

Ezekiel

"The Glory of God"

Background Information

The book is named for the author of it. Interestingly, Ezekiel is not mentioned anywhere in Scripture outside the book that bears his name.

His name means "strengthened by God."

The book is designed to call the people of God to obedience by demonstrating the vast chasm between their sinful ways and the glory of God.

Ezekiel was not only a prophet, but was also a priest (1:3), so the book has significant detail about the temple.

Time Covered and Outline

The book begins "in the thirtieth year," but we are not told the 30th year of what. Likely, it was Ezekiel's thirtieth year, which was the time when priests began their work.

The ministry of Ezekiel lasts at least 22 years, from about 593 BC until 571 BC.

The book mostly follows a straightforward outline:

- I. Prophecies of Jerusalem's Ruin (chapters 1-24)
 - A. Ezekiel called to prophecy (1-3)
 - B. Jerusalem will be condemned (4-24)
- II. Prophecies of Retribution of Other Nations (chapters 25-32)
 - A. Ammon (25:1-7)
 - B. Moab (25:8-11)
 - C. Edom (25:12-14)
 - D. Philistia (25:15-17)
 - E. Tyre (26:1-28:19)
 - F. Sidon (28:20-24)
 - G. Egypt (29:1-32:32)
- III. Provisions for Israel's Repentance (chapter 33)
- IV. Israel will be Restored (chapters 34-48)
 - A. Regathering of Israel to the promised land (34-37)
 - B. Israel's enemies removed (38-39)
 - C. True worship reinstated (40-46)
 - D. The land is redistributed (47-48)

Major Themes

Sinfulness of God's people
God's glory
True worship
Hope
The work of angels

God's Character in Ezekiel

Glorious (1:28)

Holy (1:26-28)

Just (18:25, 29)

Patient (20:17)

Providential (28:2-10)

Wrathful (7:19)

Jesus in Ezekiel

The prophecy of "one of the highest branches of the high cedar" (17:22-24) was a common way of connected the One to come with the lineage of David.

Ezekiel speaks of a shepherd (34:11-31), but the shepherd also brings judgment (34:17-24). This prefigures Jesus as both our shepherd and our judge.

Key Words in Ezekiel

Son of Man (Hebrew *'adam*); shows the difference between God and man, but that the Lord uses a man as His representative. Used over 100 times in the book to refer to Ezekiel, including 2:1; 3:17; 12:18; 20:46; 29:18; 39:17; 44:5; 47:6

Idols (Hebrew *gillulim*); literally, "shapeless things." 6:4; 8:10; 14:6; 20:24; 23:0; 36:18; 44:10

Glory (Hebrew *kabod*) from a word for the worthiness of something. 1:28; 3:23; 9:3; 10:18; 31:18; 43:2; 44:4

Elsewhere in the World...

During the lifetime of Ezekiel, the writer Aesop is writing his fables.

Elsewhere in Scripture...

Ezekiel's work follows the close of 2 Kings and overlaps with Ezra 1-6 and the book of Esther.

He is a contemporary prophet with Jeremiah, Daniel, Haggai, and Zechariah.