

Introduction

Ministering to the exiled Judeans from 593–570 B.C., Ezekiel narrates Israel’s and Judah’s disobedience, God’s glory, the New Covenant, and God’s faithfulness to keep His promise to Abraham. God graciously promises to be like a shepherd to His people and manifest His holiness, to give them His Spirit and be their King forever.

The “glory of the Lord” is a primary theme of Ezekiel, along with God’s holiness and sovereignty. There are many messages of hope and restoration in Ezekiel, including the prophet’s foretelling that the land would be regained, those who had been scattered would be returned, the temple that had been destroyed would be re-built, and God’s glory would return to dwell among them again.

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verses are Isaiah 40:27...
Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD,
And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”?

Day One

Read Ezekiel 1:1–3:15; *Ezekiel’s Call*

1. From last week’s lesson or lecture in Jeremiah, list key words that summarize the primary themes of Jeremiah’s message.
2. According to Ezekiel 1:1–3 and 3:15, 2 Kings 24:10–15, and Jeremiah 24:5, where did Ezekiel’s prophetic ministry take place, to whom was it directed, and what was the condition of the people?
3. In Ezekiel 1:3–28, what did Ezekiel encounter, and what was his response?
4. From Ezekiel 2:1–7, describe the specific elements in God’s call as He provided power for Ezekiel (verses 1–2), told Ezekiel of his assignment (verses 3–5), and challenged him to be faithful (verses 6–7).
 - a. Though God appeared to Ezekiel in a vision, today God reveals His plan for His people through Scripture. Find two or three Bible references that communicate specific tasks or responsibilities that God has given to believers.
5. Share with your group one example of how you’ve seen God at work in your life this week. How does knowing God prepare you and strengthen you for the circumstances of your life each day?

Day Two

Read Ezekiel 8–11; *Covenant Unfaithfulness Provokes Divine Judgment*

NOTE: Ezekiel had repeatedly stated that the coming judgment was prompted by the people’s sins. In Ezekiel’s vision in chapters 8–11, God took the prophet back to Jerusalem to show him the wickedness of what the people had done to deserve such punishment. This is one vision with four sections—the wickedness of the people in the temple (chapter 8); the slaughter of the people in Jerusalem (chapter 9); the departure of God’s glory from the temple (chapter 10); and the pronouncement of judgment on the rulers (chapter 11).

1. In Ezekiel 8:7–13 and 16–18, describe briefly the two scenes Ezekiel is shown and how that revealed the spiritual condition of the nation.
2. From Ezekiel 8:4, what detail is given that made the abominations taking place even more offensive?

3. According to Ezekiel 9:4–11, 10:18, and 11:1–12, how did Yahweh respond to the unfaithfulness of the elders and priests?
 - a. According to Ezekiel 9:4–8, whom did the angelic executioners spare, and why is that emphasized?
 - b. In Ezekiel 11:10 and 12, what was to be one result of the judgment? (This phrase is repeated more than seventy times in Ezekiel and is one of the main themes of the book.)
4. In Ezekiel 11:13, how did the prophet respond to the breadth and severity of God’s judgment?
 - a. In Ezekiel 11:14–21, how did Yahweh respond?

Day Three

Selected Scriptures; “They will know I am Yahweh” through Judgment

NOTE: Ezekiel’s task was to confront Israel with her sin and warn her (3:17) of impending destruction. Ezekiel used signs (chapters 4–5), sermons (chapters 6–7), and visions (chapters 8–11) to focus on the people’s need for judgment. The emphasis was always on sin and the suffering to come.

1. Though Ezekiel remained at his home (3:24), the different signs or actions in his vision portrayed Israel’s judgment. From the following passages, summarize briefly the object lesson and the judgment it represented.
 - a. Ezekiel 4:1–3
 - b. Ezekiel 4:9–17
 - c. Ezekiel 5:1–17
 - d. Ezekiel 12:1–16
2. What did Ezekiel see in Ezekiel 10:4 and 19, and 11:22–24?
 - a. From our previous study or your general knowledge of Scripture, what did the presence of the glory of the Lord mean to the people of Israel? With that in mind, how do you think God’s judgment in these texts might have affected the prophet and his audience?

Day Four

Read Ezekiel 34, 36–37; “They will know I am Yahweh” through Restoration

1. As we saw in our study of the Minor Prophets, God judged Israel for their sin but always provided a message of hope. From Ezekiel 34:11–14, what did God promise?

2. What details are given in Ezekiel 34:25–31 and 36:24–36 that expand on the promise of the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31–34?
3. According to Ezekiel 36:20–23, why did Israel experience judgment, and why will she experience restoration?
4. Read Ezekiel 37, which details the prophet’s vision of Israel’s spiritual regeneration. According to verses 5, 14, and 21–23, what promises did God give to encourage the people?
 - a. How does Ephesians 2:1–9 reinforce Ezekiel 37, and deepen your understanding of the nature of man and the work of salvation?
 - b. How can Ezekiel 37 encourage you as you share the gospel with your friends and family?

Day Five

Selected Passages; Restoration Promises

1. From the following passages in Ezekiel, identify glimpses of Yahweh’s promises for the salvation and restoration of Israel.
 - a. Ezekiel 11:14–20
 - b. Ezekiel 16:60–63
 - c. Ezekiel 20:33–44
 - d. Ezekiel 28:25–26
 - e. Ezekiel 36:26–28
 - f. Ezekiel 37:15–28
 - g. Ezekiel 39:25–29
 - h. Ezekiel 43:7–9
2. Remembering the big picture of God’s plan of redemption for His people, how has the study of Ezekiel deepened your understanding of God’s covenant faithfulness?