

## COMMENTARY

### EZEKIEL

#### Ezekiel 33

The first half of the chapter re-iterates the message that God had given Ezekiel previously (see chapter 3). Ezekiel is responsible for warning the people to repent of their sin. Each individual will be judged by their actions-- those that repent will live, those that turn to evil will perish; regardless of their past!

January 5, 584 B.C. Ezekiel heard of the final fall of Jerusalem. For 3 years he had been silent as God had commanded, now he was to speak. The message of God was that the land given to Abraham would become desolate because of the sinfulness of the people.

The people would listen intently and even promise to change, but they never did!

#### Ezekiel 34

The leaders of Israel are condemned by God for the lack of care that they gave to God's people. They were only concerned about their own welfare. These will then be destroyed.

God promised to come and tend the flock. He would feed, lead, care and protect them. He would dispense with those of the flock who injured others and did wrong.

God also promised to raise up a Messiah who would come and be the GOOD SHEPHERD. A special place would be prepared for the sheep where they would be cared for and protected.

#### Ezekiel 35

The Edomites (long-time enemies of Israel and Judah) rejoiced to see Jerusalem fall to the Babylonians. They now saw their chance to take all of that land for themselves.

Because of their hatred, greed, and lack of concern for God's people, they would face the same fate of destruction and desolation.

#### Ezekiel 36

God tells Ezekiel to prophesy that the land of Israel shall be re-inhabited by them and that they will once again be blessed. Their punishment will run its' course and then God will bring them back, where they will never again turn to idolatry.

#### Ezekiel 37

Ezekiel is shown a valley of bones. God then causes the bones to re-assemble into skeletons, have muscles and ligaments attach themselves, flesh covering that, and then brings life to them. The symbolism is that even as Israel and Judah have perished, so God shall restore them and give them life in the land that has been prepared for them.

Ezekiel is then instructed to take two sticks, write "Israel" on one, and "Judah" on the other and then tie them together. In the same way, God would cause what had become 2 separate kingdoms to be rejoined and ruled over the Messiah that He would send. They will then be a faithful people who would enjoy an everlasting relationship with God.

#### Ezekiel 38

The people to the North (known for the evil and barbaric life) will gather together to fight against God's people who are living in peace. When they attack, God will destroy them completely.

Ezekiel 39

God continues to condemn these barbaric people. They will be an example to all nations of the greatness of God and His power. It will take months to collect all of their slain and their weapons would provide fuel for God's people for years.

Ezekiel 40

On April 10, 572 B.C., God again spoke to Ezekiel. Ezekiel sees in a vision, a rebuilt temple and courtyard in Jerusalem. He describes the size and appearance of the surrounding wall and of the temple, itself.

Ezekiel 41-43

The reconstructed temple is further described. It brings to mind the grandeur of Solomon's Temple that the Jews had taken in pride in for so long. The message seems to be that those days of old will come again and God's people will again be blessed and will worship God, as He had called them to.

God's glory returns to the Temple, to again dwell among His people.

Ezekiel 44

God recalls how far the Israelites had gone in dishonoring Him. Those who were faithful are now called upon to serve again before Him. God will provide for all of the needs of those who serve faithfully.

Ezekiel 45-46

God instructs the people to allot Him a goodly portion where He can be worshipped. He re-issues many of the commands as to how Israel was to be a holy people (made possible through their offerings and sacrifices).

Ezekiel 47-48

Ezekiel is again shown the Temple. A river that brings life flows from the presence of God.

God will provide dwelling for all of His people. He and His ruler shall dwell in the midst of the people and their portions.

EZEKIEL 33

1. What had God made Ezekiel? (vs. 7)
2. How will the Lord judge? (vs. 20)
3. What did God's people fail to do? (vs. 31)

EZEKIEL 34

1. What did God say about the shepherds? (vs. 2)
2. What had they failed to do? (vs. 4)
3. What would God do? (vs. 10,11)

EZEKIEL 35

1. What would happen to Mt. Seir? (vs. 3,4)
2. What had they done? (vs. 5,10)

EZEKIEL 36

1. What would happen soon? (vs. 8)
2. What would God show? (vs. 23)
3. What would God do for His people? (vs. 24,33)

EZEKIEL 37

1. What was the valley full of? (vs. 1)
2. What happened to them? (vs. 10)
3. What would God do for His people? (vs. 12)
4. What would become one? (vs. 16-18)
5. What would happen to the nation? (vs. 24)

EZEKIEL 38

1. What would Gog decide? (vs. 11)
2. What was God going to do? (vs. 21-23)

EZEKIEL 39

1. What would Israel use for fuel for 7 years? (vs. 9)
2. How long would it take to bury the dead? (vs. 12)

EZEKIEL 40

1. How did God take Ezekiel to Israel? (vs. 2)
2. What building did he see? (vs. 5)
3. What was in front of the temple? (vs. 47)

EZEKIEL 41

1. What was the inner sanctuary called? (vs. 4)

EZEKIEL 42

1. What were the most holy offerings? (vs. 13)

EZEKIEL 43

1. What entered the temple? (vs. 4)
2. What would God do after the offering of the sacrifices? (vs. 27)

EZEKIEL 44

1. Who was the only one allowed to eat in God's presence? (vs. 3)
2. Who was allowed to minister before God? (vs. 15)

EZEKIEL 45

1. Who was to be presented land when they allotted it? (vs. 1)
2. Who would have land bordering the sacred land? (vs. 7)

EZEKIEL 46

1. Who are to worship in the presence of God? (vs. 3)

EZEKIEL 47

1. What came from under the temple? (vs. 1)
2. What happens where the river flows? (vs. 9)
3. Whom was God going to give land to? (vs. 13)

EZEKIEL 48

1. What will the name of the city be, which is in the center of the land of God's people? (vs. 35)