

COMMENTARY

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 1

On July 5, 592 B.C. Ezekiel saw a vision of the throne room of God. Ezekiel was living with exiles from Judah in the land of Babylon.

4 living creatures appear, made up of various animal parts and faces (representing all 4 types of creatures). They covered themselves in the presence of God with 2 of their 4 wings. Each was accompanied by what appears as a gyroscope with its outer rims covered with eyes (representing complete knowledge-- sees everything).

The throne of God is above the 4 living creatures. God's radiance is blinding.

Ezekiel 2

God speaks to Ezekiel and commands him to proclaim the message of God to God's people. Ezekiel would not be responsible for how the people responded to the message, he was simply to proclaim it. Ezekiel was also told not to fear the rebellious people of God but to remain true to his task.

Ezekiel 3

God delivers His message to Ezekiel in the form of a scroll. The scroll contained words of mourning and woe. Ezekiel was to proclaim the message and not to worry about the people's reaction (they would not accept it for they did not accept God's Word).

Ezekiel is then delivered to be among a group of exiles and he remains there for a week. Then the Lord spoke and reminded Ezekiel that it was his responsibility to declare the message regardless of how the people responded-- their response was not his concern.

God then warns Ezekiel of the coming persecution that he would face because of delivering God's message.

Ezekiel 4

God then commands Ezekiel to draw a picture of Jerusalem on a clay tablet. Ezekiel was then to build miniature war implements and surround the city with such devices. He was to lay on his left side for 390 days; representing the 390 years of the sin of Israel. Then he was to turn over and lay on his right side for 40 days; representing 40 years of Judah's sin. He was to eat defiled food (the Lord harkened to Ezekiel and lifted the command) to represent how terrible the fate of His people would be.

Ezekiel 5

Ezekiel is commanded to shave his head. At the end of 430 days (see chapter 4 for significance) he is to burn 1/3 inside the picture of the city, another 1/3 he is to spread around the city and strike with the sword and the last 1/3 was to be scattered to the wind. A few strands were to be saved.

The hair symbolized how 1/3 of the people would die of plague and famine within Jerusalem (the famine would become so severe that people would eat their own children); 1/3 dying by the sword outside of the city and the remainder spread among the nations.

Then the nations would see God's punishment of His people for their sin.

Ezekiel 6

Ezekiel was to proclaim towards the mountains of Israel how the inhabitants of the land would be destroyed and their idolatrous devices would also be destroyed. The few survivors would then look back and realize that God is the Lord and carries out the promises of punishment for sins.

Ezekiel 7

God speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah because of their sin and idolatry. They would be totally devastated; those rich and proud would be so, no longer. He was going to show no mercy.

Ezekiel 8

September 5, 591 B.C. Ezekiel is taken by God to see what is taking place in the temple of God in Jerusalem. There, Ezekiel sees idols, animal sacrifices to other gods, worship of the sun taking place and more. Because of the idolatry, God is going to destroy them.

Ezekiel 9

God then commands for a mark to be put on the foreheads of those still faithful and all others are to be slain. As Ezekiel sees all of this taking place in the vision, he is filled with shock and remorse. The Lord then explains the greatness of their sin and that no mercy would be shown.

Ezekiel 10

Ezekiel again sees the four living creatures. They oversee the destruction of the temple and the people.

Ezekiel 11

Ezekiel is then shown the corrupt leaders of Judah and is told to pronounce judgement and death against them on account of their sin.

Ezekiel is then told how the remnant would return and they would now be obedient and faithful to God after seeing the punishment inflicted over the past years. People and will once again restore them.

Ezekiel then delivers the message of the vision (chpts. 8-11) to the exiles in Babylon.

Ezekiel 12

Ezekiel is instructed to pack his belongings and at night to dig through the wall and escape from the city. When the people watching ask him why he did it, he is to respond that in the same way King Zedekiah will try to escape (fulfilled exactly 5 years later) and be caught by the Babylonians. The people would be destroyed except for a remnant that God would preserve.

Ezekiel 13

Ezekiel is then instructed to prophesy against the false prophets who were giving people false hopes and trying to cover up how desperate the situation was. God informs them that they shall be revealed for what they are and that their lies and falsehood and lies would be revealed when God's wrath is poured out.

Ezekiel 14

Because of the idolatry of the leaders of God's people He warns them that from that point on, if any idolater went to God for a message, God would destroy them. If a prophet sought to help the idolater by seeking God's message, they also would be destroyed.

The sin of Judah had become so repugnant to God that not even the most righteous people who had ever lived could save it from His sure and coming destruction.

Ezekiel 15

God refers to Jerusalem as a fruitless vine whose only use is as firewood. In the same way, Jerusalem would be destroyed and left, no longer of any use or good.

Ezekiel 16

God describes His people as ones who had been abandoned at birth. He came along and sustained their life and then blessed them abundantly. They in response, rejected Him and turned to others and disobeying everything that God had ever told them. Their wickedness overshadowed even the worst places up to that time (including the city of Sodom).

Because of this they were going to be severely punished and reprimanded. Then, when God restored them they have learned to be faithful to Him.

STUDY GUIDE

EZEKIEL 1

1. Where did the Lord speak to Ezekiel? (vs. 3)
2. What was in the fire? (vs. 5)
3. What were the rims of the wheels full of? (vs. 18)
4. What was above the 4 creatures? (vs. 26)
5. Who was this the glory of? (vs. 28)

EZEKIEL 2

1. How did God describe His people? (vs. 3,4)
2. What was Ezekiel not to be afraid of? (vs. 6)
3. What was Ezekiel to do? (vs. 7)
4. What has was written on the scroll? (vs. 10)

EZEKIEL 3

1. What was Ezekiel to eat and how did it taste? (vs. 1-3)
2. What would God make Ezekiel? (vs. 8,9)
3. What was Ezekiel to speak to? (vs. 11)
4. What would happen if Ezekiel failed to warn the people? (vs. 18,20)

EZEKIEL 4

1. What was Ezekiel to draw and lay siege to? (vs. 1-3)
2. How long total was Ezekiel to lay on his side? (vs. 5,6)
3. What would happen to Jerusalem's food supply? (vs. 16,17)

EZEKIEL 5

1. What was Ezekiel to do with his hair? (Vs. 2-4)
2. What had Jerusalem done? (vs. 6)
3. How would the people die? (vs. 12)

EZEKIEL 6

1. What was the Lord going to destroy? (vs. 3,4)
2. How will those who are spared, respond? (vs. 9,10)

EZEKIEL 7

1. How was God going to judge and repay? (vs. 3)
2. What would God not do? (vs. 9)
3. What would happen to the leaders and the people? (vs. 27)

EZEKIEL 8

1. Where was Ezekiel taken? (vs. 3)
2. What did the people say? (vs. 12)
3. What was the Lord going to do? (vs. 18)

EZEKIEL 9

1. What was the man in linen to do? (vs. 4)
2. What were the others to do? (vs. 5,6)

EZEKIEL 10

1. What were to be scattered over the city? (vs. 2)
2. What departed from the threshold of the temple? (vs. 18)

EZEKIEL 11

1. How did the Lord describe the leaders? (vs. 2)
2. What would happen to the leaders? (vs. 9,10)
3. What would the Lord do in the future? (vs. 17)
4. How would the people respond? (vs. 20)

EZEKIEL 12

1. What was Ezekiel to do? (vs. 4-6)
2. What would happen to the prince that tried to escape? (vs. 13)
3. How would God's people eat and drink? (vs. 19)

EZEKIEL 13

1. What did God say about some of the prophets? (vs. 6)
2. Against what would God send His wrath? (vs. 15,16)

EZEKIEL 14

1. What would God do to idolaters seeking a message from Him? (vs. 8)
2. What 3 men could have been spared from judgement? (vs. 14)
3. What 4 judgements would be sent against Jerusalem? (vs. 21)

EZEKIEL 15

1. What is Jerusalem compared to? (vs. 6)
2. What would God do to Jerusalem? (vs. 7,8)

EZEKIEL 16

1. What did God tell Israel? (vs. 6)
2. What resulted from God's care? (vs. 14)
3. How did Israel respond? (vs. 15)
4. Who was she worse than? (vs. 48)
5. What were the sins of Sodom? (vs. 49,50)
6. What would God do for Israel and how would she respond? (vs. 62,63)