

BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:1-3)

- I. Historical Context
 - A. Judah fell to BABYLON in 605 BC
 - B. Jehoiakim REBELLED against Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BC
 - 1. Zedekiah became “KING” under Babylonian CONTROL
 - 2. Ezekiel was among those taken CAPTIVE with Jehoiakim
- II. Ezekiel the BOOK
 - A. It’s a well-organized UNIT with a BALANCED structure
 - 1. First 24 chapters pronounce JUDGMENT and ends describing the FALL of Jerusalem (24:21-24)
 - 2. Last 24 chapters are messages of ENCOURAGEMENT, ending with the establishment of the NEW JERUSALEM (48:31-35)
 - B. Its LANGUAGE and STYLE are uniform
 - C. Its perspective is AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL
 - D. It is uniquely CHRONOLOGICAL
 - E. The CHARACTER and PERSONALITY of Ezekiel remain consistent
- III. Ezekiel the MAN
 - A. He was a PRIEST and the son of a PRIEST (1:1)
 - B. His name means “God STRENGTHENS”
 - C. He was called to a PROPHETIC ministry in JULY, 593 BC (1:2-3)
 - D. His ministry continued until 573 BC (40:1)

E. He was MARRIED (24:15-18)

IV. Ezekiel the PROPHET

A. “An Israelite called by God, and empowered by the Spirit, who serves as God’s spokesperson, who has received authority and a revelation from God, who is a good shepherd over God’s flock, [and] who demonstrates God’s Word and mission by signs”

1. He experienced a divine CALL (1:1-3:27)

2. He received VISIONS (chs. 1-3, 8-11, 37, 40-48)

3. He conveyed his message by PREACHING (ch. 16)

4. He made PREDICTIONS (chs. 5, 7, 28:25-26; etc.)

5. He had a THEOLOGICAL view of history (chs. 40-48)

6. His prophecies included ETHICAL teachings (22:1-31)

B. Ezekiel frequently teaches using SYMBOLIC DRAMA (2:8-3:3; 4:1-17; 5:1-17; 6:11-14; 12:3-7, 17-20; 21:6-7, 12-23; 24:15-24; 37:15-23)

C. Ezekiel was a prophet “IN THE MIDST” of the captives (12:2; etc)

1. In the midst of the storms of life, God is on His THRONE (1:1ff)

2. In the midst of a sinful world, God remains HOLY and RIGHTEOUS (8:1ff; 10:1-11:25)

3. In the midst of nations arrayed against God, He is a REPROVER and REFINER (25:1-32:32)

4. In the midst of shattered dreams, God is the REDEEMER and RESTORER (33:1-39:29)

5. In the midst of a world of sin and strife, God is the hope of a coming REIGN of PEACE (40:1-46:24)

6. In the midst of a world of sin and death, God is our hope of ETERNAL LIFE (47:1-48:35)