Describe the disruptions in their lives in all aspects: Social life – vs. 10-13, Military – vs. 14-18, Economic – vs. 19-22 and Political – vs. 23-27 → Note in verse 21: Are the instruments of God’s punishment always good people?

Chapter Eight

- 11) Vision of the Image of Jealousy – vs. 1-6
Where is Ezekiel and what is he doing? Describe the vision he sees and compare it to what he saw earlier in 1:26-27. What is the first evidence of sin that he sees? What does it mean? Is this as bad as it gets?

- 12) Cult worship – vs. 7-13
How does Ezekiel get to the next scene? What does he see? Who is singled out for criticism? Who is he? Why might they be worshipping in secret? Is this as bad as it gets?

- 13) Worship of Tammuz – vs. 14-15
Who/what is Tammuz? What might make this worse than the previous sins? Is this as bad as it gets?

- 14) Sun worship – vs. 16-18 Why is this the worst of the abominations? What might be the meaning of there being 25 people who are involved?

Chapter Nine

- 15) The vision makes a dramatic shift. Describe the seven men. What are their jobs? What is Ezekiel’s reaction? What might this mean about his feelings? What is God’s answer? What is the final result?

Application Questions:

- 1) God brought the punishments listed in chapters four through nine on his chosen people because of their love of idolatry. List a few examples of “idols” that can cause us to suffer an even greater punishment than the house of Judah.
- 2) When bad things happen, has God forsaken us? Explain your answer. Who is in charge of the nations of men?
- 3) Is all religious activity acceptable to God? What New Testament references would you give to support your conclusion about acceptable worship?

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Lesson Four – God’s Glory Departs From the Temple/Destruction is Certain/False Prophets Condemned Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Outline of Chapter 10:

- I) The appearance of God’s chariot throne: Verse 1
- II) The man in linen and his second commission: Verse 2
- I) The commission in execution: Verses 2-8
 - 1. The cherubim again: (verses 2-3)
 - 2. The glory of Jehovah and the cloud: (verse 4)
 - 3. The awesome sound of the cherubim: (verse 5)
 - 4. The man in linen receives the coals and leaves to execute his commission: (verses 6-8)
- II) The cherubim described again: (verses 9-22)

Outline of Chapter 11:

- I) Treason against God taught by the leaders: Verses 1-4
 - 1. The leaders in rebellion: (verse 1)
 - 2. Their rebellion pointed out: (verse 2)
 - 3. Their rebellion defined: (verse 3)
 - 4. Their rebellion to be denounced: (verse 4)
- II) Moral wickedness outlined and punishment announced: Verses 5-13
 - 1. Murder and oppression denounced: (verses 5-7)
 - 2. The threat and the irony: (verses 7-11)
 - 3. The justice of the punishment proclaimed: (verse 12)
 - 4. The death of Pelatiah: (verse 13)
 - 5. Another protest from the prophet: (verse 13)
- III) The self-righteous denounced and the remnant assured: Verses 14-21
 - 1. The self righteousness of the Judeans: (verses 14-15)
 - 2. The righteous remnant assured: (verses 16-20)
 - 3. The impenitent threatened: (verse 21)
- IV) The Lord departs and the vision ends: Verses 22-25
 - 1. The Lord leaves the city: (verses 22-23)
 - 2. Ezekiel is “brought back” to Babylon: (verse 24)
 - 3. Ezekiel tells us what he saw and heard: (verse 25)

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Lesson Four – God’s Glory Departs From the Temple/Destruction is Certain/False Prophets Condemned Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Outline of Chapter 12:

- I) Another reminder of Israel’s iniquity: (verses 1-2)
- II) The nature of the first sign: (verses 3-6)
 - 1. The “trudge” during the daytime: (verses 3-4)
 - 2. The “trudge” during the evening: (verses 4-6)
- III) The sign enacted and explained: (verses 7-16)
 - 1. The sign acted out: (verse 7)
 - 2. The people inquire: (verses 8-9)
 - 3. The explanation: (verses 10-16)
- IV) The second sign and the explanation: (verses 17-20)
 - 1. The nature of the sign: (verses 17-18)
 - 2. The explanation: (verses 19-20)
- V. The imminent judgment: (verses 21-28)
 - 1. The insolent proverb: (verses 21-22)
 - 2. The blunt rebuke: (verses 23-25)
 - 3. The misguided notion: (verses 26-27)
 - 4. The plain reply: (verse 28)

Outline of Chapters 13 & 14:

- I) The word against the false prophets: Verses 1-16
 - a) The indictment and the description: (vs. 1-7)
 - b) The coming expose and punishment: (vs. 8-16)
- II) The word against the false prophetesses: Verses 17-23
 - a) The description and the indictment: (vs. 17-19)
 - b) The coming rescue of God’s people: (vs. 20-23)
- III) Idolaters indicted and threatened: Verses 1-11
 - a) The denunciation of idolatrous elders: (vs. 1-5)
 - b) The denunciation of idolaters and their sympathetic prophets: (vs. 6-11)
- IV) Prevailing sin makes judgement inevitable: Verses 12-23
 - a) The sore judgements of famine: (vs. 12-14)
 - b) The sore judgement of evil beasts: (vs. 15-16)
 - c) The sore judgement of military invasion: (vs. 17-18)
 - d) The sore judgement of pestilence: (vs. 19-20)
 - e) The four sore judgements and Jerusalem: (vs. 21-23)

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Lesson Four – God’s Glory Departs From the Temple/Destruction is Certain/False Prophets Condemned Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

Introduction: Recall that chapters 8-11 fit together as one vision. What was the theme of Chapter 8? Chapter 9? Read 10 & 11 and decide what the message is. Look at 8:3 and 11:24. Where has Ezekiel “been”?

Chapter 10

- 1) What new fact do we get about the throne scene? What is the new job for the man in linen? What might that imply? Describe the scene inside the inner court in 3-5. How does the man get the coals?
- 2) Describe the chariot and the creatures. How different is this description from the one in Chapter 1? What ideas do you have about what the components mean? Who controlled the movement of the chariot?
- 3) Departure of the Divine Presence – Where does the cloud of glory go? What seems to be one of the jobs of the cherubim? What did Moses and Hosea (among others) warn about in Deut. 31:17 and Hosea 9:12? What is happening?

Chapter 11

- 4) Where does Ezekiel go? Who does he see? Is this the group we saw in Chapter 8? What are they doing wrong? What is Ezekiel going to do about it?
- 5) Has the rebellion helped or hurt? What does God want the Jews in Jerusalem and in Babylon to do about the captivity? Are they supposed to keep up the good fight? What is the result of the rebellion? What might have happened if they had obeyed? What happens to Pelatiah? (see 11:1 and 11:13). What is Ezekiel’s reaction?
- 6) To the Jew in Jerusalem, why are the captives where they are? What is God’s attitude toward them? What promise does he make for those in exile? Has this been mentioned before? What will be the attitude of the people then?
- 7) The Glory departs – How does the vision end? What should be the message to the captives?

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Chapter 12

8) What is the condition of the people? To whom is this message intended? In verses three through seven, what is Ezekiel commanded to do? Is this a one-time action? Does he do these things in secret? What do you think his demeanor is? Is this symbol hard to understand?

9) What does Ezekiel do in verses 8-16? Would this be a fun job? What question could he expect to hear? Who is he to say he symbolizes? What is to happen to the “prince of Jerusalem”? What actually happens to him? How does that fit the prophecy? Will everyone be killed? What reason is given here?

10) What new sign is Ezekiel told to give? What is the interpretation? How do you know? How close is this description to the actual destruction? What proverb do the people quote? When and how will it be disputed?

Chapter 13 and 14

11) What advice does Jeremiah 23:16-17 give the children of Israel regarding their approach to the words of the false prophets? What would be the end of those who heed their advice? What types of words/phrases would these false prophets use to give credibility to the words they were saying?

12) What could the phrase “setting up idols in their heart” mean? How can we be guilty of the same type of idolatry? What are the four judgments that would be sent on Jerusalem? What is the message of hope included in the last few verses of chapter 14?

Application Questions:

- 1) Ezekiel clearly tells us that judgement is based on the individual. Is there a temptation to try to gain some approval by simply being associated with a faithful body of God’s people? Do you think this would be a potential problem in our congregation? Why or why not?
- 2) Why do false prophets command such a large following today? Is their appeal any different from the false prophets of Ezekiel’s day? When things do not go well for us has God forsaken us?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Five – The Useless Vine/Spared Child Shown Kindness/Two Eagles/Individual Responsibility/Lion/History Review Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Outline of Chapters 15 and 16:

- I) The parable of the vine: Verses 1-5
 - a) The question of the vine's significance: (vs. 2)
 - b) The uselessness of the wood from the fruitless vine: (vs. 3)
 - c) The uselessness of the vine wood: (vs. 4)
 - d) The uselessness of burned vine wood stressed: (vs. 4-5)
- II) The parable applied to Jerusalem and its people: Verses 6-8
 - a) Jerusalem the useless vine wood to be burned: (vs. 6)
 - b) Past escapes not indicative: (vs. 7)
 - c) The sure judgement and its reason: (vs. 8)
- III) The undeserved kindness shown to Israel by God: Verses 1-14
 - a) The ungodly pedigree of Jerusalem: (vs. 2-3)
 - b) The uncared for nation at its birth: (vs. 4-5)
 - c) The caring traveler: (vs. 6-7)
 - d) The marriage, the cleansing and the honoring: (vs. 8-14)
- IV) The inexcusable infidelity: Verses 15-59
 - a) The description of the faithlessness: (vs. 15-34)
 - b) The righteousness judgement on such faithlessness: (vs. 35-43)
 - c) Jerusalem and her wicked sisters in infidelity: (vs. 44-59)
 - i) The family connection: (vs. 44-46)
 - ii) The surpassing wickedness of Jerusalem: (vs. 47-52)
 - iii) The restoring of Sodom and Samaria: (vs. 53-59)
- V) The wonderful reconciliation: Verses 60-63
 - a) The incredibly gracious Lord: (vs. 60)
 - b) The repentance of Jerusalem: (vs. 61)
 - c) Jerusalem brought to conviction by kindness: (vs. 62-63)

Outline of Chapters 17, 18, and 19:

- I. The parable of the eagles and the vine/willows: Verses 1-10
 - a) The great eagle and the cedar: (vs. 1-4)
 - b) The great eagle and the willow tree: (vs. 5-6)
 - c) The great eagle and the dependent kingdom: (vs. 6)
 - d) The second eagle and the conniving vine: (vs. 7-8)
 - e) The threat of being uprooted: (vs. 9-10)
- II) The explanation and the indictment: Verses 11-21
 - a) The exile of Jehoachin: (vs. 11-12)
 - b) The covenant with Zedekiah: (vs. 13-14)
 - c) The treachery of Zedekiah: (vs. 15)
 - d) Judgement coming on faithless use of God's name: (vs. 16-21)

- i) Egypt is useless
 - ii) The broken covenant
 - iii) The captivity and decimation
- III) The parable of the tender twig: Verses 22-24
 - a) The Lord and the cedar: (vs. 22-24)
 - b) The strange planting: (vs. 22)
 - c) The successful planting of the Lord: (vs. 23-24)
- IV) The proverb renounced: Verses 1-4
 - a) The parable stated: (vs. 1-2)
 - b) The parable rejected: (vs. 3-4)
- V) God's case stated in three illustrations: Verses 5-20
 - a) The righteous man assured: (vs. 5-9)
 - b) The wicked man assured: (vs. 10-13)
 - c) The righteous man assured: (vs. 14-18)
 - d) The summary: (vs. 19-20)
- VI) The blessing and curse of a change of mind: Verses 21-29
 - a) The fruit of the righteous change: (vs. 21-23)
 - b) The curse of wicked change: (vs. 24)
 - c) God's right ways and Israel's perversion: (vs. 25-29)
- VII) The call to repentance and life: Verses 30-32
 - a) Avoid ruinous sin: (vs. 30)
 - b) Adopt a changed heart: (vs. 32)
- VIII) The parable of the lioness and her lions: Verses 1-9
 - a) The commission to lament: (vs. 1)
 - b) The lioness and her offspring: (vs. 2-9)
- IX) The parable of the vine and its branches: Verses 10-14
 - a) The fruitful vine-Royal line: (vs. 10)
 - b) The strong branches-Rulers: (vs. 11)
 - c) The vine uprooted and transplanted: (vs. 12-13)
 - d) The destructive branches: (vs. 14)

Outline of Chapter 20:

- I) The visit from the elders: Verses 1-4
 - a) The date of the vision: (vs. 1)
 - b) God's response to the elders: (vs. 2-3)
 - c) God's appeal to Ezekiel: (vs. 4)
- II) The historical survey: Verses 5-29
 - a) From the beginning to the Egyptian captivity: (vs. 5-9)
 - b) From the deliverance to the wilderness: (vs. 10-17)
 - c) In the wilderness: (vs. 18-26)
 - d) In the land of Canaan: (vs. 27-29)
- III) The lesson brought home: Verses 30-39
 - a) The successors: (vs. 30-32)
 - b) The work of purging and the ultimatum: (vs. 33-39)
- IV) The graciousness of God: Verses 40-44
 - a) The restoration: (vs. 40-42)
 - b) The repentant people: (vs. 43)
 - c) The lesson learned: (vs. 44)

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Five – The Useless Vine/Spared Child Shown Kindness/Two Eagles/Individual Responsibility/Lion/History Review Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

- 1) What is the main function a vine is designed to perform? What were the main problems with the vine/wood described in the allegory? What is the meaning of the useless vine allegory and to whom or what does it apply?
- 2) What was the status of the “child” described in the early verses of chapter 16? How had the child been treated? What did God graciously decide to do for the child? How were the people of God given special treatment throughout their history?
- 3) What does God do for the child when the child is of mature age? How strong a commitment did God give to the woman’s long-term welfare? How did the woman who is now of full age repay God’s grace?
- 4) How is the behavior of God’s people described in verses 30 through 34? How is this worse behavior than a common prostitute? How will the unfaithful woman be treated her “lovers” in the long run? What was the indictment in verse 59? What were the consequences of this course of action?
- 5) Who are the two eagles and what is the cedar mentioned in verses 1-7 of chapter 17? What is the vine and its relationship to the second eagle?
- 6) What was the message of the proverb noted by Ezekiel in the first few verses of chapter 18? What was wrong with this parable? Does it have any application at all in this life? Do we have similar “parables” circulating today?
- 7) Can a father’s sins and/or righteous deeds be transferred to his son or his other descendants? Can a son’s sins and/or righteous deeds be transferred to his father? Can a man who has been righteous become unrighteous at some point in time? Can an unrighteous man turn from his sin and be righteous?
- 8) What or whom does the lioness mentioned in verses 1-4 of chapter 19 represent? What was Ezekiel told to do related to the lioness and her cubs (whelps)? Who does the first cub represent and what was his fate? What could the second whelp represent and what was his fate?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Five – The Useless Vine/Spared Child Shown Kindness/Two Eagles/Individual Responsibility/Lion/History Review Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

- 9) What date does Ezekiel give for the events at the beginning of chapter 20? How long has Ezekiel been prophesying to the exiles in Babylon? Who comes to visit Ezekiel to “hear the word” the Lord had given to him? How does God react to the visit? Did they receive the message they “wanted”?

- 10) How early in the history of Israel did the tendency to stray from God and his laws begin? What was God’s first effort to show his people how they should live/serve him?

- 11) According to verses 18-24, did the children of those who came out of Egypt show any more allegiance to God than their fathers? What lessons can we learn from their “example”?

- 12) Were the people of Israel more faithful to God once they had entered the promised land of Canaan? What were some of the key sins/political mistakes that caused their problems?

- 13) What is the message of hope given in verses 40 through 44? What would God’s people remember that would help them to serve Him? What are some possible applications of this message of hope?

Application Questions:

- 1) What can we learn about the doctrines of Calvin (TULIP) from studying these passages? Is the idea of individual responsibility popular in our culture?

- 2) What can we do to show our gratitude and thankfulness to God for all his blessings? How can a lack of appreciation for God’s blessings lead to all manner of sins?

- 3) What lessons can we learn from the people of Israel and their tendency to repeat the same sins? What are some other valuable lessons we can learn from studying the Old Testament?

- 4) Why does Ezekiel intersperse messages of hope with the harsh indictments of sin in these chapters? What can we learn about our efforts to share God’s message from this approach?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Six– The Imminent Judgement/Two Sisters/The Caldron/ Death of Ezekiel’s Wife==Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24

Outline of Chapter 21 and 22 (includes the last few verses of Chapter 20):

- I) The prophecy against the “South”: Verses 20:45-21:7
 - a) The fiery judgement: (vs. 20:45-48)
 - b) The protesting prophet: (vs. 20:48)
 - c) The sword of judgement unsheathed against Jerusalem: (vs. 1-7)
- II) The impartial sword of God’s justice: Verses 8-17
 - a) A sword not for ornament, but for judgement: (vs. 8-9)
 - b) An impartial sword which condemns all: (vs. 10-13)
 - c) A destroying sword fearsome in its work: (vs. 14-17)
- III) The invasion of Judah by Babylon-the “signpost” sign: Verses 18-27
 - a) The Babylonian alternative: (vs. 18-19)
 - b) Building a signpost: (vs. 20)
 - c) The Babylonian’s decision is Jerusalem: (vs. 21-22)
 - d) The false prophets shift ground: (vs. 23)
 - e) The just judgement: (vs. 24)
 - f) The end of the monarchy and the word of hope: (vs. 25-27)
- IV) The word against Ammon: Verses 28-32
 - a) Ammon’s day is coming: (vs. 28)
 - b) The judgement deferred but certain: (vs. 29-32)
- V) Corruption “in” the midst of the city: Verses 1-12
 - a) Another appeal to the prophet: (vs. 1-2)
 - b) A catalogue of sins “in” Jerusalem: (vs. 3-12)
- VI) Judgement ahead for the city: Verses 13-22
 - a) The reason for judgement: (vs. 13)
 - b) The severity of the judgement: (vs. 14)
 - c) Elements of the judgement: (vs. 15-16)
 - d) The parable of the dross and the fire: (vs. 17-22)
- VII) The complete corruption of the city: Verses 23-31
 - a) Wicked prophets in a wicked land: (vs. 23-25)
 - b) Profaning priests: (vs. 26)
 - c) Ignoble princes and their prophet cronies: (vs. 27-28)
 - d) The ungodly nation: (vs. 29)
 - e) The missing man: (vs. 30)
 - f) The self-destruction: (vs. 31)

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Six– The Imminent Judgement/Two Sisters/The Caldron/ Death of Ezekiel’s Wife==Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24

Outline of Chapter 23 and 24:

- I) The terrible twosome: Verses 1-4
 - a) The family connection: (vs. 1-2)
 - b) The wickedness in Egypt in their early days: (vs. 5)
 - c) The identity of the sisters revealed: (vs. 4)
- II) The harlot from Samaria-Oholah: Verses 5-10
 - a) The career record: (vs. 5-8)
 - b) The judgement: (vs. 9-10)
- III) The harlot from Judea-Oholibah: Verses 11-35
 - a) The career of Jerusalem: (vs. 11-21)
 - b) The judgement: (vs. 22-35)
- IV) The final word on the harlots: Verses 36-49
 - a) The prophet urged to render his judgement: (vs. 36)
 - b) The flagrant wickedness of the harlots: (vs. 37-44)
 - c) The judgement of God: (vs. 45-49)
- V) The sign of the caldron: Verses 1-14
 - a) The date of the sign: (vs. 1-2)
 - b) The sign and the application: (vs. 3-14)
- VI) The death of Ezekiel’s wife and its sign value: Verses 15-24
 - a) The warning: (vs. 15-16)
 - b) The instructions: (vs. 17)
 - c) The death: (vs. 18)
 - d) The submission: (vs. 18)
- VII) The Messenger and Message of doom predicted: Verses 19-28
 - a) The deadly report: (vs. 19-26)
 - b) Another commission or “the opened mouth”: (vs. 27)

- 1) What were the exiles saying about Ezekiel’s message in the last verse of Chapter 20? Why do you think they would say these things? What does Ezekiel do to answer their accusations in the first few verses of chapter 21?
- 2) What personal pronoun is repeated often in the first few verses and throughout chapter 21? Do you think this was a shock to God’s people?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Six– The Imminent Judgement/Two Sisters/The Caldron/ Death of Ezekiel’s Wife==Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24

- 3) How does Ezekiel respond to the dreadful prophecy he has been commissioned to deliver? What can we learn from his emotional response? What does he do with the sword, and what is its intended use?
- 4) Whose doom is foretold in verses 25-26? What is the possible meaning of the two different parts of verse 27? What is the message of hope in this verse?
- 5) What group of people are discussed in the last five verses of chapter 21? Why was this message given to the exiles in Babylon? (Hint: Foreshadowing chapters 25-32).
- 6) Why is Jerusalem referred to as the “bloody city”? What other sins “carried out in her midst” were delineated in verses 4-12? What is the root cause of all of these sins?
- 7) The Lord said he would summon the agents of destruction by smiting his hands together. Who were the agents of destruction in this case? What/whom had God used as agents of destruction in the past?
- 8) What can we learn from the allegory of the smelting furnace? What did the smelting furnace show about the composition of the people in Jerusalem?
- 9) Name the different classes of people who would be part of the destruction and why God said they would not be spared.
- 10) Who were the two sisters mentioned in the parable and what does each one of them represent? What the significance of being sisters or the offspring of the same parents?
- 11) What two groups of people did the elder sister play the harlot with in the days of her youth? What are some possible meanings of this phrase “playing the harlot”?
- 12) How did her “lovers” eventually treat her and how was her reputation/name regarded among her former lovers? What can we learn from this example about the passing pleasures of sin?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Six– The Imminent Judgement/Two Sisters/The Caldron/ Death of Ezekiel’s Wife==Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24

- 13) Was the younger sister better or worse when compared to the older sister? Why do you think she was characterized in this way? What three groups of “lovers” caused her to lust? What type of appeal did these lovers have for her?
- 14) Which one of her lovers from her youth does she turn back to near the end of Jerusalem? How will all of these lovers eventually treat her and how soon will this prophecy be fulfilled?
- 15) What vile and despicable acts were committed on the same day as some of the people of Jerusalem came to the temple to “worship” God? How could we be guilty of the same type of sins?
- 16) What is the date given by Ezekiel in the first verse of chapter 24? What event began back in Jerusalem “that very day”?
- 17) What happens to the pot or caldron after the “contents” are removed? What events were the fulfillment of this allegory?
- 18) What personal tragedy happens to Ezekiel at about this same time? What is he commanded to do in reaction to this tragic event? Why was he commanded to react this way?
- 19) What announcement is brought to Ezekiel and the other exiles at the end of chapter 24?

Application Question:

- 1) How could we be guilty of the same type of spiritual adultery as the people in Ezekiel’s day?
- 2) God’s justice and holiness is clearly seen in these chapters. List some demonstrations of God’s love and mercy in these chapters.

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Seven– Prophecy Against Ammon/Moab/Edom/Philista/Tyre Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28

Outline of Chapter 25 and 26:

I) Against Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia: Chapter 25

- a) Ammon: (vs. 1-7)
- b) Moab: (vs. 8-11)
- c) Edom: (vs. 12-14)
- d) Philistia: (vs. 15-17)

II) Against Tyre: Chapter 26

- a) Judgment will come from many nations: (vs. 1-6)
- b) Nebuchadnezzar's hand in the judgement: (vs. 7-14)
- c) The national response at Tyre's fall: (vs. 15-18)
- d) The completeness of Tyre's fall: (vs. 19-21)

Outline of Chapter 27 and 28:

I) The beauty and economic prosperity of Tyre: Verses 1-25

The lament of the trading partners at Tyre's fall: Verses 26-36

II) The crimes of Tyre enumerated: Verses 1-19

The judgement of Sidon: Verses 20-24

The instructions to Israel: Verses 25-26

- 1) Who was the first group of people Ezekiel was told to “set his face” against and prophecy about their downfall? Where were these people located and what were their sins?
- 2) Who was the father of the Ammonites and the Moabites (Look in Genesis 19:37-38)? Does it seem unusual that these people would be the enemies of Judah?
- 3) What was the fate of the Ammonites and their cities? What can we learn from their treatment of the people of God?
- 4) Who was going to be the one to destroy both Moab and Ammon? What blasphemous accusation was commonly repeated among the Moabites and Mount Seir?
- 5) Who was the father of the Edomites? What characteristics of their “father” had they adopted? What indication is given to show the extent of the judgement of this nation?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Seven– Prophecy Against Ammon/Moab/Edom/Philista/Tyre Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28

- 6) What telling phrase is mentioned at the end of the prophecies against Ammon and Edom and Philistia? Which one of these peoples were a constant thorn in the side of the people of Judah? Why?
- 7) What was the date of the prophecy which begins in the first verse of chapter 26 and how long had Ezekiel been prophesying at that date? What other event happened in this same year?
- 8) Where was the city of Tyre located and what was the economic and political status of the city? What were the sins of which the people of Tyre were guilty? Who did God say he would bring against the city of Tyre?
- 9) What phrases were used by Ezekiel to describe the condition of Tyre after the armies had done God's work among them?
- 10) What would be the reaction of the lands around Tyre after they heard of the city's destruction? What lessons can we learn from the judgement brought upon this city?
- 11) What does Ezekiel tell us about how long it would take to rebuild this great city? What are we told about the men who were charged with the defense of this prosperous city? Who will these men be fighting against in the future according to the prophecy? Do they have any hope of victory against this foe?
- 12) Make a list of the cities or countries with which the city of Tyre was able to buy/sell. What is the point of listing all these trading partners in verses 12-24?
- 13) What was the blasphemous sin of which the prince of Tyre (or the personification of the entire city) was accused? Whose wisdom is compared (using a bit of sarcasm) to the "wisdom" of the people (prince) of Tyre and what is the purpose of this comparison?
- 14) What sin was listed as the end result of all the things that mighty Tyre has done by "their wisdom and power"? How can we be guilty of the same type of sins?
- 15) What will be the end result of this sin for the prince of Tyre? What should they and all that read this prophecy learn from the punishment of this once great city?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Seven– Prophecy Against Ammon/Moab/Edom/Philista/Tyre Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28

- 16) What does Ezekiel say will be the fate of the city of Sidon? Why will God bring this great destruction against this city?

- 17) What is the message of hope given to God’s people in the last two verses of chapter twenty-eight? What could be the fulfillment(s) of this prophecy?

Application Questions:

- 1) What can we learn from the way God dealt with the nations that opposed Israel? What does this tell us about the fate of those who oppose and persecute God’s people today? What role do we play in giving these opposers “what they deserve”?

- 2) What can we learn about the dangers of earthly wealth and materialism from these two chapters? What can we do to avoid the sins committed by those of Tyre?

- 3) The scriptures have many warnings about the dangers of pride and the other sins that may be associated with it. Make a list of several passages that show the progression of sins that may flow from pride. Is there a temptation for any of us to be proud? Why?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Eight – Prophecy Against Egypt Chapters 29, 30, 31 and 32

Outline of Chapter 29 and 30:

- I) Prophecy against Egypt: Verses 29:1-30:26
 - a) God’s power seen in destroying and restoring Egypt: (vs. 1-16)
 - b) God sends Babylon against Egypt: (vs. 29:17-30:26)
 - i) Nebuchadnezzar and Egyptian wages: (vs. 29:17-21)
 - ii) Nebuchadnezzar and the defeat of Egypt: (vs. 30:1-19)
 - iii) Nebuchadnezzar and the Pharaoh Hophra: (vs. 30:20-26)
 - II)
 - III) Outline of Chapter 31 and 32
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- II) Assyria is a warning to proud Egypt: Verses 31:1-18
 - a) The certain fall of Egypt, the failure: Verses 32:1-16
 - b) Egypt the defeated joins the ranks of the fallen: Verses 32:17-32

- 1) What is the date of Ezekiel’s prophecy in the first verse of chapter twenty-nine? How long had it been since Jerusalem was placed under siege by Nebuchadnezzar?
- 2) What figurative expression was used by Ezekiel to describe Pharaoh, King of Egypt? What was the Pharaoh saying about the great Nile River? What would this statement show about his view of the true God?
- 3) What would be done to the Pharaoh as a result of his arrogance and pride toward God? What are some possible fulfillments of this prophecy? What would (should) the inhabitants of Egypt learn from their downfall?
- 4) What might the expression “you have been a staff made of reed” mean in terms of Egypt’s relationship (politically) to Israel?
- 5) What expression is used several times in the chapter to show God’s control of the rise and fall of all nations?
- 6) Phrases including the words “forty years” appear several times in chapter twenty-nine. What could these forty years represent? What will God do for Egypt after the last reference to the period of forty years? Why will He do this?

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Lesson Eight – Prophecy Against Egypt Chapters 29, 30, 31 and 32

- 7) Will Egypt ever return to its former glory once the period of the forty years has ended? What nations will join Egypt in the list of world empires that will never return to their former glory once God has judged them?
- 8) Who will God cause to come against the nation of Egypt? What other nations will this conqueror invade and destroy? What will be the driving force behind his desire to conquer all these nations?
- 9) What message of hope is given at the end of chapter twenty-nine? What could be the explanation of this prophecy and why was it given to the exiles in Babylon?
- 10) What could the expression “the day of the Lord” used in the first few verses mean in this context? What would be the fate of Egypt’s “league of nations” and why?
- 11) What would be the geographic extent of the destruction of Egypt? What would the invading armies do to the great Nile River and what effect would this action have on the land?
- 12) What will God cause to happen in some of the main cities of Egypt? What other group of people will God “cleanse” in this way?
- 13) What symbolic language is used to show the complete and utter destruction of Egypt and all of its power and glory? Who will be the true cause of their destruction?

Chapter 31 and 32

- 14) What is the date of Ezekiel’s prophecy mentioned in the first verse of chapter 31? What event was only one month away at this time?
- 15) What words of beauty, strength and grandeur are used to describe the kingdom of Assyria in its prime? What other nations or cities does this description bring to your mind? What was the end of these other nations/cities?

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Lesson Eight – Prophecy Against Egypt Chapters 29, 30, 31 and 32

- 16) What sins of Assyria's rulers and its people caused their downfall? Who would be the agent of destruction for the Assyrians? What should have the rulers of Egypt learned from the fall of Assyria?

- 17) According to verses 15-17, what was the reaction of the nations around Assyria when they observed its ruin? How does the nation of Egypt compare to Assyria according to the last verse of chapter 31?

- 18) What two creatures is the Pharaoh of Egypt compared to in the first few verses of chapter 32? Why do you think Ezekiel used these two animals to describe Pharaoh (the nation of Egypt by extension)? What will be the end of the second creature?

- 19) Who will be used by God to destroy Egypt? According to verses 11-16, will the destruction of Egypt leave any man or beast untouched?

- 20) What five nations are mentioned in verses 22-32 as the ones who will share the same end as Egypt? What common sins do all of these nations share with one another?

Application Questions:

- 1) God ruled among the nations in the days of Israel and he still rules them today. Can you think of some world events that may indicate his control of nations in more modern times?

- 2) What dangers do we face in this country that may lead our nation to the same type of ruin that was brought upon Egypt? What can we do about it?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Nine – A Message of Transition/A Word To Shepherds Chapter 33 and 34

Outline of Chapter 33:

- I) God and the watchman's responsibility again: Verses 1-9
 - a) A word by God in Ezekiel's defense: (vs. 1-6)
 - b) A word of reminder to Ezekiel: (vs. 7-9)
- II) God and individual responsibility again: Verses 10-20
 - a) The people's complaint: (vs. 10)
 - b) The needlessness of pain: (vs. 11)
 - c) The Lord's principles of judgement: (vs. 12-16)
 - d) The people's protest again: (vs. 17-20)
- III) God and the smitten city: Verses 21-22
 - a) The date: (vs. 21)
 - b) The refugee messenger: (vs. 22)
 - c) The dumb prophet given a message: (vs. 22)
- IV) God and Israel: Verses 23-29
 - a) The claim of Israel and his cohorts: (vs. 23-24)
 - b) The denunciation of Israel: (vs. 25-26)
 - c) The coming judgement of Israel: (vs. 27-29)
- V) God and the popular prophet: Verses 30-33
 - a) The prophet they love to hear: (vs. 30-31)
 - b) The prophet's message they love to ignore: (vs. 31-33)

Outline of Chapter 34:

- I) A spoken condemnation to the leaders of Israel: Verses 1-10
 - a) A description of the hireling shepherd: (vs. 1-6)
 - b) A word addressed to the wicked shepherds: (vs. 7-10)
- II) The coming true shepherd: Verses 11-24
 - a) The work of the shepherd on behalf of his sheep: (vs. 11-16)
 - b) The judgmental work of the shepherd: (vs. 17-22)
 - c) The coming of "David": (vs. 23-24)
- III) The pasture to which the sheep will return: Verses 25-31
 - a) A land of security: (vs. 25)
 - b) A land of abundant rain: (vs. 26)
 - c) A land of fruitfulness and security: (vs. 27-31)

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Lesson Nine – A Message of Transition/A Word To Shepherds Chapter 33 and 34

- 1) Ezekiel was once again told to be a watchman for God's people. What was his most important responsibility? (Read Amos 3:6 and Numbers 10:1-10) Does the watchman have a responsibility for the reaction to the message? (Review Ezekiel 3:16-21) What does the New Testament teach on this subject?
- 2) What do we learn about God's perfect justice and love from verses 10 and 11? What is the ultimate demonstration of God's justice and his love for all of mankind?
- 3) How do the principles in verses 10-20 conflict with the teachings of Calvin and other similar religious error? (Hint: Remember our discussion of TULIP)
- 4) What pivotal and dreadful announcement was made in verse 21 of this chapter? What does this prove about the validity and truth of all of Ezekiel's prophetic words? What was the date of this announcement?
- 5) What was the wrong attitude expressed by those who had survived the destruction of Jerusalem expressed in verse 24? How could we be guilty of the same type of false pride/confidence as God's people today?
- 6) What were the people in verses 24 through 26 relying on for their claims to the land? How does this line of reasoning relate to some of the doctrines expressed by Premillennialists? What is the fatal flaw in Premillennial thought/reasoning?
- 7) What does God promise to do to those who are guilty of the sins noted in the verses above? Would the destruction of Jerusalem serve any purpose if these sinful acts were allowed to continue without any consequences?
- 8) What were Ezekiel's fellow exiles near the River Chebar in Babylon saying about him in verse 30? Why do you think they had "seemingly" changed their attitude toward the "hard message" of Ezekiel's prophecy? What group of people came to Ezekiel several times earlier in the book to "hear the word of the Lord"?

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Lesson Nine – A Message of Transition/A Word To Shepherds Chapter 33 and 34

- 9) What was their true attitude toward the word of God given by Ezekiel? What example does Ezekiel use to show their reception and willingness to follow God's word?
- 10) Why do you think Ezekiel included the discussion of the shepherd of God's people in this particular place in his prophecy?(Hint: Refer to Ezekiel 22:23-30 and the Four "P's" we discussed in Lesson 13)
- 11) What were the sins of the wicked shepherds listed in the first six verses of the chapter? What do you think is the root cause(s) of these types of sins? What could the phrase "they wandered through the mountains and every high hill" in verse 6 mean?
- 12) What has been the result of the shepherd's lack of care according to verse 8? What is the literal and spiritual fulfillment of this prophecy during Ezekiel's lifetime?
- 13) The description of the Good Shepherd (a message of hope) begins in verse 12. What does the Good Shepherd do for his flock according to verses 12-16?
- 14) The ultimate hope of Israel and the rest of the world is introduced in verse 23. What will this Good Shepherd do for His flock? Whose son will He be and what office or place of authority will He hold among them?
- 15) What is this "covenant of peace" referred to in verse 25 of the chapter? How would this covenant be different from the other covenants God had made with his people in the past?
- 16) The proponents of Premillennialism say that verses 26 through 29 are to be literally fulfilled at some point in the future. How would you respond to their interpretation of these verses?
- 17) Was there a literal fulfillment of the promises made in verses 26 through 29? When did this occur and what was the ultimate purpose for this literal/physical fulfillment?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Ten – Edom’s Fate, Israel’s Blessing, Valley of Dry Bones and Two Sticks Chapters 35, 36 and 37

Outline of Chapters 35 and 36:

- I) The word against Edom: Chapter 35
 - a) The threat of judgement: (vs. 1-3)
 - b) The description of the judgement: (vs. 4-9)
 - c) The basis of judgement: (vs. 10-13)
 - d) The fitness of the judgement: (vs. 14-15)
- II) The word for the land of Israel: Verses 36:1-15
 - a) The crime and punishment of the nations: (vs. 1-7)
 - b) The coming blessing of the land of Israel: (vs. 8-15)
- III) The word concerning the house of Israel: Verses 16-38
 - a) Israel’s sin and expulsion from the land: (vs. 16-21)
 - b) Israel’s promised return to the land: (vs. 22-38)
 - i) The basic reason for their return: (vs. 22-24)
 - ii) Israel’s spiritual regeneration: (vs. 25-31)
 - iii) Israel’s prosperity and the reasons for it: (vs. 32-36)
 - iv) God’s encouragement of Israel: (vs. 37-38)

Outline of Chapter 37:

- III) The valley of very dry bones: Verses 1-14
 - a) The valley of very dry bones: (vs. 1-2)
 - b) The Lord’s question and the prophet’s reply: (vs. 3)
 - c) The prophet’s unusual commission: (vs. 4-6)
 - d) The message and the Spirit of life: (vs. 7-10)
 - e) The explanation of the vision: (vs. 11-14)
 - II) The sign of the two sticks: Verses 15-28
 - a) The two sticks: (vs. 15-16)
 - b) The joining to the two sticks: (vs. 17-20)
 - c) The explanation of the sign: (vs. 21-23)
 - d) The future glory of the united nation: (vs. 24-28)
 - i) David to be their King and Shepherd: (vs. 24)
 - ii) Canaan their eternal home: (vs. 25)
 - iii) The eternal covenant: (vs. 26)
 - iv) The eternal fellowship: (vs. 27-28)
- 1) Who will bring the judgement on the nation of Edom and what are the reasons given for their destruction? What personal pronoun is used almost ten times in the first ten verses of chapter 35?
- 2) How long will it take for the nation of Edom to recover from the judgement brought on them by the Lord? What should they and all that read this prophecy learn from their calamity?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Ten – Edom’s Fate, Israel’s Blessing, Valley of Dry Bones and Two Sticks Chapters 35, 36 and 37

- 3) What critical fact had the people of Edom left out of their reasoning about who would be the ones to possess the land of Israel? How could we be guilty of these same types of sins?
- 4) What was the Edomite’s view of the punishment brought on Israel by the Babylonians according to the first three verses of chapter 36? Had any of the other nations round about Israel made light of the true God based on Israel’s destruction?
- 5) When did the fulfillment of the promise in verses 8-12 come to pass? Who were the leaders of God’s people when they returned?
- 6) Why were the people of Israel removed from the land according to verses 16-19? Should their removal from the land be a surprise to them based on their sinfulness?
- 7) Why did God bring the nation of Israel back to the land on this occasion and what was the ultimate reason they were brought back to the land from the places they were scattered?
- 8) Verses 25-28 are often used by Premillennialists to show there will be a future gathering of the Jews to the land of Palestine? How would you respond to their interpretation/application of this passage?
- 9) Ezekiel gave us a picture of the blessed state of God’s people in verses 29-38. What are some of the blessings that God will shower on his people during this period? What should the people of Israel and the nations round about learn from this restoration?
- 10) Where did Ezekiel find himself in the first few verses of chapter 37 and how was he transported to this location? What did he find and how did he describe the condition of the things he found?
- 11) What question was Ezekiel asked by God and what was his answer? What can we learn about the character and faith of Ezekiel from his answer to the question?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Ten – Edom’s Fate, Israel’s Blessing, Valley of Dry Bones and Two Sticks Chapters 35, 36 and 37

- 12) What unusual command was Ezekiel given at this point? Was this the first time Ezekiel was asked to perform some unusual task as part of his prophetic work?
- 13) What does Ezekiel do in verses 4-10 and what does God do with the bones in these verses? What happens at the end of verse 10? What can we learn from this vision given to Ezekiel?
- 14) What explanation was given for the interpretation of this vision? What does God say he will do for his people and what assurance was given for his promise?
- 15) What instructions were Ezekiel given in verses 15-17? What was he instructed to write in these verses? What interpretation is given in verses 21 and 22 for the actions Ezekiel just performed?
- 16) Who will God set up to rule His people and how long will He reign? Who does this represent and what will be the realm of His rule?
- 17) What new information do we learn about the covenant of peace in this chapter (the covenant of peace was introduced in chapter 34)? What is this covenant of peace and how would you support your conclusion?
- 18) What promise does God make in the last three verses of the chapter? What is the fulfillment of these promises for God’s people today?

Application Question:

The proponents of Premillennialism and Mormonism use several verses in this chapter as “proof texts” of their doctrines. The Mormons use the vision of the sticks to assert the Book of Mormon is a fulfillment of prophecy and it should be used in conjunction with the Bible. The Premillennialists assert this chapter prophecies about the return of the literal nation of Israel to the land of Palestine at some date in the future. How would you answer their arguments?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Eleven – Gog and Magog Chapters 38 and 39

Outline of Chapters 38 and 39:

- I) The expedition of Gog: Verses 1-16
 - a) The army from the four corners of the earth: (vs. 1-6)
 - b) Preparing for the invasion: (vs. 7-9)
 - c) The land and people to be invaded: (vs. 10-13)
 - d) The hidden reason behind the invasion: (vs. 14-16)
- II) The overthrow of Gog: Verses 38: 17-39:20
 - a) Gog's invasion foreknown by God: (vs. 17)
 - b) The utter and complete defeat of Gog's forces: (vs. 38:18-39:10)
 - c) The burial of Gog's hordes: (vs. 11-16)
 - d) The "sacrifice" of Gog's hordes: (vs. 17-20)
- III) The response of the nations to Gog's overthrow: Verses 21-24
 - a) The nations observe the judgement: (vs. 21)
 - b) The nations now understand the nature of God: (vs. 22-24)
- IV) A word of promise concerning Israel: Verses 25-29
 - a) The mercy on Israel: (vs. 25)
 - b) The penitence of Israel: (vs. 26)
 - c) The security of Israel: (vs. 26-27)
 - d) God's unbroken fellowship with Israel: (vs. 28-29)

- 1) What does God say about his attitude toward Gog? Who are Gog's subjects and who are his allies?
- 2) What nations or regions will be his allies in this conflict? What is the significance of the geographic locations of these allies?
- 3) When will the enemies of God's people choose to attack them according to verses ten and eleven? What will be their motivation for attacking God's people? Have other nations noted earlier in Ezekiel had this same motivation?
- 4) Who will be the One who brings Gog into the land to do battle with God's people? Why will Gog and his army be brought into the land? Who will be in total control of this situation?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Eleven – Gog and Magog Chapters 38 and 39

- 5) Proponents of Premillennial doctrines say this section of Ezekiel prophecies about the Battle of Armageddon at the beginning of the 1,000 year reign. What are some key questions that must be answered for this to be a literal battle?

- 6) What kinds of things will happen to the armies of Gog according to verses seventeen through twenty-two? What will be four results of these actions according to verse twenty-three? What can we learn from this verse?

- 7) What will God do to the forces of Gog and their weapons according to verses 1-6 of chapter thirty-nine? What will be known about the true God according to verses seven and eight? What assurances are we given that these events will come to pass?

- 8) What indications are given to show the complete and utter destruction of the forces of Gog in verses nine through twelve? What indications are given to show how many people were in Gog's hordes? What can we learn about God's power from these passages?

- 9) What type of "sacrifice" will God offer according to verses seventeen through twenty? What types of animals will consume the sacrifice? Where have we heard this type of repulsive scene described earlier in Ezekiel?

- 10) What do we learn about God's control of the events included in Ezekiel's prophecy from the last few verses of the chapter? What could "pouring forth of My Spirit" in the final verse of the chapter mean?

Application Questions:

Look up any other references to Gog or Magog in the Scriptures. What can we learn about God's attitude toward Gog in these other passages? Who did they align themselves with in these other passages? In light of Ezekiel and these other passages, who could Gog/Magog represent?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Twelve – The Temple of God, The New Worship/Land Chapters 40 through 48

Outline of Chapters 40 through 43:

- I) The temple, its structure and measurements: Chapter 40:1-42:20
 - a) The date of the vision: (vs. 40:1)
 - b) The city of the vision: (vs. 40:2)
 - c) The man and the message: (vs. 40:3-4)
 - d) Measuring the outer walls and the east gate: (vs. 40:5-16)
 - e) The outer court chambers and distances: (vs. 40:17-19)
 - f) The northern and southern gates in the outer wall: (vs. 40:20-27)
 - g) The gates leading to the inner court: (vs. 40:28-37)
 - h) The chambers and tables of the inner court: (vs. 40: 38-43)
 - i) Two special priestly chambers: (vs. 40:44-47)
 - j) The porch leading to the temple: (vs. 40:48-49)
 - k) The holy place and the holy of holies: (vs. 41:1-4)
 - l) The chambers around the temple itself: (vs. 41:5-12)
 - m) Measurements and descriptions: (vs. 41:13-26)
 - n) More priestly chambers of the inner court: (vs. 42:1-14)
 - o) The main outer wall: (vs. 42:15-20)
- II) The return to God's temple: Chapter 43:1-12
 - a) The Lord's appearance in the temple: (vs. 43:1-5)
 - b) The Lord's "dedication" speech: (vs. 6-12)
 - i) The God of Holiness: (vs. 6-7)
 - ii) The people of wickedness: (vs. 7-9)
 - c) The call to holiness: (vs. 10-12)
- III) The altar, its measurements and consecration: Chapter 43:13-27
 - a) The measurements of the altar of burnt offering: (vs. 13-17)
 - b) The consecration of the altar: (vs. 18-27)

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Twelve – The Temple of God, The New Worship/Land Chapters 40 through 48

Outline of Chapters 44 through 48:

- I) The worship and land of the temple: Chapter 44:1-46:24
 - a) The off limits gate: (vs. 44:1-3)
 - b) The excluded people: (vs. 44:4-9)
 - i) Israel's former wickedness: (vs. 44:4-8)
 - ii) The excluded ones: (vs. 44:9)
 - c) The Levitical responsibilities: (vs. 44:10-14)
 - d) Zadokite responsibilities/support: (vs. 44:15-31)
 - e) The holy land connected with the temple: Chapter 45:1-12
 - i) The total area: (vs. 45:1)
 - ii) For the priests and the sanctuary: (vs. 45:2-4)
 - iii) For the Levites: (vs. 45:5)
 - iv) For the people: (vs. 45:6)
 - v) For the prince: (vs. 45:7-12)
 - f) The prince and the temple worship: (vs. 45:13-46:18)
 - i) The prince and the national offerings: (vs. 45:13-17)
 - ii) The cleansing of the sanctuary: (vs. 45:18-20)
 - iii) The prince and the national feast times: (vs. 45:21-25)
 - iv) The prince and personal worship: (vs. 46:1-15)
 - g) The prince and his property: (vs. 46:16-18)
 - h) The priestly kitchens: (vs. 46:19-24)
- II) The river out of the temple: Verses 47:1-12
 - a) Where the water springs and flows from: (vs. 47:1-2)
 - b) How the water deepens as it flows: (vs. 47:3-6)
 - c) How the water heals as it flows: (vs. 47:7-11)
 - d) The tree on the banks beside the water: (vs. 47:12)
- III) The land and its boundaries: Verses 47:13-23
 - a) The specific commission: (vs. 47:13-14)
 - b) The north/south/east/west borders: (vs. 47:15-20)
 - c) Summarizing remarks: (vs. 47:21-23)
- IV) The land and how it is divided among the tribes: Chapter 48
 - a) The portion given to Dan/Asher/Manneseh/Ephraim/Judah: (vs. 48:1-7)
 - b) The sacred portion: (vs. 48:8-22)
 - i) For the priests: (vs. 48:8-12)
 - ii) For the Levites: (vs. 48:13-14)
 - iii) For the people: (vs. 48:15-20)
 - iv) For the prince: (vs. 48:21-22)
 - c) The portions given to Benjamin/Simeon/Issachar/Zebulon/Gad: (vs. 48:23-27)
 - d) Summary remarks: (vs. 48:29)
 - e) A description of the city: (vs. 48:30-35)

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Twelve – The Temple of God, The New Worship/Land Chapters 40 through 48

There are several possible interpretations that have been suggested for chapters 40 through 43, which describe a temple shown to Ezekiel in a vision from God. The possible interpretations are as follows:

- 1) Ezekiel is describing the temple built by Solomon during the glory years of Jerusalem;
- 2) Ezekiel is describing the temple built by the returning Israelites under Zerubbabel;
- 3) The Premillennialists see a literal fulfillment of these plans and a re-establishment of the Jewish system of sacrifices and feast days;
- 4) These chapters describe a spiritual temple, which is holy, sanctified, and will remain pure throughout time.

Keep these four possibilities in mind as you read verses in these four chapters.

- 1) What is the date of the vision given to Ezekiel and where is he transported for this vision? What did Ezekiel see before the vision begins and where have we seen this “appearance” before?
- 2) What specific command was Ezekiel given in verse four? What can we learn from the commands in this verse?
- 3) In chapters 40-42, what does the “man” show to Ezekiel in the vision? Why do you think the Holy Spirit revealed this detailed description of the temple to us?
- 4) Where was Ezekiel led in the first verse of chapter 43? What critical turning point is described in verses 2-4 of chapter 43? (Review Ez. 8:6 and 11:22-25 to see why this was necessary). What could be the meaning of this action performed by God? What sound did Ezekiel hear and where had he heard this sound before?
- 5) What does God tell us about Himself and His people in verses 6-9 of chapter 43? What promise does God make at the end of verse 9? What is the application of this promise to us today?
- 6) Ezekiel tells us that the people will be ashamed when they see the “plan” or “pattern” he has described for the temple? Why would the people be ashamed?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Twelve – The Temple of God, The New Worship/Land Chapters 40 through 48

- 7) Verses 13-27 described the altar and its consecration in significant detail. What is the significance of including this description of the altar at this point in the prophecy?
- 8) What do we learn about the reverence and respect we should give to our God in the first few verses of chapter 44? What important task was given to the leaders of the people in these verses?
- 9) What awesome vision was Ezekiel given in the next few verses and what was his reaction to the things he saw? What lessons should we learn from his reactions and how do we apply these lessons?
- 10) What reasons were given for excluding the foreigners from the worship? What role did the priest of the people play in leading the people away from God?
- 11) What sacrifices are commanded of the princes and the people related to the Sabbath and the New Moon in the first few verses of chapter 46? Read Numbers 28:9-15 and compare the things to be offered according to the Law of God given by Moses with the sacrifices noted by Ezekiel in this chapter? What can we learn from this comparison?
- 12) What does Ezekiel see in the first several verses of chapter forty-seven and how does what he sees change as you move through the description of this vision? What could this vision represent to us as God's people of this age? Read Rev. 22:1-2 for comparative purposes.
- 13) Verses 1-23 of chapter forty-eight describe the boundaries of the land for the twelve tribes of Israel. Read Numbers 34 for comparative purposes. What problems does this section of verses present to those who hold to Premillennial doctrines?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Twelve – The Temple of God, The New Worship/Land Chapters 40 through 48

Application Questions:

1) What can we learn about the nature of God from the description of the temple? What application should we make to the observance of patterns God has given to us?

2) Read Revelation 21:10 through 22:5 and compare the description of the high and holy mountain in this passage to the reading in Ezekiel 40-43. Do you think both of these descriptions are referring to the same or different things? What are the reasons for your conclusions?

3) Review the description of the new Jerusalem described by the apostle John in Revelation chapters 21 and 22 and compare it with the description given by Ezekiel. What are the similarities between the two accounts and what is this new Jerusalem?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Thirteen – Review Part One Factual Information Contained In The Book

- 1) What are the three major sections of the book and what is the main subject of each section? What chapters are in each section?
- 2) Briefly describe the vision that was given to Ezekiel during his call to service and the major elements included in this vision?
- 3) How old was Ezekiel when he was called to be God’s prophet to the exiles? Describe where he was when he was called and how long did he remain in this location?
- 4) What other significant prophets were Ezekiel’s contemporaries and where did they do their prophetic work? What is different about the nature of their situation/work compared to the work laid out for Ezekiel?
- 5) Who were the last five kings of Judah and how would you describe the reign and character of each of these kings?
- 6) How was Ezekiel’s message from God received by the vast majority of his countrymen who heard/saw his message? Why do you think this was the case?
- 7) What were the five key expressions used repeatedly in the book? What was the significance of these expressions and why was so much repetition used in the book?
- 8) List at least four of the nations against which Ezekiel spoke a prophetic word? What was the charge against each of these nations and what was their fate? What common thread do we see running through all the “words against the nations”?
- 9) List at least four “unusual” things Ezekiel did to teach the people a truth from God’s revelation to him (visual aids/physical demonstrations). Why were these acts performed?

Book of Ezekiel

Lesson Thirteen – Review Part One Factual Information Contained In The Book

- 10) List at least four parables or allegories used by Ezekiel. What was the meaning or the lesson to be learned from each of these stories?

- 11) What were the four “P”s in the book? What was the indictment(s) of each one of these groups of people?

- 12) What was the root cause for the judgment that was to come upon Jerusalem/Judah? Was this a new problem for the people or had it been around for a while?

- 13) Briefly describe the parable of the two immoral sisters. Who did the two sisters represent and which one of the two was described as being “worse” and for what reasons?

- 14) What was the attitude of the people toward the message from Ezekiel? (especially toward the end of his prophetic work among the exiles)

- 15) Where is Ezekiel transported in the Spirit in chapter 37 and what does he observe? How does the scene change as the vision unfolds? How is irony used with reference to the reception of Ezekiel’s message from this “audience”?

- 16) What devastating events are recorded in chapter 11 and chapter 33? Why were these two events so traumatic for the people that would hear Ezekiel’s message?

- 17) What great battle scene do we see in chapters 38 and 39? Who were the main characters involved in the battle and who is the victor? What was the reaction to the outcome of this conflict for “those” who observed it?

- 18) What items/places/structures were described in great detail in chapters 40-48? What was the purpose of revealing this information to the exiles in Babylon?

Book of Ezekiel
Lesson Fourteen – Review Part Two
Application of Lessons from Ezekiel

19) Make a list of lessons (at least four or five) we can learn about the nature of God and His character from studying the book. What impact should these lessons have on our lives?

20) Make a list of lessons (at least four or five) we can learn about the nature of sin and its short-term and long-term consequences. What impact should these lessons have on our lives?

21) Make a list of the sinful acts (at least four or five) we see being condemned by God through Ezekiel in the book. What trends can we see in society today that will lead many people into these same sins?

THANKS YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR STUDY OF THIS WONDERFUL BOOK