

Through the Bible Course

April 20, 1947

Ezekiel

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

The Prophet: Ezekiel was a priest (1:3) who was taken into captivity with second group carried to Babylon in 597 BC. He lived at Tel-Abib on river Chebar.

Time: After being there five years, 592 BC, six years before destruction of Jerusalem, he began to prophesy for 22 years. He was of same period as Jeremiah, Daniel, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk. (For chronology of his time, see historical events given under outline of Jeremiah.)

Purpose: To keep before the generation born in exile the national sins which had brought their nation so low, but to sustain them in their faith by predictions of national restoration and the execution of justice on their oppressors.

Method: There was no method of speech used by any of the prophets which was not utilized by Ezekiel:

1. Visions – 8, 11
2. Symbolic action – 4, 5:1-14
3. Similitudes – 12, 15
4. Parables – 17
5. Proverbs – 18
6. Allegories – 23, 24
7. Open prophecies – 6, 7, 20, etc.

I. Call and Commission of Ezekiel – chapters 1 through 3

1. Vision of throne of God – 1:1-28
 - a. Cherubim with four faces are animate beings who are commonly thought of as an order of angelic beings who not only cover the throne, but execute the sovereign will of Him who occupies the throne.
 - b. We see here the sovereignty, the majesty, glory and holiness of God, as well as His omniscience and omnipresence.
2. His commission – chapters 2 and 3
 - a. To deliver message to a rebellious people (2:3ff) who were not strangers, but house of Israel (3:5-7). This message was to be given him by God (3:10).
 - b. He was to be a watchman – 3:17

II. Symbolic Siege of Jerusalem – chapters 4 through 7

1. Sign of the tile – chapter 4
2. Sign of sharp knife – chapter 5
3. Prophecy that idols shall be destroyed with Jerusalem and the land made desolate – chapters 6 and 7

- III. Wickedness of Jerusalem and its Destruction – chapters 8 through 19
1. In vision he is transported to Jerusalem and what he sees there – 8 through 11
 - a. Profanation of temple – chapter 8
 - b. Visions of slaying in Jerusalem – chapter 9
 - c. Vision of destruction of Jerusalem as by fire and the departing of the glory of God (10:18 and 11:23) – chapters 10 and 11
 2. Sign of moving of household goods; captivity will no longer be delayed – chapter 12 (especially vs. 22-25)
 3. Message against lying prophets and elders – chapters 13 and 14
 4. Vision of burning vine – chapter 15
 5. Parable of unfaithful wife showing Judah forsaking God for idols – chapter 16
 6. Parable of great eagles – chapter 17
 7. Sin and its results (vs. 4, 20) – chapter 18
 8. Lioness and her whelps – chapter 19
- IV. God's Indictment Against Judah and Jerusalem and Repeated Proof and Predictions of Their Doom – chapters 20 through 24
1. Jehovah justified in His chastisement of Judah – chapter 20
 2. The sword and sighing prophet – chapter 21
 3. Israel's sins related – chapter 22
 4. Parable of Aholah and Aholibah who are Samaria and Jerusalem respectively – chapter 23 (especially verse 4)
 5. Parable of boiling pot (1-14) and sign of death of Ezekiel's wife (15-27) – chapter 24
- V. Prophecies Against Various Nations – chapters 25 through 36
1. Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia – chapter 25
 2. Tyre – chapters 26-28
 3. Pharaoh and Egypt – chapters 29-32
 4. Judah – chapters 33-36
- VI. Israel's Restoration – chapters 37 through 48
1. Vision of dry bones made alive and two sticks – chapter 37
 2. Prophecy against Gog and Magog – chapters 38-39
 3. The new temple – chapters 40-43
 4. The new order of worship – chapters 44-46
 5. The vision of the land – chapters 47-48

Note: These prophecies are variously interpreted as being symbolical of the Church, or to be applied literally to Israel and her restoration.