

Ezekiel Outline

Introduction: Ezekiel has the distinction of being one of the world's first banned books- banned by the people who revered it the most. Given it's strange, even bizarre imagery, Rabbis traditionally banned individuals from reading the book of Ezekiel on their own, and banned Rabbi's under 30 from reading it entirely. Never fear, however! After Ezekiel John wrote Revelation, which is at least twice as strange, so Christians never bothered with the traditional warning labels.

Ezekiel is a great book to read in conjunction with Jeremiah. Whereas Jeremiah writes mainly before the Babylonian exile and then stays with the remnant in Jerusalem and then in Egypt, Ezekiel was taken by Babylon in the first exile and wrote mainly from a Babylonian perspective. Both prophets speak grimly to Jerusalem in the days leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem, and both speak gently and more hopefully afterwards. And both prophets are more than up to the task of radically re-imagining what it might mean to believe in God after the destruction of the temple with Jeremiah envisioning a new covenant written upon the heart, and Ezekiel envisioning Israel as a revitalized valley of dry bones living one day in a revitalized temple.

Section One: Ezekiel's Call

Chapter 1: Vision of the wheels and the creatures and the glory of the Lord

Chapter 2: God calling Ezekiel to prophesy and giving him a scroll

Chapter 3: Ezekiel accepting the scroll and the scroll being sweet in his mouth

Section Two: Warnings Against Jerusalem

Chapter 4: The sign of the brick as Jerusalem, sign of lying down on sides,

Chapter 5: The sign of shaving his head,

Chapter 6: God will punish but save a remnant

Chapter 7: Oracle of doom

Chapter 8: Vision of being taken to Jerusalem, Ezekiel sees the problems

Chapter 9: Vision of six executioners killing in the city

Chapter 10: Vision of the coals from the wheels being scattered over the city

Chapter 11: God makes a new covenant with the exiles (Same as in 36)

Chapter 12: Sign of the baggage

Chapter 13: Words against the false prophets

Chapter 14: Words against the elders/leaders

Chapter 15: Oracle of destruction

Chapter 16: Image of Israel as unfaithful, ungrateful woman

Chapter 17: Ezekiel imagines Babylonian destruction

Chapter 18: Sour grapes phrase and individual retribution reframed

Chapter 19: Israel like a lioness

Chapter 20: God recounts Israel's difficult history

Chapter 21: Oracle of destruction

Chapter 22: Words of general judgment

Chapter 23: Oholah and Oholibah

Chapter 24: Final oracle of destruction

Section Three: Warnings Against Others

Chapter 25: Words against Ammonites

Chapter 26: Words against Tyre

Chapter 27: Continued problems with Tyre

Chapter 28: Continued problems with Tyre

Chapter 29: Words against Egypt

Chapter 30: Continued problems with Egypt

Chapter 31: Continued problems with Egypt

Chapter 32: Final words against Egypt

Section Four: A New Hope

Chapter 33: Ezekiel a sentinel

Chapter 34: Words against the bad shepherds eating the sheep, the Lord is the good shepherd

Chapter 35: Mt. Seir

Chapter 36: Vision of restoration in Jerusalem and God making a new covenant

Chapter 37: Valley of the dry bones

Chapter 38: Words against Gog of the land of Magog

Chapter 39: The destruction of Gog

Section Five: A Vision of the New Jerusalem

Chapter 40: The vision of the new temple

Chapter 41: Continued description- nave and walls

Chapter 42: Continued description- outer courts

Chapter 43: Glory of the Lord entering

Chapter 44: Glory in the temple and the re-establishment of the priesthood

Chapter 45: Land use

Chapter 46: Offerings and festivals

Chapter 47: Boundaries of the land

Chapter 48: The tribes

Texts to know: The call of Ezekiel (Ch. 1-3); Sour grapes again and more words about individual retribution (Ch. 18), the new covenant and the valley of the dry bones (Ch. 36-37); the new Jerusalem (Ch. 40)