

Ezekiel 1

The Glory of God

The Historical Background

- 1050 • Saul, the first king of Israel
- 931 • Division of Israel into 2 Kingdoms
- 722 • Israel falls to Assyria
- 622 • Ezekiel is born
- 605 • 1st deportation of Jerusalem: Daniel
- 597 • 2nd deportation of Jerusalem: Ezekiel
- 586 • Destruction of Jerusalem

Ezekiel prophesied for about 22 years.

The Conditions of Jerusalem

- A. Political Transition: Josiah, the last good king
- B. Revival under Josiah did not last long.
- C. Religious Condition: stubborn, rebellious, hardened (Eze 2:3-5)
- D. False prophets provided a false sense of security.
- E. People worshipped animals and images, engaging in fertility worship.
- F. The people blamed their fathers (Eze 18:2).

The Purpose of Ezekiel

- A. To demonstrate the sovereign power of God.
- B. To remind the Jews in exile of the sins of their fathers.
- C. To sustain the faith of the exiles by predicting God's judgment on their oppressors.
- D. To sustain the faith of the exiles by predicting national restoration and glory.

The Character of Ezekiel

- A. Ezekiel was a PRIEST by birth and by training.
- B. Ezekiel was a PROPHET receiving direct revelation from God.
- C. Ezekiel was a WATCHMAN standing up for God and announcing coming judgment.

The Message of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 1-32: Messages of Judgment

Ezekiel 33-46: Messages of Hope

- A. Ezekiel used symbolism more than any other prophet.
 1. The siege of Jerusalem was portrayed by a miniature city built on a tile (Ch. 4).
 2. He cut his hair and divided it into three parts to show what would happen to those living in Jerusalem (Ch. 5).

The Message of Ezekiel

- 3. Ezekiel himself acted out the exile (Ch. 12)
- B. Ezekiel received many visions—most well known being the vision of the valley of dry bones (Ch. 37).
- C. The situation was so bad that Noah, Daniel, and Job could not save Jerusalem (14:14).